

**From:** [Sen. Sam Slom](#)  
**To:** [TFC Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** FW: SB 775  
**Date:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 8:50:17 AM  
**Attachments:** [SB775 Support.doc](#)

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**LATE**

**From:** Myron Berney [mailto:myberney@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 12, 2013 10:20 AM  
**To:** Sen. Sam Slom  
**Subject:** SB 775

Dr. Myron Berney

SB775 RELATING TO STATE LAND MAMMAL. Hawaiian Hoary Bat; State Land Mammal

Support

In 1970, the Hawaiian hoary bat was listed as an endangered species.  
Hoary Bats eat mosquitoes and other bugs.

The State of Hawaii generally opposes the introduction of alien species, even lady bugs from the mainland, because they have the potential to upset the existing balance and possibly eat an important pollinator for Hawaii's native species.

The Hoary Bat is Local and part of the Native Hawaiian Ecological System

Awareness and Protection of the Hoary Bat is essential for the Public Health and Agriculture.

Vector control is essential for decreasing the spread of mosquito and bug born illness. Hawaii Tourist economy had been adversely impacted with Public Health Fears due to mosquito born illness. Most common has been the West Nile Virus although recently there has been concern with Malaria. Pandemics are a major world wide public health issue. The bird flu transfer to humans is expected to be through mosquitoes.

The Hoary Bat is also helpful in controlling agricultural pests.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawaiian\\_hoary\\_bat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawaiian_hoary_bat)

Dr. Myron Berney

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB775 on Feb 21, 2013 13:15PM  
**Date:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 12:06:14 PM

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**LATE**

**SB775**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Adrian Kresnak	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I think the Hoary bat should be our state mammal because it's our only native mammal and it helps keep the bat from going extinct. Please pass this bill.  
Thank you!

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB775 on Feb 21, 2013 13:15PM  
**Date:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 1:49:58 PM  
**Attachments:** [Testimony in Support of SB 775.docx](#)

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**SB775**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

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>
Corinna A. Pinzari	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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## Testimony in Support of SB 775 – The Hawaiian hoary bat as the official State Land Mammal

Aloha TEC,

I am giving my personal and professional support to this bill introduced by Senator Slom. As a local who was born and raised in Hawaii, and now as a young conservation scientist working in Hawaii, I would like to see our official state land mammal become the Hawaiian hoary bat. This species deserves recognition for many reasons. I believe a state designation would raise awareness and assist the species in surviving the ever-evolving Hawaiian landscape.

The O pe'a pe'a was creature of myth to me growing up on Oahu, it was one of those creatures that I gave life to in a coloring book – along with the I'iwi, the Nene, and the monk seal. These are creatures which I would dream about being lucky enough to see one day "in the wild", and also at that point not sure where I would find this "wild place" in Hawaii. Later I learned that these creatures still do exist, and were in dire need of help. I came back to Hawaii after college with a passion to protect these species wherever they still could be found, and in the hopes that they wouldn't end up permanently as a display at the Bishop Museum or as black and white empty spaces the coloring book I had as little girl.

Currently I am working as a hoary bat research manager with the Hawaii Studies Cooperative Unit and the United Geological Survey on the Hawaiian hoary bat project. With this job, I devote everyday to the struggle of conservation management in Hawaii, and towards the recovery of this species. I also am aware that I'm part of a minority – not enough people out there know about the bat! I can't count how many times I meet folks in the field while doing bat studies that have NO CLUE of the bat's existence or ecological role in our local environment. People are usually very excited that a creature so interesting could have gone undetected around them for so long. They immediately ask if the bat is invasive and introduced by some terrible mistake. They are shocked when I tell them it's possible that these bats have been calling Hawaii home, sailing through the night skies, before the first Polynesians voyaged across the Pacific. People also usually become concerned...once I mention that the bat is endangered and that seeing one can be a rare event depending on where you are in the state.

Many other native Hawaiian species have benefited from state recognition. Recently, we have given a state mammal designation to the monk seal, which I believe has helped it gain bounds in the conversation world. By creating a public identity for this animal, we change the destiny it was facing before. I would like to argue that the monk seal is a marine mammal not intricately tied to a life on land. It spends only part of its life on shore, while the Hawaiian hoary bat spends every single night of its life flying around our communities, very connected to a life on land. The state of Hawaii should lend support to a true land mammal. These little mammals live in our forests, coastlines, orchards, and parks – and assist us a natural form of bio-control on insects. It's time to give this opportunity to the bat. They may be able to evade extinction and become widespread once again over our communities if given a public identity. To me, they symbolize the amazing power of the animal kingdom and the great feats that creatures will endure to survive, especially if they sailed here on the winds of the night, under the same stars as our Hawaiian ancestors.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Corinna Anne Pinzari