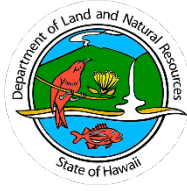


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

LAURA H.E. KAAKUA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Thursday, February 9, 2023
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 666
RELATING TO TREES

Senate Bill 666 proposes to require the State, to the extent practicable, to plant fruit trees in new or renovated landscaping that includes trees. Authorizes persons to harvest fruit from those fruit trees. Provides that the State is not liable for any injuries or illnesses resulting from the harvesting or ingesting of fruit, including food-borne illness. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this measure and offers the following comments.**

The Department agrees with the need for more urban trees and the need to support food security generally. Selecting the proper tree species for any site and purpose is key to preventing the unintended spread of invasive species, supporting native species where possible and appropriate, and maximizing the long-term benefits of any tree or urban forest setting.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 10:47:18 AM

Testimony for GVO on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Bill.

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 11:07:12 AM

Testimony for GVO on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael I Rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill, however I have a concern that groups or individuals may attempt to financially profit from harvesting of public trees and deny those who would use the fruit for sustenance. Although at the same time I would argue against simply outlawing profiting from these public fruit trees.

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 2:55:32 AM

Testimony for GVO on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robin Miyajima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the planting of fruit trees because I think having more accessible fruit trees would be another source of food for people and a way to utilize the land more effectively.

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 12:46:11 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesse Kealiinohomoku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey and Vice Chair Gabbard,

I would like to express my support towards SB666 as the bill will be apart of a much larger vision for advancing an sustainble and equittable food system here in Hawaii. Already hinderd access to healthy affordable food with the high cost of living here in Hawaii, for those who are in the working class and even middle class. How this relates to the bill, at the top of our head we can forsee those who would see the availability of fruit as a benefit to their communty and brings nutritious value to their diet, with the execption of an authorized person as a liason from fruit to community. As an aina based educator and community resource, I am constanly in the community, specifically West Oahu. These are communitis that are statistically eating high calorie low nutrient foods and are higher risk of health probelms. While working in these communities, I know that when fruit is available, the community will eat it. We must do everything in our power to assure this bill is passed and putting the responsibility in the hands of the community to choose what they should and shoulndt eat.

Mahalo,

Jesse Mikasobe-Kealiinohomoku

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 8:36:28 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheila Gage	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. I believe the state should be planting much more fruit trees on their land, and allow those in need to reap from the fruit it produces and in city parks as well. Please amend the bill to include NON-GMO trees only.

Thank you

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 1:20:22 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB666 that requires the State, to the extent practicable, to plant fruit trees in new or renovated landscaping that includes trees. This is an idea that has already had great success in other states. In addition to all the benefits planting trees provide a community, fruit trees can have a significant impact on addressing food security. Of course it will be necessary to analyze environmental factors important for each type of tree to ensure success, i.e. the right tree in the right place.

Please pass this important measure. Mahalo.

LATE

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 9:09:49 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Lono	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I *support* bill **SB666**. I believe this will be good for landscapes around government buildings in Hawaii...self-sustaining, you can't go wrong with that.

LATE

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 9:11:17 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support!!

LATE

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 9:43:21 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jessica hyde	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i is one of the easiest places in the world to grow food. Shipping in 70% of our food just doesn't make sense. If we used more of our landscaped areas, public places and parks to provide food for our community we wouldn't have to rely on the ships coming in weekly so much. We would know that if something happened and the ships stopped coming there wouldn't be total chaos and starvation. The food banks are giving the homeless food for free anyway who cares if they can pick it instead of wait in line. I have witnessed the state destroy food sources in state parks many of times poisoning the land and naturally growing food so people can't "live for free" people are gonna do what there gonna do weather there's a food bank or a fruit tree.

Us destroying naturally growing nutrient rich fresh food sources and then going to the grocery store to buy 2 week old stuff shipped across the ocean makes no sense and doesn't nourish our body as well. Let's take care of ourselves and the land that gives us everything we need to survive.

I don't see labor as an issue if the state try's to involve the community in harvests or mantience days for each community across islands. Free labor, feeding your community and connecting it all at the same time! People want to get involved, help their community, meet their neighbor and take care of the place they live. You could even bring vendors or make harvest festivals to make profits. Whatever way you want to look at it planting food is never a bad thing. Please don't forget we need food water and oxygen to survive and that's exactly what plants give and bring. Mahalo,

Jessica Hughes

LATE

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 9:27:03 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
mailani makainai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.
mahalo

MM

LATE

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 10:00:24 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jesse white	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support this fully. Makes perfect sense. Why not water and care for something that will give you food in return. Plus trees like ulu, soursop, tangelo, orange they are all beautiful. Just don't plant the junk varieties.

LATE

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 10:01:28 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kale sylva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

100% support this bill.

LATE

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 10:03:20 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Kaina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because Hawaii needs to utilize every possible measure to increase food security. With rising food shortages and costs this is a simple and practical solution.

LATE

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 10:05:15 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle Surface	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying to express my support to require the state to plant non-invasive fruit trees in new or renovated landscaping and allowing any citizen to harvest. We have long acknowledged the risks of our food security. This is one of the many small steps that can move us towards decreasing those risks.

Mahalo,

Danielle Surface

96818

LATE

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 10:19:41 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiana Espinosa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill, SB666.

thank you

LATE

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 10:48:58 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jaerick medeiros-garcia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB666 it seems that all the fruit tree that used to be in public spaces we once could pick fruit from to eat are no longer In those places. The state agriculture Dept/ department of health is releasing invasive bugs that kill off our public areas fruit trees. That's so the people depend on the government..

