



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

Testimony HB 2520
Relating to Environmental Protection

Governor Neil Abercrombie

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND & OCEAN RESOURCES

Rep. Jerry Chang, Chair

Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

And

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Denny Coffman, Chair

Rep. Derek S. K. Kawakami, Vice Chair

February 10, 2012
9:00 am, Room 325

Chair Chang, Chair Coffman, Vice Chair Har, Vice Chair Kawakami, and members of the committees, thank you for hearing House Bill 2520 Relating to Environmental Protection. I respectfully request your support of this important measure.

In the last 40 years, the State of Hawaii has managed to protect only 10 percent of its priority watershed areas. Water is the basis of all life on our islands. Without it, our forests will die, our streams will disappear and the variety of ecosystems that our watersheds support will be irrevocably changed. Our lives depend on water.

To protect our lands and all that depend on it, the Department of Land and Natural Resources has developed an action plan to double the amount of protected priority watershed areas in the next 10 years. This plan, called *The Rain Follows the Forest*, will help stabilize our water source in Hawaii by providing for the necessary stewardship of our islands.

This is not unrealistic. We can achieve this goal given adequate resources. I am committed to working with the Legislature on finding creative ways to fund this plan, for the coming fiscal year and into the future. By protecting our water supply, we will also protect our forests, prevent erosion and muddy beaches, protect our native plants and animals, provide capability for food sustainability, and promote the resiliency of our island chain.

Mahalo again for your consideration of this appropriation.



HB 2520
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Committee on Water, Land, & Ocean Resources and
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

February 10, 2012

9:00 a.m.

Room 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs **SUPPORTS** HB 2520, which would provide funds to the department of land and natural resources (DLNR) for the immediate protection of priority watershed forests.

Water's importance to the Native Hawaiian people is captured in the 'ōlelo no'eau "Ola i ka Wai (Water is Life)." Since the beginning of time, proper management of this precious resource and ma uka to ma kai stream flow provided sufficient water for food production, drinking water, healthy estuaries, and ground water recharge.

Amongst OHA's strategic priorities is 'Āina (Land & Water), which represents OHA's commitment to ensure Native Hawaiian participation in and benefit from responsible stewardship of Ka Pae 'Āina o Hawai'i (the Hawaiian archipelago). Accordingly, OHA advocates for appropriate water management practices that protect the interests of both Native Hawaiians and the larger Hawai'i community. Indeed, access to and proper management of water is necessary for a thriving Native Hawaiian people and heritage. Protecting Hawai'i's forests is one effective management tool.

OHA supports the DLNR's efforts to better manage Hawai'i's fresh water resources and agrees that better protection of Hawai'i's watershed forests will ensure access to fresh water for present and future generations. Therefore, OHA urges the committee to support HB 2520. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96843



February 9, 2012

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Deputy Manager

The Honorable Jerry L. Chang, Chair
and Members
Committee on Water, Land and
Ocean Resources

and

The Honorable Denny Coffman, Chair
and Members
Committee on Energy and Environmental
Protection
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Chang, Coffman and Members:

Subject: House Bill 2520 Relating to Environmental Protection

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 2520, relating to Environmental Protection.

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply supports House Bill 2520, which provides an appropriation to support the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the protection of priority watersheds that replenishes water supplies. The protection of our forested watersheds will ensure our groundwater supplies will be sustainable for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony on House Bill 2520.

Very truly yours,

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer

THE TRUST *for* PUBLIC LAND

CONSERVING LAND FOR PEOPLE

**THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND'S TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB 22520 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**
House Committees on Water, Land & Ocean Resources, and Energy &
Environmental Protection
Friday, February 10, 2012, 9:00 a.m., Room 325

The Trust for Public Land's Hawaiian Islands Program strongly supports HB 2520 relating to environmental protection, which appropriates funds for the Department of Land and Natural Resources' "Hahai No Ka Ua i Ka Ulula'au" - "The Rain Follows the Forest" watershed protection initiative.

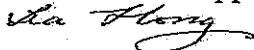
Watershed conservation has proved to be a cost-effective alternative to expensive water-treatment technology in keeping drinking water clean. Natural hydrological systems recharge and cleanse the watershed. Native forests increase the availability of water by absorbing it, storing it, and releasing it slowly during times of scarcity.

