

SB 878

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Monday, February 7, 2011
2:45 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference 224**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 878
RELATING TO STATE LAND MAMMAL**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Senate Bill 878 to designate 'Ōpe'ape'a, or the Hawaiian Hoary Bat, as the official state land mammal.

'Ōpe'ape'a are a cherished Hawaiian wildlife species found nowhere else in the world. They are listed as endangered by the state and federal governments because of a lack of adequate knowledge of their population status and trends.

The Department works with partners to conduct research and management projects to benefit this unique species, and welcomes and supports efforts to raise awareness of 'Ōpe'ape'a, its conservation needs, and its special place in the biota and culture of the Hawaiian islands and her people.

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

GUY H. KAULUKUKUI
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOARD AND FACTORY CREATION
BUREAU OF CONSERVATION
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING

FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAIHOLOLAWI ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

galuteria1 - Ikaika

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 04, 2011 11:45 AM
To: HWN Testimony
Cc: nb13lavoie@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB878 on 2/7/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for HWN 2/7/2011 2:45:00 PM SB878

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Frank Lavoie
Organization: Individual
Address: 1296 Kapiolani Honolulu
Phone:
E-mail: nb13lavoie@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2011

Comments:

Aloha Chair Galuteria,

I am writing in strong support of the Hoary Bat becoming our state's official land mammal. The Hawaiian Hoary Bat has a storied history that is unique to our state. The Hoary bat will be a great representative for our state and its designation will bring recognition of its endangered nature. I urge the committee to pass bill.

Thank you,
Frank Lavoie

galuteria1 - Ikaika

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 04, 2011 3:19 PM
To: HWN Testimony
Cc: bonafrank@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB878 on 2/7/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for HWN 2/7/2011 2:45:00 PM SB878

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Frank Bonaccorso
Organization: Individual
Address: 194125 Anuhea Drive Volcano, HI
Phone: 808 212 6441
E-mail: bonafrank@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2011

Comments:

I support passage of HB 878 to make the Hawaiian hoary bat the state land mammal. This is a most appropriate animal representative of our great state given that like the first Polynesian voyagers to cross thousands of miles of ocean in order to colonize Hawaii, hoary bats had already made a similar voyage by air to establish themselves as a truly unique Hawaiian animal. Although new genetic analysis is pending, it is highly likely that the Hawaiian hoary bat will be recognized in the near future as a full species. Frank Bonaccorso, Ph.D., Wildlife Ecologist



For the Protection of Hawaii's Native Wildlife
HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY

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February 4, 2011

TO: Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Chair
Senator Pohai Ryan, Vice Chair

HEARING: Monday, February 7, 2011; 2:45 p.m., Conference Rm. 224

RE: SB878 – Relating to State Land Mammal

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT

Chair Galuteria, Vice Chair Ryan, and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs. My name is George Massengale. I am a member of the Hawai'i Audubon Society and also serve as their legislative analyst during session. **We strongly support SB878, proclaiming the Hawaiian hoary bat as the state land mammal.**

The Hawai'i Audubon Society's mission is the protection of Hawai'i's native birds, wildlife, habitats and our ocean resources; the restoration of ecosystems; and the conservation of natural resources through education, science and advocacy in Hawai'i and the Pacific. The Society has an established and active partnership with the Pacific Fisheries Coalition, and together we advocate for various measures that would further protect our oceans and coastal waters from the Big Island of Hawai'i to Kure in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

The Hawaiian hoary bat or 'ope'ape'a is Hawai'i's only native terrestrial mammal. The 'ope'ape'a usually weighs 0.49 to 0.63 ounces, is nocturnal, and eats insects. Females are larger than males. Their wing span is about 10.5 to 13.5 inches. It has a heavy fur coat that is brown and gray, and ears tinged with white, giving it a frosted or "hoary" look. It is believed to be related to the North American hoary bat.

The 'ope'ape'a is a solitary animal that typically leaves its roost shortly before or after sunset and returns before sunrise. Breeding has only been documented on Hawai'i and Kaua'i. Like their North American relative, the 'ope'ape'a gives birth to twins during the summer months. It is found primarily from sea level to 7,500 ft, although they have been observed near the island's summits above 13,000 ft. Relatively little research has been conducted on this endemic mammal and data regarding its habitat and population status are very limited. Most of the available documentation suggests that this elusive bat roosts among trees in areas near forests.

The 'ope'ape'a's population is declining due to the loss of habitat, pesticides, predation, and roost disturbance by hoofed animals, feral pigs, goats, and roaming cattle. Since being listed on the Endangered Species List in 1970, conservation efforts were undertaken. A Hawaiian Hoary Bat Recovery Plan was completed in 1998, and the State of Hawai'i's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservationist Strategy recommended conservation of known occupied habitat, development

and implementation of conservation plans that guide the management and use of forests to reduce negative effects on known bat populations, and continued support for the 'ope'ape'a research cooperative.

Although a conservation strategy has been developed and implemented, ongoing conservation efforts continue to be dismal, thus, little progress is being made. As with several of our endangered bird species, conservation efforts were started too late to prevent extinction. We hope that will not be the fate of the 'ope'ape'a.

The Society believes that proclaiming the hoary bat as our state land mammal will not only raise awareness, it will also focus attention on how important and fragile our environment truly is. Hopefully this recognition will instigate a call to action to save the 'ope'ape'a and prevent its demise.

We would urge the committee to pass this measure.

Respectfully,



George S. Massengale, JD
Legislative Analyst



galuteria1 - Ikaika

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2011 11:22 AM
To: HWN Testimony
Cc: riley.bernard@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB878 on 2/7/2011 3:15:00 PM

Testimony for HWN 2/7/2011 3:15:00 PM SB878

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Riley Bernard
Organization: Individual
Address: PO Box 1918 Hilo, Hi
Phone: 808-333-1184
E-mail: riley.bernard@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2011

Comments:

As a biologist researching the ecology of the Hawaiian Hoary Bat, I feel that it is necessary that this bat be recognized as the Hawaii state Land Mammal. With this designation, the bat will receive more press allowing for the possibility for more research which could lead to its delisting on the Endangered Species list.

galuteria1 - Ikaika

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2011 7:33 PM
To: HWN Testimony
Cc: jonathan.peralto@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB878 on 2/7/2011 3:15:00 PM

Testimony for HWN 2/7/2011 3:15:00 PM SB878

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jonathan Peralto
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: jonathan.peralto@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2011

Comments:

galuteria1 - Ikaika

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2011 6:28 PM
To: HWN Testimony
Cc: jdieter82@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB878 on 2/7/2011 3:15:00 PM

Testimony for HWN 2/7/2011 3:15:00 PM SB878

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jenn Dieter
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: jdieter82@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2011

Comments: