

# SB 775

# Testimony

Measure Title: RELATING TO STATE LAND MAMMAL.  
Report Title: Hawaiian Hoary Bat; State Land Mammal  
Description: Designates the Hawaiian hoary bat as the state land mammal.  
Companion:  
Package: None  
Current Referral: TEC  
Introducer(s): SLOM, Keith-Agaran, Tokuda, Wakai

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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**Cc:** [david.w.fink@hawaii.gov](mailto:david.w.fink@hawaii.gov)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB775 on Feb 21, 2013 13:15PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 20, 2013 9:47:25 AM  
**Attachments:** [SB0775\\_LNR\\_02-21-13\\_TEC.pdf](#)

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**SB775**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for TEC on Feb 21, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
William J. Aila, Jr.	Department of Land and Natural Resources	Support	Yes

**Comments:**

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NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.**  
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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
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ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

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

**Before the Senate Committee on**  
**TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS**

**Thursday, February 21, 2013,**  
**1:15 PM**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 414**

**In consideration of**  
**SENATE BILL 775**  
**RELATING TO THE STATE LAND MAMMAL**

Senate Bill 775 proposes to designate the Hawaiian hoary bat as the state land mammal. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources supports this bill.**

The Hawaiian hoary bat is an endemic, as well as endangered, species and is the only native land mammal in Hawaii. Due to the fact that it is found ranging widely over populated portions of the islands of the State; it is often seen by residents and visitors. The Hawaiian hoary bat would benefit from the recognition and well represent our unique island home.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [TECTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [mz@conservehi.org](mailto:mz@conservehi.org)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB775 on Feb 21, 2013 13:15PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 19, 2013 11:30:32 AM

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**SB775**

Submitted on: 2/19/2013

Testimony for TEC on Feb 21, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marjorie Ziegler	Conservation Council for Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments: Please secure permanent funding to protect habitat for the endangered 'ope'ape'a and other imperiled species.

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**To:** [TECTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [mbayless@batcon.org](mailto:mbayless@batcon.org)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB775 on Feb 21, 2013 13:15PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 20, 2013 11:48:44 AM  
**Attachments:** [SB775 Testimony Bat Conservation International.pdf](#)

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**SB775**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for TEC on Feb 21, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mylea Bayless	Bat Conservation International	Support	No

Comments:

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P.O. Box 162603, Austin TX 78716  
500 Cap. Of Texas Hwy Bldg. 1, Austin TX 78746  
Phone (512) 327-9721 Fax (512) 327-9724

Senate Committee on Technology and the Arts  
State Capitol, Room 10  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Support SB775

Dear Chairman Wakai and Vice Chairman Nishihara,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments regarding §B775. Bat Conservation International (BCI) supports the designation of the Hawaiian Hoary Bat (‘ope‘ape‘a) as the state land mammal. As one of the most isolated group of islands on earth, Hawaii is home to many unique and endemic species, among them the Hawaiian hoary bat. This species is Hawaii’s only bat, and also the only existing native terrestrial mammal know from the Hawaiian archipelago. As such, it is the clear candidate for such designation, and already part of the ecosystems of other honored species in Hawaii.

Hawaiian hoary bats can be found roosting in the kukui tree (*Aleurites Moluccana*) –the state tree of Hawaii since 1959. The species can also be found in the native ohia trees (*Meterosideros Polymorpha*) –the blossom of which is the official island flower of the big island of Hawai‘i. Hawaiian hoary bats are also beautiful bats, and the twin pups born to their mothers in May and June of each year grow into reddish-brown adults with a dusting of silver at the tips of their fur.

According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Hawaiian hoary bat populations appear to be widespread and reproducing successfully, but the precise status remains unclear and subsequently they have been retained as Federally Endangered. The ‘ope‘ape‘a was listed as an endangered species on October 13, 1970, making the list six years before the Hawaiian monk seal.

