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HAWAII



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LAND  
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Tuesday, February 2, 2016  
8:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 2038  
RELATING TO THE ALOHA+ CHALLENGE

House Bill 2038 proposes to appropriate funds for the natural resource, clean energy, and green workforce goals of the Aloha+ Challenge. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that this appropriation does not adversely impact appropriations for other priorities in the Executive Budget request or any existing Department appropriated funding.**

This proposal would expand on the Administration's budget request that increases funding for priority natural resource programs. Funds would be further multiplied, based on these programs' historic minimal match of 1:1 dollars leveraged with non-State sources.

The once every 4 year International Union for the Conservation of Nature's World Conservation Congress (Congress) highlights the hosting countries' excellence in conservation laws and practices. Hawaii's commitment to hosting this globally important Congress in September 2016, and its commitment to sustainability through the Aloha+ Challenge, could enhance important international collaboration, research and funding opportunities for Hawaii. This Congress will also allow Hawaii to showcase the techniques and challenges we face, thus highlighting research, new technologies and funding needs.

The following are Aloha + target-based examples of programs and projects that additional funding could enable and support; all of which are scalable depending on availability of funds.

## Part II: Access, Easements, Trails, Outdoor Recreation Improvements, Environmental Education

The Department's access and environmental education programs connect residents and visitors to Hawaii's natural areas, iconic scenery, and access to important cultural and management areas. Increased funding for these programs would allow:

- Increase trail & road maintenance. The 2015 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan identified hiking as the #1 land based activity in Hawaii. The Na Ala Hele Trails and Access Program manages 124 trails and roads (855 miles statewide), some of which are potentially hazardous due to overuse from hundreds of thousands of users per year.
- Expand activities for a broader array of stakeholders including: mountain bikers, horseback riders, 4 wheel drivers, motor cross, etc.
- Create new hunting areas statewide by securing more permanent access agreements. This will allow hunters to help keep feral ungulate populations in check, as well as help keep highly flammable vegetation down that reduces wildfire severity.
- Develop stronger educational programs in rural areas through internships, volunteer activities and educational curriculum development.

## Part III: Watershed Protection

Protecting forested watersheds is one of the Department's top priorities. New climate change studies forecast a 10%-45% decline in rainfall in the mid to late 21<sup>st</sup> century, making forest protection more urgent than ever.

- The availability and affordability of fresh water is so dependent on Hawaii's forests that economists estimate investments in forest protection have a 50:1 benefit to cost ratio.
- This funding would protect over 110,000 acres and plant over 22,000 trees.

## Part IV: Conservation and Resources Enforcement Program

This funding would expand and lengthen a successful and innovative pilot program that involves local communities. The lessons learned from this program could be used to expand these efforts statewide. Education and enforcement are essential to preserve Hawaii's threatened fisheries.

## Part V: Invasive Species Control

The Department is the administrative host of the interagency Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC), which funds critical invasive species prevention, control, outreach, and research projects that fill gaps between existing agency programs or develop new tools and methodologies.

- In Fiscal Year 2016, the legislature provided \$4,750,000 to the HISC that support important projects, including the work of the UH Invasive Species Committees, little fire ant control, Rapid Ohia Death monitoring, and an interagency response to the coconut rhinoceros beetle infestation.
- The HISC has worked with partners to develop FY17 pre-proposals illustrating what could be achieved depending on available funds. Pre-proposals totaled \$10,000,000 and can found on the HISC website: <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/projects/fy17/>

## Part VI: Native Species Restoration

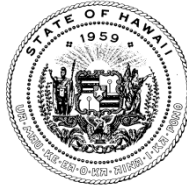
This request will provide capacity to manage endangered species initiatives for which Federal grants are available to match. The recovery of these incredibly unique plants and wildlife is dependent on increased and sustained funding.

- The Alala (Hawaiian crow) has been extinct in the wild since 2002. State funds are needed to leverage non-state funds to support the release of the Alala into the wild in September 2016.
- It is necessary to expand and refurbish aviaries for the Keauhou Bird Conservation Center and the Maui Bird Conservation Center, which accommodates 2 additional species to the captive breeding program.
- Funds are needed to support a collaborative effort between the Department of Transportation and the Division of Forestry and Wildlife to mitigate bird aircraft strike hazards statewide.
- Due to an increase in size and frequency in wildfires, it is necessary to plan for emergencies by supporting the Wildfire Contingency Fund that is used during any emergency situations.

*Part VII: Forest Reserve Management*

Forests are increasingly threatened by invasive species and fire cycles. Reducing heavy fuel loads by thinning areas with heavy fuel loads is a cost effective way to reduce catastrophic fires that cost millions of dollars to mitigate.

