

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & BIOSECURITY
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI A KIA'I MEAOLA
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9560 FAX: (808) 973-9613

SHARON HURD
Chairperson
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

LATE

WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY
TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS
AND ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026
10:15 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 325

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 180 / HOUSE RESOLUTION 170
USING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY TO EXPLORE
AND PURSUE OPPORTUNITIES TO COLOCATE COMMUNITY-BASED
RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATING PROJECTS WITH AGRICULTURAL
RESERVOIRS AND IRRIGATION WATER INFRASTRUCTURE.

Chairs Chun and Lowen, Vice Chairs Kusch and Perruso, and Members of the
Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Concurrent Resolution 180 /
House Resolution 170.0 This resolution urges the Department of Agriculture and
Biosecurity (Department) to explore and pursue opportunities to collocate community-
based renewable energy generating projects with agricultural reservoirs and irrigation
water infrastructure. The Department respectfully offers comments.

The Department recognizes the potential benefits of renewable energy
generating projects and supports efforts to move towards food and energy
independence. Decisions regarding state resources should also account for costs,
impacts on existing infrastructure and its functionality, long-term maintenance and
operational requirements, and compliance with public procurement standards. The
Department looks forward to participating in such opportunities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HCR-180

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 5:59:57 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Miyamoto	Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	In Person

Comments:

Farm Strong



April 7, 2026

Attention:

Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Written Testimony in Support of HCR 180/HR 170 “Urging the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to explore and pursue opportunities to co-locate community-based renewable energy generating projects with agricultural reservoirs and irrigation water infrastructure”

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

Since 2021, the Molokai Clean Energy Hui (“MCEH”), which includes Molokai residents, community leaders, practitioners, experts, and island organizations, developed the Molokai Community Energy Resilience Action Plan (CERAP). With support from technical and industry advisors and policy experts, CERAP’s innovative community planning process has been supported by the Hawai’i Public Utilities Commission (PUC), Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO), Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO), Hawaii Natural Energy Initiative (HNEI), Maui County, Molokai’s elected officials, and others in the energy sector.

One of CERAP’s ten priority community identified projects is Floating Photovoltaics (FPV) at Kualapu’u Reservoir. MCEH has \$1.4M of federal funding from the Department of Energy, which expires in mid-September 2026 to progress FPV feasibility studies. HCR180/HR170 strongly supports the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity’s collaboration with these studies, including providing short-term access to the reservoir. Access is needed to perform hydrological, boundary and other surveys to progress FPV to a 30% engineering design.

MCEH is open to sharing survey results with other agencies and stakeholders, and Kualapu’u could be a pilot project under HCR/180/HR170 at no cost to the State.



MCEH recognizes energy as a resource with multi-tiered benefits that prioritizes Molokai community values and community voices first while respectfully managing water, land, and food security with energy solutions. The intersection of these resources and industries are crucial to Molokai as the community looks to achieve 100% clean, renewable energy and who also understands the importance of food security and sovereignty, and respectful management of water, all which supports day-to-day life on Molokai and in times of disasters.

As the state of Hawai'i, including specifically Molokai experiences the following energy impacts:

- Electric rates for residential customers: Molokai residents face some of the highest in the state at more than 50¢/kwh pre-Iran war
- Post- Iran war gas prices on Molokai are over \$7/gallon
- Higher costs for water and/or agricultural owners: Water facilities can spend an estimated 20–40% of their operating budgets just on electricity for pumping while high water-energy costs make it increasingly difficult for local farmers to survive

HCR 180/HR 170 will support all priorities of Molokai community identified projects in CERAP, including Floating Photovoltaics (FPV) at Kualapu'u Reservoir:

Evaporative savings and water quality improvement:

- The panels floating on the surface of the reservoir will improve water quality for agriculture use and decrease the amount of water lost to evaporation by ~24.7 million gallons per year (~13% of the reservoir's current evaporation).
- This would decrease the need for pumping water into the reservoir, saving our islands' water resources, and saving electricity costs to run the pumps.

Avoided land disturbance:

- Placing the panels on the surface of the reservoir means less vacant land being disturbed for solar development, including agricultural land.
- Due to the design characteristics of FPV, 7MW can be produced with PV on 15 acres of the reservoir's surface area (only 17.3% of total reservoir surface area) vs 36 acres if the same sized solar system was land based.

Energy stability for Molokai ratepayers:

- The solar generated from panels on the reservoir, especially if community-owned, could provide a significant portion (~50%) of the island's electricity needs at a stable cost.



MCEH has been leading energy work on Molokai for the last 6 years and recognizes that energy intersects all things, including water and food systems directly managed by local farmers. We are open to amendments to this HCR 180/HR 170 that centers on community voices and decision making throughout the project.

For these reasons MCEH is in strong support of HCR 180/HR 170 and we urge the House Committee on Agriculture and Food System and House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection to support HCR 180/HR 170.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph K. Yelina".

Energy Director, Sust'ainable Molokai
Molokai Clean Energy Hui



April 7, 2026

Attention:

Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

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MCEH is open to sharing survey results with other agencies and stakeholders, and Kualapu’u could be a pilot project under HCR/180/HR170 at no cost to the State.



