



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Education and Agriculture
on April 20, 2012 at 1:15pm

By

Virginia Hinshaw, Chancellor

And

Vassilis Syrmos

Associate Vice Chancellor for Research & Graduate Education

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**HCR 104 – URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO DESIGNATE THE MAGOON
RESEARCH AND TEACHING FACILITY SITE FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF
HAWAII AT MANOA COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND
HUMAN RESOURCES.**

Chairs Tokuda and Nishihara and Members of the Committees: My name is Vassilis Syrmos and I am the Associate Vice Chancellor for Research & Graduate Education at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in strong support of each and every point of this resolution, however, I have strong reservations in the technicality of the language.

The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), along with the College of Engineering, are the founding colleges of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa; a land grant institution. CTAHR has provided meaningful contributions to the state in education, training, research, extension programs and workforce development for over 100 years.

The Magoon Research Facility, like many other CTAHR facilities across the state, has served this core mission of the college for many decades. As such the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa would neither displace nor close any such facility, including the Magoon site, without ensuring that the facility is relocated by providing at least the same level, preferably better, of teaching, research, extension, and outreach experiences to the students, faculty and the community at large. The creation and success of such facilities in the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa only occurs after extensive consultation with faculty, students, and the community. Success of such programs comes through the strength and participation of our faculty and students. Therefore, any major changes to University facilities cannot be achieved without their consultation and participation.

Finally, although we are in strong support of the points of the resolution, the specific language preclude the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa to manage its assets in an autonomous and efficient manner by earmarking facilities and sites for specific disciplines on campus. In lieu of a proposed Senate legislative earmarking of \$500K for planning of an Urban Agricultural Center at Magoon, the administration is working with our consultants to conceptually incorporate such a facility during our feasibility study for that property. We recommend that the resolution is amended to reflect the strong support for CTAHR and Magoon Research Facility Site without restricting the University's asset management ability.

Thank you.