- The average annual number of fires that burn over 100 acres in Hawaii has increased five-fold in the past 40 years. These burned areas can be harvested to provide wood for bioenergy, local needs and restored as productive forests.
- Funds are needed to launch a pilot volunteer carbon market project on Hawaii Island. If successful, this project could not only finance reforestation of a degraded forest area but also provide a long-term revenue source for other natural resource needs.
- Private landowners make up 66% of the forest owners in Hawaii. On average the Department's landowner assistance programs receive 2:1 in match from non-state dollars. Providing modest incentive programs for private forest landowners is important for the overall health and productivity of Hawaii's forest. A small increase in private landowner assistance programs will increase forest protection, conservation and productivity well beyond the state dollars invested.



**Testimony by:**  
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
JADE T. BUTAY  
ROSS M. HIGASHI  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN  
DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 2, 2016  
8:30 am  
State Capitol, Room 325

**H.B. 2038**  
**RELATING TO THE ALOHA+ CHALLENGE**

House Committee Energy and Environmental Protection:

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** the intent of H.B. 2038 which provides funding to directly implement three of the six goals outlined in the Aloha+ Challenge: natural resource management, clean energy, and green workforce development.

The DOT recognizes the importance of Part V which provides financial support for the departmental and interagency actions needed to mitigate the threats and impacts of invasive species especially along our highways.

Collectively, the goals outlined in this bill ensures that Hawaii moves beyond its dependence on imported fuels and continues to grow local renewable energy industries, including increasing new markets and forest biomass to energy projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Conservation Council  
for Hawai'i

*Hawai'i's voice for wildlife*

*Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu*



Testimony Submitted to the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection  
Hearing: Tuesday, February 2, 2016 8:30 am  
Conference Room 325

Support for HB 2038 Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen, and Members of the Committee.

Aloha. Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports HB 2038, which appropriates funds for the natural resource, clean energy, and green workforce goals of the Aloha+ Challenge.

We support adequate funding for outdoor recreation trails, the Natural Area Reserves and watersheds, and a permanent Community Fisheries Enforcement Unit. Outdoor recreation, the reserves, watershed protection, and fisheries management are among the most important, yet underfunded programs of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Further, these programs are focused on protecting ceded land (mauka and makai) and public trust resources.

With all due respect, the State is not doing enough to protect and properly manage ceded land (mauka and submerged) and public trust resources. We are concerned about the condition of these lands for use and enjoyment by future generations.

Please support and start funding critical DLNR programs adequately.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marjorie Ziegler".

Marjorie Ziegler

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Supporting H.B. 2038 Relating to the Aloha+ Challenge  
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection  
Tuesday, February 2, 2016, 8:30AM, Room 325

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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 depends. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. We manage 40,000 acres in 14 preserves and work in 19 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs and waters of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnerships with government, private parties and communities to protect Hawai'i's important watershed forests and coral reefs.*

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The Nature Conservancy supports H.B. 2038 which would provide core funding support for the Department of Land and Natural Resources' (DLNR) critical forest, invasive species, and marine resources enforcement programs.

Healthy Hawaiian forests that are not overrun by invasive species act like a sponge, collecting rain and moisture, slowly delivering fresh water into streams and aquifers, absorbing greenhouse gases, and reducing runoff and siltation into near shore waters. These forests are also an important storehouse for Hawai'i's globally unique cultural and ecological heritage. However, UH's 2011 Rainfall Atlas catalogues a century of declining rainfall that is worse in recent decades. Last summer, temperature records were broken across the state and a record number of storms took aim at Hawai'i. In 2014, tropical storm Iselle hit Hawai'i island hard. Fallen albizia trees left Puna a quagmire of damaged houses, blocked roads and downed power lines. At the same time, native 'ōhi'a and koa forests in the area were virtually undamaged. These same native forests are also showing that they are better at capturing rain water and recharging aquifers than invasive species. Protecting and enhancing the health and function of Hawai'i's forests from the threats of invasive species and severe weather is one of the most important and effective things we can do to ensure a stable and productive environment for our future.

Invasive weeds, insects, diseases, snakes, and other pests are one of the greatest threats to Hawaii's economy, agriculture, natural environment, and the health and lifestyle of its people. With favorable conditions and limited competition, non-native species arrive in the Hawaiian Islands to find an easy environment in which to thrive. The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) provides a comprehensive, statewide approach to invasive species policy and funding including prevention, early detection, control, research and education programs. This effort necessarily results in important coordination, collaboration, and prioritization amongst government agencies and partners based on a variety of issues including human health, safety and well-being, economic and agricultural harm, and the threat to the health and function of the natural environment.

