

## Testimony in favor of SB 1166 Watershed preservation

John Rogers, owner  
Affordable Portable Housing  
14 Aulike st #909  
Kailua, HI 96734  
808-953-2005



Our organization stands very much in favor of SB 1166. We work with DLNR often, designing and building portable, cost effective shipping container structures for their many operations. I know the people on the ground, they are extremely dedicated and efficient people who care about our aina and also are financially conservative and efficient. Everytime we are involved with building a structure for them, we always go over every detail so they get exactly what they need at the best possible price. They are charged with many duties and responsibilities. They get criticized, and I can say that their job is extremely difficult, they operate on a tiny budget compared to all the infrastructure and lands, harbors beaches forests etc that they maintain and oversee. So overall, it is accurate to say that DLNR people get a lot done with a tiny amount of money.

Our watershed is under attack from thirsty, invasive plants that are extremely aggressive, fast growing and difficult to eradicate. Oahu is facing an upcoming water crisis with the close to 2 million people using our water every single day. No one likes to think about that, but it is going to be a crisis in fairly short order. We would be very foolish to not do more to protect our watershed from these aggressive and very thirsty invasive plants. It is not easy doing this. It takes air support, manpower, chemicals and supplies. The forest is not like operating on developed land, you are moving around very irregular terrain filled with rocks, hau brush etc, so it is a very difficult job that has to get done, and it takes money. It is money that is extremely well spent and greatly deserved. I believe the revenue sources make sense, and so I whole heartedly support this bill. I understand the hunters position on placing increased fencing, there are always trade-offs with every action taken, in this case if DLNR feels they need the fencing to protect our watershed, then I feel this need takes priority over the desire to have more easy access for hunting invasive

animals. DLNR is sensitive to this particular issue, so I am very confident in their judgement and would favor their decision on fencing.

Our company has volunteered to build cabins free of charge to support the programs that DLNR coordinates with youth volunteers who work for free eradicating these invasive plants. We feel it is worth our time and effort to do this significant work, so I am not just one person speaking words to a committee, but an enthusiastic supporter of the states programs and people like Emma Yuen, whose heart is in the right place, and is dedicated to helping heal and manage our watershed and the very few and limited areas that are not yet destroyed from invasive plants and animals. Our aina more than deserve tax dollars to get this work done. Even with this revenue stream, DLNR will be struggling to get done just a fraction of the work that should get done. The damage is severe and vast, please take this important step to helping to protect our precious watershed. Mahalo, John Rogers, Affordable Portable Housing.