

Resolution 21-79 Testimony

MISC. COM. 257

HEcon

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 4:45 PM
Subject: Housing and the Economy Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Janice Greenwood
Phone 7863769965
Email janelgreenwood@gmail.com
Meeting Date 04-20-2021
Council/PH Committee Housing and the Economy
Agenda Item 21-79
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization

Dear Councilmembers,

Written
Testimony

I am writing to strongly support the adoption of Resolution 21-79. Establishing a grant program to support local food production is essential to reducing Hawaii's dependence on imported food products. An estimated 90% of Hawaii's food is imported. This increases the costs of food on the island, costs which disproportionately affect Hawaii's poorest. By supporting local food production, innovation, and purchasing more farm equipment, you are helping to support a more food sustainable, and more environmentally sustainable Hawai'i. During COVID-19, we have seen how vulnerable Hawai'i is to changes in the food supply chain. Creating a grant program is a small cost for an immense potential benefit to the people of Hawai'i. Support our farmers and support our people's ability to access locally-grown nutritious food. Support 21-79.

Thank you,

Janice Greenwood
2421 Ala Wai Blvd. #1403
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

Testimony
Attachment

Accept Terms
and Agreement 1

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 1:39 PM
Subject: Council Testimony

Written Testimony

Name	Brian Jahn
Phone	8089795427
Email	ioane.mahiai@gmail.com
Meeting Date	04-14-2021
Council/PH Committee	Council Housing and the Economy
Agenda Item	Resolution 21-79
Your position on the matter	Support
Representing	Self
Organization	
Written Testimony	I fully support this resolution. Mahalo.
Testimony Attachment	
Accept Terms and Agreement 1	

IP: 192.168.200.67



April 13, 2021

Chair Tommy Waters, Vice Chair Esther Kia'aina
and Members of the Honolulu City Council
City & County of Honolulu
530 South King Street, #202
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Bill 6 CD1 & Reso 21-79 - Establishment of a Grant Fund to Support Local Agriculture
Meeting of the City Council
April 14, 2021 - 10:00a.m.
Position: Support

Aloha e Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'aina, a me Members of the Honolulu City Council:

Hawai'i Investment Ready (HIR) supports Resolution 21-79 and an amendment to Bill 6 to allocate funding for a grant program to support local agriculture.

The COVID-19 crisis has made clear and real for us that our economy in its current form is fragile and vulnerable to external forces outside of our control. There is consensus across our sectors and communities that change is necessary and that Hawai'i is at an inflection point where the decisions we make in this moment will have generational implications. We have a unique opportunity to make decisions and critical investments today that will result in a more resilient and diversified economic future.

Resolution 21-79, introduced by Vice Chair Kia'aina, strategically positions the City to leverage its funds and contribute to a coordinated and collaborative community of stakeholders advancing local agriculture as part of our desired economic future.

HIR is in the concluding phases of the inaugural Hawai'i Capital Scan project, part of which is analyzing the efficacy of public, private and philanthropic capital investment drivers specifically for Hawai'i's food systems. Attributes such as liquidity constraints, return expectations, risk, sectors, and impact preference were collected and analyzed for insights. The report will illuminate the unique narratives Hawai'i capital movement is creating in the food systems, the thought leadership emerging in the sector, the blended capital opportunities, and noteworthy funding and data gaps.

While the report is not quite ready to be published, we can share in this testimony that the Hawai'i Capital Scan has identified opportunities and gaps in the food systems funding ecosystem. Our strong position, based on this evidence, is that the funding allocation requested by Resolution 21-79, informed by this report, will be strategic and highly leveraged. The data and insights we have gleaned from our research provide evidence that these funds will make a significant contribution in attracting, coordinating, and enabling the collaboration of other sources of philanthropic and private capital to more efficiently and

effectively invest in and scale up local agriculture to become an economic driver and resilient pillar of our economic future.

The current amendment in Bill 6 CD1 to allocate \$1M to the Office of Economic Revitalization for this effort is a good symbolic start but it is simply inadequate to meaningfully leverage and manifest the full potential of this opportunity. A \$5M allocation would exponentially increase the impact potential and role that the City would play in the economic development of this vital sector.