There is widespread agreement amongst a variety of stakeholders that Hawaii's fragile environment is in need of improved compliance, enforcement and prosecution of violations of our State natural resource laws. A 2006 State Auditor's report concludes that DLNR Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) officers are spread too thin and lack the equipment they need to do their jobs. This situation has not substantially improved in the ensuing ten years. Against this backdrop, a number of communities across the state have been organizing themselves to become more directly involved in the care and management of their natural resources, particularly in coastal and near shore areas. Some communities have partnered with DOCARE to raise awareness of natural resource laws and to improve compliance with those laws. This bill offers necessary funds for DOCARE to expand the successful Community Fisheries Enforcement Unit (CFEU) program statewide.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 2:41 PM  
To: EEPtestimony  
Cc: skaye@hawaii.edu  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2038 on Feb 2, 2016 08:30AM



**HB2038**

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for EEP on Feb 2, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Springer Kaye	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The Aloha + challenge bill highlights key natural resources and conservation programs and the financial resources needed to carry them out. Support for this bill demonstrates your commitment to a green, healthy, and economically viable future for Hawaii. As a keiki o ka aina, I ask for your vocal and active support for this measure.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**LATE**



## ***West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership***

January 31st, 2016

Supporting HB 2038  
Relating to the Aloha+ Challenge  
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection  
Tuesday, February 2, 2015, 8:30AM, Room 325

West Maui Mountains  
Watershed Partnership  
P.O. Box 13240  
Lahaina, Hawai'i  
96761  
Phone (808) 661-6600  
Fax: (808) 661-6604

### **Watershed Partners**

County of Maui  
Dept. of Land &  
Natural Resources  
General Finance  
Group, Inc.  
Ka'anapali Land  
Company, LLC  
Kahoma Land, LLC  
Kamehameha Schools  
Makila Land Co., LLC  
Maui County  
Department of Water  
Supply  
Maui Land &  
Pineapple  
Company Inc  
Wailuku Water Co.  
LLC  
The Nature  
Conservancy

Aloha Legislators,

The West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership **Supports H.B.2038** which provides general funding to a variety of DLNR programs, including \$4M for watershed protection and \$5.25M for invasive species programs.

Our governor and mayors committed to support natural resource management and reverse the trend of natural resource loss as one of six explicit targets in the Aloha Plus Challenge. Watershed and invasive species protection programs are prepared to be a progressive instrument in this initiative, however, we need sustained and consistent funding to meet this goal.

For instance, in fiscal year 2016, statewide watershed protection received a total of \$3.2 million in funding through general funds allocations to support on the ground operations and C.I.P. investments in protection fencing. Unfortunately, this represents a 60% decrease in funding levels as compared to 2014 with 8 million in funding and is more on par with funding years during the recession. Improved and consistent funding will be necessary to meet Aloha Plus goals.

At present only 10% of Hawaii's watersheds are currently protected and the rest are continuing to degrade without adequate management. Funds would allow for resource management to be increased, reverse the degradation of additional forest acres, and further secure the water resources that our state depends on for residential, agricultural and commercial use. Funding will also be leveraged with federal, county, or private grant sources to further stimulate local economies, bring in millions of outside dollars and provide jobs.

As a partnership, we understand that without adequate forest protection and continued support, we cannot depend on the water which nourishes Hawaii's interests. The Aloha Plus Challenge proposes a sound investment in natural resources and this bill will enable us to reverse the trend of loss. We hope that you can join us in lending your support for watershed protection and a more sustainable Hawaii.

Thoughtfully submitted with broad partner support and one abstention.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 3:29 PM  
To: EEPtestimony  
Cc: jkimof@msn.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2038 on Feb 2, 2016 08:30AM

**LATE**

**HB2038**

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for EEP on Feb 2, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
james Kimo Falconer	Kahoma Land Co.	Support	No

Comments: Please support this measure as a vote to fund watershed protection

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## Kaua'i Watershed Alliance

**LATE**

Ben A. Dyre Limited Family Partnership, Department of Hawaiian Homelands, Department of Water County of Kaua'i, DLNR – Division of Forestry and Wildlife & Land Management Division, Grove Farm Company, Inc., Jurassic Kahili Ranch, Kamehameha Schools, Kaua'i Ranch LLC, Lihu'e Land Company, McBryde Sugar Company, Ltd., National Tropical Botanical Garden, Princeville Development, LLC

"The Mission of the Kaua'i Watershed Alliance is to PROTECT, PRESERVE and MANAGE our valuable watershed resources for the benefit of our residents, communities and all future generations through the concerted efforts of its members."

Supporting HB 2038 Relating to the Aloha+ Challenge\*  
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection  
Tuesday, February 2, 2015, 8:30AM, Room 325

The Kaua'i Watershed Alliance strongly supports *HB 2038* which if passed will appropriate funds for natural resources, clean energy and green work force goals of the Aloha Challenge.

