



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

**Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education**

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**by
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House Concurrent Resolution 298 – REQUESTING THE COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF MANDATED OR INCENTIVE BASED VOLUNTARY ROOFTOP LANDSCAPING AND AGRICULTURE IN URBAN DISTRICTS.

Chair Waters, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee:

I support the intent of HCR 298.

Rooftop landscaping and agriculture offer innovative ways to address issues of environmental protection, sustainability, and food security we face in Hawai'i. Rooftop gardens can filter pollutants while conserving the energy required to cool buildings. Rooftop gardens used to produce food crops can also increase the supply of locally grown produce, diminishing our dependence on food import.

HCR 298 requests that CTAHR undertake a feasibility study involving a number of organizations and agencies to assess the potential impact of rooftop landscaping and agriculture in urban districts. However, the resolution does not include funding for this study. Please note that the UH Mānoa budget that the House Finance Committee forwarded to the Senate contains an item for CTAHR's Turf and Landscape Management program, consisting of 2 FTE and \$250,000. If the Senate concurs with that item and the Governor does not veto it and releases the funds, we would have the resources to conduct the study requested in HCR 298.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.