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HCR 180/HR 170 will support all priorities of Molokai community identified projects in CERAP, including Floating Photovoltaics (FPV) at Kualapu'u Reservoir:

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MCEH has been leading energy work on Molokai for the last 6 years and recognizes that energy intersects all things, including water and food systems directly managed by local farmers. We are open to amendments to this HCR 180/HR 170 that centers on community voices and decision making throughout the project.

For these reasons MCEH is in strong support of HCR 180/HR 170 and we urge the House Committee on Agriculture and Food System and House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection to support HCR 180/HR 170.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph K. Yelina".

Energy Director, Sust'ainable Molokai
Molokai Clean Energy Hui



E OLA KA HAWAII!

HO'OLEHUA

Homesteaders Association

*Mission: To help Ho'olehua Homesteaders grow:
revitalizing its food systems,
maintaining a subsistence lifestyle,
and increasing long-term economic health*

hoolehuahomesteaders@gmail.com

LATE

P. O. Box 60 | Ho'olehua | Molokai | Hawaii | 96729-0060

April 6, 2026

To: Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee

From: Ho'olehua Homesteaders Association

Re: HCR 180 & HR 170

Ho'olehua Homesteaders Association is proud to support this resolution to urge the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to explore and pursue opportunities to co-locate community-based renewable energy generating projects with Agricultural reservoirs and irrigation water infrastructure. More specifically, we support the continued exploration of the Floating PV project at the Kualapu'u Reservoir designed by the community. Members of our association participated in providing input to the Molokai CERAP recent feasibility study and appreciate the opportunity to be included with projects for our Molokai island community.

We believe that through community-led planning, in partnership with experts and stakeholders such as the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, we can achieve energy resilience for Molokai in the most efficient, resilient, sustainable, culturally appropriate, and environmentally responsible way. Our community has gained nationwide recognition for the unprecedented community-led engagement and support for this innovative FPV project. We ask that you consider engaging with the MCEH and Molokai Community as we continue to explore mutually beneficial ways to support Molokai's energy and agriculture industries.

Sincerely,

Charles A Kaahanui, III
President

Charles A. Ka'ahanui, III, President (Policy)

Tricia Mersberg, Vice President (Health & Wellness, Social Media)

Crissy Pereira, Secretary (Veterans, Website)

Lu Ann Faborito, Treasurer (Fundraising)

Louella 'Opu'ulani Albino, Barbara Kalipi, Helen O'Connor, Kammie Purdy - Kupuna Council

Fred Aki, Director (Energy)

Justin Avelino, Director (Education)

Wayne Ka'auwai, Director (Water)

LATE

April 7, 2026

To: Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch and Members of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems
Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Re: Written Testimony in Support of HR170 / HCR180 “Urging the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to explore and pursue opportunities to co-locate community-based renewable energy generating projects with agricultural reservoirs and irrigation water infrastructure”

Aloha pumehana e nā Committees on Agriculture and Food Systems, and Energy and Environmental Protection,

Mahalo for the opportunity to write this **testimony of STRONG COMMUNITY SUPPORT for HR170 / HCR 180**. My name is Leilani Chow and I have had the honor of serving my Molokai community in the areas of energy efficiency and community-led energy planning for the past 16 years. Through my work in household energy audits, light bulb and appliance exchanges, coordination support for the Molokai Clean Energy Hui (“Hui” est. 2020), lead community facilitator for the Molokai Community Energy Resilience Action Plan (“CERAP” est. 2021), and in my current role as Ho‘āhu Energy Cooperative Molokai’s Projects Coordinator, the Molokai community has trusted me to responsibly document and advocate for their needs and preferences when it comes to Molokai’s clean energy future.

The following community data and major decision points collected throughout the 5 year long CERAP planning process have been compiled here to exemplify the incredible dedication, time, and serious consideration Molokai has put into the selection and exploration of floating solar thus far. All CERAP projects, including FPV, have only made it to this point if they've received strong island-wide support. Projects are only able to receive strong community support through the CERAP process, designed by and for Molokai to prioritize well-informed place-based decision making.

CERAP 1.0 (Jan 2022 - June 2023)

- With support from HECO and the PUC, the Hui and UH Mānoa’s Hawaii Natural Energy Institute (HNEI) TA led by Mark Glick present a series of island-wide energy briefings on generation, storage, and grid configuration options that are technically feasible for Molokai.
- The Molokai Community identifies Floating Solar as a generation technology in alignment with our values and goals that we would like to explore further.
- Hui/community and HNEI work together to understand appropriate siting and sizing consideration alongside high-level cost tradeoffs for floating solar at the Kualapu‘u Reservoir.
- CERAP’s FPV and other project concepts are shared island-wide, **floating solar at the Kualapu‘u Reservoir receives 100% community support and makes it to the final CERAP portfolio** of projects after:
 - 2,800+ individual community conversations
 - 713 surveys collected
 - 30+ focus groups and workshops
 - 17 community events

CERAP 2.1 (Jan 2024 - June 2025)

