



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

SCR 174: Requesting the University of Hawai'i to Work with The Lyon Arboretum Community Steering Committee and to Submit A Report Regarding Its Efforts to Improve Conditions at The Lyon Arboretum

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education

April 21, 2005

By

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Interim Dean, Natural Sciences
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Chair Waters, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SCR 174. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa supports the intention of SCR174, to ensure that the future of the Lyon Arboretum is carefully considered by citizens and stakeholders that care deeply about the Arboretum.

To accomplish this, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa has set up a group with wide representation from all task force members that has been charged to:

- Define the various missions of the Lyon Arboretum, in alignment with the core mission of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.
- Evaluate the best organizational form for the delivery of the missions, in or outside of the University.
- Oversee the development of a Master Plan.
- Develop a Long Range Business Plan for the Lyon Arboretum to support each of the various missions and taking into consideration the findings of the State Auditor.
- Investigate the necessity of revising the Deed, in light of current and future use.

In order to ensure that all voices are heard, the University Task Force represents a large number of stakeholders, including Faculty, Lyon Arboretum staff, and members from the Neighborhood Board, Lyon Arboretum Association, Malama O Mānoa, Hui Hana Wednesday, Outdoor Circle, Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, and Hawai'i Nature Center.

The University will be very pleased to provide the recommendations of the Task Force to the Legislature when their report is completed, which is anticipated to be in June or July of this year. The University would also be pleased to provide specifics on the expenditures of legislative appropriations to support the Arboretum, and progress on the University's plans for the Arboretum, to the Legislature, rather than to an outside entity such as the Steering Committee.