

LATE

SB1166

Submitted on: 4/1/2013

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Ferentinos	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This bill provides critically important dedicated funding to the Natural Area Reserve Fund and Rental Housing Trust Fund. Please pass this bill! Aloha, Lisa Ferentinos Waimanalo, HI

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Andrea Buckman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I would like to express my support for SB1166. Legislation to support the Rain Follows the Forest initiative will help ensure fresh water is available for the people of Hawai'i in perpetuity by protecting our watershed forests, a central goal of A New Day in Hawai'i plan. Healthy forests efficiently capture and deliver fresh water into streams and aquifers for our use. By pulling moisture from passing clouds, forests can actually increase water capture up to 50% more than through rainfall alone. When these forests are lost or degraded by invasive species, Hawai'i loses its source of fresh water. More than half of Hawaii's forests have been lost. Historically, the threat was overharvesting and development. Today's threat is invasive plants and animals. The longer we wait to take significant action, the higher the cost will be to reverse the damage, thereby threatening water supplies for future generations. Forests also help mitigate erosion and runoff into our precious streams and coastlines. Healthy forests will become even more critical as we experience the likely effects of climate change, including more severe storms but overall less rainfall. The Administration's goal of doubling the number of acres of watershed forest protected over the next decade requires approximately \$11 million per year, supporting an estimated 150 direct local jobs. The conveyance tax bill would support this watershed protection through essential forest management programs and invasive species control. The development and sale of real estate helps drive Hawaii's economy, but it also puts pressure on our natural resources, including water supplies. Fresh water is clearly a limiting factor here in the middle of the Pacific. Several locations in the state are experiencing ongoing drought, water management areas are being declared, climate change is likely to produce more severe storms but overall less rainfall, and the UH's 2011 Rainfall Atlas catalogues a century of declining rainfall that is worse in recent decades. Fresh water is not a limitless resource that can forever be tapped to support our developed real estate. It makes sense to spend a portion of conveyance tax revenue on protecting the sources of our fresh water. I appreciate your consideration of this testimony and hope you support this bill. Mahalo for all you do for Hawai'i. Andrea Buckman LHWRP Project Coordinator

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