

testimony

From: John Lindelow [cybernet@lava.net]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 9:39 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony on SB2316

Dear Senate Committee on Water and Land, Senator Clayton Hee presiding:

The Honu Project is a Hawaii-based non-profit wildlife conservation organization.

We are strongly in favor of SB 2316, which allows funding for a perimeter fence around Mauna Kea's Forest Reserve.

--The MK Forest Reserve has already been significantly degraded by destructive species such as goats and mouflon sheep.

--Other areas on the Big Island, such as within Volcano National Park, have had significant success in restoring native plant and animal species by building fences and removing destructive species such as goats, mouflon sheep, and pigs.

--In addition, endangered species such as the Palila are in need of protection in the MK Forest Reserve, and such protection by the State is required by the Federal court orders in the 1970s and 1980s.

--Please fund this bill to the fullest extent possible so that this critical fencing project can get underway.

John Lindelow, President
The Honu Project

LATE TESTIMONY

testimony

From: Chris Farmer [lxioides@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 8:14 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Support of SB 2316 (Committee on Water and Land)

LATE TESTIMONY

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice-Chair

Committee on Water and Land

Hearing Time: 2:30 pm, Monday, 11 February 2008

SUPPORT of SB 2316 - Making an appropriation to build and maintain a perimeter fence to protect the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve

Aloha – My name is Chris Farmer (808-985-8988; PO Box 1167 Volcano HI, 96785) and I am writing as private citizen in **strong support of SB 2316**. I live in Volcano, and I hike on Mauna Kea numerous times each year. The palila is a truly unique bird, that relies upon mamane forest for its food, shelter, and nests. It is highly endangered, and found nowhere else in the world than the slopes of Mauna Kea, Hawai'i. It used to be found over a much larger area (including other Hawaiian islands), but due to past habitat loss it is now confined to the slopes of Mauna Kea. Its distribution has further contracted in recent history, and the habitat necessary for its survival continues to be further damaged by exotic sheep which are not native to the islands.

I have noticed sheep damage all around the mountain on each visit to its slopes, seen the browse damage on the trees, and watched the sheep herds roam across the volcano. The proposed fencing is a necessary first step in conservation of this species found nowhere else but Hawai'i. The fencing is not just for palila, it will also protect the entire native forests found on Mauna Kea, benefiting all species of this unique ecosystem. Additionally, the fence will provide time for management, restoration and natural regeneration of the mamane forest to occur. However, I urge the committee to consider that once the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve is fenced, additional funds will be needed to remove the sheep and maintain the fence to truly protect the ecosystem. These tasks are critical to completing the task of protecting the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve. Please consider including additional funds to accomplish these tasks.

I urge the committee to fully support this bill, and as a resident of Volcano and constituent of Senator Kokubun especially encourage his support of the bill. The palila is in a precarious state, but prompt action now can prevent the extinction of another one of Hawai'i's precious, unique species. The time for action is NOW, before the palila reaches the dire straits of the `alala, or even becomes another tragedy such as the po`ouli.

Thank you for your actions to conserve Hawai'i's special and unique blessings --

2/11/2008

testimony

From: Kim Ramos [kimmerhi@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 10:22 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Support SB 2316: Bill for Mauna Kea Fence Funding

To: The Senate Committee on Water and Land

SB 2316 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN A PERIMETER FENCE TO PROTECT THE MAUNA KEA FOREST RESERVE.

Aloha! My name is Kim Ramos and I'm writing in support of SB 2316. The Mauna Kea Forest Reserve is in desperate need of protection. DLNR needs to build fencing to protect the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve, mamane-naio dry forest, the endangered palila bird's critical habitat, and unfenced endangered Mauna Kea silverswords higher up the mountain. Palila are being released on the mountain, and recovery is possible. But we have to protect the habitat from browsing and grazing ungulates. The palila depends on the mamane-naio forest on Mauna Kea for survival.

Feral sheep and mouflon in large numbers are present in the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve and palila critical habitat. Public hunters and the state can only do so much to remove the sheep, mouflon, and goats from the forest reserve and critical habitat. As long as miles of fence are down or in disrepair, controlling ungulates will be a constant uphill battle.

Please pass this important bill out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Kim L. Ramos
2510 Pacific Heights Road
Honolulu HI 96813
545-8045

LATE TESTIMONY

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