



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
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SCR 121 – URGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A HAWAII GREEN FUELS INITIATIVE TO COINCIDE WITH INCREASED LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION.

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen, and members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection:

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 increased 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.