Furthermore, an initiative and fund for local agriculture is an area of work that is new for the City. It is understandable that venturing into unfamiliar territory warrants a cautious and perhaps “start slow” approach. Unfortunately, a cautious approach will miss the opportunity. The good news is, however, that the City will not be going alone in this work. The other stakeholders in government, the private sector and philanthropy, have been at this work for decades in the local agriculture sector. In the last year, COVID acted as a forcing function to enable these stakeholders to formalize and fund collective action initiatives. The Office of Economic Revitalization has been represented in many, if not most, of these collaborative efforts and has the relationships and trust that will enable the City to contribute in its best and most effective way while others in the system do the same.

If your vision for a resilient future for Hawai‘i includes Hawai‘i’s ability to feed itself, then there is no better time to build on the progress made during COVID, and invest into local agriculture. The conditions for transformational collective action are here. Buy in and support from the government is essential. Let’s not miss this golden opportunity.

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,



Keoni Lee
CEO

Hawai‘i Investment Ready

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 1:48 AM
Subject: Housing and the Economy Testimony

Written Testimony

Name	Tiare Kaolelopono
Phone	8083752049
Email	Tiare@kapililike.org
Meeting Date	04-20-2021
Council/PH Committee	Housing and the Economy
Agenda Item	Resolution 21-79
Your position on the matter	Support
Representing	Organization
Organization	Kāpili Like Inc.
Written Testimony	
Testimony Attachment	
Accept Terms and Agreement 1	

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 10:51 AM
Subject: Housing and the Economy Testimony

Written Testimony

Name LISA A KIM
Phone 8082714195
Email lisaakim@hawaii.rr.com
Meeting Date 04-20-2021
Council/PH
Committee Housing and the Economy
Agenda Item Resolution21-79
Your position on
the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization

Written
Testimony I am in full support of this bill to increase funding for agricultural programs. Every other county has a program EXCEPT for Honolulu. If we are to increase food production, we cannot do it without the support of Federal, State and County support. Agriculture is the future of Hawaii and we will never be self-sustainable without the government's support such as with this bill.

Testimony
Attachment

Accept Terms
and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 11:39 AM
Subject: Housing and the Economy Testimony

Written Testimony

Name	Lisa Rhoden
Phone	8083438196
Email	lisazinhawaii@gmail.com
Meeting Date	04-20-2021
Council/PH Committee	Housing and the Economy
Agenda Item	Resolution 21-79
Your position on the matter	Support
Representing	Self
Organization	
Written Testimony	
Testimony Attachment	
Accept Terms and Agreement	1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 11:41 AM
Subject: Housing and the Economy Testimony
Attachments: 20210415114032_210415_RESOLUTION_21-79_Testimony.pdf

Written Testimony

Name Lisa Rhoden
Phone 8083438196
Email lisazinhawaii@gmail.com
Meeting Date 04-20-2021
Council/PH Committee Housing and the Economy
Agenda Item Res 21-79
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization
Written Testimony
Testimony Attachment 20210415114032_210415_RESOLUTION_21-79_Testimony.pdf
Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

Lisa Rhoden
PO Box 734
Kalaheo, HI 96741

City Council
City and County of Honolulu
Honolulu, HI 96813

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND THE ECONOMY

Esther Kia'aina, Calvin Say, Radiant Cordero, Augie Tulba, and Andria Tupola

Dear Committee on Housing and the Economy voting members,

I am writing to express support for RESOLUTION 21-79 – GRANT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT LOCAL AGRICULTURE, which urges the Mayor to establish a grant program to support local agriculture through the Office of Economic Revitalization.

I have been working in agriculture in Hawai'i for over a decade, much of that time devoted to assisting small farmers with conservation and more recently, implementing food safety practices and achieving food safety certification to allow them access to larger local markets.

These small farmers are integral to our regional supply systems, a fact which cannot be overlooked in our experiences of the past year. Many of these small and medium sized producers have interest in scaling up production but are constrained by financial challenges, especially those around acquiring new equipment, including farm implements and tractors, but also refrigerated trucks and improved, food safety compliant packing facilities. In order to be more self sufficient and less impacted by global supply chain disruptions, we must focus on identifying what our local agricultural producers need to function successfully here and act to provide them with assistance to meet those needs.

A grant program that would support local food production is much needed, particularly since many existing federal grant programs explicitly prohibit purchasing machinery and funding capital improvements. It is extremely difficult to scale production without new or additional equipment to prep land, plant, harvest crop, and transport that crop safely to market. Our local producers need to have the ability to explore new technologies that will help make their farming jobs more efficient; this is an essential tool in the ability to compete successfully with larger and more inexpensive operations on the mainland.

