

# **SCR 157/SR 93**

## **Late Testimony**

LATE

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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LATE

REVISED LANGUAGE TO BE PRESENTED FOR THE FOLLOWING:

HR147: Resolution scheduled to be heard by WLO on Friday, 03-23-12 10:45AM, Rm 325

HCR190: Resolution scheduled to be heard by WLO on Friday, 03-23-12 10:45AM, Rm 325.

SR93: hearing set as of date 3/27/12

SCR157: hearing set as of date

Added language is bold and underscored. Deleted language is stricken.

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REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE STATE REGULATION OF  
THE PRESERVATION AND HARVESTING OF HAWAIIAN SANDALWOOD.

WHEREAS, ~~an unsubstantiated concern has been raised regarding~~ over the past 200 years there has been a steady decline of all native sandalwood species in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, ~~any the decline has historically been~~ can be attributed to the harvesting of Santalum species for the high international demand as well as impact caused by non-native mammals, insects, fire, and diseases that limit regeneration and growth of existing trees; and

WHEREAS, while protection of native sandalwood species is afforded on state lands and within the state conservation district, there is no regulation or oversight on the harvest, sale, or destruction of native sandalwood species on privately owned or managed lands, including conservation districts; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii's Santalum species, Iliahi is endemic, found only in Hawaii and has evolved over hundreds of thousands of years into at least 6 species unique to different islands, very slow growing and being hemi-parasitic, it is our integral part of the Hawaiian ecosystem.

WHEREAS, the commercial harvesting of commercially planted native sandalwood is a promising new industry in the State that will provide many new jobs and increase value added exports; and

~~WHEREAS, in October 2012, the International Sandalwood Symposium 2012 will be held at the University of Hawaii at Manoa where stakeholders, experts, students, and members of the public with interests in the international sandalwood industry will discuss scientific research, conservation, ethnobotany, commercialization, and other aspects of sandalwood species and resources; and~~



~~(7)(c)~~ A representative of the Hawaii Forest Industry Association;

~~(8) (d)~~ A representative of the Nature Conservancy of Hawaii;

~~(9)(e)~~ A representative of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council;

~~(10)~~ A representative of the United Chinese Society of Hawaii;

~~(11)(f)~~ A representative of **each of the not for profit sponsors of the International Sandalwood Symposium, Foundation For Islands Of Harmony, United Plant Savers and the International Sandalwood Foundation; and**

~~(12)~~ A representative of Jawmin, LLC;

~~(13)~~ A representative of commercial foresters in the State; and

~~(14)~~ Dr. Randall S. Senock, Associate Professor for Geological and Environmental Sciences, California State University at Chico; and

**(g) Representatives of environmental organizations, Hawaiian organizations, Conservation organizations and others as deemed appropriate by the Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources;**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to examine and make recommendations on the following issues; ~~provided that agribusinesses; as defined under section 321: 10.5 Hawaii Revised Statutes, should be exempt from any recommendation of the task force:~~

(1) Conservation of Hawaiian sandalwood, including but not limited to:

(A) Supporting the sustainable management and use of Hawaiian sandalwood resources throughout the State, including reforestation efforts;

(B) Providing incentives to local entrepreneurs to cultivate Hawaiian sandalwood species for reforestation programs or sustainable commercial operations; and

(C) Providing support for programs that ensure the sustainability of commercial operations for Hawaiian sandalwood resources in the State; and

(2) Establishment of requirements for a permitting process for the commercial and noncommercial harvesting of Hawaiian sandalwood, including a sustainable forest management plan; and

~~(3) Prohibition of the export of native Hawaiian seed banks; and~~

(3) Summaries of the 2 prior International Conferences on Sandalwood held at the East-West Center over a dozen years ago, its recommendations and the status today of its implementations.

(4) Estimates of sandalwood trees in existence by number; species; age, and location for each island in the Hawaiian Islands in 2012 and in 1800, the reign of Kamehameha the Great.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to report to the Legislature on its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2014, and

*2013.*  
~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; the Administrator of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife of the Department of Land and Natural Resources; the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture; the Executive Director of the Agribusiness Development Corporation; the Mayor of each county; the Executive Director of the Hawaii Forest Industry Association; the Executive Director of the Nature Conservancy of Hawaii; the President of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council; the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the United Chinese Society of Hawaii; the Executive Director of the International Sandalwood Foundation; the President of Jawmin, LLC; and Dr. Randall S. Senock, California State University at Chico.~~



## Sandalwood Aloha

Sandalwood trees were once prolific on all islands in the Hawaiian archipelago. Its seed arrived here well over a million years ago. King Kamehameha The Great's tax records show that in a two week span from Sept 13 to Sept.29, sandalwood collected on Oahu, from Waikiki through the windward side amounted to over one and a half million pounds of sandalwood. So prolific and esteemed as a wood with spiritual qualities, the Chinese name for Hawaii was, and is still for many, SANDALWOOD MOUNTAIN.

