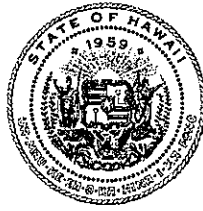


# **SCR 157/SR 93**

## **Testimony**

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 Committees on  
WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING  
and  
AGRICULTURE**

**Tuesday, March 27, 2012  
2:50 AM  
State Capitol, Room 229**

**In consideration of  
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 157 / SENATE RESOLUTION 93  
REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE STATE  
REGULATIONS OF THE HARVESTING OF HAWAIIAN SANDALWOOD**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 157/Senate Resolution 93 requests the establishment of a task force to examine state regulation of the harvesting of Hawaiian sandalwood. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the intention of these resolutions and continues to believe that the establishment of state regulations for the harvest of sandalwood through the development of a sustainable harvest plan is in the best interest of the State, commercial forest operators, and this rare but highly valuable tree species. The Department provides the following comments on the proposed resolutions and task force.

The resolutions should recognize that the majority of the decline in Hawaiian sandalwood has been from anthropogenic sources, including the commercial harvest of the species and the introduction and maintenance of browsing animals and seed predators that limit regeneration and growth of trees. There are differences of opinion as to the historic and present day extent of endemic *Santalum* species in the Hawaiian archipelago, as such there is a lack of agreement about how or if to implement commercial harvest regulation designed to promote sustainable harvest and reforestation practices. The Department supports the establishment of a task force to examine the need for State regulation of commercial harvest of Hawaiian sandalwood, and suggests that the resolution scope be expanded to include a discussion on the role of regulation of commercial harvest for commercially exploited forest species as a preemptive step to prevent their decline to the point that far more restrictive regulation is needed such as listing as threatened and endangered species. This can be a proactive approach to maintain species at a healthy state and maintain future commercial uses by all landowners, which would not be feasible if a species declines to the point it is listed as threatened or endangered under state or federal law.

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

Such discussions will provide initial community discussion on the need and value of sustainable harvest plans, guiding principles on harvest practices to ensure efficiency, environmental protection, conservation and sustainable production such as in found in a comprehensive Forest Practices Act, which is common in the United States mainland and many countries. The Department would like to see the forest industry in Hawaii begin those discussions.

The Department would also like to see the working group develop recommendations on how to make existing cost-share assistance programs more attractive and recommendations on technical assistance to improve the abundance and health of Hawaiian sandalwood, support the long term genetic integrity of Hawaiian sandalwood, and increase commercial productivity of these trees.

The Department comments that the membership of the task force represent the various stakeholder interests, but minimize overlapping interests or expertise to keep the task force to a manageable size. The Department suggests adding expertise on Hawaiian sandalwood from the University of Hawaii and a representative from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. The Department comments that no budget has been provided to administer the task force and the Department does not have resources to provide travel for members.

The Department supports utilizing the October 2012 International Sandalwood Symposium being held here in Honolulu as a forum for further discussion and greater understanding of this important species. The Department also notes that in order to fully understand the status and distribution of Hawaiian sandalwood, a thorough inventory needs to be completed and until such an inventory can be done, there will be ambiguity in the various species status. Funds have not been allocated for such a survey.

Finally, the Department does not agree with the blanket exemption of all agribusinesses from the recommendations of the task force. These would exclude commercial forestry operations, tree farms and ranch operations that can be involved in the commercial use of sandalwood. The task force should discuss and recommend any such exemptions as part of its deliberations.

Ha'loa Aina (JAWMIN LLC)  
P.O. Box 1677  
Honokaa, HI 96727  
808-326-4888

Testimony on HCR NO. 190 and SCR NO. 157  
Dear Honorable Senators

I am Wade C. Lee a managing member of JAWMIN LLC (dba Ha'loa Aina) owner of 3,000 acres of presently managed sustainable native dry-land sandalwood forest on the Island of Hawaii.

We support the goals, objective and intent of HCR NO. 190 and SCR NO. 157.

We have created a model for a sustainable sandalwood forest recovery project on the island of Hawaii and have at this time accomplished the Following in addressing sustainability.

**Environmentally:**

- Regenerated over 150,000 new Sandalwood trees, over 50,000 Koa and the same amount of other native species which are the host trees needed for the sandalwood to survive. This has all been done in the last 2 years.
- We harvest the dead and dying Iliahi trees and processed them into a commercially feasible product. Incorporating the whole tree utilization approach (as an example we collect the sawdust) If we fail to complete the Timber Stand Improvements the forest would continue to degrade.
- Reduced the fire fuel load (slash piles of dead wood) and created six new firebreaks.
- Remove ungulates (livestock, feral sheep, cows, horses) from eating native sandalwood seedlings.
- Rodent control from eating sandalwood seeds.
- Kikuyu Grass (nonnative exotic species) management.

**Economic and Socially:**

- Invested over \$15,000,000.00 into the project.
- \$5,000,000.00 directly into the Kailua-Kona Community.
- Created thirty new jobs of the island
- Supported multiple vendors (Trucker, bags supplied by the coffee industries, equipment rental companies, shippers, helicopters, luas, fuel suppliers, electricians, plumbers, mechanics, etc.)
- Revitalizing an industry started by Native Hawaiians
- Created a new tax base for the state

**Conclusion:**

We have established a native sandalwood forest including Koa, Mamane, Naio and other native species. We are working with third parties including Dr. Danica Harbaugh-Reynaud of the International Sandalwood Foundation, Dr. Randy Senock from Chico State University on potentials certification processes for our industry.