Over the past year, my organization has facilitated two CARES Act projects that provided direct support to local producers on O'ahu (20 farmers) and Kaua'i (40 farmers) by identifying what they needed to enhance and improve their farm businesses and make it possible for them to sell product into new, larger local markets. We found that simple changes made a huge difference: funding was used to purchase food safety compliant harvest bins, sanitizer systems to provide microbially clean wash water, materials to build larger, safer packing sheds to handle bigger harvests in a food safe manner, simple technology such as laptops and financial software to manage their businesses, security cameras for their farms, and storage sheds for proper chemical

storage. These are all items that directly impact each farm's ability to grow, which in turn supports our local economy across sectors.

Hawai'i is blessed with a near year round growing season for many crops, and we also have numerous small and medium sized farms from Kaua'i to Hawai'i island. We can improve outcomes in our agriculture sector and our state economy by supporting these farmers and helping them to grow. They are already here, we don't need to import them, and a grant program to support local production is a perfect place to start.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

Lisa Rhoden

Food Safety Director, North Shore Economic Vitality Partnership

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 8:29 PM
Subject: Council Testimony
Attachments: 20210415202831_Res_21-79_JY_Testimony.docx

Written Testimony

Name Janel Yamamoto
Phone 8082228659
Email janelyyamamoto@gmail.com
Meeting Date 04-20-2021
Council/PH Committee Council
Agenda Item Resolution 21-79
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization
Written Testimony
Testimony Attachment 20210415202831_Res_21-79_JY_Testimony.docx
Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

Personal Testimony
Submitted to City and County of Honolulu City Council
Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 10:30am
By Janel Yamamoto
Support of Resolution 21-79

Dear Council Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Janel Yamamoto and I am the current Director of GoFarm Hawai'i. I am submitting testimony as a private citizen in support of Resolution 21-79, which seeks to establish a grant program to support local agriculture through the Office of Economic Revitalization.

GoFarm Hawai'i (previously named the Agribusiness Incubator Program) has been providing business consulting services to farmers throughout the state since 2003. In 2012, in response to the lack of new farmer development, a beginning farmer training program called GoFarm Hawai'i was started in Windward O'ahu. Since then, the training program has grown to include five farmer training sites across the state (two on O'ahu) and one agricultural technician training program at the Waiawa Correctional Facility. The beginning farmer training program has graduated over 400 individuals statewide since 2012 (60% of them on the island of O'ahu). Many of our graduates have started small farms or found work supporting the agricultural industry. As an extramurally funded program, GoFarm Hawai'i relies solely on grants and donations to support its work.

In 2020, GoFarm Hawai'i was the recipient of CARES Act funding through the City & County of Honolulu. The funding was vital in allowing the program to 1) support our local farmers with business assistance and 2) offer agricultural workforce development training. In the past year, GoFarm Hawai'i has seen a tremendous increase in demand for farmer training on O'ahu. For our current cohorts on the island, 234 individuals participated in our introductory session, with 103 applying for 25 openings. Since June 2020, 413 individuals have asked to be notified about our next recruitment period. With individuals currently willing to support our agricultural industry, investing in our farmers and programs that support them are critical in growing this industry and increasing our local food security. To ensure the continued growth of the local agricultural industry, support from our local government to increase food and farm production, innovation, and efficiency is essential.

In conclusion, I respectfully request that the Council and Mayor approve this resolution that will help build and strengthen the island's agriculture industry. Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Mahalo,
Janel Yamamoto



Director, GoFarm Hawai'i
janelyamamoto@gmail.com
Personal Testimony

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 4:49 PM
Subject: Housing and the Economy Testimony
Attachments: 20210415164833_HNL_resolution_21-79_4-20-21_support.doc

Written Testimony

Name Hawaii Department of Agriculture
Phone 973-9550
Email heath.williams@hawaii.gov
Meeting Date 04-20-2021
Council/PH Committee Housing and the Economy
Agenda Item Resolution 21-79
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Organization
Organization Hawaii Department of Agriculture
Written Testimony
Testimony Attachment 20210415164833_HNL_resolution_21-79_4-20-21_support.doc
Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF THE HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND THE ECONOMY

April 20, 2021

RESOLUTION 21-79
URGING THE MAYOR TO ESTABLISH A GRANT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT LOCAL
AGRICULTURE THROUGH THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION

Chairperson Kia'aina and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Resolution 21-79. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (the "Department") works to further expand the role of Hawaii's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food production.

The resolution ensures the long-term viability and continued productivity of agriculture on Oahu. A County-level grant program would be a valuable opportunity for local farmers to receive resources to expand production with new crops, implement innovation and technology; and assist with the acquisition of equipment to increase farming efficiency. The Department appreciates the commitment of the City and County of Honolulu to both the County and the State's food security and resiliency, and the diversification of the local economy. The Department supports adoption of this resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 1:36 PM
Subject: Housing and the Economy Testimony
Attachments: 20210416133557_Res_No._21-79_ADC_04_20_21_CCH.pdf

Written Testimony

Name James J. Nakatani
Phone 8085860186
Email james.nakatani@hawaii.gov
Meeting Date 04-20-2021
Council/PH Committee Housing and the Economy
Agenda Item Resolution 21-79
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Organization
Organization Agribusiness Development Corporation
Written Testimony
Testimony Attachment 20210416133557_Res_No._21-79_ADC_04_20_21_CCH.pdf
Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



JAMES J. NAKATANI
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
235 S. Beretania Street, Room 205
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 586-0186 Fax: (808) 586-0189

TESTIMONY OF JAMES J. NAKATANI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND THE ECONOMY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
Tuesday, April 20, 2021
10:30 a.m.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER

RESOLUTION NO. 21-79
URGING THE MAYOR TO ESTABLISH A GRANT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT LOCAL
AGRICULTURE THROUGH THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION

Chairperson Kiaaina and Members of the Committee:

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) supports Resolution No. 21-79, which urges the mayor to establish a Grant Program to Support Local Agriculture through the Office of Economic Revitalization.

Farming is a tough business and the rising cost of inputs is making it tougher to break even let alone make a profit. One of the biggest challenge Hawaii's farmers face is cash constraints. Access to adequate capital is important for any business to prosper. For a growing or emerging farm, it's crucial. The ADC shares the same goal to increase agriculture production and supports the Council's effort to secure funding for our local farmers during these tumultuous times.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Saturday, April 17, 2021 9:25 PM
Subject: Housing and the Economy Testimony
Attachments: 20210417212444_East_County_support_Honolulu_Agriculture_Grant_Program_Reso_21-.pdf

Written Testimony

Name Frederick M. Mencher
Phone 8085260758
Email frederickmencher@gmail.com
Meeting Date 04-20-2021
Council/PH Committee Housing and the Economy
Agenda Item Resolution 21-79
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Organization
Organization East Oahu County Farm Bureau
Written Testimony
Testimony Attachment 20210417212444_East_County_support_Honolulu_Agriculture_Grant_Program_Reso_21-.pdf
Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67



EAST OAHU COUNTY FARM BUREAU
910 CALIFORNIA AVE., WAHIAWA, HI 96786

April 17, 2021

Councilmember Esther Kia'aina, Chair
Councilmember Calvin Say, Vice Chair
Committee on Housing and the Economy
Honolulu City Council
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813-3077

Dear Chair Kia'aina, Vice Chair Say, and Members of the Committee,

The East O'ahu County Farm Bureau, which represents approximately 420 farmers and supporters of agriculture from Waimanalo to Kahuku, **strongly supports** Resolution 21-79, which would establish a grant program to support local agriculture.

East O'ahu County's membership includes many small-to-medium-size farmers who would like to increase production, try new crops, and/or improve their farms' efficiency. Modern agriculture often requires infrastructure such as greenhouses, shade houses, drip irrigation lines, aquaculture tanks, planting and harvesting machinery, and processing, packing, and storage facilities. Farmers need to satisfy increased food safety requirements, to conserve water, to reduce fertilizer input, and to protect their crops from pests and diseases while minimizing pesticide use – all while maintaining or increasing yield and quality in order to compete in the marketplace. Farmers, especially new farmers or small-to-medium-size operations, often cannot afford to build the needed facilities, buy equipment that would make their operations more efficient, or experiment with new methods. The proposed agriculture grant program would help farmers pay for some of these improvements, either by itself or as matching funds to combine with grants from other sources. We believe that the result of this investment will be more agricultural production, more hiring of farm workers, and greater food security for O'ahu. We therefore encourage you to pass Resolution 21-79.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Frederick M. Mencher
for Grant Hamachi, President
East O'ahu County Farm Bureau

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 8:40 AM
Subject: Housing and the Economy Testimony

