



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING
AND GENERAL SERVICES
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TESTIMONY
OF
DEAN H. SEKI, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
AGRICULTURE
ON
February 7, 2013

H.B. 1365

RELATING TO URBAN AGRICULTURE

Chair Wooley and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 1365.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) opposes H.B. 1365 for the following reasons:

1. It is anticipated that a rooftop garden on the fifth floor of the State Capitol Building will cause structural loading problems and leakage problems for the floors below.
Also, maintenance of a roof garden on the fifth floor of the State Capital Building will be very difficult due to irrigation, fertilization, weed and pest control requirements.
2. The State Capitol Building is on the State of Hawaii, Historic Register. Therefore, pursuant to Chapter 6E, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), the Department of Land and

Natural Resources, State Historic Preservation Division needs to be consulted and must approve a proposal to create a rooftop garden on the fifth floor of the State Capitol Building.

3. Pursuant to Chapter 196, HRS, relating to the State Energy Plan, overview goals and objectives, DAGS will continue to look for feasible pilot project opportunities to install a rooftop garden on a DAGS managed building or other State owned building.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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**TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Thursday, February 7, 2013
Room 312
9:15 A.M.

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1365
RELATING TO URBAN AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Wooley and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill No. 1365. The purpose of this bill is to create a rooftop garden on the 5th floor of the State Capitol. The Department is in support of this bill.

Agricultural innovation is essential in ensuring that the newest farming methods are being used to maximize space and resources to produce the best agricultural commodities possible. With new technologies, areas that have not been typically used for agriculture can now be transformed into productive agricultural landscapes; rooftop gardening is an example of this.

While the Department does support a rooftop garden on the fifth floor of the State Capitol, it does wish to point out the requirement in the bill that any garden must not compromise the structural and historical integrity of the building.

We thank you for this opportunity to present our testimony on this measure.



Testimony for Support of HB1365

My name is Alan Joaquin, I am the Founder of FarmRoof, a local Hawaii business that specializes in designing, installing and maintaining sustainable rooftop farms. I have over 23 years of experience in the agriculture, horticulture, landscape & environmental protection industries and have worked extensively throughout the State of Hawaii on Private, City, County, State & Federal contracts. I would like to voice my support for the proposed rooftop farm on the 5th floor of the State Capitol.

Symbolically, there's no better place to plant the seeds for a sustainable Hawaii. Structurally, it makes perfect sense. I have performed several site visits of the 5th Floor of the Capitol and reviewed preliminary drawings and engineering data of the Capitol alongside a Hawaii licensed structural engineer.

In my professional opinion, there should be no concerns about a rooftop farm adding unsafe weight to the rooftop of the Capitol. The existing rooftop is more than strong enough to accommodate a modern day modular green roof system. The addition of a green roof system on the 5th floor could actually help combat costly structural and drainage issues and could even reduce the overall weight of the rooftop.

During my site visits I have observed severe roof drainage issues that are directly related to the existing planter boxes and accompanying irrigation systems. These planter boxes are extremely heavy and directly contribute to the drainage and structural issues currently plaguing the roof of the Capitol. The existing planters present a maintenance challenge, add unnecessary weight, contribute to excessive water accumulation, and do not provide any real calculable or measurable benefits to the public.

While I believe that the existing planter boxes could be repaired and a rooftop farm could be installed in conjunction with the planter boxes, a formal structural analysis must be made to officially determine all of the load bearing limitations. Should the formal structural analysis dictate a need to avoid any additional weight being added to the rooftop, a viable option worth considering would be to replace the existing planter boxes with a modular rooftop farming system. This option would eliminate the structural and drainage issues caused by the existing planter boxes and would allow for an unobstructed rooftop farm installation that would weigh the same as or less than the existing planter boxes.

With respect to concerns about a rooftop farm causing the roof to leak, a modern day modular rooftop farm would in fact provide a secondary level of waterproofing to the Capitol's rooftop. It's a win win scenario because that would make it more resistant to leakage and extend the lifespan of the rooftop.