In 2001, the Trust for Public Land and the American Water Works Association conducted a study of 27 water suppliers and discovered that the more forest cover a watershed has, the fewer dollars water suppliers (e.g., county boards of water supply) must spend on treatment costs. According to the study, for every 10 percent increase in the source area's forest cover, treatment and chemical costs decreased approximately 20 percent, up to about 60 percent forest cover. For example, when 60 percent of the watershed is forested, average annual treatment costs are \$297,110. When only 10 percent is forested, average annual costs rise to \$923,450.

One of the clearest demonstrations of the economic value of watershed conservation came in 1989, after the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ordered New York City to build a \$6 billion to \$8 billion water-filtration plant that would cost \$300 million a year to operate. Instead, the city got EPA's permission to spend \$1.2 billion over the first ten years to restore and protect its watersheds, letting a 2,000 square-mile forest do the work of the water filtration plant. Similarly, the city of Auburn, Maine, saved \$30 million in capital costs and an additional \$750,00 in annual operating costs by spending \$570,000 to acquire and protect land in its watershed.

An investment in the health of our native forest watersheds is a wise one. It will pay off in avoided treatment costs, and clean drinking water for future generations.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify -



Lea Hong
Hawaiian Islands Program Director
1136 Union Mall, Suite 202, Honolulu, HI 96813
524-8563 (office), 783-3653 (cell)

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 11:26 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: bbeaudet@parkerranch.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2520 on 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/EEP 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2520

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brandi Beaudet
Organization: Parker Ranch
E-mail: bbeaudet@parkerranch.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2012

Comments:

As a representative of Parker Ranch Inc. as its Land Manager, I support HB2520 for the appropriation of funds to the DLNR to protect priority watersheds. The watersheds are the lifeline of our agricultural operations, primarily cattle ranching, all efforts and funding directed towards the protection and maintenance of these natural resources are critical to continued food sustainability. Mahalo

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 4:58 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: ChoonJamesHawaii@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2520 on 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/EEP 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2520

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Choon James
Organization: Country Talk Story
E-mail: ChoonJamesHawaii@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2012

Comments:

Testimony Submitted to the House Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Resources and House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Hearing: Friday, February 10, 2012 9 a.m.
Conference Room 325
Support for HB 2520 Relating to Environmental Protection

Aloha!

We live in a fragile island ecosystem. It's imperative that we protect our environment and this island's well-being.

I wish to add my voice to the Hawaii Conservation groups in support of this bill.

Please adopt HB 2520, which appropriates funds to the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources to protect priority watersheds.

Our native forests provide essential watershed areas that replenish our freshwater supply. Funding is needed to protect these forests and actively manage them for watershed, habitat, cultural, and other values. Sadly, much of our native forest has been destroyed by invasive species.

The DLNR's watershed protection initiative - The Rain Follows the Forest - is an exciting new effort by the State to protect an additional 10% of our remaining priority mauka watersheds in the next 10 years. We have a long way to go in light of climate change, drought, and the continued onslaught of invasive species, and this program is an essential first step. Please fund it.

Please support HB 2520 and protect our watersheds and freshwater supply.

Mahalo,

Choon James
Kahuku, Windward Oahu.

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting H.B. 2520 Relating to Environmental Protection
House Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Friday, February 10, 2012, 9:00AM, Room 325

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of Hawaii's native plants, animals, and ecosystems. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands for native species in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 32,000 acres in 10 nature preserves on Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i. We also work closely with government agencies, private parties and communities on cooperative land and marine management projects.

The Nature Conservancy supports H.B. 2520 to provide funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for watershed protection programs.

Climate change is an imminent and unprecedented threat to natural systems (e.g., forests, coastlines, coral reefs, wetlands) and to every person in Hawai'i that—whether they know it or not—depends on services from the natural environment for their livelihoods, health and welfare. Even if we drastically reduce CO2 emissions now, we will still feel the effects of climate change. In Hawai'i, science indicates that this may include:

- More frequent and more severe storms, and increased runoff and siltation;
- Overall, less rainfall and therefore less fresh water;
- Higher temperatures that may affect the health of forested watersheds;
- Climatic conditions even more conducive to invasive plants, insects and diseases;
- Sea level rise and high wave events that will harm coastal areas and groundwater systems; and
- Ocean acidification that will inhibit the growth of protective coral reefs.

