

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Commenting with Proposed Amendments on H.B. 2070 Relating to Watershed Protection
House Committee on Water and Land
Friday, February 7, 2014, 8:30AM, Room 325

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which life in these islands depends. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 35,000 acres in 11 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 submits the following comments on H.B. 2070 and suggests an amendment.

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. Science indicates that one of the very likely effects of climate change in Hawai'i will be more severe storm events but overall less rainfall. One of the most effective tools we have to help address these effects of climate change is to maintain the health and natural function of our forests.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) already has a well-established watershed protection program. This program involves its own direct, on the ground management work as well as working in partnership with other public and private land owners and land managers. We agree with specifically incorporating this activity into the DLNR's authorizing statute.

We are, however, concerned that this bill may unduly restrict the DLNR from implementing this program only through the use of State civil service personnel. A primary reason the DLNR's watershed protection program is so effective is that it has a strong partnership component. While it carries out a large amount of very effective work with its own civil service personnel, the Department cannot reasonably, efficiently or cost-effectively take on all this responsibility itself. The Department's Watershed Partnership, Forest Stewardship and Natural Area Partnership Programs are prime examples of how the DLNR has effectively leverages watershed management goals across state, county, federal and private lands, taking advantage of many millions of dollars of non-state funds and work by non-state personnel.

We recommend the following amendment to Section 1 of the bill:

"§183- Watershed initiatives program; established. There shall be established within the department a watershed initiatives program, which shall plan, monitor, and execute watershed protection initiatives. The board of land and natural resources may shall employ necessary staff, including professional, administrative, and clerical employees to execute the program; provided that the employees shall be subject to chapter 76."

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Alan H. Arizumi Christopher J. Benjamin Anne S. Carter Richard A. Cooke III Peter H. Ehrman Kenton T. Eldridge
Thomas M. Gottlieb James J.C. Haynes III Mark L. Johnson Dr. Kenneth Y. Kaneshiro Eiichiro Kuwana
Duncan MacNaughton Wayne K. Minami A. Catherine Ngo James C. Polk H. Monty Richards Chet A. Richardson
Jean E. Rolles Scott C. Rolles Crystal K. Rose Dustin E. Sellers Dustin M. Shindo Nathan E. Smith James Wei Eric K. Yeaman

lowen2-Lanaly

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 6:28 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: mauibrad@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2070 on Feb 7, 2014 08:30AM*

HB2070

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for WAL on Feb 7, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brad Parsons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

lowen2-Lanaly

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 9:35 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: paul.bueltmann@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2070 on Feb 7, 2014 08:30AM

HB2070

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for WAL on Feb 7, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Bueltmann	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I Oppose this bill HB2070 This bill does not reflect the will.of the people. Something like this needs more input from the people. Mahalo

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

lowen2-Lanaly

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 10:43 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: kohatsu_ryan@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2070 on Feb 7, 2014 08:30AM

HB2070

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for WAL on Feb 7, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan Kohatsu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I respectfully oppose HB 2070 in its current form. There are other plans within Chapter 183 that does not particularly state a budget. Putting a budget into the H.R.S. would seem very fiscally irresponsible given the ever changing priorities of the State. I would also have to respectfully disagree on the assessment of the priority of watersheds. Yes, watersheds are extremely important for growth and continued prosperity. However, I do not believe our watersheds are in such a state that immediate and large swaths of money need to be blindly thrown at the effort. I urge officials to please consider USGS data on watershed recharge rates across the state and utilize scientific evidence of the watersheds as opposed to the popular media and half truths of watershed protection. Some areas need it, while others do not. It doesn't take a genius to consider patterns between the islands. Compare the size of Oahu's watershed to the size of Big Island's watershed and the population that use it. On popular media of DLNRs "The Rain Follows the Forest," it would simply be impossible that Oahu could exist given the vast disparity of population vs. watershed area. Yet, our State is vigorously seeking to fence off, eradicate, and protect watersheds on the outer islands instead while huge developments are moving forward on Oahu. What happened to the water consideration "The Rain Follows the Forest" was so concerned about? Does development and money trump their argument? This is inconsistent and the public needs more truth. Today's water is a commodity. Like electricity, cable, food, etc. It is sold commonly commercially to the public. In all other utility functions typically, a cost-benefit analysis is done. Yet, with watersheds, we are to blindly believe we are in serious trouble while some USGS data report 200% watershed recharge rates on the Big Island but nevermind that because the State needs millions of dollars to fence off more areas which potentially create far more noxious weeds that we are told are detrimental to watershed recharge. There should be significant research and scientific data justifying the function and health of our watersheds before emotional media sways our public treasury on funding an effort that may have little to no net affect or even negative affects in areas. The allocated money could be better spent on a non-biased report of our watershed recharge rates and health vs. blindly funding a program that potentially significantly changes the landscape and removes the public from public lands. A budget does not need to be stated in H.R.S. and DLNR should have already been conducting significant research in coordination with USGS and municipal water supply that the public has yet to see.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

lowen2-Lanaly

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 11:43 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: Aaronbrown808@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2070 on Feb 7, 2014 08:30AM