- The Hui receives Technical Assistance from Dept of Energy's National Laboratory of the Rockies (NRL) and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) and continues working with HECO to understand grid preferability for Molokai.
- **FPV is validated from a technical grid preferability standpoint**, across Molokai community members compare high level project costs and bill impacts for different sizes and configurations of floating solar and ground-mounted solar.
- **Despite higher costs than ground-mounted solar, FPV continues to receive strong community support** and rises to the top 2 most preferred options for generating Central Molokai's energy (about 50% of Molokai's energy needs). This was confirmed through:
 - 512 community surveys
 - 10 focus groups and workshops
 - 19 community events

CERAP 2.2 (July 2025 - Sept 2026)

- The Hui/community uses part of the remaining DOE funding to contract Noria Energy who quantifies and **confirms water related benefits and considerations for an FPV project** at the Kualapu'u Reservoir.
- Updated project costs, physical design layout, landowner relationship, water protection, environment/wildlife impacts, construction impacts, and timeline attributes for Molokai's top projects are shared with the community **from Jan-March 2026**.
- **The Community reaffirms FPV is a top priority energy project to move forward with** through:
 - 170 surveys collected
 - 11+ individual, focus group, and workshop discussions
 - 4+ community events
- (NOW) April - September 2026 the Molokai community has \$1.4 million remaining from DOE and is **seeking Department of Ag and Biosecurity permission for Right of Entry ASAP** to continue exploring the feasibility of floating solar at Kualapu'u.

After five years of rigorous planning and thousands of community conversations, Molokai has remained consistent in our prioritization of FPV as an energy solution that supports on island agriculture, protects our water, and improves our overall sustainability and wellbeing. We have the technical validation, community support, and \$1.4 million in federal funding ready to be deployed before it expires in September 2026.

We humbly ask for your support of HR170 / HCR180 to provide the Dept of Ag and Biosecurity the encouragement and legislative backing needed to partner with the Molokai Clean Energy Hui in this exploration.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

Leilani Chow

Projects Coordinator, Ho'āhu Energy Cooperative Molokai
Molokai Clean Energy Hui

HCR-180

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 3:08:51 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT!

HCR-180

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 4:23:58 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jill Coombs	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, esteemed members of the legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for the House Concurrent Resolution urging the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to explore and pursue opportunities to colocate community-based renewable energy generating projects with agricultural reservoirs and irrigation water infrastructure throughout the State of Hawaii.

Hawaii stands at a crucial juncture in its energy landscape, and the commitment to achieving one hundred percent renewable electricity by 2045 is not merely a goal; it is a necessity for our sustainability and resilience. The integration of renewable energy sources with our existing agricultural infrastructure represents a significant opportunity to enhance our energy security while supporting our vital agricultural sector.

Our agricultural reservoirs and irrigation systems are important assets that should be able to effectively support renewable energy technologies. By colocating floating solar photovoltaic systems and gravity-powered water energy generation technologies, we should be able to harness the natural synergy between water management and energy production.

The benefits of such integration extend beyond energy generation. By reducing water evaporation from reservoirs and minimizing algae growth, we can maintain overall water quality and improve system efficiency. This is vital for preserving our precious water resources and maintaining the health of our ecosystems.

I urge the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to take proactive steps in collaborating with farmers, community organizations, and relevant stakeholders to identify suitable sites for these projects. Supporting feasibility studies and pilot projects will be crucial in evaluating the technical, economic, and environmental potential of integrating renewable energy systems with our agricultural water infrastructure.

I also want to voice my opinion that any energy solutions should be mutually beneficial to the community and also to the reservoir/water system and its users. There are substantial costs that are associated with running a water

delivery system, and those costs should be recouperated at least in part through the renewable energy project.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support this resolution and encourage you to take decisive action to promote the integration of renewable energy with our agricultural infrastructure.

Mahalo for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jill Coombs
Molokai Ag Park Tenant
808-658-9849
jill.coombs@yahoo.com

HCR-180

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 5:04:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HCR 180 and HR170. Our water resources are a potentially extremely valuable source of energy generation and energy storage that have been neglected for way too long.

HCR-180

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 11:39:01 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

180 HCR URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY TO EXPLORE AND PURSUE OPPORTUNITIES TO COLOCATE COMMUNITY-BASED RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATING PROJECTS WITH AGRICULTURAL RESERVOIRS AND IRRIGATION WATER INFRASTRUCTURE.

HCR-180

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 5:54:35 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lu Ann Mahiki Lankford-Faborito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

strong support to help our residence and homesteaders on Molokai with more energy efficient resources

HCR-180

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 5:16:49 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenneth Faborito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

strong support

HCR-180

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 8:30:27 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Liliana Napoleon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

10:15am

State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

Relating to the DoAB Exploring Renewable Energy Projects with Reservoirs and Irrigation Infrastructure.

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, and Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

My name is Liliana Napoleon , and I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of HR 170. As a resident of Molokai, I have participated in the community-led renewable energy planning process (Molokai Community Energy Resilience Action Plan/CERAP) facilitated by the Molokai Clean Energy Hui (MCEH) and want to encourage DoAB support for the continued exploration of the Floating PV project designed by the community. It is important to continue investigating the technical, economic, and cultural feasibility of this project in order to identify real trade-offs for the community and the State to consider. Recent prefeasibility studies confirmed mutual benefits of FPV on the Kualapu'u Reservoir outlined below.