We must plan and implement mitigative and adaptive measures to ensure the resilience of our natural and human systems. One of the most effective tools we have to help address the effects of climate change in Hawai'i is to protect our forests. Healthy and diverse Hawaiian forests act like a sponge, collecting rain and moisture from passing clouds, slowly delivering fresh water into streams and aquifers, absorbing greenhouse gases, and reducing runoff and siltation into near shore waters during storm events.

For these reasons, we support this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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**HB 2520
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**PAUL T. OSHIRO
MANAGER – GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
ALEXANDER & BALDWIN, INC.**

FEBRUARY 10, 2012

Chair Chang, Chair Coffman, and Members of the House Committees on Water, Land & Ocean Resources and Energy & Environmental Protection:

I am Paul Oshiro, testifying on behalf of Alexander & Baldwin, Inc. (A&B) and its agricultural company Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company on HB 2520, "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION." We support this bill.

Hawaii's eleven watershed partnerships provide the general framework for large-scale watershed protection. These voluntary alliances of public and private landowners and managers cooperatively work together to protect over two million acres of forests that supply hundreds of millions of gallons of fresh water in Hawaii every year. Working across ownership boundaries, these partnerships leverage State efforts, pool funding, and provide a diverse range of local employment opportunities. Alexander & Baldwin is an active participant in three of Hawaii's watershed partnerships, the East Maui Watershed Partnership, West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership, and the Kauai Watershed Alliance.

We support the general intent of this bill as it provides additional funding to maintain and to protect our valuable watersheds. In addition to being a primary source of our fresh water, Hawaii's watersheds also provide several other benefits. Without a

healthy watershed to anchor the soil and temper the erosion from heavy rain, large amounts of sediment would wash off the mountain slopes and into the ocean.

Watersheds also absorb large amounts of carbon dioxide, reducing Hawaii's greenhouse gas emissions. These watershed resources are integral in providing much needed water to sustain our island community into the future.

Based on the aforementioned, we respectfully request your favorable consideration on this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Good Shepherd Foundation
P.O. Box 1880, Pahoa, Hawaii 96778
808-935-5563

**TESTIMONY ON
HB 2520
WLO/EEP 325 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM**

Aloha,

This project proposes a massive forest make-over and public use change, will involve thousands of gallons of herbicide that may poison the watershed, and will kill hundreds of thousands of trees and animals in our forests. WHERE IS THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT?

According to Hawaii Revised Statute 343, these types of actions must be subjected to an EIS process. The public has had no opportunity to legally comment on this proposed project. An EIS must be done prior to funding, since the outcome of the EIS is not yet known, and there may be better alternatives to the proposed project.

You should not fund a project prior to project approval, and the project cannot be legally approved until after an EIS is done.

This project will alter the environment in significant ways. There must be an analysis of the alternatives to this proposed action, primary and secondary impacts, and a cultural analysis of its impact, especially on the hunting and gathering community.

As for the local hunting community, the fact is that the local culture highly values the introduced pigs and other ungulates and the plant species that support these animals. Attacking these species is being perceived, rightly or wrongly, as an attack on the local culture itself. This all needs to be addressed by the DLNR before this project can proceed, since public cooperation is imperative for the success of this project.

Many people are trying to protect the forest and its wildlife as it currently is. The DLNR wants to return the forests into what they once were in the past, and can no longer be. Climate change has altered the environment. The species that populate our forests may be the fittest to survive future environmental changes. Any interference with the natural process of succession in our forests may cause more harm than good, and should be thoroughly reviewed prior to implementation.

It is therefore imperative that this project be subjected to the EIS process, as the law requires, before the project is funded. It must first be approved by the public EIS process. The environmental law applies to the government, as well as to the people.

Respectfully,

Sydney Ross Singer
Medical Anthropologist
Director, Good Shepherd Foundation



House of Representatives
Committee on Water, Land, & Ocean Resources
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Friday, February 10, 2012
9:00 a.m., Conference Room 325
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 2520

Aloha Chairs Chang and Coffman, and Members of the Committees,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **supports HB 2520, *Relating to environmental protection***, which would provide critical funding for watershed protection. Watershed protection has been chronically underfunded for decades.

