



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

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February 28, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2782, SD1
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Room 211
9:00 AM

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

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 SB 2782, SD1, 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.

HFBF respectfully request your support of this measure along with other biosecurity and agricultural measures that will protect our islands from new invasive pests.

I can be reached at (808) 848-2074 if you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership

February 27th, 2012

Supporting S.B. 2782 SD 1 Relating to Environmental Protection
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 9:00AM, Room 211

West Maui Mountains
Watershed Partnership
P.O. Box 13240
Lahaina, Hawai'i
96761
Phone (808) 661-6600
Fax: (808) 661-6604

Watershed Partners

County of Maui

Dept. of Land &
Natural Resources

Ka'anapali Land
Company, LLC

Kahoma Land, LLC

Kamehameha Schools

Makila Land Co., LLC

Maui County
Department of Water
Supply

Maui Land &
Pineapple
Company Inc

Wailuku Water Co.
LLC

The Nature
Conservancy

Aloha Legislators,

The West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership Supports SB 2782 to provide funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for watershed protection programs. Identifying funding sources for the DLNR's "Rain Follows the Forest" watershed protection initiative is a highly worthy cause.

The proposed bill would allow for resource management to be increased, reverse the degradation of additional forests resources, and further secure the water resources that our state depends on for residential, agricultural and commercial use. Funding will also be leveraged with federal, county, or private grant sources to further stimulate local economies, **bring in millions of outside dollars and provide more jobs.**

As a partnership and as individual entities, we understand that the roots of our success has been built upon the waters which flow from our forests. Without the forest we cannot depend on the water which nourishes our personal and economic interests and understand the necessity of natural resource stewardship even during challenging financial times. Our forefathers recognized this need and we need to echo that wisdom now that the demand for water resources is increasing and supply is decreasing.

The DLNR's watershed initiative proposes a sound investment in our forests. We hope that you can join us in lending your support for watershed protection.

By unanimous consent and on behalf of our partners,

Mahalo nui loa,

Christopher N. Brosius
Watershed Coordinator



The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, February 28, 2012
9:00 a.m., Conference Room 211
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB 2782 SD1

Aloha Chair Ige, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **supports SB 2782 SD1**, *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, demand 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 SB 2782 SD1 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

From: [Dominic Souza](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: SB 2782
Date: Monday, February 27, 2012 9:12:23 AM

To the senate Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Dominic Souza and I am writing in relation to SB 2782. I would like to add my comments and I STRONGLY OPPOSE this bill.

I work in conservation and my job is installing ungulate proof fences to protect biologically sensitive areas. I have seen first hand what happens when fences are put up and not managed. I believe if this bill is allowed to pass that it will cause more damage than it is designed to protect. I wholeheartedly believe in protecting the watershed but feel that this is not the way to do it. This is my job and ive been doing it for years and have seen the effects it has on the natural environment.

If water consumption is that big of a problem I believe that controlling development needs to be addressed as well. Our island water supply is a finite resource if development isnt stopped or controlled no matter what we do we will eventually run out of water. In my lifetime I have seen streams dry up because of the greater demand for water due to more and more development. Please stop it before its to late we must think about the next generations to come.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dominic Souza



HAWAI'I CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

A Partnership Dedicated to Environmental Stewardship, Community Engagement and Conservation Capacity

ALLIANCE MEMBERS

Bishop Museum

Hawai'i Department of Agriculture

Hawai'i Department of Land & Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources

Hawai'i Department of Land & Natural Resources, Division of Forestry & Wildlife

Kamehameha Schools

The Nature Conservancy Hawai'i

National Tropical Botanical Garden

National Park Service

NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service

NOAA, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

Office of Hawaiian Affairs

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Center for Conservation Research & Training

U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station

U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service - Pacific Southwest Region

U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. Department of Defense Army Garrison Hawai'i Natural Resources Program

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuge Complex

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Ecological Services

U.S. Geological Survey - Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center

HCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Michelle Mansker, 2012 Chair

'Aulani Wilhelm, 2011 Chair

Christian Giardina, 2010 Chair

Miranda Smith, 2013 Chair

Ken Kaneshiro, Executive Chair

HCA STAFF

Lihla Noori, Executive Director
director@hawaiiconservation.org

Mariza Silva, Program Coordinator
coordinator@hawaiiconservation.org

Pam Ozenberger, Outreach Assistant
outreach@hawaiiconservation.org

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF STATE OF HAWAI'I WATERSHED INITIATIVE

The Hawai'i Conservation Alliance (HCA) is a cooperative collaboration of conservation leaders representing 19 state and federal agencies, educational institutions, and nonprofit organizations. HCA's mission is to provide unified leadership and advocacy on conservation issues critical to Hawai'i. Collectively, we are responsible for managing the biodiversity of Hawai'i's lands and waters with over 1,600 square miles of land and 140,000 square miles of marine area designated for biodiversity protection. HCA strives to manage these resources in a manner that integrates Native Hawaiian approaches and knowledge systems with conventional conservation efforts to care for Hawai'i's 'āina and people.

The HCA strongly supports the watershed restoration proposal entitled "The Rain Follows the Forest" put forth by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). This timely proposal will advance broad goals of community sustainability, ecosystem integrity, and biodiversity conservation by: 1) controlling key threats to priority watersheds, including invasive plant and animal species, fire, and plant diseases; 2) restoring the integrity and water retention capacity of these watersheds through protection and replanting of native species; and 3) educating Hawai'i's public as to the value of ecologically intact watersheds. By providing effective forest management, this initiative will help to replenish streams and aquifers diminished by decades of ecological neglect.