Evaporative savings and water quality improvement:

- The panels floating on the surface of the reservoir will improve water quality for ag use and decrease the amount of water lost to evaporation by ~24.7 million gallons per year (~13% of the reservoir's current evaporation).
- This would decrease the need for pumping water into the reservoir, saving our islands' water resources, and saving electricity costs to run the pumps.

Avoided land disturbance:

- Placing the panels on the surface of the reservoir means less vacant land being disturbed for solar development, including agricultural land.
- Due to the design characteristics of FPV, 7MW can be produced with PV on 15 acres of the reservoir's surface area (only 17.3% of total reservoir surface area) vs 36 acres if the same sized solar system was land based.

Energy stability for Molokai ratepayers:

- The solar generated from panels on the reservoir, especially if community-owned, could provide a significant portion (~50%) of the island's electricity needs at a stable cost.

The Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity's collaboration is critical to the next phase of this work. We are committed to community-led planning, in partnership with experts and stakeholders to achieve energy resilience for Molokai in the most efficient, resilient, sustainable, culturally appropriate, and environmentally responsible way. Our community has gained nationwide recognition for our unprecedented community-led engagement and support for this innovative FPV project.

We ask that you pass HR170/HCR180 and strongly support the Department's collaboration with the MCEH and Molokai Community as we continue to explore mutually beneficial ways to support Molokai's energy and agriculture industries.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

HCR-180

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 8:31:23 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nani Kahinu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY TO EXPLORE AND PURSUE OPPORTUNITIES TO COLOCATE COMMUNITY-BASED RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATING PROJECTS WITH AGRICULTURAL RESERVOIRS AND IRRIGATION WATER INFRASTRUCTURE"

HCR-180

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 8:36:56 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dexter Walcott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, and Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

My name is Dexter Walcott, and I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of HR 170. As an architect and resident of Molokai I am urging the committee to continue to work with the community to explore electricity generation co-location with AG reservoirs. In this time of unprecedented uncertainty and exorbitant energy costs it is critical for the state to embrace innovative and community-driven solutions to energy independence for Molokai.

I ask that you pass HR170/HCR180 and strongly support the Department's collaboration with the Molokai Clean Energy Hui and Molokai Community as we continue to explore mutually beneficial ways to support Molokai's energy and agriculture industries.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HCR-180

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 8:37:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Poepoe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of HCR 180. Moloka'i residents, paying some of the highest electric bills in the country, are very interested in having renewable energy options. Community request to Dept of Ag. Mahalo.

HCR-180

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 8:53:13 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawaipuna Kalipi	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, and the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

Mahalo to Representative Poepoe for introducing this resolution. It is through her boots-on-the-ground presence in the community, and her responsiveness to the voices and values of Moloka‘i, that we have this opportunity to share how Moloka‘i aims to transition to 100% renewable energy in alignment with community, aloha ‘āina, and long-term stewardship values.

My name is [NAME], and I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of HR 170 / HCR 180, urging the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to explore and pursue opportunities to colocate community-based renewable energy generating projects with agricultural reservoirs and irrigation water infrastructure.

As a resident of Moloka‘i, I have participated in the community-led renewable energy planning process through the Moloka‘i Community Energy Resilience Action Plan (CERAP), facilitated by the Moloka‘i Clean Energy Hui (MCEH). I respectfully encourage the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to support the continued exploration of the community-designed Floating Photovoltaic (FPV) project at Kualapu‘u Reservoir.

The Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity’s collaboration is critical to the next phase of this work. Our community remains committed to community-led planning, in partnership with experts, agencies, and stakeholders, to achieve energy resilience for Moloka‘i in the most efficient, resilient, sustainable, culturally appropriate, and environmentally responsible way possible.

Moloka‘i has gained national recognition for its unprecedented community-led engagement and support for this innovative FPV project. This effort reflects our island’s commitment to solutions that honor both our people and our place.

We respectfully ask that you pass HR 170 / HCR 180 and strongly support the Department’s collaboration with the Moloka‘i Clean Energy Hui and the Moloka‘i community as we continue to explore mutually beneficial ways to strengthen both Moloka‘i’s energy future and its agricultural systems.

This is an opportunity not only for Moloka‘i, but for the entire State of Hawai‘i. If Moloka‘i is successful in advancing this project, it has the potential to transform how we think about the relationship between energy generation and water infrastructure. Let Moloka‘i pilot this project. It is community-supported, and we are prepared to move forward thoughtfully and adapt as needed.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HR 170 / HCR 180

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

10:15am

State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

Relating to the DoAB Exploring Renewable Energy Projects with Reservoirs and Irrigation Infrastructure.

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, and Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

My name is Paul Hanley, and I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of HR 170. As a resident of Molokai, I have participated in the community-led renewable energy planning process (Molokai Community Energy Resilience Action Plan/CERAP) facilitated by the Molokai Clean Energy Hui (MCEH) and want to encourage DoAB support for the continued exploration of the Floating PV project designed by the community. It is important to continue investigating the technical, economic, and cultural feasibility of this project in order to identify real trade-offs for the community and the State to consider. Recent prefeasibility studies confirmed mutual benefits of FPV on the Kualapu'u Reservoir outlined below.

