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DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on  
FINANCE

Wednesday, March 2, 2016  
11:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 2558  
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

House Bill 2558 proposes to require state agencies to participate in a carbon offset program to reduce carbon emissions caused by their employees' air travel, and would require the Department of Land and Natural Resources to establish and administer this program. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure and provides the following comments.**

Forests produce a wide range of ecosystem benefits; are an integral part of Hawaiian cultural practices; support recreational activities such as hiking and hunting; provide open space and aesthetic beauty; provide outdoor classrooms for environmental education; and provide sustainable income from various forest resources.

The Department recognizes that air travel by state employees' produces carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate effects. Forestation projects involving planting trees can sequester substantial amounts of carbon dioxide, as well as provide a variety of ecological, cultural, recreational, educational, and economic benefits.

The Department notes that establishing and administering a carbon offset program, as described in this bill, would require a monetary investment in the startup phase. However, as the program develops, fees paid to the Department from respective state employee offset costs should cover program maintenance costs, and serve as a revenue stream to accelerate the number of trees planted and cared for by afforestation or reforestation projects. The Department suggests integrating these costs when contemplating the establishment of this program.

**LATE**

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 8:59 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: lwdoo4u@gmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2558 on Mar 2, 2016 11:00AM

**HB2558**

Submitted on: 3/1/2016

Testimony for FIN on Mar 2, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
leigh-wai doo	Fndation for Isl. of Harmony	Support	Yes

Comments: Each of us must be responsible for the bad and good of our actions. Rule one is not to create carbon pollution into the atmosphere through airplane travel. So if we can offset that harm through carbon credits by planting native Hawaiian endemic trees, especially the many varieties of Sandalwood, ILIAHI, we will be fulfilling the second rule -to do good. Hawaii's iliahi is Hawaii's most historic plant, economic resource, namesake, and spiritual wood. It is socially and spiritually significant. It is the symbolic roots of Hawaii.

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