



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 9:45 a.m.

By

Rachel Novotny, Interim Dean

And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SCR 121 – URGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A HAWAII GREEN FUELS INITIATIVE TO COINCIDE WITH INCREASED LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION.

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the Senate Committee on
Ways and Means:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SCR 121, urging the
development of a Hawai'i Green Fuels Initiative to coincide with increase local food
production.

Hawai'i has made significant strides in transitioning from fossil-based electric power
generation to greater reliance on renewable resources, and appears to be on a
sound trajectory toward meeting its goal of 100% renewable electricity by 2045.
However, unlike renewable electric power, which taps Hawai'i's excellent solar and
wind regimes, only agriculture appears to have the potential to contribute significantly
to the production of renewable "drop-in" transportation fuels, provide a large platform
for the manufacturing of commercial products, and significantly reduce the amount of
food imported into our state.

Producing home-grown food, bio-based fuels and electricity, and other manufactured
products offers excellent opportunities to use Hawai'i's valuable land and water
resources and reduce our state's reliance on imported food and fuel, strengthen and
diversify Hawai'i's economy and open new markets for local agribusinesses, and
have significant, positive environmental and social/community impacts. The timing of
this effort is critical, since former plantation lands will become fragmented over time
and less usable for biofuel crop production.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of SCR 121.