Written Testimony

Name	Nate Yuen
Phone	8082653283
Email	808nateyuen@gmail.com
Meeting Date	04-20-2021
Council/PH Committee	Housing and the Economy
Agenda Item	Resolution 21-79
Your position on the matter	Support
Representing Organization	Self
Written Testimony	We need to support local agriculture and promote a more sustainable system of food production
Testimony Attachment	
Accept Terms and Agreement	1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 9:18 AM
Subject: Housing and the Economy Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Amy Luersen
Phone 8082395603
Email luersena001@hawaii.rr.com
Meeting Date 04-20-2021
Council/PH Committee Housing and the Economy
Agenda Item RESO 21-79
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization

Historically, the farms and farmers within the Kaneohe Bay watershed provided food that sustained the community. There is strong support within the Windward community to maintain this agricultural focus. Small farmers need “working capital” that a grant program could help provide. The benefits for Oahu’s people are more successful and sustainable farms growing food for Hawaii.

Written Testimony

During the past year, it became even more evident that locally produced food is critical to our ability to thrive in Hawaii. As you know, Hawaii imports a vast majority of our food. We need more locally produced food to ensure food security. Also, purchasing from local farmers results in a multiplier effect for our economy as that money circulates within the community.

I urge you to SUPPORT a grant program in the Office of Economic Revitalization that will help to support Food Security and Sustainability of our island.

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 9:25 AM
Subject: Housing and the Economy Testimony
Attachments: 20210419092506_Reso_21-79_Ag_Grants_Program_04192021.pdf

Written Testimony

Name	Kaui Burgess
Phone	(808) 523-6348
Email	kaburges@ksbe.edu
Meeting Date	04-20-2021
Council/PH Committee	Housing and the Economy
Agenda Item	Res 21-79
Your position on the matter	Support
Representing	Organization
Organization	Kamehameha Schools
Written Testimony	
Testimony Attachment	20210419092506_Reso_21-79_Ag_Grants_Program_04192021.pdf
Accept Terms and Agreement	1

IP: 192.168.200.67



Kamehameha Schools®

Honolulu City Council
Committee on Housing and the Economy

Date: April 20, 2021
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Where: Via Videoconference

TESTIMONY
By Kau'i Burgess
Director of Community and Government Relations

RE: Resolution 21-79 – Grant Program to Support Local Agriculture

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Kia'āina, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Say, a me nā Lālā o kēia Kōmike, aloha!

We are writing in **SUPPORT of Resolution 21-79**, urging the Mayor to establish a grant program to support local agriculture through the Office of Economic Revitalization.

Kamehameha Schools believes that our educational mission is best achieved in a society that supports and enables the success of our learners. One significant component of such a society is a sustainable, local food system. For this reason, we have heavily invested in agriculture on our lands across Hawai'i to contribute to the State's Aloha+ Challenge goal of doubling local food production by 2030.

The creation of a new agricultural grants program, as encouraged by this resolution, can help reduce the significant economic barriers O'ahu's farmers face in diversifying their crops, innovating their practices, and acquiring equipment to increase efficiency. The successful implementation of this grants program, as one component of a more comprehensive strategy of investments and supports, will help the agricultural industry increase local food production, stimulate economic recovery, and enable greater long-term resilience.

Accordingly, we kindly request you **PASS Resolution 21-79**.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an organization striving to advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership. Mahalo nui!

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 9:53 AM
Subject: Housing and the Economy Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Mahina Paishon-Duarte
Phone 8083543928
Email koolauainaaloah@gmail.com
Meeting Date 04-20-2021
Council/PH Committee Housing and the Economy
Agenda Item Resolution 21-79
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Organization
Organization Ko'olau 'Āina Aloha
Aloha Distinguished Council Committee Members of Housing and the Economy,

I wish to express my support of Councilwoman Kia'āina's resolution to establish a grant program to support local agriculture through the Office of Economic Revitalization. The program would provide grants to support local food production including the promotion of new crops, facilitation of innovations in farming methods, and acquisition of farm equipment to increase efficiency.

Written
Testimony

As the network coordinator of Ko'olau 'Āina Aloha, a network of 37 'āina based schools, organizations and coalitions on the Windward Ko'olau district of O'ahu, I attest that the grant program as proposed would increase local capacity to build the systems needed towards food security and self-reliance. Further, the proposed grant program aligns with the Aloha + Challenge to double local food production for food consumption by 2030. There is clear alignment and support for a grant program supporting local agriculture.