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Energy stability for Molokai ratepayers:

- The solar generated from panels on the reservoir, especially if community-owned, could provide a significant portion (~50%) of the island's electricity needs at a stable cost.

The Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity's collaboration is critical to the next phase of this work. We are committed to community-led planning, in partnership with experts and stakeholders to achieve energy resilience for Molokai in the most efficient, resilient, sustainable, culturally appropriate, and environmentally responsible way. Our community has

gained nationwide recognition for our unprecedented community-led engagement and support for this innovative FPV project.

We ask that you pass HR170/HCR180 and strongly support the Department's collaboration with the MCEH and Molokai Community as we continue to explore mutually beneficial ways to support Molokai's energy and agriculture industries.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,
Paul Hanley
Box 71 Kualapuu 96757
808 213-5511

HCR-180

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 9:21:22 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leimana Ritte-Camara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HR 170 / HCR 180

Relating to the DoAB Exploring Renewable Energy Projects with Reservoirs and Irrigation

Infrastructure.

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, and Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

My name is Leimana Ritte-Camara, and I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of HR 170. As a resident of Molokai, I have participated in the community-led renewable energy planning process (Molokai Community Energy Resilience Action Plan/CERAP) facilitated by the Molokai Clean Energy Hui (MCEH) and want to encourage DoAB support for the continued exploration of the Floating PV project designed by the community. It is important to continue investigating the technical, economic, and cultural feasibility of this project in order to identify real trade-offs for the community and the State to consider. Recent prefeasibility studies confirmed mutual benefits of FPV on the Kualapu'u Reservoir outlined below.

Evaporative savings and water quality improvement:

- The panels floating on the surface of the reservoir will improve water quality for ag use and decrease the amount of water lost to evaporation by ~24.7 million gallons per year (~13% of the reservoir's current evaporation).
- This would decrease the need for pumping water into the reservoir, saving our islands' water resources, and saving electricity costs to run the pumps.

Avoided land disturbance:

- Placing the panels on the surface of the reservoir means less vacant land being disturbed for solar development, including agricultural land.
- Due to the design characteristics of FPV, 7MW can be produced with PV on 15 acres of the reservoir's surface area (only 17.3% of total reservoir surface area) vs 36 acres if the same sized solar system was land based.

Energy stability for Molokai ratepayers:

- The solar generated from panels on the reservoir, especially if community-owned, could provide a significant portion (~50%) of the island's electricity needs at a stable cost.

The Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity's collaboration is critical to the next phase of this work. We are committed to community-led planning, in partnership with experts and stakeholders to achieve energy resilience for Molokai in the most efficient, resilient, sustainable, culturally appropriate, and environmentally responsible way. Our community has gained nationwide recognition for our unprecedented community-led engagement and support for this innovative FPV project.

We ask that you pass HR170/HCR180 and strongly support the Department's collaboration with the MCEH and Molokai Community as we continue to explore mutually beneficial ways to support Molokai's energy and agriculture industries.

Mahalo for your time and consideration, Leimana Ritte-Camara

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HR 170 / HCR 180

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

10:15am

State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

Relating to the DoAB Exploring Renewable Energy Projects with Reservoirs and Irrigation Infrastructure.

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, and Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

My name is Scott Ensign, and I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of HR 170. As a seasonal resident of Molokai I have participated in the community-led renewable energy planning process (Molokai Community Energy Resilience Action Plan/CERAP) facilitated by the Molokai Clean Energy Hui (MCEH) for a number of years (sometimes over Zoom) and want to encourage DoAB support for the continued exploration of the Floating PV project designed by the community. It is important to continue investigating the technical, economic, and cultural feasibility of this project in order to identify real trade-offs for the community and the State to consider carefully. Recent prefeasibility studies confirmed mutual benefits of FPV on the Kualapu'u Reservoir outlined below.

Evaporative savings and water quality improvement:

- The panels floating on the surface of the reservoir will improve water quality for ag use and decrease the amount of water lost to evaporation by ~24.7 million gallons per year (~13% of the reservoir's current evaporation).
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Energy stability for Molokai ratepayers:

- The solar generated from panels on the reservoir, especially if community-owned, could provide a significant portion (~50%) of the island's electricity needs at a stable cost.

The Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity's collaboration is critical to the next phase of this work. We are committed to community-led planning, in partnership with experts and stakeholders to achieve energy resilience for Molokai in the most efficient, resilient, sustainable, culturally appropriate, and environmentally responsible way. Our community has

gained nationwide recognition for our unprecedented community-led engagement and support for this innovative FPV project.

We ask that you pass HR170/HCR180 and strongly support the Department's collaboration with the MCEH and Molokai Community as we continue to explore mutually beneficial ways to support Molokai's energy and agriculture industries.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Scott Ensign, Ph.D.

HCR-180

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 9:39:32 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Kahn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I emphatically support HR170 and all companion resolutions.

Mahalo,

Greg Kahn

Molokai

HCR-180

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 9:39:32 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chase Livingston	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Chase Livingston and I am testifying in strong support of this bill. I have studied these issues for many years and believe these solar resources over water offer great benefits to the people of Hawaii.

