



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

TESTIMONY

S.B. 3153, SD 2
RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION
FOR BIOREMEDIATION RESEARCH

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committees on Agriculture and
Economic Development and Business Concerns

March 24, 2004

By

Charles Hayes
Dean, College of Natural Sciences
University of Hawai'i

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Chairs Felipe P. Abinsay and Brian Schatz and Members of the Committees:

Speaking on behalf of the University of Hawai'i, we support this legislation so long as it does not supplant our Board of Regents' approved supplementary budget request.

This project will leverage non-state funds in a collaborative demonstration project between Maui Land and Pineapple, Maui Community College, Earth University of Costa Rica, all operating as Maui Ag Partners, and the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit (PCSU) of The College of Sciences of the University of Hawai'i Manoa, to explore best management practices to recondition former-pineapple agricultural soils on West Maui.

Maui Land and Pineapple is the largest agricultural business in the state. While they have expressed their commitment to maintaining a strong presence in agriculture but are looking to diversity into organic crops. PCSU has extensive experience coordinating and implementing state/federal/private ecosystem restoration efforts, while the other partners have extensive experience in extension and agriculture, so this public-private venture offers us an array of expertise to develop best practices that can then be passed along to the farming community on other pineapple lands throughout the state.

Thank you.