



*Friends of Amy B. H. Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden*

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Friends of Amy B.H. Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden | PO Box 1053 | Captain Cook, HI | 96704

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To: The Legacy Land Commission:  
From: Friends of Amy B. H. Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden

February 21, 2022

The Friends of Amy B. H. Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden want to express our unconditional support for Hawai'i State's Legacy Land Conservation Program. Your grant of \$750,000 to our organization in 2018 initiated the Friend's efforts to purchase the Garden from B. P. Bishop Museum. After receiving your grant, we gained the respect and standing that allowed us to apply for other grants, which made possible the purchase of the Garden in November 2019. Without your initial grant, the Garden may never have been conserved for the future – forever lost to Hawai'i's people!

Your assistance to the Friends and to many other non-profit conservation organizations has been fundamental in preserving native habitat and landscapes we all hold dear. The Legacy Land Conservation Commission has already accomplished so much for the good of Hawaii's land and water. We hope you know that the Friends remain a committed advocate for the Legacy Land Commission and for your mission of assisting all those who care for our precious 'āina.

In addition, we support the measures that would allow revenue to be used for the "Operation, Maintenance, and Management" of land. Purchasing land is the first step in conserving it. We must also invest in efforts to plant native species, restore degraded and fragmented areas, remove invasive species, and rejuvenate and care for the native flora and fauna present on our protected lands. We all need to work together to ensure that Hawaii's landscapes and watersheds remain healthy, productive, and resilient.

*"E lauhoe mai na wa'a,  
I ke kā, i ka hoe, i ka hoe, i ke kā;  
Pae aku i ka 'āina.*

"Everybody paddles the canoes together, Bail and paddle; paddle and bail;  
And the shore is reached".

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Maile Melrose, President



February 21, 2022

To the Legacy Land Commission:

From: Janet Britt, Grant Writer for Friends of Amy B H Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden

I am writing to personally express my support for the Legacy Land Conservation Commission and its mission. I was the Hawaii Island Director for the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust from 2011-2017 and worked with your staff on several projects. Most recently, I wrote the Legacy Land Grant application that was submitted in 2018 for the Friends of Amy B H Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden. In large part due to your grant of \$750,000, which provided the seed money to pursue other funding opportunities, we were able to successfully purchase the Garden from Bishop Museum in November 2019. Throughout the entire application process, I found your staff, in particular David Penn, to be always knowledgeable, considerate, prompt in responding to questions, and a pleasure to work with.

I also want to express my support for the increase in revenue expenditures for the “Operation, Maintenance, and Management” budget. Many people assume that the initial purchase of the land is the hard part; that is actually the easiest step because donors are excited to be part of conserving new lands. Rather, it is the on-going costs of taking care of that land that is the most difficult part of any land conservation effort. Once an invasive plant species is removed, without constant vigilance, it comes back year after year. So having a dedicated source of funding to help with the stewardship of protected lands is vital to maintaining the lands we love. We must remember:

*He ali'i ka āina; he kauwā ke kanaka*

The land is chief; man is its servant.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

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