The HCA further supports the DLNR watershed proposal because it is congruent with the broader goals and management efforts of the HCA. These include:

- 1) Reversing ecosystem degradation;
- 2) Enhancing ecosystem functioning and resulting goods and services;
- 3) Preservation of native ecosystems;
- 4) Increasing the diversity of native species;
- 5) Maintaining native biodiversity for future generations; and
- 6) Ensuring a sustainable management of Hawai'i's natural resources for island communities.

The HCA, therefore, stands ready to support and contribute to Hawai'i's watershed restoration efforts through:

- 1) Collaboration at various levels;
- 2) Management of adjacent land parcels by members such as Kamehameha Schools, National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy, among others;
- 3) Enhancing biosecurity efforts to prevent emergence of new threats; and
- 4) Facilitation of funding opportunities through programs with agencies such as National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service among others.
- 5) Increasing community, cultural and technical capacity to state efforts in support of sustainable land to sea watershed management.

In summary, "The Rain Follows the Forest" plan promotes the irreplaceable natural environment and its life giving benefits are maintained by and across generations. The HCA commends the DLNR for putting forward this important proposal.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: leedomen@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 27, 2012 9:38:24 PM
Attachments: [Aloha I.docx](#)

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

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jeff Abiley
Organization: Individual
E-mail: leedomen@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/27/2012

Comments:

Aloha I'm a pig hunter on the Big Island, I sincerely ask our Politicians to please vote **NO** to Senate Bill 2782. This bill would take away our livelihood that we have practiced for many years. There must be other ways that we can address this issue. If we work together we could probably come up with a decision that will benefit everyone involved. Thank You for your hard work and please vote **NO**

Jeff Abley



League of Women Voters of Hawaii

49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813

www.lwv-hawaii.com | 808.531.7488 | voters@lwvhawaii.com

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

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

SB 2782 S. D. 1 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Anna Hoover, Legislative Committee Member, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Ige and Vice Chair Kidani and committee members,

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports sufficient funding to protect watershed forest reserve.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources Natural Area Reserve program works to protect Hawaii's watersheds to allow for percolation of water to aquifers. As watershed lands diminish or are altered the urgency to protect existing watershed areas increases to protect this most important resource for today and the future. Without recharge there will be no groundwater.

The League supports water resource programs and policies that reflect the interrelationships of water quality, water quantity, groundwater and surface water and that address the potential depletion of water supplies. This includes protection of recharge areas for groundwater. Watershed protection needs to happen now before it is too late.

Please adequately fund DLNR's special watershed programs.



CONSERVATION COUNCIL FOR HAWAII

Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
And Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

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

In Support of SB 2782 SD 1 Relating to Environmental Protection

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 2782 SD 1, 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 SB 2782 SD 1 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

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President: Hannah Springer * Vice-President: Julie Leialoha * Treasurer: Rick Barboza * Secretary: Maka'ala Ka'auomoana

Directors: Lida Pigott Burney * Koalani Kaulukukui * Robin Kaye

Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler



Testimony of the Maui Invasive Species Committee
Senate Bill 2782 SD1
Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Conference Room 211

February 28, 2012, 9:00AM

The Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC) supports S.B. 2872 SD1, which will appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the protection of Hawaii's forested watersheds. Our native forests provide life-giving waters for human consumption and are home to plant and animal species found nowhere else in the world. Healthy forests mean healthy reefs.

Hundreds of studies have documented the damage caused by invasive plants and animals. Research has shown that invasive plants consume significantly more water than our native koa-ʻōhiʻa complex. Monotypic forests result in increased sedimentation threatening our precious coral reef ecosystems. We have seen the impacts of miconia elsewhere in the world. Resources to protect our forested watersheds have never been adequate. In some instances we are barely keeping pace with the invaders; in others, they are clearly winning.

Please reverse the trend of declining health in our forests and provide increased funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for this important initiative.

Thank you for your consideration and for your kōkua.

**SB 2782 SD1
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

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

FEBRUARY 28, 2012

Chair Ige and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways & Means:

I am Paul Oshiro, testifying on behalf of Alexander & Baldwin, Inc. (A&B) and its agricultural company Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company on SB 2782 SD1, “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 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.



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803
808.538.6616 hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

February 28, 2012, 9:00 A.M.
(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2782 (SD1)

Aloha Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter, with 10,000 dues paying members and supporters statewide, ***strongly supports*** SB 2782 (SD1). 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 SB 2782 is a needed bill and deserves to be passed, a source of permanent funding should be considered. A bill like SB 2511 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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tm96785@hawaiiintel.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 27, 2012 5:44:03 PM

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

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Thomas R.T. Mochizuki
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tm96785@hawaiiintel.net
Submitted on: 2/27/2012

Comments:



Via Capitol Website

February 27, 2012

**Testimony of Grove Farm Company, Inc.
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 9:00 AM, Room 211**

**Testimony in Support of S.B. 2782 SD 1–
Relating to Environmental Protection**

Honorable Chair Senator David Y. Ige, Chair and Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Arryl Kaneshiro, and I am a Project Specialist of Grove Farm Company, Inc. Grove Farm is headquartered in Lihue, and owns approximately 40,000 acres on Kaua'i, making it one of Kaua'i's largest private landowners. We also currently maintain seven reservoirs throughout our property on Kauai and are members of the Kauai Watershed Alliance (KWA).

Grove Farm appreciates this opportunity to testify and is **in strong support** of S.B. 2728 SD 1, which provides funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for watershed protection programs.

We understand the importance of protecting our watersheds. A healthy Hawaiian forest acts like a sponge by 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 the storm events. Water is an integral component to many of the industries here on Kauai and providing funding in support of watershed protection programs would have tremendous and significant impact throughout the State.

Grove Farm is in **strong support to S.B. 2728 SD 1**.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for this matter.

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www.grovefarm.com