The International Sandalwood Symposium of 2012, that will be held at the East-West Center, University of Hawaii, will bring the foremost stakeholders and experts of the International Sandalwood Industry to discuss scientific research, conservation, ethno botany, commercialization and other aspects of sandalwood.

We support the two resolutions as written and look forward to the opportunity to work together to have good legislation to help restoration efforts to Hawaii's Dry-land forests.

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Commenting on S.C.R. 157 and S.R. 93 Requesting the Establishment of a Task Force  
to Examine State Regulation of the Harvesting of Hawaiian Sandalwood  
Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing  
Senate Committee on Agriculture  
Tuesday, March 27, 2012, 2:50PM, Room 325

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*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.*

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The Nature Conservancy provides the following comments on S.C.R. 157 and S.R. 93.

We appreciate the intent of this resolution, the need to evaluate the condition of sandalwood in Hawai'i, its sustainable management, and potential regulation of sandalwood harvesting. **However, we respectfully request that The Nature Conservancy not be included as a member of the proposed task force to examine issues related to State regulation of harvesting Hawaiian sandalwood.**

The Nature Conservancy's expertise and the focus of our native forest conservation work are on large landscape or whole system management rather than individual species management. Though we respectfully request to be removed from the resolution as a task force member, should this resolution be approved and the task force formed, we are willing to be available to provide technical information to the task force if needed in areas of our work or expertise in overall native forest management.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments.

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## **Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.**

P O Box 437199 Kamuela HI 96743

Phone (808) 885-5599 • Fax (808) 887-1607

e-mail: [HCattlemens@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:HCattlemens@hawaii.rr.com)

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND & HOUSING

Tuesday March 27, 2012 2:50 p.m. Room 229

#### SCR 157

Requesting the establishment of a task force to examine state regulations  
of the harvesting of Hawaiian Sandalwood.

Chairs Nishihara and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Kahele and Solomon and Members of the Committees:

My name is Keith Unger, and I am a rancher and the Land Issues Chair for the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 130+ member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of approximately 25% of the State's total land mass.


The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **strongly supports** SCR 157.

We look forward to participating in both the upcoming International Sandalwood Symposium 2012 and the "Sandalwood" task force.

We appreciate the legislature's acknowledgment that sandalwood and other forest resources are important and that all stakeholders need to be involved in the continuance of conservation work in Hawaii.

We recommend that Kamehameha Schools, The Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and other members of the Hawaiian community, as some of the largest land managers in the state, be added to the list of invitees to the Sandalwood task force. We also recommend that money be appropriated by the legislature to help establish this task force and to meet the ambitious goals as set forth in SCR No. 157.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in favor of this very important issue.



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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 4:33 PM  
**To:** WLH Testimony  
**Cc:** jsgreenwell@lanihau.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for SCR157 on 3/27/2012 2:50:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/AGL 3/27/2012 2:50:00 PM SCR157

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: James Greenwell  
Organization: Palani Ranch Company Inc  
E-mail: [jsgreenwell@lanihau.net](mailto:jsgreenwell@lanihau.net)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

Comments:

This is a sensible and appropriate process to address an issue of this magnitude. Thank you



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 12:34 PM  
**To:** WLH Testimony  
**Cc:** larry@rosewoodcraft.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SCR157 on 3/27/2012 2:50:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/AGL 3/27/2012 2:50:00 PM SCR157


Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: Comments Only  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Lawrence Rose  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [larry@rosewoodcraft.com](mailto:larry@rosewoodcraft.com)  
Submitted on: 3/23/2012

Comments:

My name is Larry Rose and my 10 acres in South Kona is both a home and a source of inspiration and material for my woodcarving art. I have just read SCR157, forming a task force to regulate the harvesting of Hawaiian sandalwood on private land. It seems that none of the task force members to be appointed by the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources is to be a small land owner with sandalwood trees to steward. I think that some of the hundreds of property owners with small parcels in Kau', South Kona, North Kona and the Kohala district of the island of Hawaii having native dry land forest (including sandalwood trees) should be included on the task force. In my own personal experience, there are many hundreds of lots of 100 acres or less with Hawaiian sandalwood growing on them in abundance. The consequences of ignoring stakeholders stewarding a large percentage of the total sandalwood resource, at least on this island, could be serious. I hope Chairperson Aila of the BLNR appoints someone who can help represent our concerns as well as to help to conserve this important native species.

Mahalo Nui,

Larry Rose



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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:47 PM  
**To:** WLH Testimony  
**Cc:** gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SCR157 on 3/27/2012 2:50:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/AGL 3/27/2012 2:50:00 PM SCR157

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Alan Gottlieb  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

Comments:

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 8:52 AM  
**To:** WLH Testimony  
**Cc:** kaimiunger@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SCR157 on 3/27/2012 2:50:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/AGL 3/27/2012 2:50:00 PM SCR157

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Keith Unger  
Organization: McCandless Ranch  
E-mail: [kaimiunger@gmail.com](mailto:kaimiunger@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/23/2012

Comments:

McCandless Ranch strongly supports SCR157 Thank you for recognizing the difference between conservation work on public land versus conservation work on private land. This resolution highlights the necessity of including all stakeholders and reinforces the need for incentive based initiatives when dealing with conservation on private land:  
In regard specifically to the 3rd WHEREAS, it is our understanding that there currently IS regulation and oversight on the harvest, sale, or destruction of native sandalwood species on privately owned or managed lands, in conservation zoned districts.  
Furthermore, we recommend that money be appropriated by the legislature to help establish this task force and to meet the ambitions goals as set forth in SCR157.  
McCandless Ranch looks forward to participating in the upcoming Sandalwood Conference and related discussions with the goal of designing a blueprint for future conservation work in Hawaii.