Thank you for your favorable support of a grant program that creates or maintains green jobs, supports Hawai'i's food self-reliance goals; and advances the community generated goals stated in the 'Āina Aloha Economic Futures Huliau Action Agenda.

Sincerely,
Mahina Paishon-Duarte

Testimony
Attachment

Accept Terms
and Agreement

1

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 10:54 AM
Subject: Housing and the Economy Testimony
Attachments: 20210419105425_TestimonyinSupport_Reso21-79docx.pdf

Written Testimony

Name Denise Hayashi Yamaguchi
Phone 808-386-2538
Email deniseyamaguchi@hawaiiagriculturalfoundation.org
Meeting Date 04-19-2021
Council/PH Committee Housing and the Economy
Agenda Item Resolution 21-79
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Organization
Organization Hawaii Agricultural Foundation
Written Testimony
Testimony Attachment 20210419105425_TestimonyinSupport_Reso21-79docx.pdf
Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

**BOARD OF
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Chair

Mae Nakahata

Vice Chair

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Susan Char

Justin Davidson

Russell Hata

Keith Horita

Lisa A. Kim

April 19, 2021

City Council
City & County of Honolulu
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Testimony in strong support of Resolution 21-79

Dear Chair Waters and Members of the City Council:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Resolution 21-79 which urges the Mayor to establish a grant program to support local agriculture under the Office of Economic Revitalization. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit our shores, our local residents experienced first-hand the fragileness our food system with empty food shelves and long lines at grocery stores.

With 88.4% of our food supply being imported, Hawai'i is far from being food secure. Furthermore, with only 12% of our 7,300 farms growing 90% of our food, we are dependent upon our larger farmers. Should one of the 875 large farms cease operations, Hawai'i stands to lose an even greater percentage of its food production. Because of this disparity, our smaller farmers really need help in increasing their size, production, and scale. However, with high labor, land, water and input costs, agriculture presents many barriers to entry and scaling for farmers. If Hawai'i, including Honolulu which has the largest population, is serious about creating greater food security and sustainability, it needs government to support it with grant programs such as this one.

The COVID-19 pandemic also created an urgent need for us to look at our dependence on the tourism industry. If we are to diversify and Hawai'i's economy, additional funding for agriculture will give us an opportunity to look at innovative agricultural programs using new technologies, such as vertical farming, aquaculture and others, to help rebuild our economy and create a new workforce.

Within applicable rules and regulations, Hawai'i Agricultural Foundation wholeheartedly supports Resolution 21-79. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me, (808) 386-2538.

Mahalo,

Denise Hayashi Yamaguchi
Executive Director

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 10:57 AM
Subject: Housing and the Economy Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Rob Barreca
Phone 808-224-1905
Email rob@farmlinkhawaii.com
Meeting Date 04-20-2021
Council/PH Committee Housing and the Economy
Agenda Item Resolution 21-79
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Organization
Organization Farm Link Hawaii

Written Testimony

Farm Link Hawaii strongly supports Resolution 21-79, which aims to promote new crops, facilitate innovations in farming methods, and acquire farm equipment to increase efficiency.

Hawaii farmers face many hurdles to achieve the state's goal of doubling food production. Compared to farming communities on the mainland, local farmers have drastically less access to suitable crop varieties, technological agricultural innovations, and affordable farm equipment. We desperately need more grant funding to catalyze an increase in local production—and the local food economy—through crop variety development/research, innovations both in IT and mechanical (small tractor mechanical weed cultivation, seeding, threshing, solar and battery-powered on-farm cold storage and wash stations, etc.).

Farm Link Hawaii helps over 100 local farmers and ranchers increase market access through our innovative online marketplace, statewide logistics, and last-mile delivery service. We talk to farmers every day (and our CEO founded and co-operates Counter Culture Organic Farm, a 40-acre certified organic diversified produce farm on the North Shore). Resolution 21-79 is a good start to moving the needle on increasing local food production and diversifying our economy.

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 11:43 AM
Subject: Housing and the Economy Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Forest Frizzell
Phone 8082239345
Email forestaf@gmail.com
Meeting Date 04-20-2021
Council/PH Committee Housing and the Economy
Agenda Item Resolution 21-79
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization

Aloha Committee,

Written Testimony

On this earth day, I stand in strong support of Resolution 21-79 as its written. The program would provide grants to support local food production including the promotion of new crops, facilitation of innovations in farming methods, and acquisition of farm equipment to increase efficiency. This support and diversification in our community is desperately needed.

