

**LATE**

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Supporting H.B. 857 HD1 Relating to Sustainability  
House Committee on Finance  
Monday, February 25, 2013, 11:00AM, Room 308

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*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 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 supports H.B. 857 HD1 and the proposed increased investments from the barrel tax in clean energy and local agriculture to reduce our dependence on imported fossil fuel and imported food, and to improve the State's oil spill response capacity.

Climate change caused by burning fossil fuels is an imminent and unprecedented threat to every person in Hawai'i. It is our responsibility to do what we can and what is necessary reduce our own carbon emissions, however small on a global scale, to contribute to the worldwide effort needed to mitigate the growing effects of climate change.

Even if we drastically reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions now, however, we will still feel certain effects of climate change. In Hawai'i, science indicates that this will likely include:

- More frequent and more severe storms that can increase runoff and siltation;
- Overall, less rainfall and therefore less fresh water;
- Higher temperatures that affect watershed and agricultural health, while being beneficial to invasive species;
- Sea level rise and high waves that will harm coastal areas and groundwater systems;
- Ocean acidification that will inhibit the growth of protective coral reefs.

In response, we must plan and implement mitigative and adaptive measures to ensure the resilience of our natural and human systems. Protecting and enhancing the health of our forested watersheds as proposed by the Department of Land and Natural Resources is one critically important initiative. Likewise, investing in local energy and agriculture security as proposed by this bill are essential components of building self-reliance and resilience here in the middle of the Pacific ocean.

This bill is a wise investment in our future. We urge your support.

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**Sent:** Monday, February 25, 2013 7:35 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
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**HB 857 HD1 - RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY**

**Reallocates the Barrel Tax. Repeals the sunset date of the Barrel Tax and provides appropriations for the anticipated additional revenues. Extends the sunset date for the Energy Systems Development Special Fund until 2018. Effective July 1, 2013. (HB857 HD1)**

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
HEARING  
Room 308  
11 am  
Monday, February 25, 2013**

**SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT**

My name is Shannon Wood, the president and co-founder of the *Windward Ahupua`a Alliance*, a **501c3** Hawai`i non-profit corporation, which was established in July, 2002, to create the **Ko`olau Greenbelt & Heritage Trails System** in order to restore, protect & provide public access to the *mauka* lands on the windward side of O`ahu along the base of *Na Ko`olau* as well as to support locally-owned sustainable economic activities in the more developed areas.

Its mandate, however, has expanded over the past ten years well beyond these important regional issues. *WAA* now works to educate & inform residents, visitors, businesses, policymakers at all three levels of government, and the media about using **SMART GROWTH** principles which promote sustainability through urban (re)development to protect agricultural and conservation lands forever.

In addition to planning how & where we will live, work & play, *WAA* also advocates on matters as diverse as developing new waste management programs; setting long-term watershed protection policies based upon *ahupua`a* concepts; creating locally-owned “green” economic development opportunities; supporting renewable energy standards to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and mitigating the impacts of global warming & rising sea levels around the world by working on public policy changes at all three levels of government.

**WAA** was one of the principal supporters of this concept when it was originally passed plus we reluctantly supported the shifting of the revenues to address the recession's impacts. Now it's time to bring it back to its original purpose.

Today, we also support adding **all** fossil fuels to the be covered by this fund - especially **Liquid Natural Gas** - but the legislation has been deferred. Therefore, we request that you bring it back to life.

With respect to the sunset date of the energy systems development special fund, I am willing to consider it but only if it can be extended sometime in the next three years if needed.

*Mahalo* for the opportunity to present this testimony in support of this bill.