The currently evolving energy crisis in the middle east drives home the urgency and importance of developing resilient local energy systems in Hawaii. Increasing the energy we generate from true renewable sources (solar, wind, some hydro, tidal, etc.) will have huge environmental, climate, social, and financial benefits to the people of Hawaii.

But we are also in a water crisis and food crisis, with urgent need to increase and protect access to local food and clean water for drinking and agriculture.

Floating solar projects over agricultural reservoirs and irrigation water infrastructure is exactly the type of thing we need to be pursuing aggressively, right now. These projects allow us to increase the solar generation capacity without taking up land that could otherwise be used for productive crops and agriculture. It also will help reduce evaporation losses from our surface water resources. By putting the solar panels over water, it will also increase the efficiency of the PV systems, generating more electricity. It is a WIN WIN WIN.

- Energy/water nexus: does not take up agricultural land/ reduces water loss through evaporation.
- for irrigation canals, results indicated that shading induced a significant decrease of the daily evaporation rate, ranging from 50% to 80%. (see section 2.3.2 of attached report).
 - At the Kualapu'u reservoir on Moloka'i, water loss through evaporation has been estimated to be: "Pan evaporation loss (Table 7) from the 100-acre reservoir surface is expected to be as much as 20% of the daily west portal flow (Table 2) during the hot summer months when water is least available."
 - From p. 28 of <https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/ADCAnnual2001.pdf>
 - "The calculated losses due to evaporation of 0.47 and 0.18 inch per day from 100 acres of water are 1.276 and 0.489 mgd. The expected loss by evaporation is 307 million gallons of water per year based on the annual average evaporation rate of 0.31 inch per day."
 - From p. 14 of <https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/ADCAnnual2001.pdf>

- Other, far crazier ideas have been pursued in the past (and thankfully not followed up on) - the link mentions putting oil or other material into the reservoir to reduce the evaporation... but it makes the water undrinkable (only for irrigation and who wants that on their plants).
- An additional advantage is the natural cooling of the SPVS. The performance of photovoltaic modules varies as a function of its operating temperature. The developers of the Narmada project (see Section 2.2) have estimated that the lower temperature will increase solar panels' efficiency by as high as 7%, compared to ground-mounted installations. (see section 2.3.1 of report).

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HR 170 / HCR 180

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

To: Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch and Members of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems
Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Re: Urging the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to explore and pursue opportunities to co-locate community-based renewable energy generating projects with agricultural reservoirs and irrigation water infrastructure

Aloha and mahalo for this opportunity to express my **STRONG SUPPORT for HR 170 / HCR 180**. I am Audrey Newman and I have lived on Molokai for 24 years. I have been part of the Executive team supporting the Molokai Clean Energy Hui (MCEH or "Hui") since it started in 2020. For more than 5 years, the Molokai community has worked together with vision and leadership to pursue the renewable energy (RE) future they want, starting with the 10 priority RE projects they identified in the Molokai Community Energy Resilience Action Plan or CERAP.

This resolution will help the Dept of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DoAB) work with the Molokai community to gather important information on floating solar panels (FPV) on the Kualapu'u Reservoir. Based on recent pre-feasibility studies shared through community workshops and surveys, **FPV is the community's top priority large-scale RE project and could generate more than 50% of the island's electricity needs.** The Hui has federal funding for the next phase of floating solar feasibility studies on the reservoir. These funds must be spent by September 30 this year. We are eager to work with the State and use these studies to better understand FPV potential on Molokai. **This could be a pilot project under HR170 at no cost to the Department and help explore the potential of floating solar technology for the State.**

Our Kualapu'u floating solar studies would address all the actions called for in HR 170:

- Co-locating community-based renewable energy with Molokai's most important agriculture reservoir and irrigation infrastructure, potentially making its operation more cost-effective.
- Ongoing close collaboration with Molokai farmers, homestead associations, the Molokai Irrigation System (MIS) Water Users Advisory Board, other Molokai community organizations, HECO, HSEO, PUC, Maui County, all of Molokai's elected officials, US Department of Energy and many others.
- Preliminary studies have shown significant community and agricultural benefits from floating solar, including reduction in evaporation from the reservoir, improved water quality, reduced pumping costs, stable energy prices.
- Our proposed studies will assess the technical, economic, environmental and cultural feasibility of floating solar and provide critical information to support next step decisions by the community, the State, HECO and others.

The Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity's collaboration is critical to the next phase of this work, including providing short-term access to the reservoir. I humbly ask both Committees to pass this Resolution and urge the Department to support the exploration of floating solar on Kualapu'u Reservoir for Molokai and our State. Mahalo nui.

HCR-180

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 10:08:04 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matt Yamashita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

10:15am

State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

Relating to the DoAB Exploring Renewable Energy Projects with Reservoirs and Irrigation Infrastructure.

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, and Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

My name is Matt Yamashita, Molokai resident for 48 years, born and raised. I am in strong support of HR 170 / HCR 180.

I am an Emmy award winning filmmaker and an active community leader through my participation on numerous nonprofit boards over the past 20 years. I helped form the Molokai Clean Energy Initiative in 2015 which evolved into the Molokai Clean Energy Hui (MCEH) today.

