

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2012 7:59 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: darakawa@lurf.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: David Arakawa
Organization: Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii
E-mail: darakawa@lurf.org
Submitted on: 2/10/2012

Comments:

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) and its members look forward to working with DLNR to protect priority watershed forests to replenish Hawaii's water supplies so as to assure water for current and future agricultural and domestic uses.



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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LATE TESTIMONY

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

February 10, 2012, 9:00 A.M.
(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2520

Aloha Chairs Gabbard, Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter, with 9,000 dues paying members and supporters statewide, **strongly supports** HB 2520. This bill would provide funding for the protection of priority watershed forests and protection of Hawai'i's environmental heritage.

Hawaii's Natural Area Reserves contains some of the best native Hawaiian ecosystems on state-managed land. While the NARS struggles for its budget appropriation annually, resource experts estimate that at least \$11 million is needed annually to maintain the integrity of the watersheds for our children and future generations.

From the coral reefs at 'Ahihi-Kina'u to Lake Waiau on the summit of Mauna Kea, the NARS protects unique Hawaiian plants, animals, and ecosystems on 109,000 acres of public-trust lands. The NARS includes habitat for threatened and endangered species, and portions of essential watersheds that support our economy and way of life. But the NARS is seriously underfunded and understaffed. The result is increasing encroachment by invasive species, decrease in healthy habitat for native plants and animals, and the loss of the native essence of Hawai'i.

While HB 2520 is a good bill and deserves to be passed, a regular funding source is needed to protect these special areas in perpetuity as mandated by the State Legislature. A bill like HB 1828 could provide this support in future years after the initial funding from this year is expended. To that end, we support both bills moving forward.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

LATE TESTIMONY



Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

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February 10, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND & OCEAN RESOURCES
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON HB 2520
RELATING TO ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Room 325
9:00 AM

Chair Chang, Chair Coffman, and Members of the Committees:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Chief Operating Officer and Government Affairs Liaison for the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF supports HB 2520, appropriating funds to protect priority watershed forests and replenish Hawaii's water supplies.

HFBF agrees that healthy watersheds are important for Hawaii's goal of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability. As a primary user of watersheds, agriculture has a vested interest in this matter.

We agree fencing to limit invasive species in the watershed and grow local agriculture is important. Digging by pigs destroy the forest floor, reducing infiltration of water. We agree that removal of invasive species is also important to encourage plants that improve the capture of water.

As we support these initiatives, we also believe that a parallel effort to protect our State from new pests is critical. Efforts such as the Dog detector program, funding of biosecurity facilities and inspectors along with measures that improve farm and ranch viability are equally important. Even as we are users of the water, our agricultural products reduce the need for imports, minimizing the risk of introduction of new invasive species that have the potential to harm the watershed.

February 9, 2012

LATE TESTIMONY

To: Representative Jerry Chang, Chair and Sharon Har, Vice Chair,
Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources
Representative Denny Coffman, Chair and Derek Kawakami, Vice Chair,
Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

From: Patrick Conant

Regarding: Testimony supporting HB 2520

I am very much in support of this much needed Bill. It has much in common with SB2782, which I have already submitted testimony for so I will make some similar points here. However, I am encouraged to see that HB 2520 seeks to appropriate funding immediately to stem the loss of our precious mauka watersheds. I agree that this is a problem that cannot wait. Increasing damage caused by alien weeds and feral pigs moving into new habitats (parts of East Maui and even the Koolau Mountain slopes behind Honolulu, where I grew up) is degrading our watersheds unabated.

I suspect you will receive comments from hunters who disagree that we need to fence wild ungulates out of our watersheds and forests. Hunting certainly deserves a place in our local culture, but we can no longer afford wild, disease carrying (leptospirosis and brucellosis) animals to live at carrying capacity numbers right where our drinking water comes from.

It has been said that those that ignore history are doomed to repeat it. At the turn of the 19th century, large scale fencing of our Forest Reserves was accomplished and thousands of wild goats, cattle and sheep were shot to protect watersheds for sugar cane cultivation in particular. Our predecessors were partly motivated by profit, but at least they recognized that the forests were under siege and needed protection. So here we are about 100 years later and we should ask ourselves if we have maintained that forest/watershed protection over that time. In small fenced areas we have, thanks to efforts by the Division of Forestry and Wildlife, the Watershed Partnership Programs and NGO's like The Nature Conservancy, Maui Land and Pineapple, Kamehameha Schools, Ulupalakua and Haleakala Ranches and others. But on the whole we have not done nearly enough. Our forests are not only under siege by newer alien weeds, but also newer wild game ungulates: deer and mouflon. If we don't support serious control of these aliens, we won't have the water to support our growing population. It takes money, and that is what this Bill is about. The funds are needed to get those alien weeds and fence wild ungulates out of our mauka native forests.

Research by faculty of the UH Manoa Geography Department on the hydrology of native forest vs. alien plant dominated forest (strawberry guava) has shown that the guava takes 27% more water out of the ground than the native forest. And that is just one species of weed that has been studied. Our forests are becoming choked with Miconia, fiddle wood, Himalayan kahili ginger, faya tree, "Albizia", Australian tree fern and many more. Sheep, goats, deer and mouflon are causing erosion on all islands they occur on (except deer on the Big Island have only just been found and must be removed ASAP).

Research has also shown that more than 70% of the wild pigs in a forest in Hawaii need to be removed **every year** to reduce their numbers. Unfortunately, research has also shown that public hunting is ineffective at accomplishing this. Research by the USGS-BRD has found public hunting equally ineffective at reducing a population of mouflon at Kahuku on the Big Island. Hunters selectively remove males, so animal populations can actually increase as a result. So what do we do to protect our mauka watersheds from these alien animals?

We do need to learn from history and fence our watersheds and remove the animals as our predecessors did. There are lower elevation alien plant dominated forests that are appropriate for hunting. Our upper wao akua forests are not. That is where our water comes from. Wild pua'a are indeed good to eat, but should they be at carrying capacity numbers in our watersheds and defecating in the mud, where our water comes from? Hunters are estimated to be 1% of Hawaii's population. Should we allow uncontrolled numbers of destructive alien animals to destroy our forests and watersheds so that the other 99% of us ultimately end up with less water, more erosion and silt on our reefs? What happens up mauka affects what happens makai.

Local hunting traditions should certainly continue, but they must change with the times. It is no longer enough to do only what your father taught you and your grandfather taught him. Low elevation alien plant-dominated forests are where hunting opportunities should be created and expanded. And in fact, DOFAW has hired an Access and Acquisition Coordinator to open up more areas to hunting. This is just what is needed. There

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 5:30 PM
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Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kersten Johnson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kekoaseed@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2012

Comments:

As former President of the Hawai'i Environmental Education Association, Hawai'i Audubon Board Member, Chair of Audubon's Education Committee, and Co-creator of Audubon's "Paradise Pursuits" High School Quiz Program on Hawai'i's Environment (televised for about six years from 1993), I strongly support this measure.

Sincerely,
Kersten Johnson
Consultant, dba Community Environmental Education