In my opinion, a rooftop farm would greatly benefit the Public by causing a “Ripple Effect” on our legislative system. Imagine a rooftop farm at the State Capitol growing hyper-local organic produce for Lawmakers and Staffers and being distributed through an on-site Community Supported Agriculture, or “CSA” program. Our lawmakers and their families would enjoy healthy, sustainable produce that was grown literally above their heads. This intimate relationship with urban farming would have a profound positive impact on how our lawmakers would look at issues that concern agriculture, healthy eating, sustainable development, and environmental stewardship. A rooftop farm at the Capitol has the potential to define, shape and inspire laws that would be beneficial to the People of Hawaii for generations to come.

While Lawmakers and Staffers would have the opportunity to “get their hands dirty”, a rooftop farm at the State Capitol would have the ability to engage others in our community as well. Imagine the educational attributes of having a working organic farm at the Capitol. It would be the ultimate “living classroom”. School children could visit and learn about how food is grown, what types of foods are healthy, and why they should eat local. Workshops could be held which would give children the basic skills to go home and plant some of their own food. Give a child some food and feed her for a day. Teach a child to grow and feed her for life.

Imagine the example this rooftop farm would make to our State’s planning, developing, and building industries. A rooftop farm at the State Capitol would be a model for Hawaii and for the world. The idea of a rooftop farm at the Capitol may be “Pie in the Sky” to some of you, but it is in fact doable, affordable, and it is time.

Support this vision, support this change, support Hawaii’s Future, support this bill.

Thank you for your time today, it was an honor to speak in support of this very important bill.

Alan Joaquin

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 1:21 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: jessicamitchell51@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1365 on Feb 7, 2013 09:15AM

HB1365

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for AGR on Feb 7, 2013 09:15AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Mitchell	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Lead by example. If we want to be sustainable we have to grow our own NON GMO crops.. Who would want fresh fruit & veggies from Hawaii?? Everybody!! Exspecially if we practiced the most sustainable, environmentally friendly farming..

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing , improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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To: Rep. Jessica Wooley, Chair
Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture

From: Kiersten Faulkner
Executive Director, Historic Hawai'i Foundation

Committee Date: Thursday, February 7, 2013
9:15 a.m.
Conference Room 312

Subject: **HB 1365, Relating to Urban Agriculture**

On behalf of Historic Hawai'i Foundation (HHF), I am writing with comments on HB 1365, which makes an appropriation to create a rooftop garden on the fifth floor of the state capitol building.

Since 1974, Historic Hawai'i Foundation has been a statewide leader for historic preservation. HHF's 850 members and numerous additional supporters work to preserve Hawai'i's unique architectural and cultural heritage and believe that historic preservation is an important element in the present and future quality of life, economic viability and environmental sustainability of the state.

The Hawai'i State Capitol is designated on both the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Its architectural significance derives in part from the symbolism of the building features, which reflects the cultural, social and natural histories of Hawai'i. As the only island state in the nation, Hawai'i's geography is unique. The design of the State Capitol reflects that geography: the reflecting pools stand for the Pacific Ocean; the two chambers show the strength of the volcanic origins of the islands; the columns symbolize palm trees; and the rotunda is open to the sky. The historic designation also specifies that the reinforced concrete fourth floor overhang (which is the fifth floor terrace) is based on an inference to the Greek and western architectural motivators, while the reinforced concrete roof is an inference to oriental architecture and culture.

Any proposal that affects the historic structure should first begin with an understanding of the character-defining features that contribute to its historic significance. Any proposed changes, revisions or alterations must be designed and implemented in a way that protects the historic integrity of the Capitol, and that ensures that any alteration to the historic building will take care to avoid adverse effects on character-defining features.

Therefore, HHF recommends that HB 1365 be amended to include another condition in Section 2, to wit, "The garden will be designed and implemented in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, and subject to the State Historic Preservation Division determining that the garden will not have an adverse effect on historic properties."

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Historic Hawai'i Foundation

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Historic Hawai'i Foundation was established in 1974 to encourage the preservation of historic buildings, sites and communities on all the islands of Hawai'i. As the statewide leader for historic preservation, HHF works to preserve Hawai'i's unique architectural and cultural heritage and believes that historic preservation is an important element in the present and future quality of life, environmental sustainability, and economic viability of the state.