

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting S.B. 2154 Relating to a Pilot Community Conservation Program
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Monday, February, 11, 2008, 2:30PM, Room 414

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i supports S.B. 2154 Relating to a Pilot Community Conservation Program.

There is widespread agreement amongst a variety of stakeholders that Hawaii's fragile environment is in need of improved compliance, enforcement and prosecution of violations of our State natural resource laws. Specifically identified is the need for:

- Natural resource laws that are complete, clear and enforceable;
- Enhanced personnel and resources for enforcement;
- Community awareness and engagement to enhance compliance;
- Consistent and fair enforcement;
- Adequate investigation, prosecution and penalties for violations;
- Appropriate opportunity for administrative enforcement; and
- Improved understanding and management of cases in the court system.

A 2006 State Auditor's report concludes that the State's environmental enforcement officers are spread too thin, inadequately trained, and lack the equipment they need to do their jobs. To address the auditor's concerns, the Legislature has supported an increase in the number of trained enforcement officers and equipment. In addition to adding officers, the DLNR's Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement has undertaken a review and strategic planning effort to improve its operational processes.

Against this backdrop, a number of communities across the state have been organizing themselves to become more directly involved in the care and management of their natural resources, particularly in coastal and near shore areas. Some communities have sought to partner with DOCARE to raise awareness of natural resource laws and to improve compliance with those laws.

S.B. 2154 seeks to test the effectiveness of a well organized and well funded effort to leverage increased enforcement staff with community engagement to better manage and protect Hawaii's unique and treasured natural resources. We believe this new operations model will prove to be a success that will warrant replication across the state.

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panel” and next week will be the “provider panel.” I’d like to include 2 physicians coming from different perspectives and serving different populations.. and hopefully a representative from the nursing community and I have a home health care provider lined up as well.

If you are interested – and available next Thursday evening the 14th — please let me know and I can give you more info. My contact info is below.

Aloha,
Colette

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testimony

From: Ronald Cahill [cahillrc@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 10:57 AM
To: testimony
Subject: SB2154

LATE TESTIMONY

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
And Members
Committee on Water and Land
Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TO: Chair Hee and Members

SUBJECT: SB No. 2154, Relating to a Pilot Community Conservation Program

Maui County needs more Conservation Enforcement Officers to manage the environmental concerns of an increasing human population in a fragile eco system. The Conservation and Enforcement Officers of Maui County need an increase in their operating budget to obtain and maintain necessary patrol equipment, training, and dependable, properly equipped patrol vehicles. Maui County's conservation efforts would benefit greatly from a volunteer program, education and outreach programs, and community conservation programs. Support of SB No. 2154 could be the much needed step in the right direction.

Respectfully, R. Cahill

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
and Members
Committee on Water and Land
Hawaii State Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813


Senate Committee on Water and Land (WTL)
Hearing Date: Monday, February 11, 2008
Hearing Time: 2:30p.m.
Bill No. SB 2154

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 2154, Relating to a Pilot Community Conservation Program.

Dear Chair Hee and Members:

I am Russell K. Kapahulehua of Maui. I am also a Conservation Resources Enforcement Officer with the State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Maui Branch, East District. I am writing in support of Senate Bill No. 2154, Relating to a Pilot Community Conservation Program.

I believe that education is a key component in conservation resources enforcement. I feel that the model outlined in this bill will further build a better working relationship between DLNR/DOCARE and the community. I humbly ask for your support in passing this bill. Thank you very much for your hard work, and dedication to the citizens and natural resources of this great state, "Hawaii".

Respectfully Submitted,
Russell K. Kapahulehua 
02/08/08 11:30 a.m.