



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

House Bill #1192 HD1

Relating to the Lyon Arboretum

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance

February 24, 2005

by

Dr. James R. Gaines
Interim Vice President for Research
University of Hawai'i

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Chairperson Takamine and Members of the Finance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to come before you today to discuss House Bill 1192 HD1.

This bill appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii for repair, maintenance and operation of the Harold L. Lyon Arboretum.

Of the approximate 2000 endangered species in the United States approximately two-thirds are located in Hawaii. The conservation biology program that is housed in the arboretum is an important effort for this need with hundreds of species being currently preserved and cared for at the arboretum.

The thousands of visitors who come to the arboretum as well as the hundreds of volunteers that contribute their time and effort there are a clear statement of the importance of the arboretum to the community. The teacher training and K-12 student activities also underline the broad need of the arboretum that extends beyond the normal scope of responsibilities of an ordinary organized research unit of the University.

The University of Hawaii supports the allocation of funds associated with House Bill 1192 HD1 so long as it does not supplant funds for the support of the priorities in the BOR approved University Biennium Request.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.