With more people and more industry, demands for fresh water is growing, while exponential increases in water-wasting invasive species like strawberry guava and changing climate patterns threaten the ability of forests to deliver water. Funding to increase protection for priority watersheds by fencing, ungulate and invasive plant removal is key. As high a priority is the long-term invasive species control work that is provided by biocontrol, and the preventative work done by the Invasive Species Committees and other groups. We must recognize the true cost of protecting watersheds and move the bar accordingly, and HB 2520 is a great step in the right direction. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

Christy Martin
Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS)
Ph: (808) 722-0995



Hawaii's Thousand Friends

25 Malunū Ave., Suite 102., PMB 282 • Kailua, HI 96734 • Phone/Fax: (808) 262-0682 E-mail: hlf@lava.net

February 10, 2012

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND & OCEAN RESOURCES

Rep. Jerry L. Chang, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Denny Coffman, Chair
Rep. Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair

HB 2520

Committee Chairs and Members;

Hawaii's Thousand Friends, a statewide non-profit water and land use planning organization supports HB 2520 which appropriates funds to DLNR for immediate protection of priority watershed forests to replenish Hawaii's water supplies and provide many other fundamental benefits to Hawaii's environmental health.

For years state government and residents have talked about the importance of our islands watershed forests but little has been done up until now.

HB 2520 offers a real opportunity to plan for Hawaii's future and ensure that our keiki have clean fresh water and that healthy forest ecosystems sustain Hawaii's endangered plants and animals.

With half of Hawaii's forests lost the time to act is now. Hawaii's Thousand Friends realizes that these are hard financial times but stewardship of our islands watersheds today will reap benefits for many many generations to come.

Please pass HB 2520 out of committee.



CONSERVATION COUNCIL FOR HAWAI'I

Testimony Submitted to the House Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Resources
and House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Hearing: Friday, February 10, 2012 9 a.m.
Conference Room 325

Support for HB 2520 Relating to Environmental Protection

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports HB 2520, which appropriates funds to the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources to protect priority watersheds. Our native forests provide essential watershed areas that replenish our freshwater supply. Funding is needed to protect these forests and actively manage them for watershed, habitat, cultural, and other values. Sadly, much of our native forest has been destroyed by invasive species.

The DLNR's watershed protection initiative – The Rain Follows the Forest – is an exciting new effort by the State to protect an additional 10% of our remaining priority mauka watersheds in the next 10 years. We have a long way to go in light of climate change, drought, and the continued onslaught of invasive species, and this program is an essential first step. Please fund it.

State funding for this effort will leverage others sources of funding and support effective public-private partnerships already in place to protect native forests and the native species they support. A dedicated source of funding will also be needed.

Water is life. This is one of the most important things you, our elected officials, can do to protect water for our people and generations to come. Please support HB 2520 and protect our watersheds and freshwater supply.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Ziegler



Hawai'i's Voice for Wildlife – Ko Leo Hawai'i no na holoholona lohiu

Telephone/Fax 808.593.0255 • email: info@conservehi.org • web: www.conservehi.org

P.O. Box 2923 • Honolulu, HI 96802 • Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 220 • Honolulu, HI 96814

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Directors: Lida Pigott Burney * Koalani Kaulukukui * Robin Kaye

Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2012 6:48 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: jadamesq@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2520 on 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/EEP 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2520

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jo-Ann Adams
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jadamesq@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/8/2012

Comments:

Water is life. This bill takes steps to protect water for generations to come. HB 2520 appropriates funds to the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources to protect priority watersheds.

The Rain Follows the Forest, the DLNR's watershed protection initiative, is a new effort by the State to protect an additional 10% of our remaining priority watersheds in the next 10 years. Much of our native forest has been destroyed by invasive species. We must protect the remaining forests and actively manage them. We have a long way to go; this program is an essential first step.

State funding will leverage other sources of funding and support public-private partnerships already in place to protect native forests and indigenous species.

Please pass HB 2520 to protect our watersheds and freshwater supply.