LATE

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 10:52:19 PM
Testimony for GVO on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimeona Kane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

This is a great initiative. Make things make sense. Make them simple and make them tangible. Fruit and food producing trees could certainly make a considerable difference, when done appropriately. The push to plant more native trees in as many spaces as possible, should be strong and intentional and hopefully can come to be a reality following this push to put more fruit trees in. Mahalo nui.

Kimeona Kane

LATE

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 5:26:35 AM
Testimony for GVO on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm born and raised in the Hawaiian Kingdom a Kanaka Maoli.

I'm writing in SUPPORT of SB666.

me ke aloha 'āina,
Nanea Lo, Mō'ili'ili

LATE

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 5:50:45 AM

Testimony for GVO on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Irene Honig McCarthy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

I support this measure, providing a local and community minded way of sustainable food source is a positive for Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Irene Honig-McCarthy

LATE

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 6:40:48 AM

Testimony for GVO on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kamakani de dely	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support

LATE

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 7:16:30 AM

Testimony for GVO on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marina Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the proper use of growing fruit trees on public land and it's local management. We should have edible plants growing in all public spaces.

LATE

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 9:09:09 AM

Testimony for GVO on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB666 because I see more pros for Hawai'i than cons. Fruit trees can provide for those in need. We are in the pacific so reducing imports by a slight percentage means more money in the state/residents pocket. We cannot forget this is an island and we Pacific Islanders live off the land. Culturally this benefits our way of life. Financially I see this as a win for everyone going from grocery store to harvesting yourself.

LATE

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 9:24:19 AM
Testimony for GVO on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a resident of Hawaii and strongly support our right as resident to plant, harvest, and cultivate fruit trees to support self sustaining practices. This bill will empower our people to live aloha 'āina and thrive as a community. I ask for your support and you civic duty as voted politicians to do right by the people of Hawaii and it's future.

mahalo,

Nikki Kepoo

LATE

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:34:58 AM

Testimony for GVO on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice Giles	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need more ways to help the people on the island that actually live here full time. Everything is so expensive. Why should we plant more rubbish trees when we can have trees that can help us eat and lessen the burden of food prices. Let's plant more fruit trees!

LATE

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:37:33 AM

Testimony for GVO on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Franzmeier	Testifying for Island Foodscaping	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in supprt of SB666, because it just makes sense. Aa a landscape contractor Waimanalo Agricultural Association Ambassador and farmer from Waimanalo I have dreamt of bills such as this to be in existience and passed. One of my fondest memories of traveling abroad was when I was in Marrakesh, Morrocco. While walking through downtown all that lined the streets where these beautiful orange trees just filled with fruit. I thought how amazing is this. I understand there are liabilities involced and trees need to be startegically planted.

I was also part of a group back in 2012 that was proposing food forests in public parks. I have seen first had the roadblocks in creating spaces like these but this is a step in the right direction which can be spearheaded with business and non-profits such as Island Foodscaping and PermablitzHI.

Once again I humbly ask you to pass SB666 and we can just see where it takes us.

Mahalo,

Justin Franzmeier

LATE

SB-666

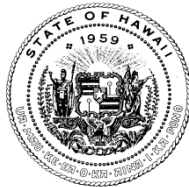
Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:03:40 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kallie Barnes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill, so long as the fruit trees identified for planting are not at risk of being or becoming invasive species. There should be more food available to people.



TESTIMONY BY:
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097



February 9, 2023
3:00 P.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

S.B. 666
RELATING TO TREES

Senate Committee on Government Operations

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports the intent** of this bill which establishes a preference for planting of fruit trees for state landscaping projects. However, the DOT has the following comments and concerns about the inclusion of “public highways” in this bill.

The DOT has safety concerns regarding this bill. The State Highway right-of-way is often limited and would place pedestrians accessing State Highways to harvest fruit in close proximity to motor vehicles in operation.

Secondly, stopping, standing, or parking on State Highways is normally prohibited due to dangers to those using the highway or where stopping, standing, or parking of vehicles would interfere unduly with the free movement of traffic as defined in HRS 291C-111.

Road safety is also compromised when trees are close to the roadway as it may infringe on the clear zone and reduce sight distances on curves. Limiting the sight distance increases the potential for crashes in addition to the possibility of crashes involving the tree itself.

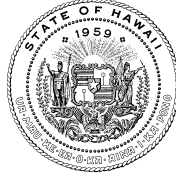
Fruits falling onto pedestrians and motor vehicles create additional safety concerns for Highway users.

In addition, there are added costs associated with the planting of fruit trees. This includes routine watering, tree maintenance, and road repairs from root damage. Fruits which fall onto the ground and remain unharvested may attract insects and rodents unless removed by DOT.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

LATE

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWÉ LAULĀ
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

S.B. 666

FEBRUARY 9, 2023, 3:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 225 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

RELATING TO FRUIT TREES.

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 666.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) offers comments for S.B. 666, which requires the State, to the extent practicable, to plant fruit trees in new or renovated landscaping that include trees, authorizes persons to harvest fruit from those trees and provides that the State is not liable for any injuries or illnesses from resulting from the harvesting or ingesting of fruit, including food-borne illness.

DAGS provides the following comments:

1. Unlike non-fruit bearing trees, there would be additional resources needed to properly clear/dispose of fallen fruit along with the general maintenance required to keep the fruit trees healthy.
2. New policies would be required for public access to fruit trees as well as a proper

maintenance scope/schedule.

3. There may be additional liability concerns for the State from injuries to the public resulting from fruit trees.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our comments on this proposed measure.