HB2070

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for WAL on Feb 7, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aaron Brown	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This Bill does not specify what methods will be used by DLNR. It needs to be clear how DLNR makes decision on where to allocate their resources. At this time oversight is extremely limited or non-existent.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

lowen2-Lanaly

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 7:40 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: voggymtn@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2070 on Feb 7, 2014 08:30AM

HB2070

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for WAL on Feb 7, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Willie-Joe Camara	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose HB 2070.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

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 House Committee on
WATER & LAND

Friday, February 7, 2014
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2070
RELATING TO WATERSHED PROTECTION

House Bill 2070 proposes to establish a watershed initiatives program in the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department), subject program employees to the civil service laws, and appropriate funds for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-2015. **The Department supports this bill provided that the funds appropriated do not adversely impact the Department's priorities in the Executive Budget or are derived from existing programmatic funding.**

The Department leverages funding and capacity by partnering with other land managers and agencies to protect priority watershed forests across county, state, federal, and private lands. This is made possible by supporting projects implemented by organizations such as the eleven statewide watershed partnerships and the invasive species committees that work across landowner boundaries. This model has provided the Department flexibility to most effectively afford landscape-level watershed protection, in addition to supporting projects implemented by civil service employees on state land.

Funding would support the Department's *The Rain Follows the Forest* watershed initiative (available online at <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/rain>) to implement on-the-ground actions needed to stabilize Hawaii's water sources. The initiative seeks to double the acreage of protected watershed forests by 2021. Significant accomplishments are underway as funding provided for FYs 2013-2015 will support the protection of over 38,000 acres and management of more than 487,000 acres. Additionally, thousands of seedlings have been planted, largely by volunteers.

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 these forests have already been lost to invasive species, causing extensive water loss across landscapes. Clearly, our forests are enormous economic assets. Just as clearly, their degradation is ongoing and accelerating. The

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ESTHER KIA'AINA
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

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 the watershed initiative 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.

HAWAII SPORTSMEN ALLIANCE

OPPOSING HB2070

RELATING TO WATERSHED PROTECTION

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 07, 2014, 9:30AM, ROOM 325

The Hawaii Sportsmen Alliance strives for balanced conservation and wise use of all our natural resources.

The Rain Follows The Forest Watershed Protection Plan will receive \$11,000,000 yearly for the next ten years. How much more money do they need?

Hawaii is the only State without a Game Management Plan (GMP) and we have spent over thirty years trying to get DLNR to create and implement such a plan.

Do we ever wonder why we have no GMP? We have been told that there is no personnel or budget to have one.

The one department tasked with managing our animal populations has no plan, money or personnel to carry out HRS Chapter 183D-2.

183D-2 Powers and duties of department:

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hrscurrent/Vol03_Ch0121-0200D/HRS0183D/HRS_0183D-0002.htm

For this reason we **oppose HB2070**.

Thank you for considering our view.

Abraham Sylvester
614 Haihai St
Hilo, Hawaii 96720



*To Protect & Promote
Sustainable Public
Hunting in Hawaii*

Testimony from The Hawaii Hunting Association

Committee on Water & Land

Friday, February 7, 2014

H.B. 2070

Relating to Watershed Initiative

Support with MODIFICATION.

The Hawaii Hunting Association is concerned with the unrelenting emphasis on watershed and watershed protection with little to no regard for the people that use our watersheds, one, and the overreaching emphasis on protection of watersheds especially here on the Big Island where recharge is half of the mean annual rainfall (49%). In the best of cases, if you replaced ALL of our forests with native plants and trees you would improve recharge by less than 5% (10% of a 50% mean recharge).

Rather than continue to emphasize protection via fencing and eradication, Hawaii Hunting Association supports a more comprehensive approach that is inclusive of all users (Cooperative Resource Management) by adopting a proper process of Game Animal Management in all of our forests

instead of the currently adopted uninspired and un-necessary fence and eradicate strategy.

In order to support this bill, Hawaii Hunting Association would require that the current language be modified with the following;

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 183, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to part III to be appropriately
3 designated and to read as follows:
4 "§183 - Watershed initiatives program; established.
5 There shall be established within the department a watershed
6 initiatives program, which shall plan, ~~monitor~~, and execute a
7 comprehensive game mammal monitoring program to assess
8 game animal impacts and carrying capacities present in each of
9 the watershed initiative areas evaluated so that sustainable
10 hunting opportunities will be employed along with
11 watershed protection initiatives. The board of land and natural
12 resources shall employ necessary staff, including professional,
13 administrative, and clerical employees, to execute the program;
14 provided that the employees shall be subject to chapter 76."

