Ms. Puanaionaona Thoene
Chairperson
Environmental Council
Hawai‘i State Office of Environmental Quality Control
235 S. Beretania St., Suite 702
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Ms. Thoene:

I transmit herewith a copy of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 55, which was adopted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

CAROL TANIGUCHI
Clerk of the Senate

Enclosure
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO ADOPT ADMINISTRATIVE RULES TO STREAMLINE THE PROCESS FOR ALLOWING TRADITIONAL HAWAIIAN FARMING SYSTEMS ON CONSERVATION LANDS.

WHEREAS, Act 31, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, encouraged the growth and development of traditional Hawaiian farming systems and traditional native Hawaiian crops, as well as small-scale farms, to meet the agricultural objectives of the State; and

WHEREAS, the rights of native Hawaiians to the preservation of resources and traditional and customary rights are firmly established in articles XI and XII of the Hawaii State Constitution, as well as other state laws and judicial decisions; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii's traditional farming systems, such as loko i'a (fishponds), māla (cultivated gardens), and lo'i (irrigated patches) were considered innovative agricultural technologies that once sustained a thriving and robust island community; and

WHEREAS, traditional Hawaiian farming systems play a critical role in Hawaii and should be revitalized and encouraged to promote greater self-sufficiency, crop diversity, and food security; and

WHEREAS, traditional farming techniques and native Hawaiian culture play a vital role in preserving and advancing the quality of life and cultural vitality of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, traditional Hawaiian crops like kalo, 'uala (sweet potato), limu (various seaweeds), 'awa (kava), hō'i'o (large native fern), and 'ōlena (turmeric) that were cultivated using
these traditional Hawaiian farming techniques continue to be
important agricultural products for food, medicine, and cultural
practices today; and

WHEREAS, supporting traditional Hawaiian farming systems is
critical towards helping the State achieve its ambitious goals
relating to food security and increasing domestic production of
a local food supply; and

WHEREAS, streamlining the permitting process for loko i'a,
traditional fishponds, has had a significant beneficial impact
throughout the islands; and

WHEREAS, petitioners who seek to use conservation lands
with the intention of agricultural or aquacultural farming
should either know, be a generational and traditional kupa'aina
(person of the place) of the parcel they are seeking, or consult
with the native people of that specific ahupua'a, as much as
possible, to ensure that their crop is compatible with the
ecosystem of that place; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has an affirmative obligation
to ensure that its regulatory actions do not adversely impact
the constitutionally protected rights of native Hawaiians; now,
therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Land
and Natural Resources is urged to adopt administrative rules
under chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to streamline the
process for allowing traditional Hawaiian farming systems on
conservation lands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Attorney
General, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,
Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian
Affairs, and Chairperson of the Environmental Council.

I hereby certify that this is a full, true, and
correct copy of the original filed in this office.

Dated: APR 23 2021

Assistant Clerk of the Senate
State of Hawai’i