



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
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And
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SB 303 – RELATING TO GARDENS

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 303 relating to gardens in schools and communities. The bill requires that the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM), College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) should be consulted regarding best practices in gardening, including vertical gardening, aquaponics, and community gardening.

CTAHR is the home of the Cooperative Extension Service. As part of that program, it runs a statewide Master Gardener Program, has edible crop and ornamental extension agents in each county and is the home of the Pearl City Urban Garden Center, which has extensive plantings and offers extension courses that are directly related to this bill. CTAHR can provide the consultation required by the bill in the area of both gardening and aquaponics. While the extension capacity is currently limited in aquaculture, UHM/CTAHR is in the process of hiring a new extension specialist in aquaculture and the position should be filled by the time this bill goes into effect and that need is required.

In summary, CTAHR is capable and ready to collaborate with the specifics of this bill should it be passed into law.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 303.