Hawaiian hoary bats roost in the forests of Hawaii and experts believe their populations have declined primarily due to historic deforestation, and known breeding sites are extremely limited. On the mainland continent, hoary bats are widespread and are killed regularly by wind turbines and are among the bats most impacted by wind development. Although the impact to Hawaiian hoary bats remains unclear at this time, with the proposed increased wind development in Hawaii, raising awareness for the conservation of this species provides an opportunity to highlight proactive solutions to reduce bat fatalities.

Conserving the world’s bats and their ecosystems to ensure a healthy planet.

State land mammal designation would highlight this unique and valuable creature to the public. We believe that bat conservation works best when bats are understood and appreciated by the local communities in which they live. Texas designated the Mexican free-tailed bat as official state flying mammal in 1995, and Texas Parks and Wildlife has called Mexican free-tailed bats our state's "Billion Dollar Bats" because of the economic impact that bats have—from pest control to ecotourism dollars.

Learning about the unique ecology of the Hawaiian hoary bat and conserving its habitat will require a collaborative effort, and will be more likely to occur if the residents of Hawaii feel a kinship with their unique bat species and take pride in its protection.

Bats are essential to the health of our natural world. The more than 1250 species worldwide help control pest insects and are vital pollinators and seed-dispersers for countless plants. Hawaiian hoary bats are insectivorous, feeding primarily on moths and beetles. The pest-control services of Hawaiian hoary bats to fields and forests across the islands are as natural as they are valuable—reducing the need for toxic pesticides that linger in the soil and water.

BCI's mission is conserving the world's bats and their ecosystems to ensure a healthy planet. We are a non-profit organization that conducts and supports science-based research, education, and conservation to ensure that bats will still be helping to maintain healthy environments and human economies far into the future. Based in Austin, Texas, we are a global organization with a membership over 9,000 including members from all 50 of the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mylea Bayless". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mylea Bayless  
Director of Conservation Programs  
Bat Conservation International

Conserving the world's bats and their ecosystems to ensure a healthy planet.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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**Cc:** [mfox@tnc.org](mailto:mfox@tnc.org)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB775 on Feb 21, 2013 13:15PM  
**Date:** Sunday, February 17, 2013 6:39:09 AM  
**Attachments:** [SB 775 TNC testimony 02 21 13.pdf](#)

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**SB775**

Submitted on: 2/17/2013

Testimony for TEC on Feb 21, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mark Fox	The Nature Conservancy	Support	Yes

Comments:

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Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Supporting S.B. 775 Relating to State Land Mammal  
Senate Committee on Technology and the Arts  
Thursday, February 21, 2013, 1:15 PM, Room 414

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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 of Hawai'i supports the designation of the 'ōpe'ape'a, or the Hawaiian hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus semotus*), as the official land mammal of the State of Hawai'i. This often misunderstood creature inhabits Hawaii's forests and roosts primarily in trees. The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of our forests, the less taste we shall have for their destruction. Already the State of Hawai'i has lost more than half of its original forest. The loss of forest habitat throughout the bat's range continues to play a role in its endangerment.

The Hawaiian hoary bat is truly a wonder. It can fly. It can echolocate. It has the ability to enter torpor (a limited hibernation) to cope with periods of food (i.e., insect) shortages or inclement weather. Its ancestors arrived from continental America crossing more the 2,500 miles of the Pacific Ocean, in an amazing feat, which D. H. Johnson (the former curator of mammals for the Smithsonian Institution) identified as "probably the most remarkable mammalian flight of all time."

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB775 on Feb 21, 2013 13:15PM  
**Date:** Sunday, February 17, 2013 10:03:43 AM

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**SB775**

Submitted on: 2/17/2013

Testimony for TEC on Feb 21, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Inga Gibson	Humane Society of the US-Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: Dear Chair Wakai, Vice-Chair Nishihara and Committee Members, Please support SB775 to recognize the endangered, endemic Hawaiian Hoary bat as the state land mammal. This designation sends a message to the state that we value this rare creature, the only native land mammal in our state, and that this species is worthy of our continued protection. Thank you, Inga Gibson Hawaii State Director The Humane Society of the United States

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# Hāwea Heiau Complex & Keawāwa Wetland

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Livable Hawaii Kai  
Sensible Growth, Respect for th

February 20, 2013

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### Website

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## COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Re: **SB 775** RELATING TO STATE LAND MAMMAL.

