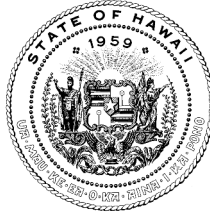
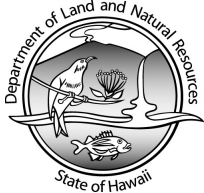


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**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
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Tuesday, February 28, 2012
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2782, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Senate Bill 2782, Senate Draft 1 proposes to appropriate \$5,000,000 to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) for the immediate protection of priority watershed forests to replenish Hawaii's water supplies and provide many other fundamental benefits to Hawaii's environmental health. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this Administration bill.

Fortunately there are cost-effective and long-term solutions to reverse the trend of forest degradation. The Department's Watershed Program supports public-private partnerships to leverage state funds and provide a diverse range of local jobs. However, funding for these efforts is not sufficient and forest losses continue. In 2000, the State legislature directed the Department to identify additional funding sources to protect Hawaii's watershed forests. But a decade later, the only dedicated funding source for watershed partnerships is the Natural Area Reserve Special Fund (NAR Fund), which receives a percentage of the State Conveyance Tax from the sale of real property. With recent cuts to state general funds, a variety of natural resource programs have increasingly relied on the NAR Fund. This has significantly compromised the funds allocated to watershed protection. In Fiscal Year 2011, 11 partnerships split \$1.25 million, and the five island-based committees that control invasive species and contribute to watershed protection have no authorized dedicated funding whatsoever. Their general fund allocation was eliminated, and they now receive annual legislative allocations from the NAR Fund. In recent years, the NAR Fund has become the funding source for a variety of worthy natural resource programs. But its capacity is stretched to the limit as it is carved up into smaller and smaller shares. While watershed partnerships have typically been able to leverage dedicated state funds with at least 1:1 matching funds, declining state revenues have reduced their ability to find matching contributions. This significantly compromises their ability to protect and maintain priority watershed areas into the future.

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

An October 2011 statewide poll demonstrated Hawaii's residents' willingness to support increased funding of watershed protection. In addition to a high rating of urgency to protect upland forests for water supplies, 78% of respondents were supportive of increasing funding of watershed protection from \$1 million to \$11 million. When respondents were presented with various means by which the increased funds could be raised, a majority supported increases in general funds (7.4 out of 10, with 10 indicating "Strong Support"). These results suggest that the public recognizes the immediate need for government to significantly increase investments in watershed protection.

This measure implements the central natural resource stewardship goals of the Abercrombie Administration. This critical appropriation provides a jump start for the Department's *The Rain Follows the Forest* plan (available online at <http://Hawaii.gov/dlnr/rain>) to implement on-the-ground actions needed to stabilize Hawaii's water sources. Projects are ready in each county to begin reaching job creation and accomplishment targets. Funds would be allocated in a statewide competitive process to maximize effectiveness and accountability.

Forests are essential to provide water at affordable rates. Hawaii's native forests absorb moisture from rainfall and passing clouds that condense on the thick vegetation and can increase groundwater supply by up to 50%. However, over half of forests have already been lost to invasive species, causing extensive water loss across landscapes. Even a small percentage reduction in groundwater recharge can cost millions per year in increased pumping to transport water for human use. When groundwater levels decline to a point that they cannot be pumped, expensive alternative water sources are needed - long transport pipes, new wells, and even desalination plants. Clearly, our forests are enormous economic assets. Just as clearly, their degradation is ongoing and accelerating. The longer Hawai'i waits to take significant action to halt this destruction, the higher the costs will be to reverse the damage and ensure our future water supply for current and future generations.

In addition to increasing fresh water supplies, the protection of forests prevents erosion that muddies beaches, coral reefs, and fisheries. Forests reduce Hawaii's greenhouse gas emissions, and mitigate many damaging impacts from climate change. Protection sustains the native plants and animals unique to our islands and sacred to the Hawaiian culture.

An appropriation to fund this Program is a responsible measure to provide immediate action to ensure wide-ranging benefits essential to Hawaii's environmental and economic health for current and future generations.



SB 2782 SD 1
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Committee on Ways and Means

February 28, 2012

9:00 a.m.

Room 211

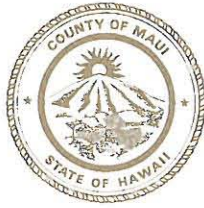
The Office of Hawaiian Affairs **SUPPORTS** SB 2782 SD1, which would provide funds to the department of land and natural resources (DLNR) for the immediate protection of priority watershed forests.

