

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Wednesday, February 26, 2014
11:15 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1795, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE KEIKI, 'OPIO, AND KUPUNA TRUST FUND**

House Bill 1791, House Draft 1 proposes to establish an ecotourism program for individuals to purchase native or food-bearing trees to be planted on government-owned lands, establishes the keiki, 'opio, and kupuna trust fund to collect funds received by the ecotourism program and to support the program, and after ten years, requires the annual interest earned on the trust corpus to be used for programs supporting children, youth, and the elderly. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this measure but does not believe it is necessary.**

While 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 Forest Stewardship Special Fund (Section 195F-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS)) and the management of the State Forest Reserves System as authorized under Chapter 183, HRS. The funds and activities authorized under these Chapters are compatible with the goals to conserve and reforest Hawaii's native trees on public forest lands.

The Department has the statutory authority to accept funding to support forest management from federal and state funds as well as contributions from other parties. Revenues from seedlings and forest product sales go toward protecting watersheds, native forests, and enhancing recreational areas for current and future generations. Investment earnings are included as a part of the assets of the fund and are carried forward to future fiscal years. However, as forest management and restoration is often costly and not a single investment event, generally there is not sufficient funding available to manage the state's forest reserves, let alone provide revenue for other state programs. A new administrative overlay with the creation of the trust fund, advisory board, and non-profit entity will create inefficiencies with the management of any funding collected. The Board of Land and Natural Resources already provides oversight on the management of the

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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

Department funds as well as provides for opportunities for the public to provide their input on projects.

The Department recognizes the opportunity to work with the tourism and hotel industries to encourage visitors to participate in eco-tourism opportunities as well as donate to reforestation efforts. The Department is exploring the feasibility of partnering with private businesses to generate funding through visitor and resident contributions to generate revenues for existing funds that support the protection of Hawaii's forests. Designated staff and new funding allocated to build and encourage public involvement would facilitate this program.



HB1795 HD1
RELATING TO THE KEIKI, 'ŌPIO, AND KUPUNA TRUST FUND
House Committee on Finance

February 26, 2013

11:15 a.m.

Room 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB1795 HD1, which will allow Hawai'i's visitors and residents to voluntarily contribute towards the native biodiversity and food self-sufficiency of our islands, while also providing a consistent source of revenues to support programs benefiting our keiki and kūpuna.

The potential benefits of this bill are manyfold. With appropriate expertise and guidance, the reforestation efforts promoted by this bill may highlight and uplift Hawai'i's efforts to preserve its native biodiversity and enhance its food self-sufficiency, increasing the availability of resources from which both cultural practitioners and the general public may benefit. Reforestation efforts may also promote watershed health and aquifer recharge, a particularly important concern given the anticipated impacts of climate change and a growing population base over the next few decades. In addition, the long-term investment of funds generated through the proposed ecotourism program may provide a much-needed source of consistent revenues to benefit our future keiki and kūpuna. Notably, the innovative approach and potential breadth of benefits of this measure may in themselves prove particularly helpful in attracting greater individual and other private investment in the state's reforestation efforts.

Therefore, the OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB1795 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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Committee on Finance

HB1795 HD1, RELATING TO THE KEIKI, 'OPIO, AND KUPUNA TRUST FUND

**Testimony of Wes Lum
Director, Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to Department of Health**

Wednesday, February 26, 2014; Conference Room 308

11:15 a.m.; Agenda #2

- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) supports the intent of this measure,
2 provided that its enactment does not reduce or replace priorities within our Biennium Budget
3 Request.
- 4 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure creates the Keiki, 'Opio, and Kupuna Trust Fund (Trust Fund)
5 to administer and support an eco-tourism program. Ten years after the establishment of the Trust
6 Fund, the interest earned on the trust corpus can be used to fund educational programs for children
7 and youth, and caregiving services for Hawaii's older adults.
- 8 **Purpose and Justification:** EOA supports the concept of the Trust Fund as a creative way of
9 financing programs and services to strengthen caregiver supports. Additionally, the intent of this
10 measure is aligned with EOA's strategic priority directions, which is to develop long-term
11 supports and services financing options that will stave off impoverishment due to costly health and
12 nursing home care. Furthermore, our strategic plan directs us to develop new mechanisms for
13 family caregiver support and respite. This measure accomplishes these goals. Thank you for the
14 opportunity to testify.

finance1

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 9:05 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: deborah.arendale@mauicounty.gov
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1795 on Feb 26, 2014 11:15AM*

HB1795

Submitted on: 2/25/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2014 11:15AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Arendale	Maui County Office on Aging	Support	No

Comments:

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Bay Clinic, Inc.
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu
Big Island Substance Abuse Council
Blueprint for Change
Bobby Benson Center
Catholic Charities Hawaii
Child and Family Service
Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii
Courage House Hawaii
Domestic Violence Action Center
EPIC, Inc.
Family Programs Hawaii
Family Support Hawaii
Hale Kipa, Inc.
Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.
Hawaii Behavioral Health
Hawaii Student Television
Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition
Hina Mauka Teen Care
Hui Malama Learning Center
Kaanalike
Kahi Mo'hala Behavioral Health
KEY (Kualoa-Hee'ia Ecumenical Youth)
Project
Kids Hurt Too
Kokua Kalih'i Valley
Life Foundation
Marimed Foundation
Maui Youth and Family Services
Palama Settlement
P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.
Parents and Children Together (PACT)
Planned Parenthood of Hawaii
REAL
Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.
Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.
Sex Abuse Treatment Center
Susannah Wesley Community Center
The Catalyst Group
The Children's Alliance of Hawaii
Waikiki Health Center
Women Helping Women
YWCA of Kauai

February 24, 2014

To: Representative Syliva Luke
And members of the Committee on Finance

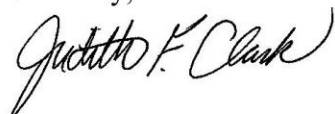
Testimony in Support of HB 1795 HD 1 Relating to the Keiki, 'Opio and Kupuna Trust

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 1795 Relating to the Keiki, 'Opio and Kupuna Trust.

This remarkable and innovative bill has many potential benefits to the environment and to vulnerable children, youth and seniors. It has the potential to become an ongoing revenue source for the State of Hawaii. It can become a sustainable funding source for programs that allow our children to grow up safe, healthy, and ready to succeed as well as meeting the care needs of our growing elderly population. And it honors the recommendations of Hawaii's youth who, at the annual Children and Youth Summit, have consistently advocated for environmental preservation (including planting of native trees).

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director