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 7:38 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: alohaxtc@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2520 on 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/EEP 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2520

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Harvey Arkin
Organization: Individual
E-mail: alohaxtc@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2012

Comments:

Please approve DLNR's watershed protection initiative - The Rain Follows the Forest - is an exciting new effort by the State to protect an additional 10% of our remaining priority mauka watersheds in the next 10 years. Water is essential to our lives, to have water we need the forest. Please fund HB 2520 Relating to Environmental Protection. Mahalo

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 12:20 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: greenhi3@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2520 on 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/EEP 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2520

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Phil Barnes
Organization: Individual
E-mail: greenhi3@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2012

Comments:

Aloha Legislators:

I urge you to support HB 2520 DLNR the resources necessary to protect our valuable watersheds. These watersheds can only function to preserve our precious fresh water resources if the native vegetation is left in an undisturbed state. Invasive species do not manage the water table as efficiently as the native species that they displaced.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Dr. Phil Barnes

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 12:22 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: rtb808@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2520 on 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/EEP 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2520

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Randy Bartlett
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rtb808@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2012

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Chang & Coffman, Vice Chairs Har & Kawakami & WLO/EEP Committee Members:

As a kama`aina for over 50 years & conservation professional on Maui for over 25 years, I strongly urge your support of measures such as HB 2520 Relating to Environmental Protection. Hawai`i's native rainforests have a unique biodiversity known worldwide and serve as the source of all our fresh water supplies across Hawai`i nei. We need to conserve & protect their integrity in order to sustain life for our residents & visitors for generations to come.

Ua mau ke ea o ka `aina i ka pono!!!

Mahalo nui loa no kou kokua kakou,

Randy Tadashi Bartlett
Lahaina, Maui, HI 96761

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 1:08 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: andrea@lhwrp.org
Subject: Testimony for HB2520 on 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/EEP 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2520

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Andrea Buckman
Organization: Individual
E-mail: andrea@lhwrp.org
Submitted on: 2/9/2012

Comments:

I strongly support protecting and restoring our state's vital watershed forests. Allocating funds to these efforts already being implemented through effective public-private partnerships will enable more funds to be leveraged and greater watershed protection and restoration to be achieved. Please pass this bill and protect our native watershed forests for the water, cultural, biological, and economic resources they contain. This effort is a wise investment in our state's future and quality of life.

mahalo,
Andrea

Andrea Buckman
LHWRP Project Coordinator
P.O. Box 652, Makawao, HI 96768

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 2:20 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: mpgreen@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for HB2520 on 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/EEP 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2520

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: melissa green
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mpgreen@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/9/2012

Comments:

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 3:42 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: somagrismajjer@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2520 on 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/EEP 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2520

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Soma Grismaijer
Organization: Individual
E-mail: somagrismaijer@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2012

Comments:

I would like to comment on the Rain Follows the Forest plan and House Bill 2520.

When looking at the glitzy presentation of this campaign it is clear that it is being promoted with a big PR campaign and a lot of money. Where is the money coming from and who will directly benefit from this plan? This plan states that invasive species are destroying native ecosystems and must be killed to save our watersheds. How will this killing be done? How many tons of chemicals will be used? Who will profit from this multi-million dollar forest makeover?

And how do we know these plans will succeed? Ecosystem restorations are known to fail in almost all circumstances. Have our tax dollars been used wisely in funding invasive species control? Has there been an evaluation of the millions of dollars that have been wasted on eradications of weeds and pests that can't be eradicated (miconia, coqui, etc.)

In the end, what is being proposed, can 't be done, but a few people and businesses will sure make a lot of money trying.

Please DO NOT support this bill.

Soma Grismaijer
P.O. Box 1880
Pahoa, HI 96778
(808) 640-3836

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2012 8:48 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: Kmgundersen@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for HB2520 on 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/EEP 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2520

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Keren Gundersen
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Kmgundersen@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 2/8/2012

Comments:

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 11:48 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: jhoh@waimeavalley.net
Subject: Testimony for HB2520 on 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/EEP 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2520

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Josephine Hoh
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jhoh@waimeavalley.net
Submitted on: 2/9/2012

Comments:

Intact watershed is crucial for our future generations to sustain healthier lives, on land, in the water and in our environment. I support this bill HB2520.
MahaIo, Josephine Hoh

TO: State of Hawaii
House Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Resources
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

FROM: Mary Ikagawa, Kailua

RE: Strong support for SB 2782, appropriating funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the immediate protection of priority watershed forests. HEARING: Friday, 02-10-12 9:00 a.m. in House conference room 325

A former U.S. Senator named Gaylord Nelson said, "The economy is a wholly owned subsidiary of the environment, not the other way around." As our ecologists can explain in detail, the State of Hawaii has not invested the funds and long-term planning needed to provide good stewardship of our critical natural resources. This hits us in the pocketbook in numerous ways and it is going to get a lot worse if we do not take action. Our watersheds have been increasingly degraded by uncontrolled populations of pigs, goats, sheep, and deer, which probably number in the hundreds of thousands. Whatever the numbers, the animals are more widespread than ever before. There are many places where these animals will always be available for hunting, but quality watersheds cannot house them because unfortunately their presence destroys the quality of the watershed. For a very long list of scientific references on this topic, feel free to contact me.

