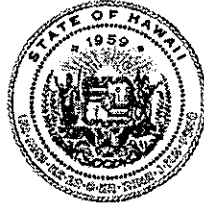


SB2597

Establishes the Hawaii legacy trust fund as a separate fund of the Hawaii Community Foundation to encourage individuals to make strong financial investments while supporting conservation, reforestation, environmental stewardship, sustainability, affordable housing, public education, and the well-being of the State's keiki and kupuna.

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
WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING**

**Thursday, February 9, 2012
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2597
RELATING TO THE HAWAII LEGACY TRUST FUND**

Senate Bill 2597 establishes the Hawai'i Legacy Trust Fund as a separate fund of the Hawai'i Community Foundation to encourage individuals to make strong financial investments while supporting conservation, reforestation of Hawaii's native trees, environmental stewardship, sustainable food and energy production, affordable housing, public education, and programs that support and benefit keiki and kupuna. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the intent and offers some suggested amendments to avoid duplication with the existing state forest stewardship and forest reserves management programs, and defers to the Hawai'i Community Foundation for discussion of their capacity and expertise for this program.

The Department strongly supports initiatives to encourage private and public entities to invest in sustainable forest management. The Department notes a great deal of duplication in this proposal with the existing State Forest Stewardship Program (Chapter 195F, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS)) and suggests using this existing program to achieve the private forest land restoration goals of the Hawaiian legacy trust fund initiative. Many of the Hawaii legacy trust fund goals and functions are compatible with the existing Forest Stewardship Program. The Forest Stewardship Program has the existing infrastructure to receive state, federal and private funds and deliver a wide variety of restoration projects throughout the state on private lands, including production of native hardwood trees such as Koa. The Forest Stewardship Program also has an advisory committee composed of experts in forest and natural resource management in Hawai'i that reviews proposed projects and their management plans as well as recommends awards for funding under the Forest Stewardship Program. This existing committee could be expanded to include financial management expertise, and serve the role and function intended under this initiative.

**WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
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
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING**

**FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS**

The measure also proposes investment in native Hawaiian hardwood trees on public forest lands. Management of the State Forest Reserve System is authorized under Chapter 183, HRS, and the duties and activities authorized under this Chapter are compatible with the goals to invest and restore native Hawaiian hardwood trees on public forest lands. Any revenue so generated would be deposited into the existing Forest Stewardship Special Fund (Section 195F-4, HRS) and return to the Department for management of state forests.

The Department would be happy to work with the Senate Water, Land and Housing Committee to incorporate this initiative into the forest stewardship program and state forest reserves management programs.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2597: RELATING TO THE HAWAII LEGACY TRUST FUND

TO: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair; Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair; and Members, Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

FROM: Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison, Catholic Charities Hawaii

Hearing: Thursday, 2/9/12; 1:15 pm; CR 225

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee on Water, Land and Housing:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 2597, which establishes the Hawaii Legacy Trust Fund. I am Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison at Catholic Charities Hawaii. Catholic Charities Hawaii supports this bill as an innovative initiative to develop additional resources for affordable housing and social services as well as environmental stewardship and other critical State needs.

Homelessness is growing in our State. Local residents struggle to afford "market" rents and are often just one paycheck away from homelessness. The Legislature has responded with funding for the Rental Housing Trust Fund, but limited State resources cannot meet the growing needs for affordable housing. The same is true for State resources for programs that benefit our keiki and kupuna. The tough economic times over the past four years has resulted in many cut-backs in programs that serve the most vulnerable in our community.

Catholic Charities Hawaii sees the results of these tough times as hundreds of people call for help each month. Affordable housing is one of the top needs. This bill would create ongoing, additional resources that are greatly needed. The State would incur no administrative costs since the Fund would be under the Hawaii Community Foundation, a respected partner with many years of administering grants.

Finding new sources of revenue is extremely difficult. This creative and renewable concept would not only produce revenues but would also have a positive impact on environmental stewardship. The Fund will partner with private and public entities to achieve reforestation of lands with Hawaiian hardwood trees. This appears to be a win-win situation for all involved.

We urge your support for SB 2597.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2012 5:06 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: ajc@aloha.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2597 on 2/9/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/9/2012 1:15:00 PM SB2597

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Alikea Campbell
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ajc@aloha.net
Submitted on: 2/7/2012

Comments:

I support passage of this innovative measure that would benefit many worthwhile causes in Hawaii.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 5:55 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: MolokaiMAN@basicisp.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2597 on 2/9/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 2/9/2012 1:15:00 PM SB2597

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: George Peabody
Organization: <http://www.MolokaiAdvertiserNews.com>
E-mail: MolokaiMAN@basicisp.net
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Good grief, NO! It is scandalous that you will consider every racketeering proposal that ends withconservation efforts, environmental stewardship, sustainable food and energy production, and issues related to affordable housing, public education, keiki, and kupuna. STOP the communism ! Such legislation is not the purpose of your position as legislators! Review your Oath!

Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing (WLH)

SB NO 2597

Thursday, February 9, 2012

1:15pm in conference room 225

Aloha, my name is Shauntelle Bohol and I enthusiastically support this bill. As a native Hawaiian and a graduate student studying Social Work I am devoted to causes proposed by this bill. This coalition coincides with my own post-graduation plans, which is diverse. I believe that such efforts could not only heal our islands, but its rippling effects could have such a huge impact that inevitably heals our people, especially our keiki.

Children today are faced with greater pressure and influences than ever before, especially in Hawai'i's diverse melting pot of cultures. Regardless where they're from more than a few will come into contact with the law. From broken homes, poverty, homelessness, drugs, pressure of media, life, or a bad choice of friends kept, many children here in Hawai'i find themselves labeled "at-risk" or "delinquent." Much of which could have been alleviated had their time be spent in positive activities. Activities and programs that such a bill would create.

This bill sets to encourage financial investments that will support conservation, reforestation, environmental stewardship, sustainability, affordable housing, public education, as well as the well-being of Hawaii's people. With passing of such a bill we would very well see the healing process firsthand. I feel that essential opportunities will be given to our youth. Opportunities as such that will consist of constructive energies, which is mandatory in my opinion, for it is well known that youth without such fruitful activities are prone to be involved in unhealthy and self-destructive behaviors. Let's give our keiki a chance to succeed in life by passing this bill and providing them with opportunity to live a healthier life on healthier homelands.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide my support and testify on this matter.

Shauntelle Bohol
P.O. Box 492925
Kea'au, HI 96749
(808) 238-0866