Hrg: Thurs., February 21, 2013 at 1:15 pm in Conf. Room 414

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Nishihara and Committee members,

Livable Hawaii Kai Hui (LHKH) is a non-profit, nonpartisan community action group. We strive to promote sensible growth and respect for the land as well as upholding the integrity of the East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan.

LHKH is working with The Trust for Public Land to protect a 5-acre property in heavily developed Maunaloa, O'ahu that includes Hāwea heiau complex and a portion of Keawāwa wetland. Keawāwa wetland is home to approximately 9 of the remaining 300 endangered 'alae 'ula (Hawaiian moorhen), as well as indigenous 'auku'u (Black-crowned night heron), and pinao (Hawaiian dragonfly). There have also been documented sightings of the endangered 'ōpe'ape'a (Hawaiian hoary bat) near the heiau and wetland as it has historically lived in the area. The 'ōpe'ape'a is Hawaii's only endemic land mammal.

**We strongly support designating the 'ōpe'ape'a as the official state land mammal of Hawai'i and we humbly ask that you do the same.**

Kind Regards,

Elizabeth Reilly

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [TECTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [annmarie@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:annmarie@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB775 on Feb 21, 2013 13:15PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 19, 2013 10:29:58 PM  
**Attachments:** [Ope"ape"a testimony PDF.pdf](#)

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**SB775**

Submitted on: 2/19/2013

Testimony for TEC on Feb 21, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ann Marie Kirk	Livable Hawai'i Kai Hui	Support	No

Comments:

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## Senate Bill 775

Designating the Hawaiian Hoary Bat Ope'ape'a  
as the Official State Land Mammal

Meeting: Thursday, Feb. 21st, 2013

Time: 1:15pm @ Conference Room 414 State Capitol

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Aloha to the Senate Technology and Arts Committee,

Elusive. Rare. Unique. Mysterious. Solitary. Endangered. Hawaiian.  
Ope'ape'a - the Hawaiian Hoary Bat. The only native land mammal in the  
Hawaiian islands and a land mammal that Senate Bill 775 looks to designate as  
the official State of Hawai'i land mammal.

Mammals recognized as State Mammals in the continental U.S. include the  
Grizzly Bear for California, the Moose for Alaska and the Armadillo for Texas, but  
here in Hawai'i, weighing in at a hefty 5 ounces with a wingspan of 14 inches and  
a height of 3 and a half inches is the Hawaiian hoary bat - the Ope'ape'a. A  
hoary bat that established itself in the Hawaiian archipelago nearly 10,000 years  
ago and is still with us today. An amazing little bat that surely deserves this  
honor.

The Ope'ape'a is nocturnal and leaves its home at the setting of the sun to hunt  
and then returns home by the rise of the sun. It is a bat so elusive that one is  
rarely spotted, especially in urban settings, yet here in East O'ahu at Hawea  
Heiau Complex and Keawaawa Wetlands there have been sightings of the  
Ope'ape'a. These are cultural lands stewarded by the Livable Hawai'i Kai Hui, a  
(501c3) non-profit community group based in Maunaloa, East O'ahu.

The Livable Hawai'i Kai Hui wholeheartedly supports SB 775 which recognizes  
our special and unique flying furry friend and land mammal in Maunaloa, Hawai'i  
- the Ope'ape'a and we humbly ask the Senate Technology and Arts Committee  
to do the same by designating the Ope'ape'a as the official State of Hawai'i land  
mammal.