If we are to support sustainable agriculture and keep something of the character of the Hawaiian Islands as a unique place with its own native flora and fauna, we must make this investment. We cannot afford to let our land and water resources continue to degrade.

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2012 7:42 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: bisaki@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2520 on 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/EEP 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2520

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bianca Isaki
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bisaki@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/8/2012

Comments:

The DLNR's watershed protection initiative - The Rain Follows the Forest - is an exciting new effort by the State to protect an additional 10% of our remaining priority mauka watersheds in the next 10 years. We have a long way to go in light of climate change, drought, and the continued onslaught of invasive species, and this program is an essential first step. Please fund it.

State funding for this effort will leverage others sources of funding and support effective public-private partnerships already in place to protect native forests and the native species they support. A dedicated source of funding will also be needed.

Water is life. This is one of the most important things you, our elected officials, can do to protect water for our people and generations to come. Please support HB 2520 and protect our watersheds and freshwater supply.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2012 11:21 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: jepsona001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2520 on 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/EEP 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2520

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Andrea I. Jepson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jepsona001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/8/2012

Comments:

Wai is water, wai wai is wealth. We must all recognize the wealth we have and do all that we can to protect it for future generations. Please support HB 2520

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2012 6:37 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: jlindgren@punahou.edu
Subject: Testimony for HB2520 on 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/EEP 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2520

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: jeanne lindgren
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jlindgren@punahou.edu
Submitted on: 2/8/2012

Comments:

I saw the program "The Rain Follows the Forest" and agree strongly that we should be committed to protecting priority watersheds.

Aloha,

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony against HB 2520, which appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the protection of priority watershed. Although I do agree that watersheds need to be protected I do not agree with the department methods. In the name of environmentalism the department has misused public funds and has already fenced thousands of acres of forests (NARS). If fencing is a measure of success then I think they have been successful but there is more at stake here. Many of the fenced areas are too large for anyone to manage and hunters have offered to assist time and time again without a response or consideration. The fenced areas are being over taken by exotic and noxious plants such as miconia, gorse, tree tobacco, and fireweed (just to mention a few). All of which are creating fire hazards that will eventually turn our forests to grasslands.

I support the protection of the watersheds but cannot support HB 2520 that will provide DLNR with funds to continue its ineffective practices.

Thank you,

Alan Nakagawa

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 1:13 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: grownative@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2520 on 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/EEP 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2520

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Givonn Osterneck
Organization: Individual
E-mail: grownative@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2012

Comments:
Aloha,

Please support HB2520 and allocate funding to protect and restore our state's valuable watersheds and the natural and economic resources they contain. Watershed Partnerships are a highly effective way of combining resources, leveraging funds, and achieving greater effects on the ground. Protecting what watershed forests we have left and restoring those that are degraded is essential for ensuring that water resources and rich biological and cultural heritage are available for future generations.

mahalo,
Givonn Osterneck
East Maui Watershed Partnership Crew Leader

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 12:27 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: john.pipan@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2520 on 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/EEP 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2520.

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: JOHN PIPAN
Organization: Individual
E-mail: john.pipan@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2012

Comments:

As the basis of all life, and our most valuable natural resource in Hawaii, fresh clean water must be protected. To do so is not a matter of choice, but ultimately necessary to our survival.