While I am not currently active in the work, I have been tracking the efforts of MCEH and its partners for many years, especially in regard to the Molokai Community Energy Resilience Action Plan (CERAP). The efforts to develop the CERAP have been extremely thoughtful, well informed, and extremely inclusive of community input at every stage.

One of the proposed projects born out of this community planning process is the idea of floating solar on the Kualapu'u reservoir. It is a brilliant idea with many potential win-win outcomes, for both energy and water security on Molokai. Therefore, I want to strongly encourage DoAB to support the continued exploration of this Floating PV project designed by the community with the guidance of energy experts.

Molokai has some of the highest energy prices in the US. The island remains almost entirely dependent on fossil fuel for electricity. Water resources are limited and need to be protected. A utility scale Floating PV system on the Kualapuu Reservoir shows strong potential for helping transition the electricity grid to renewable energy, stabilize energy prices, demonstrate both the feasibility and high efficiency of floating PV, while reducing high evaporation rates of Molokai Irrigation System water stored in the reservoir.

This project holds huge potential not just for Molokai, but the entire state as a model of cutting edge, community-driven renewable energy solutions that maximize resource sustainability.

I ask that you pass HR170/HCR180 and strongly support the Department's collaboration with the MCEH and Molokai Community as we continue to explore mutually beneficial ways to support Molokai's energy and agriculture industries.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Matt N Yamashita

Testimony of
Nicole Schroeter-Simms

**Before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS, AND COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Wednesday, April 8, 2026
10:15am
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

Providing Support of
HR 170 / HCR 180

Relating to the DoAB Exploring Renewable Energy Projects with Reservoirs and Irrigation Infrastructure.

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, and Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

My name is Nicole Schroeter-Simms and I am writing in support of HCR 180 / HR 170. I encourage DoAB to support the continued exploration of the Floating PV project designed by the community as part of the Molokai Community Energy Resilience Action Plan (CERAP). One of CERAP's ten priority community identified projects is Floating Photovoltaics (FPV) at Kualapu'u Reservoir. Molokai Clean Energy Hui has \$1.4M of federal funding from the Department of Energy, which expires in mid-September 2026 to progress FPV feasibility studies. HCR180/HR170 strongly supports the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity's collaboration with these studies, including providing short-term access to the reservoir. Access is needed to perform hydrological, boundary and other surveys to progress FPV to a 30% engineering design.

MCEH is open to sharing survey results with other agencies and stakeholders, and Kualapu'u could be a pilot project under HCR/180/HR170 at no cost to the State.

I have worked as part of the Molokai Clean Energy Hui as the CERAP Admin Assistant since August 2025. During this time I have participated in multiple community events aimed at advancing the CERAP efforts. Community members have interacted with us by completing surveys, attending workshops, and engaging in honest, thoughtful discussions. Based on these interactions, it is clear that Molokai residents would like to further explore the possibility of utilizing the Kualapu'u Reservoir as a potential site for a community scale PV project.

A few beneficial aspects of a Floating PV array are as follows:

- Decreased water evaporation leaving more water in the reservoir for farmers to utilize.
- Decreased water temperature leading to less algae growth and potential for better water quality.
- Decreased land developed saving an estimated 36 acres of land from an alternative ground mounted solar array of the same system size.

We believe that through community-led planning, in partnership with experts and stakeholders such as the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, we can achieve energy resilience for Molokai in the most efficient, resilient, sustainable, culturally appropriate, and environmentally responsible way. We ask that you consider engaging with the Molokai Clean Energy Hui and Molokai Community as we continue to explore mutually beneficial ways to support Molokai's energy and agriculture industries.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Nicole Schroeter-Simms
Molokai Resident
CERAP Admin Assistant

LATE

HCR-180

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 11:02:28 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roland Yartzoff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha committee members:

Floating solar systems have a performance advantage, as the water cools the solar panels thereby making them more efficient. On hot days, an improvement of 15% more efficiency can be expected. In the case of Kualapu'u Reservoir, there are two additional benefits.

First, wind-generated swells have eroded the southern embankment of the reservoir. This has been an ongoing problem requiring staff time to correct. Second, floating solar panels absorb light energy which would otherwise be used by algae for their growth. By installing floating solar panels, the frequency required to remove algae and clean filters will be reduced thereby reducing staff time for maintenance. I thank you for your attention to this matter.

Cordially, Roland Yartzoff

LATE

HCR-180

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 11:24:11 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Iolani Kuoha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

10:15am

State Capitol, Conference Room 325, and Videoconference

Relating to the DoAB: Exploring Renewable Energy Projects with Reservoirs and Irrigation Infrastructure.

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture; Food Systems, and Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

My name is 'Iolani Kuoha, and I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of HR 170. As a resident of Moloka'i, I have participated in the community-led renewable energy planning process (Molokai Community Energy Resilience Action Plan/CERAP) facilitated by the Molokai Clean Energy Hui (MCEH), and I want to encourage DoAB support for the continued exploration of the Floating PV project designed by the community. It is important to continue investigating the technical, economic, and cultural feasibility of this project to identify real trade-offs for the community and the State to consider. Recent prefeasibility studies confirmed the mutual benefits of FPV on the Kualapu'u Reservoir, outlined below.