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 SB 2782 SD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

ALAN M. ARAKAWA
MAYOR



200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793-2155
Telephone (808) 270-7855
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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Ke'ena O Ka Meia
COUNTY OF MAUI – Kalana O Maui

February 27, 2012

Senator David Ige, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 9:00AM, Room 211

SUPPORT FOR SB 2782 SD1, RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Aloha Chair Ige and Members,

The office of Mayor Alan Arakawa is in strong support of Bill SB 2782, Relating to Watershed Protection; Appropriation.

Our administration supports the Department of Land and Nature Resources' mission to, "Enhance, protect, conserve and manage Hawaii's unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of visitors and the people of Hawaii." Restoration of Hawai'i watershed is vitally important for: increasing water quantity and quality; conserving our unique endemic plants and animals; perpetuating our Hawaiian culture resources; and diversifies our rural economy. It also will provide many other essential benefits to Hawaii's environmental health.

Five of the eleven watersheds are in Maui. While Maui County contributes generously to watershed and invasive species efforts, much more funding and efforts are needed. Appropriating funding to forested watershed restoration is a simple local action strategy that can safeguard Hawai'i's declining water sources and can help drive economic growth through the management of silviculture, as in the Leeward Haleakala Watershed Restoration Project.

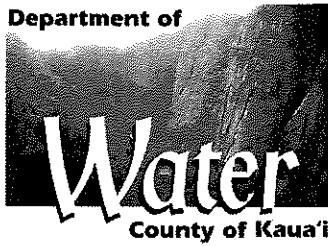
Mayor Alan Arakawa believes that everything is inextricably connected, and we must protect and enhance our natural areas and resources to assure the health of our `aina and our people.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Parsons". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rob Parsons
Environmental Coordinator
Office of the Mayor
Maui County

Water has no substitute... Conserve It!



Testimony of
David R. Craddick, P.E., C.E.M.
Manager and Chief Engineer

Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, February 28, 2012
9:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Senate Bill 2782 SD1 Relating to Environmental Protection

Honorable Chair David Ige and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

I am writing to you in support of Senate Bill 2782 SD1 which would provide funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources' "Rain Follows the Forest" watershed protection initiative.

As a county water utility we are a major beneficiary of a proposal such as this and it is our responsibility to provide safe, affordable and sufficient drinking water through wise management of our resources. This responsibility begins with protecting our watersheds and the Kaua'i Board of Water Supply assists our Kaua'i Watershed Partnership Alliance financially. The State is an integral part of this Watershed Alliance.

Healthy Hawaiian forests that are not overrun by invasive species 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. The DLNR's watershed initiative proposes a sound investment in our forests, which are the source of nearly all the islands' supply of fresh water. The watershed protection and invasive species programs supported with state funds and leveraged several times over with matching funds from county, federal and private sources help to ensure healthy, managed natural resources that permit our survival in the middle of the vast Pacific.

Your favorable consideration and support of SB 2782 SD1 would be appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

David R. Craddick, P.E., C.E.M.
Manager and Chief Engineer

THE TRUST *for* PUBLIC LAND

C O N S E R V I N G L A N D F O R P E O P L E

**THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND'S TESTIMONY
IN SUPPORT OF SB 2782 SD 1 RE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Senate Committee on Ways & Means
Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 9:00 a.m., Room 211**

The Trust for Public Land's Hawaiian Islands Program strongly supports SB 2782 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 \$750,000 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
524-8563 (office), 783-3653 (cell)



HAWAII FOREST INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 66 ❖ 'O'ōkala, HI 96774
Phone: 808-933-9411
Email: hfia@hawaiiiforest.org
Website: www.hawaiiiforest.org

February 27, 2012

**TESTIMONY ON SB2782, SD1
RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF WATERSHEDS**

Dear Chair David Ige, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB2782, SD1 - Relating to Environmental Protection, making an appropriation to watershed protection. The Hawaii Forest Industry Association (HFIA) supports SB2782, SD1 which provides funding to protect watersheds and water for our people and generations to come.

The DLNR's watershed initiative proposes a sound investment in our forests, which are the source of nearly all the islands' supply of fresh water. The watershed protection and invasive species programs supported with state funds and leveraged several times over with matching funds from county, federal and private sources help to ensure healthy, managed natural resources that permit our survival in the middle of the vast Pacific.

