



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems
Friday, April 11, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.

By

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And

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**SCR 88 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ESTABLISH
AND ADMINISTER A MICROBIAL ALGAE SOIL PRODUCTS PILOT PROGRAM**

Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SCR 88 that requests the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to establish and administer a microbial algae soil products pilot program (Pilot Program). The DOA, in collaboration with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience (CTAHR) will produce reports prior to the convening of the 2026 and 2027 legislatures containing findings and recommendations for the long-term application of microbial algae soil products to Hawai'i's agricultural sector. CTAHR respectfully offers comments.

CTAHR has one faculty member conducting research with microbial algae and CTAHR currently has inadequate personnel and limited capacity to provide soil analysis and soil testing for the Pilot Program. As resolutions do not provide for funding, without additional resources it will be challenging for CTAHR to collaborate effectively with DOA to undertake the activities of a microbial algae soil products pilot program, and produce reports prior to the convening of the 2026 and 2027 legislatures.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony offering comments on the measure.