The Kaua'i Watershed Alliance (KWA) has been actively managing portions of the mauka watershed on Kaua'i since 2003. Its members which include DLNR (DOFAW and Land Management Div.) make up a diverse group of public and private entities who own land within the mountainous watershed and understand the importance of protecting and preserving the forests that capture the water - our most precious resource. The Alliance also understands the importance of supporting local jobs and contractors.

In the past several years the Alliance has worked on fences, ungulate removal and invasive weed control in Priority One watershed areas in the mauka forests and watersheds:

- 2,000 ac., East Alakai Summit Fenced Unit – Feral Ungulates removed; fence, vegetation recovery, ungulate ingress monitored.
- 5,000 ac.; Wainiha valley fenced – Feral Ungulate removal in process, vegetation and fence monitored.
- 1,600 ac., Halehaha Fence Project (eastern Alaka'i) – Planning, permitting, alignment complete; construction in process; partial funding 2013 CIP money granted by the legislature in 2013.
- 2000 ac., two additional Fence Projects (Drinking Glass, Koaie) - Planning, permitting, proposed alignments complete, waiting on available funding; these fences are contiguous with the Halehaha unit.
- 8,000 ac., Wainiha, Lumahai valleys & portions of the Alaka'i - Invasive populations primarily of Australian tree fern, strawberry guava, Kahili ginger that threaten Priority One watersheds have been treated.

The watershed protection and invasive species programs supported with state funds are leveraged with matching funds from county, federal and private sources.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide supportive testimony.

Mahalo.



**LATE**

23 E. Kawili St, Hilo, HI 96720 • Phone: (808) 933-3340

TESTIMONY OF THE BIG ISLAND INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE  
SUPPORTING HB 2038  
RE: ALOHA PLUS CHALLENGE NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT GOALS  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2016, 8:30 AM, ROOM 325

The Big Island Invasive Species Committee is a partnership of private citizens and government agencies working to address invasive species issues on the island of Hawaii. Our mission is to prevent, detect, and control the highest risk invasive species threats to the Big Island environment, economy, and way of life.

*BIISC SUPPORTS THIS MEASURE, AND OFFERS THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:*

The Aloha + Challenge bill highlights the unique natural resources found in the Hawaiian Islands, and the challenges associated with their protection and sustained use into the future. Your support of the appropriations included in this bill demonstrates your commitment to a green, healthy, and beautiful future for all people of Hawaii. With many competing demands for financial resources, we need strong voices of support for the conservation programs on which we all rely, whether or not we realize that we do.

Earlier this year, I was told by a prominent political leader that planting trees is nice, but no one's *life* depends on the forest. To the contrary, all of our lives do!—the very air we breathe, water we drink, and climate we enjoy depends on that forest. And we depend on leaders like you taking the long view, making the right decisions for the long term sustainability of our way of life in Hawaii.

Whether you believe our income and our livelihoods derive from tourism, or financial investments, or housing development, or a service industry, ultimately, everything depends on the natural resources which sustain us, and which draw people here from around the world, to experience what we residents get to enjoy every day. The uniquely, vibrantly, beautifully green and blue forests, water, and sky of Hawaii.

Thank you for supporting this bill and strong funding for natural resource programs in Hawaii.

A brief summary of BIISC accomplishments in 2015, partially funded by this legislature, follows:

Private and federal dollars leveraged (brought in as matching funds): \$466,000

Outreach events reached: 5,400 community members

Volunteers (albizia, little fire ants): 456 participants

Number of Albizia Trees controlled: 53,124

Number of all other high risk threats controlled: 69,229

Acres surveyed for Axis deer: 48,191

Acres surveyed for little fire ants: 96

Species Eradicated: 1 (*Pereskia aculeata*, a vining cactus, commonly known as *Vana*-vine, or Barbados gooseberry)

Nurseries surveyed for invasive plants and pests: 27

Nurseries awarded Plant Pono endorsements for following Best Management Practices: 11



**LATE**

Testimony of the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee  
Supporting HB 2038 Relating to the Aloha+ Challenge\*  
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection  
Tuesday, February 2, 2015, 8:30AM, Room 325

The O'ahu Invasive Species Committee supports HB 2038 which would provide needed funds to protect our forests and watersheds. OISC is grateful for the support the Legislature has provided in the past. OISC has benefitted from grant funds received from the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council in the past. With these funds we have been able to stop miconia from taking over our forests and are working to contain devil weed—a weed that plagues agriculturalists from Guam to Nigeria. These funds are highly leveraged and the organizations working to protect watersheds and contain invasive species provide good jobs for Hawai'i residents.

EEPtestimony

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 3:10 AM  
To: EEPtestimony  
Cc: starmer@hawaii.edu  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB2038 on Feb 2, 2016 08:30AM



**HB2038**

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for EEP on Feb 2, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaelan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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