We appreciate the Committee's consideration of our comments in support of SB2782, SD1. HFIA is a non-profit Hawaii organization, incorporated in 1989, which promotes a balance of forest land uses and sound management practices for all of Hawaii's forests. Our industry generates an estimated \$30.7 million in business for the State. HFIA represents approximately 250 member companies and individuals. We have worked closely with the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) and the DLNR over the past 17 years to promote, foster and develop industry standards, initiate forestry research and development, and promote quality control and industry integrity in the State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Jones
Legislative Chair

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai‘i
Supporting S.B. 2782 SD 1 Relating to Environmental Protection
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 9:00AM, Room 211

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 S.B. 2782 SD1 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 Hawaiian forests that are not overrun by invasive species 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.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mbuck@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 25, 2012 8:52:51 AM
Attachments: [SB2782.SD1.MGB.testimony.doc](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2782

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michael G. Buck
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mbuck@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/25/2012

Comments:

TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF S.B. 2782.SD1 – RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

February 22, 2012

(COMMENTS) Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of S.B. 2782 SD1. My name is Michael Buck, former Hawaii State Forester / Wildlife Director and current Sustainable Forests Representative for the National Association of State Foresters. I have spent much of my professional career dealing with this subject area in Hawaii and applaud the intent of this measure as well as the sponsors who have introduced it. The intent of my testimony is to provide some policy and economic perspective of managing Hawaii's forested watersheds in light of the enormous pressure you have as decision makers to allocate limited funds over a range of needs and requests.

Hawaii's forests exist today only because of a considerable investment and political consensus established over a century ago that involved extensive fencing, animal control, and reforestation. While natural resource valuation is not an exact science, Hawaii's forested watersheds are obviously enormous assets to our economy and society and the need for dependable supplies of fresh water is expected to increase in the future. Yet, many of our priority forested watershed landscapes are slowly degrading, and so is our water supply. Hawaii's 11 watershed partnerships provide an innovative framework for the landscape level forest management activities needed, yet they are faced with inconsistent funding. The bottom line is that we are reaping the benefits of past investments made and are not assuring Hawaii's future population of a dependable supply of water. A permanent funding mechanism for watershed management in Hawaii's is needed.

When we pay our water bill in Hawaii, little or no monies are going to manage the forested watershed where that water originates. The price consumers pay for water generally includes: the amortized cost of infrastructure to collect, purify and distribute water; the cost of energy to move water from source to tap; and, the cost of staff and materials to maintain, monitor and administer water services. No cost is assigned to water resources in their natural state or the costs associated with insuring sustainable forested watersheds to collect and percolate our water supplies.

The question of who should pay the watershed bill has been an ongoing debate at the legislature for years. Allocating a portion of the conveyance tax in 2001 provided a portion of the dedicated funding needed but that has been diminished from reduced real estate values and other programs. All citizens and business sectors benefit from our forested watersheds, yet issues of State/county relationships, military use of water, role of tourism sector, and agricultural subsidies have complicated the identification of a fair and equitable mechanism for that payment.

It is important to remember that private lands comprise @ one half of the priority watershed areas in the State (and two thirds on the island of Oahu). Historically, private landowners allowed their forests to be managed by the Territory, under surrender agreements, but retained the water rights and did not pay any property tax. But times have changed as real property tax incentives for watersheds have not been adopted by the counties, the public now “owns” the water, and the majority of these lands are now in restrictive Conservation limits. While restrictive zoning can prevent development in priority forested watersheds (which is a good thing!), it does not pay for watershed management.

A 1911 quote (over a 100 years ago) from Ralph Hosmer, Hawaii’s first territorial forester, helps frame the economic argument:

“Why this constantly recurring talk of forests and forest protection. Why not leave it to government officials to look after the forests? That is what they are paid for. The answer to these questions is simply and solely because in Hawaii forestry is a business necessity. Wherever it can be got water is the most valuable product that the native Hawaiian forest can be made to yield. In Hawaii, without the native forest we should be without water. I am not making this plea on the grounds of abstract altruism. I am merely putting up to you as a business proposition.”

