



1352 Pineapple Place
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96819-1754
 www.mgf-hawaii.org

Ph: (808) 839-5334
 Fax: (808) 839-3658
 Email: mgf-hawaii@hawaii.rr.com

Testimony in Support of Bill 14, CD 1
Relating to the Executive Capital Budget and Program
for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017
 April 19, 2016

RECEIVED
 CITY CLERK
 G & C OF HONOLULU
 2016 APR 19 AM 11:52

TO: Council Chair Ernest Y. Martin and Honorable Council Members

FROM: Alexander Alika Jamile, Executive Director and President
 Moanalua Gardens Foundation

RE: Bill 14, CD 1, Relating to the Executive Capital Budget and Program FY 16-17

I am voicing my strong support for Bill 14, CD1 which will includes funding for Moanalua Gardens Foundation's (MGF's) *Continuing the Legacy of Hawaiian Culture in Moanalua* program which benefits **all** of the communities on Oahu.

For the past 46 years, Moanalua Gardens Foundation (MGF), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, has been working "to preserve and perpetuate the native culture, environment and people of Hawai'i through education and stewardship of Kamananui (Moanalua) Valley and Moanalua Gardens." This grant-in-aid is critical to the continuation of our academic and performance based programs.

Data show that alienation to culture and place experienced by vulnerable children leads to high rates of poverty, juvenile deviance and criminal activities, teenage pregnancies, poor educational outcomes, domestic abuse, depression and suicide.

Exacerbating this problem is the rapid urbanization of Honolulu. Green spaces, especially in the urban core, are fast disappearing. Construction is swallowing more and more land, encroaching upon natural areas where our residents used to play and practice their cultural traditions.

While research shows that culture-based education positively impacts student achievement, there are few resources for teachers to access culture-based curricula and for youth to participate in culture-based programs. MGF's educational program has already reached 1,200 youth throughout Honolulu and the need for continuing the program has never been greater.

This grant-in-aid will make a huge difference in the lives of our keiki by helping them to re-connect with the `āina in the only undeveloped valley in urban Honolulu and for them and their families to practice their cultural traditions at Moanalua Gardens. Your support is critical. We humbly ask for your approval of this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexander Alika Jamile". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Alexander Alika Jamile

MISC. COM. 1087

PH