Mahalo,

Ann Marie Kirk

Livable Hawai'i Kai Hui, *Cultural and Natural Resource Committee*

[annmarie@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:annmarie@hawaii.rr.com)

[hawaiikaihui.org](http://hawaiikaihui.org)



**From:** [Melvin Ah Ching](#)  
**To:** [TECTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** "[andersen@activist.com](mailto:andersen@activist.com)"; [Julia Allen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: FW: Hawaiian hoary bat SB775  
**Date:** Friday, February 15, 2013 5:55:05 PM  
**Importance:** High

---

The following testimony was sent to Senator Slom's office before the hearing notice became available. Please include with received testimony.

Aloha,  
Melvin Ah Ching @ Senator Slom's office

---

**From:** G. Andersen [<mailto:andersen@activist.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 14, 2013 4:26 AM  
**To:** Julia Allen  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Hawaiian hoary bat SB775  
**Importance:** High

Aloha Julia,

Thanks for the heads-up regarding this measure. Please be so kind as to forward copies of my testimony to the individuals listed below.

Best regards to "Say-it-like-is" Sam

Gary Andersen

----- Original Message -----

From: Julia Allen  
Sent: 02/12/13 07:19 PM  
To: 'Gary Andersen'  
Subject: FW: Hawaiian hoary bat SB775

Technology and the Arts Committee members:

[Glenn Wakai](#), Chairman

[Clarence Nishihara](#), Vice Chairman

[Mike Gabbard](#)

[Jill Tokuda](#)

[Sam Slom](#)

TO: Hawaii State Senate Technology and the Arts Committee members:  
[Glenn Wakai](#), Chairman  
[Clarence Nishihara](#), Vice Chairman  
[Mike Gabbard](#)  
[Jill Tokuda](#)  
[Sam Slom](#)

REGARDING: (SB775 )Native Hawaiian Bat as the official land mammal for the state of Hawai'i. The Hawaiian bat is classified as being a member of the Order *Chiroptera*, which means "hand-wings." The fore arm, the metacarpal bones and the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> fingers have been greatly extended. It is placed in the Suborder *Microchiroptera*, which is the usually smaller bat that eats mostly insects.

The Hawaiian bat is a member of the Genus *Lasiurus*. Its species is *cinereus*. And most taxonomists have assigned it to the subspecies *semotus* to indicate separated or distant. It is NOT a rodent but rather a mammal just like you and I.

Gordon Morse, outdoor writer for the Honolulu Advertiser in 1964 said. "This bat is not only rare in Hawaii but is considered among the rarest in the world." Paul Breese, former director of the Honolulu Zoo, estimated there were probably about 100 left. Quintin P. Tomich, in the second edition of his definitive work, *Mammals of Hawaii*, estimates there a few thousands. Longtime residents of Hawai'i say they were seldom seen and even less today. On October 13, 1970, the Hawaiian bat was placed on the National Endangered Species list.

The bat mother gives birth in the head upright position. She will catch the blind, breech-delivered newborn in a pocket formed by the flight membrane between her legs. Birth weight is 1/5 to 1/3 the weight of the mother. She can produce as much as 16% of her body weight per day in milk. This is without precedent in mammals.

Today, in view of the "White Nose Disease" killing hundreds of thousands of bats on the continental United States, it would be prudent to conserve and protect the 'Ope'ape'a.

By declaring the 'Ope'ape'a Hawaii's official land mammal we might insure a sanctuary for the bat and let us hope the next generation will not ask of us, "What was the 'Ope'ape'a?"

Gary Andersen, Former Chair Sierra Club, Honolulu Group, O'ahu Chair Earth Island Institute, O'ahu Chair Windstar foundation. And presently a member of the Manoa Neighborhood Board.