Yet today, on Oahu and most islands Sandalwood forests cannot be found. It was cut for sale; money-kala, and sold internationally 200 years ago and is still being cut on the big Island without regulation and sold as a commodity.

Sandalwood Aloha, Is it farewell? OR Is it a welcome of replanting for new forests in 50 years.? With our sad historic past of exploitation and our uncertain future of new plantings; are Hawaii's six endemic species of Sandalwood nearly extinct on every island ? Or is it thriving sufficiently on the Big Island that some harvesting should continue.? if so , with what oversight?

Pending at the Hawaii State legislature are measures for Hawaii's DLNR to oversight the present unregulated harvesting of Sandalwood on private land . This cutting and sale of 60 to 500 year old native Iliahi trees may be stimulating the first significant legislation on Hawaii's forests in a quarter century.

What is significance of Hawaii's sandalwood. Iliahi? It is Hawaii's roots- symbolic, historic, spiritual and our namesake to over a billion people. Iliahi trees are one of Hawaii's original trees, a Kini Akua - having arrived over a million years ago, and evolving into at least six species unique to the environment of each island over hundreds of thousands of years. It is rooted as an original life, long before mankind, that shaped Hawaii's ecosystems uniquely as its roots enjoyed the companionship of other native plants given its hemiparasitic nutrient nature. Its sweet heartwood is revered by Hindu's . Buddhists, Muslims, Catholics of SE Asia as incense in rituals and used by polynesians for cleansing, preservatives, and fragrance. As do Europeans for soaps and perfumes.

Today a resurgence of high international demand has stimulated unregulated cutting. The history of sandalwood exploitation is a sad chapter. The Sandalwood Era. is symbolic of man's exploitation of nature's bounty for credit, namely money and Western materialism. The cutting of Hawaii's Iliahi for sale to Asia, was Hawaii's economic turning point from a self sufficient barter economy to a commercial economy based on credit and debt. As a result. there were many historic firsts created in

Hawaii, due to sandalwood, namely: a. The Hawaiian Flag used today, b. the development of the first commercial export in Hawaii, c. the harvesting of almost every sandalwood tree in Hawaii d.the death of hundreds of Hawaiians who were ordered into the mountains and forced to cut and haul trees to the beach. e the buying on credit. f.the first written law taxing the Hawaiian people, g the failed Hawaiian sandalwood ship expedition to the south Pacific and lost of hundreds of Hawaiian warriors and chiefs and h. the first harbor tax on foreign vessels harboring in Hawaii. The Sandalwood trade ended in 1840 as the once abundant iliahi had been thought to be cut from all the islands, save the Big Island where it still exists, perhaps the remaining 2%,

Should those be oversighted by DLNR ? Does the planting of a hundred seedlings equate to allow the cutting of a hundred year old tree? Is history to repeat itself , when will we ever learn? Once cut, how can we replace a hundred. or 500 hundred year old sandalwood tree? Let us all Save old growth Iliahi and encourage with incentives the restoration of Native Hawaiian Forest resources.

For this legislative Session , HB 1793 and SB 3028 were deferred and In its wake resolutions of creating a task force to study the sandalwood issues are forthcoming. Such a task force must be balanced in composition including naturalist, historians, and cultural Hawaiians as well as commercial harvesters of sandalwood, ranchers and government. Accordingly amending drafts will be proposed.

DLNR has the convening and pivotal Role of the Sandalwood Task Force and must have appropriate resources and staff

The task force should present proposed Hawaii legislation and recommended Rules and Regulations to the three day Oct 21 to 24, 2012 International Sandalwood Conference being planned at the East West Center. The International Conferees and Hawaii conferees may then respond with their best practice, recommendations and advice. Members of the public may then be heard on draft wording of specific Sandalwood legislation and regulations to be introduced in 2013,

SANDALWOOD ALOHA . once thought as a last goodbye due to the vast exploitation Can also mean with our effort ; really mean a warm truly deep welcome home with replanting and future forests to be seen by our grandchildren, as well as a new economic future,

Sandalwood Aloha is our expression given in the spirit of God through sandalrood seeking to unite us which are separated . Aloha seeks the reconciling of Hawaii's sad historic exploitation of nature with a new awareness, commitment and effort on planting

Iliahi and saving old growth Sandakwood Trees that connect us over a million years to the original land of Hawaii before Hawaiians

*A Me Ke Aloha Kūiahi - ahi*