Thank you for your time and consideration. Data for our testimony can be had at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2011/5078/>

Sincerely,
Tom Lodge
Hawaii Hunting Association



*To Protect & Promote
Sustainable Public
Hunting in Hawaii*

Testimony from The Hawaii Hunting Association

Committee on Water & Land

Friday, February 7, 2014

H.B. 2070

Relating to Watershed Initiative

Support with MODIFICATION.

The Hawaii Hunting Association is concerned with the unrelenting emphasis on watershed and watershed protection with little to no regard for the people that use our watersheds, one, and the overreaching emphasis on protection of watersheds especially here on the Big Island where recharge is half of the mean annual rainfall (49%). In the best of cases, if you replaced ALL of our forests with native plants and trees you would improve recharge by less than 5% (10% of a 50% mean recharge).

Rather than continue to emphasize protection via fencing and eradication, Hawaii Hunting Association supports a more comprehensive approach that is inclusive of all users (Cooperative Resource Management) by adopting a proper process of Game Animal Management in all of our forests

instead of the currently adopted uninspired and un-necessary fence and eradicate strategy.

In order to support this bill, Hawaii Hunting Association would require that the current language be modified with the following;

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 183, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to part III to be appropriately
3 designated and to read as follows:
4 "§183 - Watershed initiatives program; established.
5 There shall be established within the department a watershed
6 initiatives program, which shall plan, ~~monitor~~, and execute a
7 comprehensive game mammal monitoring program to assess
8 game animal impacts and carrying capacities present in each of
9 the watershed initiative areas evaluated so that sustainable
10 hunting opportunities will be employed along with
11 watershed protection initiatives. The board of land and natural
12 resources shall employ necessary staff, including professional,
13 administrative, and clerical employees, to execute the program;
14 provided that the employees shall be subject to chapter 76."

Thank you for your time and consideration. Data for our testimony can be had at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2011/5078/>

Sincerely,
Tom Lodge
Hawaii Hunting Association

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2014
COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Rep. Cindy Evans, Chair

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair

Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen	Rep. Calvin K.Y. Say
Rep. Faye P. Hanohano	Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto
Rep. Derek S.K. Kawakami	Rep. Richard Lee Fale
Rep. Chris Lee	Rep. Cynthia Thielen

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Friday, February 07, 2014

TIME: 8:30 am

PLACE: Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

A G E N D A

HB 2070

RELATING TO WATERSHED PROTECTION.

Dear Hawaii State House of Representatives,

Firstly, I would like to thank you for the long hours and dedication you all provide the public sector; specifically, your service in this Twenty seventh Regular Session 2014.

Secondly, I would like to ask your consideration in holding bill HB 2070 for the following reasons.

Given all things considered: the recent economic down turn; nevertheless, the state's coffers returning into the black, as recently declared by our state Governor; the positive, but slow growth to our state's economic status; the fact there has been a great increase in state, federal, and public conservation watershed movements throughout our island state over the past years.

Whereas, the recent "Rain Follows the Forest Initiative" (State); following, the enormous catalog of federal funding sources for watershed protection under the: (Federal government EPA national service center for environmental publications {NSCEP} <http://nepis.epa.gov>); sequentially, the gambit of public watershed partnerships and/or alliances throughout the islands. Most notably, the pilot model for large scale forest protection: the East Maui Watershed Partnership, formed in 1991 on the island of Maui.

In continuation of these factors, to allow HB2070 to carry over and pass in this Twenty Seventh Regular Session, whereby granting DLNR authorization to establish a watershed initiatives program by and through HB2070; before, the DLNR completes a game management plan, which has been in the workings for the past 30 years; is affront to the DLNR's conservation worker and coordinator Ms. Julie Leialoah. Her public testimony given in the DLNR movie "The Rain Follows The Forest: <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/news/rftf/> ".

Wherein the film, Ms. Leialoha's, testimony suggests the best approach to rectifying the watershed degradation is to move away from the inflating the focus on the general watershed issue, but to pull in and focus on the underlying conservation issues already in the workings throughout the state.

One such conservation issue is the long pending Game Management Plan by the Hawaii State DLNR.

Many of my fellow residents feel, as I do, that the DLNR needs to provide better focus on the department plans it currently administers too. Paramount the DLNR needs to complete and publish the current game management plan it has failed to

follow through on in the last 30 years of research to include receiving federal monies to complete game management draft proposals, documented, but not formally on record.

In closing and through my heartfelt appreciation to your dedication provide the state in your public service work; I humbly ask any hearing committees on this HB 2070 to hold this bill.

Very truly yours,

Cleon Bailey