Mahalo
Forest Frizzell

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 11:51 AM
Subject: Housing and the Economy Testimony

Written Testimony

Name James
Phone 8083210027
Email jmccay@hotmail.com
Meeting Date 04-19-2021
Council/PH Committee Housing and the Economy
Agenda Item Resolution 21-79
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization

Written Testimony Aloha !
As we increasingly have learned, farmers need a LOT of support to help increase our food security. Funding assistance has many more returns on investment for our community than just increasing percentages of locally-sourced produced.
Many thanks,
James

Testimony Attachment
Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 12:06 PM
Subject: Housing and the Economy Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Mahealani Cypher
Phone 18082264195
Email malamapono744@aol.com
Meeting Date 04-20-2021
Council/PH Committee Housing and the Economy
Agenda Item Resolution 21-079
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Organization
Organization Ko'olau Foundation

Written Testimony The Ko'olau Foundation offers its strong support for this resolution to provide grants to agricultural programs geared toward small farmers and restoration of vital farmlands throughout our islands. We are especially concerned that grants like these would enable the restoration of traditional farmlands and fishponds to improve food sustainability for the island of O'ahu. We urge passage of this resolution.

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 12:51 PM
Subject: Housing and the Economy Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Kevin Chang
Phone 8083897364
Email changkwaix@gmail.com
Meeting Date 03-22-2021
Council/PH
Committee Housing and the Economy
Agenda Item 21-079
Your position on
the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization

Aloha,

Written
Testimony

I support Resolution 21-79 as a step forward to exploring our ability to better feed ourselves here 2,500 miles away from anywhere. I understand the development of such a grant program would support local food production including the promotion of new crops, facilitation of innovations in farming methods, and acquisition of farm equipment to increase efficiency.

Please pass this out of your committee.

Aloha

Kevin

Testimony
Attachment

Accept Terms
and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 1:23 PM
Subject: Housing and the Economy Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Jody Green
Phone 808-259-3445
Email jmelanigreen@hotmail.com
Meeting Date 04-20-2012
Council/PH Committee Housing and the Economy
Agenda Item R21-79
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization

Written Testimony I fully support this crucial and much-needed bill. We are trying to become self-sufficient locally and this is our chance to move forward. If we don't support small farms we will only have tourism as our main income and that is not working for Hawaii. Local agriculture is an important part of food independence and farmers are in need of our support. This bill is critical to their survival. Mahalo for the opportunity to comment.

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 1:35 PM
Subject: Housing and the Economy Testimony
Attachments: 20210419133521_Res_21-079_OER_ag_grant_program_Committee_Meeting_04-20-21.pdf

Written Testimony

Name	Micah Munekata
Phone	8085448967
Email	mmunekata@ulupono.com
Meeting Date	04-20-2021
Council/PH Committee	Housing and the Economy
Agenda Item	Resolution 21-079
Your position on the matter	Support
Representing Organization	Organization Ulupono Initiative
Written Testimony	
Testimony Attachment	20210419133521_Res_21-079_OER_ag_grant_program_Committee_Meeting_04-20-21.pdf
Accept Terms and Agreement	1

IP: 192.168.200.67



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND THE ECONOMY
Tuesday, April 20, 2021 — 10:30 a.m.

UluPono Initiative supports Resolution 21-079, Urging the Mayor to establish a grant program to support local agriculture through the Office of Economic Revitalization.

Dear Chair Kia'aina and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at UluPono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food; renewable energy and clean transportation; and better management of freshwater and waste.

UluPono supports Resolution 21-079, which urges the City and County Administration, through the Office of the Mayor and the Office of Economic Revitalization (OER), to develop a grant program aimed at supporting local agriculture.

The City and County of Honolulu's OER has played a critical role in responding to the pandemic by providing much-needed resources to ensure O'ahu has a stable food supply to serve the needs of our community and our local producers. Although efforts have allowed some local farmers and ranchers to survive, the challenges of the pandemic remain for businesses and the public. Hawai'i has the highest unemployment rate in the nation, the ninth highest poverty rate in the nation, a food system that imports 90% of its supply, and food costs that are 82% higher than the national average. Over the last year, increased unemployment claims have intensified fears and uncertainty around access to the basic necessity of food. Adding to this perfect storm is the threat of a literal one as hurricane season nears. We would be gambling with lives to assume a pandemic is the only crisis Hawai'i may face in the coming months.