In 2001, a team of economists at the University of Hawaii did a natural resource valuation of the Koolau Mountains watershed on the island of Oahu. This forested watershed spans over 100,000 acres with an estimated sustained yield of over 133 billion gallons of water each year. It recharges the major aquifer that provides the majority of water for the city of Honolulu and Pearl Harbor. Their preliminary economic analysis of the amenities provided by the Koolau Mountains watershed on Oahu show an estimated Net Present Value of 7.44 to 14.0 billion dollars. Amenities considered in the analysis were ground water quantity, water quality, in-stream uses, species habitat, biodiversity, subsistence, hunting, aesthetic, commercial harvests, ecotourism, and climate control. Net present value per acre was estimated at \$76,000 to \$143,535, with a mean annual stream of benefits at roughly \$165 million or \$1,700 per acre.

Even without exploring Hawaii's other forested watersheds in comparable depth, the authors found prima facie reasons for concluding that other forested watersheds around the state would be at least as valuable as that of the Koolau Mountains. Management costs for this area are less than one-half of one percent of the value of the asset that was being maintained - a sound investment.

We need to restore the historical commitment Hawaii had to manage watershed resources in the early 1900s as we reap the benefits from that investment. Senate Bill 2782 SD1 provides a one year down payment on that historical commitment as we strive to develop a fair and equitable mechanism for sustained funding for Hawaii’s forested watersheds.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: plasticcomet@hawaiiintel.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 26, 2012 10:41:46 AM
Attachments: [testimony on SB2782 HD 1 to WAM.doc](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2782

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Patrick Conant
Organization: Individual
E-mail: plasticcomet@hawaiiintel.net
Submitted on: 2/26/2012

Comments:

February 26, 2012

To: Senators David Ige, Chair and Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair,
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Patrick Conant

Regarding: Testimony supporting SB 2782 SD 1

I am very much in support of this much needed measure. We all take for granted that when we turn on the tap, we will get good clean drinking water, for whatever use we need. But do we all really understand where it comes from and where it starts? Unless you spend time in watershed forests and have a basic understanding of what makes clouds form on our mountains and where that rain goes to end up in our water pipes, you need to understand that resource to protect it. The early Hawaiians understood how the "forest catches the clouds". The deforestation of the South slope of Haleakala and Kahoolawe has reduced those areas to deeply eroded barren lands. Those former forests used to catch the clouds. Wild ungulates are much to blame at both sites (and bombing on Kahoolawe did not help). This same scenario continues to play out on different scales on all the islands (except that Kahoolawe is now ungulate-free) including Niihau. It is just harder to discern on the larger, greener islands.

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. There are many new alien weeds invading native forests and feral ungulates have been shown to facilitate that invasion. We all have an obligation to educate ourselves about protection of the aina. So let's do what needs to be done.

From: [randy ching](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: in strong support of SB2782, SD1 - relating to environmental protection
Date: Monday, February 27, 2012 7:40:06 AM

SB2782, SD1 (strong support)
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Hearing on Tuesday, February 28 at 9:00 a.m. in conference room 211

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee,

I am in strong support of SB2782, SD1. Please pass this bill. Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Randy Ching
Honolulu
oahurandy@yahoo.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ferentinos@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 27, 2012 5:43:43 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2782

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lisa Ferentinos
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ferentinos@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/27/2012

Comments:

Future generations are depending on us to ensure the source of their freshwater by protecting important watershed forests. Please do the right thing, support this bill. Mahalo.

February 23, 2012

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator David Ige, Chair**

Public Hearing: February 28, 2012, 9:00 a.m., Room 211

Re: Senate Bill 2782 SD1: Relating to Environmental Protection

Dear Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

I **strongly support** the intent of this bill to allow the Department of Land and Natural Resources more completely fulfill their mission of protecting and preserving our natural resources for our current and future generations.

With the changes that have been experienced in the past years regarding our weather patterns of rainfall, the extensive development on lands that once were in agriculture or natural vegetation and loss of permeable surfaces to allow the re-charge of our groundwater resources, it is imperative that the State make bold movements towards protecting those resources which allow for the maximum continuation of clean water resources. As the sorties continue as to whether development should continue to be allowed to encroach on viable agricultural lands, the larger question to be asked is whether or not development should be allowed to encroach on viable lands which allow for our clean water resources to be re-charged?

In addition to the obvious reasons for wanting to protect our precious watershed lands, there is also the impact of protecting these resources to help with our visitor industry as our visitors are now exploring beyond the realm of our resort areas and exploring the natural beauty of all the islands. Watersheds that are protected for basic life needs would also be of great value to this industry and demonstrating Hawai`i as being more than white sand beaches and palm trees.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

Cynthia K.L. Rezentes
Wai`anae resident