CONTACT: 61691 Manoa Station, Honolulu, Hawaii 96839  
808-988-0900 [andersen@activist.com](mailto:andersen@activist.com)



---

**From:** Julia Allen  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 12, 2013 2:41 PM  
**To:** 'Gary Andersen'  
**Subject:** Hawaiian hoary bat SB775

Aloha Gary,

Senator Sam Slom reintroduced his bill to designate the Hawaiian hoary bat as the State land mammal. SB775 is scheduled for a hearing this Thursday in Technology and the Arts (TEC) and I'm contacting everyone who might submit testimony and to contact anyone who might do so also. This time the bill has only a single referral, so we have a better chance to pass in the Senate.

Julia

Gary Andersen  
61691 Manoa Station  
Honolulu, HI 96839



**From:** [Rene Umberger](#)  
**To:** [TECTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB775 - in SUPPORT  
**Date:** Saturday, February 16, 2013 9:14:00 AM

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Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice-chair Nishihara and Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB775 designating the Hawaiian Hoary Bat as Hawaii's official state land mammal. In the past I enjoyed seeing these amazing creatures darting around and feeding at sunset in a quiet Makena bay on Maui. The trees that may have served as their roosting spots were cut down some years ago to make room for upscale homes along the bay. It has been years since I have seen the bats, but I still look for them every time I happen to be in Makena at sunset.

I support giving these unique animals the designation and attention they deserve. They may be small, rare and mysterious, but they are part of what makes Hawaii such a very special place.

Mahalo,  
Rene Umberger

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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**Cc:** [wctanaka@gmail.com](mailto:wctanaka@gmail.com)  
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**Date:** Monday, February 18, 2013 1:01:53 PM

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**SB775**

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for TEC on Feb 21, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Wayne Tanaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Native and endemic fauna such as the ope'ape'a provide us with specific and exceptional examples of the uniqueness and intrinsic value of our natural resources, without which our economic, cultural, recreational, and scientific foundation would surely be lost. Recognizing our Hoary Bat as an official animal of the state would do much to remind us of our reliance upon, and our responsibility to steward, our incredible natural and cultural resources -- a significant portion of which is found nowhere else in the world. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to SUPPORT this bill.

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**From:** [Wm Sager](#)  
**To:** [TECTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB775  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 19, 2013 2:52:37 PM

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Designate the Hawaiian Hoary Bat (**Ope'ape'a**) as the Official State land mammal makes sense since it is the only native land mammal in Hawaii.

Bill Sager, 808-258-4019, [bsager42@gmail.com](mailto:bsager42@gmail.com)  
[kumuwaiwai.com](http://kumuwaiwai.com)

[www.linkedin.com/pub/bill-sager/17/6bb/210](http://www.linkedin.com/pub/bill-sager/17/6bb/210)

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**Date:** Monday, February 18, 2013 1:03:01 PM

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**SB775**

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for TEC on Feb 21, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Henkin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB775 on Feb 21, 2013 13:15PM\*  
**Date:** Friday, February 15, 2013 6:40:47 PM

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**SB775**

Submitted on: 2/15/2013

Testimony for TEC on Feb 21, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB775**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for TEC on Feb 21, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joshua Kresnak	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Joshua Kresnak and I am 12 years old. The Hawaiian hoary bat should be the Hawaii's land mammal. It is the only native land mammal we have, so it's only natural that we designate it this way. It would show our aloha for our native wildlife because the Hawaiian hoary bat is now an endangered species. Plus, it's a really cool animal! I hope you will agree!

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**SB775**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for TEC on Feb 21, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Larry Geller	Individual	Support	No

Comments: According to the Wikipedia, the conservation of the Hawaiian Hoary Bat seems probable and possible. It is the only land mammal that is endemic to the islands, and its eventual de-listing as an endangered species depends, in part, on public education. Bats are not to be feared--they have an essential role to play in plant propagation. We should not hesitate to assist this bat in regaining the numbers it will need for eventual survival. So I urge the Legislature to do 'Ōpe'ape'a a favor--it costs little, and could help re-establish this bat, which again, is the one and only land mammal indigenous to the islands.

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