While our community begins its economic recovery, it is prudent to consider how local agriculture can help diversify the economy with increased local food production for local consumption and expand agricultural workforce opportunities for those seeking employment. Local farmers serve as a lifeline. They are our greatest defense against food insecurity and our greatest hope for future resiliency. They need our support as much as we need theirs.

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

999 Bishop Street, Suite 1202 | Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813 ☎ 808.544.8960 📠 808.432.9695 | www.ulupono.com



We recognize that you face many difficult decisions this year to balance the budget in the midst of this economic crisis, but we hope that this support for local agriculture can be considered.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

***Note: Ulupono Initiative values this measure before the Council today and appreciates the opportunity to testify; however, we are unable to attend in person due to concerns around COVID-19. Thank you for your understanding.**

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 1:36 PM
Subject: Housing and the Economy Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Kapohuolahaina Moniz Pa
Phone 8092595537
Email alohaina77@gmail.com
Meeting Date 04-20-2021
Council/PH Committee Housing and the Economy
Agenda Item Reso 21-079
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization Aloha Mayor Blangiardi

Written Testimony

As kūpuna in Waimānalo I/we kindly ask you to support Resolution 21-079. The program would provide grants to support local food production including the promotion of new crops, facilitation of innovations in farming methods, and acquisition of farm equipment to increase efficiency. Waimānalo expanding farming with the knowledge of our Hawaiian farmers and other farmers using pesticide free farming need these resources to accomplish sustainable land use to feed our island's residents. Your approval will be greatly appreciated and notable for our future is now in the hands of decision makers and more farmers here that can feed us. Mahalo for caring to consider this vital resolution introduced as a true sustainable actioned way of (holomua) moving forward.

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 2:46 PM
Subject: Housing and the Economy Testimony
Attachments: 20210419144628_Hao_Nguyens_Testimony_Resolution_21-79.pdf

Written Testimony

Name Hao Nguyen
Phone 808-762-5953
Email hao@pacificgatewaycenter.org
Meeting Date 04-20-2021
Council/PH Committee Housing and the Economy
Agenda Item Resolution 21-79
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Organization
Organization Pacific Gateway Center
Aloha,
I am grateful for this opportunity. Please see the attachment.
Written Testimony
Sincerely,
Hao Nguyễn
Testimony Attachment 20210419144628_Hao_Nguyens_Testimony_Resolution_21-79.pdf
Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67



April 19, 2021

HEARING DATE: April 20, 2021

TO: The Council Housing and Economic Development Committee

FROM: Hao Nguyen, PhD
Interim Executive Director, Pacific Gateway Center
723C Umi Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

RE: Strong Support of RESOLUTION 21-79: GRANT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT LOCAL AGRICULTURE

Dear the Council Housing and Economic Development Committee:

My name is Hao Nguyen, Interim Executive Director of Pacific Gateway Center (PGC), a 501c3 nonprofit steadfastly committed to empowering the uprooted, the displaced and the vulnerable to rebuilding lives with self-sufficiency and hope. Many clients of PGC are directly working in the agricultural sector.

I am testifying in support of the Resolution 21-79 which aims to establish a grant program which supports the local food production activities, including the promotion of new crops, facilitation of innovations in farming methods, and acquisition of farm equipment to increase efficiency. This is critical to many local producers, including our clients who are directly involved in the local food production.

I respectfully thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Hao Nguyen, Ph.D.
Interim Executive Director

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 2:50 PM
Subject: Council Testimony

Written Testimony

Name	Kapua Medeiros
Phone	8084891933
Email	kapua40@gmail.com
Meeting Date	04-20-2021
Council/PH Committee	Council
Agenda Item	Resolution 21-79
Your position on the matter	Support
Representing	Self
Organization	
Written Testimony	I am in Support of Reso 21-79
Testimony Attachment	
Accept Terms and Agreement 1	

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 3:49 PM
Subject: Housing and the Economy Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Raymond Stanton
Phone 7049628237
Email mrraymondstanton@gmail.com
Meeting Date 04-20-2021
Council/PH Committee Housing and the Economy
Agenda Item Resolution 21-79
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Organization
Organization Plant Plant llc

Written Testimony Hawaii needs more support for local food production. With ample renewable energy resources and underutilized industrial/agricultural spaces, it is possible to grow 100% of Hawaii's edible greens in and outdoors using a fraction of the resources. It is a moral imperative to improve the standard of living and reduce the cost of living. Thank you.

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67