Evaporative savings and water quality improvement:

- The panels floating on the surface of the reservoir will improve water quality for ag use and decrease the amount of water lost to evaporation by ~24.7 million gallons per year (~13% of the reservoir's current evaporation).
- This would decrease the need for pumping water into the reservoir, saving our islands' water resources and saving electricity costs to run the pumps.

Avoided land disturbance:

- Placing the panels on the surface of the reservoir means less vacant land being disturbed for solar development, including agricultural land.
- Due to the design characteristics of FPV, 7MW can be produced with PV on 15 acres of the reservoir's surface area (only 17.3% of total reservoir surface area) vs 36 acres if the same-sized solar system were land-based.

Energy stability for Molokai ratepayers:

- Solar generated from panels on the reservoir, especially if community-owned, could provide a significant portion (~50%) of the island's electricity needs at a stable cost. The Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity's collaboration is critical to the next phase of this work. We are committed to community-led planning, in partnership with experts and stakeholders, to achieve

energy resilience for Molokai in the most efficient, resilient, sustainable, culturally appropriate, and environmentally responsible way.

Our community has gained nationwide recognition for our unprecedented community-led engagement and support for this innovative FPV project.

We ask that you pass HR170/HCR180 and strongly support the Department's collaboration with the MCEH and Molokai Community as we continue to explore mutually beneficial ways to support Molokai's energy and agriculture industries.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

'Iolani Kuoha

kuohaiolani1@gmail.com

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HR 170 / HCR 180



Wednesday, April 8, 2026

10:15am

State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

Relating to the DoAB Exploring Renewable Energy Projects with Reservoirs and Irrigation Infrastructure.

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, and Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

My name is Mercedes K. Ritte and I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of HR 170. As a resident of Molokai, I have participated in the community-led renewable energy planning process (Molokai Community Energy Resilience Action Plan/CERAP) facilitated by the Molokai Clean Energy Hui (MCEH) and want to encourage DoAB support for the continued exploration of the Floating PV project designed by the community. It is important to continue investigating the technical, economic, and cultural feasibility of this project to identify real trade-offs for the community and the State to consider. Recent prefeasibility studies confirmed mutual benefits of FPV on the Kualapu'u Reservoir outlined below.

Evaporative savings and water quality improvement:

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Energy stability for Molokai ratepayers:

- The solar generated from panels on the reservoir, especially if community-owned, could provide a significant portion (~50%) of the island's electricity needs at a stable cost.

The Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity's collaboration is critical to the next phase of this work. We are committed to community-led planning, in partnership with experts and stakeholders to achieve energy resilience for Molokai in the most efficient, resilient, sustainable, culturally appropriate, and environmentally responsible way. Our community has

gained nationwide recognition for our unprecedented community-led engagement and support for this innovative FPV project.

We ask that you pass HR170/HCR180 and strongly support the Department's collaboration with the MCEH and Molokai Community as we continue to explore mutually beneficial ways to support Molokai's energy and agriculture industries.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Mercedes K. Ritte

LATE

HCR-180

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 2:29:59 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I've been following the Molokai community closely and their efforts to lead by example. I'm in support of continued exploration of the Floating PV project designed by the Molokai community. The key is that this project is designed *by the community*. Much time and exploration has been invested by community residents and community leaders to not only lead a participatory process and but to arrive to solutions that are alligned with their own values while also moving the island toward clean energy and more affordable energy. I am in support of community led efforts in Hawaii to transform our energy ecosystem and Molokai has stepped up to lead in this way.

Mahalo nui,
Stephanie Chang

LATE

HCR-180

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 6:42:06 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori Buchanan	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

In SUPPORT

HCR-180

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 7:50:13 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
malcolm mackey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Our names are Malcolm Mackey and Keri Zacher. We are residents of Molokai and we urge you to consider supporting the use of ag water reservoirs for solar energy generation.

Sincerely,

Malcolm Mackey and Keri Zacher

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HR 170 / HCR 180

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

10:15am

State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

LATE

Relating to the DoAB Exploring Renewable Energy Projects with Reservoirs and Irrigation Infrastructure.

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, and Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

My name is [REDACTED], and I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of HR 170. As a resident of Molokai [or representative of the [REDACTED] on Molokai], I have participated in the community-led renewable energy planning process (Molokai Community Energy Resilience Action Plan/CERAP) facilitated by the Molokai Clean Energy Hui (MCEH) and want to encourage DoAB support for the continued exploration of the Floating PV project designed by the community. It is important to continue investigating the technical, economic, and cultural feasibility of this project in order to identify real trade-offs for the community and the State to consider. Recent prefeasibility studies confirmed mutual benefits of FPV on the Kualapu'u Reservoir outlined below.

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- The solar generated from panels on the reservoir, especially if community-owned, could provide a significant portion (~50%) of the island's electricity needs at a stable cost.

The Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity's collaboration is critical to the next phase of this work. We are committed to community-led planning, in partnership with experts and stakeholders to achieve energy resilience for Molokai in the most efficient, resilient, sustainable, culturally appropriate, and environmentally responsible way. Our community has

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We ask that you pass HR170/HCR180 and strongly support the Department's collaboration with the MCEH and Molokai Community as we continue to explore mutually beneficial ways to support Molokai's energy and agriculture industries.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,