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 12:50 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: nanihawaii@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2520 on 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/EEP 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2520

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nani K Mench Pogline
Organization:
E-mail: nanihawaii@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2012

Comments:

On behalf of The Pig Hunters of Hawaii, the Mauna Kea Recreational User Group, the Good Shepherd Foundation, and the common local people of the Big Island of Hawaii I oppose this rail road bill. An intensive and honest EIS needs to be done, as it is in violation of human rights, the economy and culture of the local people, and the ecology of the land. The public manipulation and propaganda to gain support for this bill is not accurate scientific information. There is not proof enough that eradication of non-native species, fencing, and blocking the of old public accesses has enough to do with water protection. There is not enough information as to what the massive herbicide use will do to our watersheds. It is not known if native species can survive global climate change, leaving it risky to eradicate non-native vegetation. All vegetation absorbs CO2, breaks the impact of heavy rains, prevents erosion, reduces evaporation, and cools the earth. Furthermore, removing wild food resources puts the public more at risk in the event of an economic or natural disaster.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

ATTN: CHAIRS JERRY L. CHANG AND DENNY COFFMAN

Testimony Supporting HB2520

February 10, 2012, 9:00 a.m.

Conference Room 325

Aloha,

I respectfully submit testimony in support of this bill.

With the continuing expansion of residential development and tourism in Hawai'i, it is becoming ever more important to protect our watersheds from further degradation thereby reducing its value as a means to help catch rainfall and allow it to percolate into our potable aquifers. It is also a boon to the visitor industry as many people coming to Hawai'i not only expect to see the wonderful beaches that we have but to also experience the lush vegetation of the tropics.

Without taking immediate steps to care for these resources we can expect to see the future when we will be needing to develop other water resources at a much high cost (e.g. desalination) and potentially see the degradation of our forests to the point where it becomes a detractor for our visitor industry (consider the miconia in Tahiti which results in a sloughing off of a hillside of vegetation leaving bare spots....)

Please vote for the future of our residents and also for our visitor industry by supporting this bill.

Mahalo,

Cynthia K.L. Rezentes
Wai'anae resident

har2-Samantha

From: Noelle Rodriguez [noelle@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2012 12:47 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Subject: Support HB2520

Dear Chair Chang and Members of the House Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Resources:

Please support HB2520. In Hawaii, water is the product of the forest. Our water supply depends upon the groundwater recharge provided by our mauka forests. Just as a farmer must protect the health of the soil, we have to protect the health of the forest. In particular, we must protect these forests from invasive species and alien animals. HB2520 is an important initiative by the DLNR to ensure that our water supply is protected, along with the forest. It is the best investment that we can make. If we help the forest, it will continue to sustain us.

Noelle Rodriguez
P.O. Box 5
Ninole, HI 96773

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2012 9:55 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: kapaliku@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2520 on 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM.

Testimony for WLO/EEP 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2520

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: matthew schirman
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kapaliku@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/8/2012

Comments:

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 3:41 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: sydsinger@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2520 on 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/EEP 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2520

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sydney Ross Singer
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sydsinger@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2012

Comments:

Research has shown that removal of ungulates from areas of Mauna Kea resulted in increased invasive species and no change in native species. The research is in Ecological Applications, 21(6), 2011, pp. 2094-2104. Title: Remote analysis of biological invasion and the impact of enemy release.

The study found, "removal of generalist herbivores facilitated exotic success, but the abundance of native species was unchanged."

So this project will probably increase invasive species in the forests and not help native species.

The only ones who would benefit from this are those getting money to do it.

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2012 9:04 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: oreneroma@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2520 on 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/EEP 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2520

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Oren Tsutsumi
Organization: None
E-mail: oreneroma@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/8/2012

Comments:

Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Resources
and House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Hearing: Friday, February 10, 2012 9 a.m., **HB 2520**

Aloha Committee Members,

I very strongly **support HB 2520** and urge you to pass it with a generous financial complement. As the bill's introduction explains, the need for additional protection of our beleaguered watersheds throughout the islands is major. Deferred maintenance for decades and the continued spread of numerous invasive species has set the stage for impaired water supplies in the future. Combined with the drying trends associated with global climate changes this is an emergency that needs to be addressed by decisive action starting now, as this bill is designed to do.

I very strongly commend the new leadership at the Department of Land and Natural Resources for recognizing the severity of the situation and for initiating decisive action to begin rectifying the needs. The Legislature should also extend their support and demonstrate foresight by passing this bill.

Thank you for listening to my perspectives,

Rick Warshauer

Volcano

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 2:34 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: evernw@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2520 on 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/EEP 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2520

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Evern Williams
Organization: Individual
E-mail: evernw@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2012

Comments: