

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
CARTY S. CHANG
Interim Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Thursday, April 2, 2015
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 440, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

House Bill 440, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) for watershed management projects; fire, natural disaster and emergency response equipment; and forest and outdoor recreation improvements. **The Department supports this measure provided that this appropriation does not adversely impact appropriations for other priorities in the Executive Biennium Budget request.**

Part II: Watershed Management

Protecting forested watersheds is one of the Department's top priorities, and an ongoing effort. With climate change accelerating a long-term decline in rainfall, forest protection has never been more urgent.

- Native forests absorb mist and fog, increasing water supply up to 50% more than rainfall.
- 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.
- The net present value of the Koolau mountain forests for water supplies is \$8.5 billion.
- Currently only 5% of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife's lands are protected to the highest extent. We plan to increase this percentage to 20% over the next 10 years.

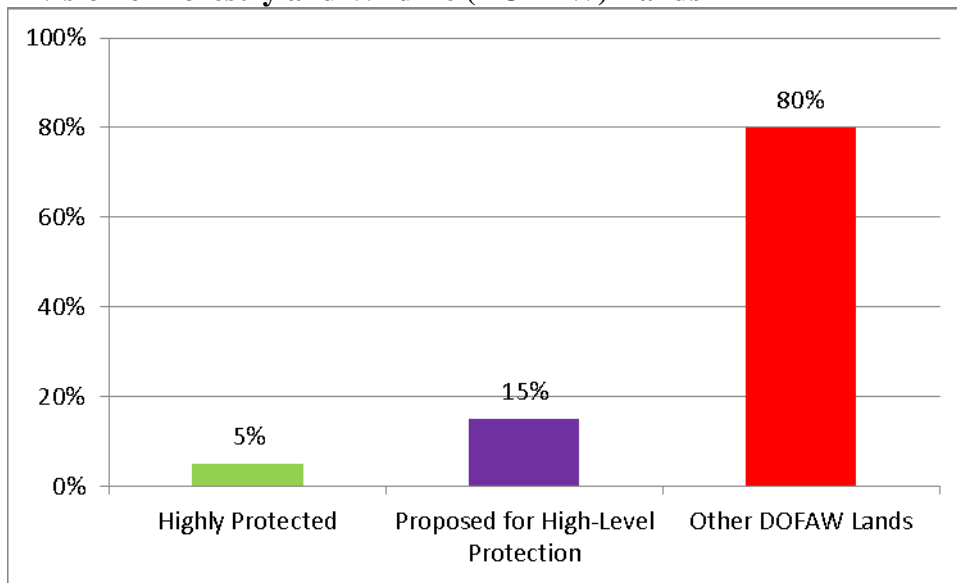
CARTY S. CHANG
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

DANIEL S. QUINN
INTERIM FIRST DEPUTY

W. ROY HARDY
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) Lands



Part III: Fire, Natural Disaster, and Emergency Response Equipment

The Department is responsible for preventing and fighting wildfires, and responds to natural disasters from hurricanes to lava flows that threaten life and property.

- Hawaii is on par with the western states for percentage of land area burnt.
- The average annual number of fires that burn over 100 acres has increased five-fold in the past 40 years.
- Forestry crews helped clear fallen albizia trees from roadways after Tropical Storm Iselle.
- Funding will be used for brush trucks, weather stations, and personal protective gear.

Part IV: Forest and Outdoor Recreation Improvements

The Department's trails and access (Na Ala Hele) program connects residents and visitors to Hawaii's natural areas and iconic scenery, yet is severely underfunded.

- Na Ala Hele maintains 124 trails and roads, totaling 855 miles statewide.
- There is a dramatic increase in visitation to recreational sites. For example, nearly 100,000 hikers per year visit Oahu's Manoa Falls Trail and Maunawili Falls Trail.
- This funding is critical for improving the safety of trails and roads statewide, which degrade with overuse.

DAVID IGE
GOVERNOR



Elaina Young
Acting Director

SMAN TSUTSUI
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

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Phone: (808) 586-8842 / Fax: (808) 586-9099
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April 1, 2015

The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 207
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Tokuka:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 440, House Draft (HD) 1 Relating to Land and Natural Resources

I am Manuel P. Neves, Chair of the State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The SFC and the HFD support HB 440, HD 1, which proposes to provide funding for forest conservation and resources for emergency response and preparedness for fire and natural disasters.

The HFD's mission is to protect lives, property, and the environment. Oftentimes, the HFD responds to the first sign of smoke in forest reserves. For example, the HFD dispatched the first fire companies to control the Mililani-Mauka fire, which scorched over 400 acres in and around the Oahu Forest National Wildlife refuge.

The HFD recognizes that the sooner an effective fire fighting force is dispatched and arrives on scene, the less impact the fire will have to the environment and watershed areas. Wildland fires can deforest an area in a short period of time, resulting in increased soil erosion for many years. This lessens the ability of the forest reserves to route water to underground aquifers and negatively impacts the coral reefs and near shore fisheries through siltation.

The SFC and the HFD support funding for new technologies to facilitate response and preparedness for Hawaii's emergency responders and urge your committee's passage of HB 440, HD 1.

Should you have questions, please call SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7105 or sbratakos@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

MANUEL P. NEVES
Chair

MPN/LR:clc



**Conservation Council
for Hawai'i**

Hawai'i's voice for wildlife

Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu



Testimony Submitted to the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hearing: Thursday, April 2, 2015 9:30 am Room 211

In Support of HB 440 HD1 Relating to Natural Resources

Aloha, Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports HB 440 HD1, which appropriates funds for land and natural resources.

We urge the legislature to appropriate at least \$11 million dollars annually for watershed and forest protection alone. This is a relatively small amount of funding for something as essential to our lives and livelihood as water.

Watersheds are essential to supporting life on these islands, native wildlife and habitats, traditional and customary Hawaiian practices, recreational activities, and the economy. The value of one watershed alone far exceeds the amount we are asking you to appropriate. Most of these lands are administered by the Department of Land and Natural Resources and are ceded land, set aside by the sovereign for Hawai'i's people. But the DLNR has never received enough funding to adequately protect and manage public lands and resources. One percent of the entire state budget for DLNR is not enough to properly manage these lands.

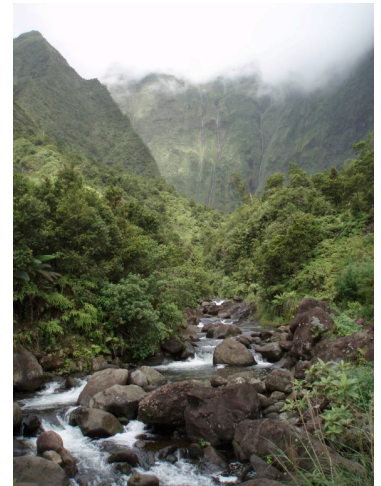
We also urge you to increase the appropriation of \$1.5 million and \$1 million for fire control and forest and outdoor recreation improvement. The allocation to DLNR should be proportionate to the importance of our forests and watershed, including their economic value.

Adequately funding our watersheds, native species habitats, and forested recreation areas on ceded land is one of the most important investments we can make for our people, native wildlife, and economy.

Water is life. Please kokua. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Ziegler



Conservation Council for Hawai'i is a nonprofit, environmental membership organization dedicated to protecting native Hawaiian plants, animals, and ecosystems for future generations. Established in 1950 and based in Honolulu, CCH is one of the largest and most effective wildlife organizations in Hawai'i with more than 5,000 members and supporters, including concerned citizens, educators, scientists, government agencies, and elected officials.

Through research, education, service, organizing, and legal advocacy, CCH works to stop the destruction of native wildlife and wild places in Hawai'i.

Since 1973, CCH has served as the Hawai'i state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation.

Telephone/Fax: 808.593.0255 | email: info@conservehi.org | web: www@conservehi.org

P.O. Box 2923 | Honolulu, HI 96802 | Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 220 | Honolulu, HI 96814

President: Hannah Kihalani Springer | Vice-President: Julie Leialoha | Treasurer: Bianca Isaki | Secretary: Wayne Tanaka

Directors: Rick Barboza | Ryan Belcher | Maka'ala Ka'auomoana | Koalani Kaulukukui

Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler | Administrator: Jonnetta Peters





COORDINATING GROUP ON
ALIEN PEST SPECIES

The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means
April 2, 2015
9:30 a.m., Conference Room 211
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 440 HD1

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **supports HB 440 HD1**, *Relating to Land and Natural Resources*, which appropriates funds to support watershed management and the protection of forested areas.

Ever-increasing pressures on watershed and recreational forest lands must be met with increasing budgets to care for these important resources. In addition, changing climate patterns further underscore the importance of DLNR's responsibilities to protect and enhance natural resources.

We respectfully ask your support HB 440 HD1. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,
Christy Martin
CGAPS

EAST MAUI IRRIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED
P.O. BOX 791628, PAIA, MAUI, HAWAII 96779-1628

March 31, 2015

Testimony of East Maui Irrigation Company
Commenting on **HB440 HD1** Relating to the State Budget

Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB440. East Maui Irrigation Company, Limited (EMI) is in strong support of this measure to appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for land and natural resource projects related to watershed management plans; equipment for fire, natural disaster, and emergency response; and forest and outdoor recreation improvement.

As you already know, the successful management of Maui's watersheds is vital to the protection and perpetuation of this invaluable resource. At EMI, we are constantly reminded of the importance of a healthy watershed and the resources it provides. This funding will allow the appropriate agencies, particularly the East Maui Watershed Partnership (of which EMI is a founding Partner), to further their continuum of projects which involve threat abatement, watershed monitoring and public education. As a community, we can only benefit greatly from the dedication and commitment of these agencies to the overall health and function of our watersheds.

Respectfully submitted,

MARK A.K. VAUGHT

Senior Vice President
East Maui Irrigation Company



East Maui Watershed Partnership

Watershed
Partners

Testimony of the East Maui Watershed Partnership
Supporting HB440 HD1 Relating to Natural Resources
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, April 2, 2015, 9:30am Room 211

County of Maui/
Department of
Water Supply

East Maui
Irrigation
Company

The East Maui Watershed Partnership (EMWP) **strongly supports HB440 HD1** to provide funding support for forest and watershed management, wildfire and emergency response, and outdoor recreation improvement. This decision is based off of **unanimous agreement between all partners**. Please also see testimony submitted to your committee in support of this bill by Department of Land and Natural Resources Interim Chairperson, Carty S. Chang, and Superintendent of Haleakala National Park, Natalie Gates.

Haleakala
National Park

The East Maui Watershed Partnership has been managing portions of East Maui's mauka watersheds since the Partnership was formed in 1992. The landowners and partners of the East Maui Watershed Partnership have committed to this effort because the forested watersheds of Hawaii are the source of almost all of our islands' drinking water supply. Fresh water is a finite resource, and it is one of the most important natural resources for our health, well-being, economy, and way of life.

Haleakala Ranch

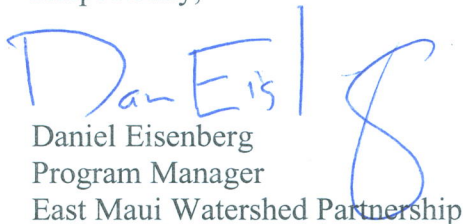
With funding from the State of Hawaii, leveraged with diverse funding sources, the East Maui Watershed Partnership has constructed over 15 miles of fencing and removed feral animals from approximately 12,000 acres of the highest priority watershed areas to help protect these native forests. EMWP has also worked to improve public access for hunters to the lower portions of the watershed. Our organization is currently working to maintain these efforts, and remove some of the highest priority, watershed altering invasive and non-native plant populations. To maintain these investments, continued support is necessary to protect this vital resource.

State of Hawaii
Department of
Land and Natural
Resources

The Nature
Conservancy

The native forests of Hawaii have evolved over millions of years to become the most efficient water collection system for our unique weather and topography. Intact native forests slowly deliver fresh water into streams and underground aquifers. Please pass this bill to help protect past investments and sustain these essential programs.

Respectfully,


Daniel Eisenberg
Program Manager
East Maui Watershed Partnership



**Testimony of Hawai'i Green Growth
In Support of HB 440 HD1 Relating to Land and Natural Resources**

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
2 April 2015, 9:30am, Room 211

Audrey Newman
Hawai'i Green Growth
P.O. Box 535 Ho'olehua, Hawai'i 96729

Hawai'i Green Growth is a voluntary partnership of more than 60 state, county, federal, business, and non-governmental leaders from energy, food production, natural resources, waste reduction, planning, green jobs, and other sectors who have come together to support a shared statewide commitment and tangible actions toward sustainability and a model green economy.

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee,

Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) strongly supports HB 440 HD1 to appropriate funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for watershed management projects; fire, natural disaster and emergency response equipment; and forest and outdoor recreation improvement.

HB 440 HD1 will help advance action on the *Aloha+ Challenge: A Culture of Sustainability – He Nohona 'Ae'oa*, a joint leadership commitment to sustainability for the State of Hawai'i signed by the Governor, Mayors, and Office of Hawaiian Affairs in July 2014. The *Aloha+ Challenge* was unanimously endorsed by the 2014 Legislature through Senate Concurrent Resolution 69 (SCR 69 SD1).

HGG supports \$7.5M annually to protect forests that recharge freshwater supplies, reduce climate change impacts such as flooding and other disasters, and provide other benefits to the health of Hawai'i's people and economy. Watershed protection and restoration significantly increases water availability by ensuring that our forests function to effectively absorb rain, deliver it into streams and aquifers, and decrease erosion and siltation, which also benefits our reefs and fisheries. This is especially urgent in the face of climate change and projected long-term decline in rainfall.

As a partnership representing Hawai'i's leaders in environment, food and energy, HGG asks for your support of **HB 440 HD1**, which is an important investment in Hawai'i's future.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Audrey Newman". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light gray rectangular box.

Audrey Newman

Senior Advisor, Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG)

Bringing leaders together to achieve sustainability in Hawai'i & be a model for a green economy

<http://www.hawaiiireengrowth.org>



Kaua`i Watershed Alliance

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.”

The Testimony of the Kauai Watershed Alliance Supporting H.B. 440 HD1 Relating to Land and Natural Resources Senate Committee on Ways and Means Thursday, April 2, 2015, 9:30AM, Room 211

The Kauai Watershed Alliance (KWA) supports HB 440 HD1 to provide funding for DLNR’s watershed management, wildfire and emergency response, and forest and outdoor recreation programs.

The KWA recognizes the necessity of natural resource stewardship. It understands that the source of our pure water is a system of healthy forested watersheds which capture rain and cloud moisture and deliver it efficiently to aquifers and surface sources for subsequent consumption in our daily lives and for the benefit of our island economy. It also shares the DLNR concerns for adequate fire protection and emergency response capabilities as well as the need to have funds to serve our community’s needs for forest and outdoor recreational opportunities.

The KWA is committed to watershed protection. Currently, the organization has protected approximately 7,000 acres of priority watershed and is ready to begin another protective fence of 1,000 acres. Feral ungulate work covers about 5,800 acres for zero tolerance. Invasive weeds such as Australian Tree Fern (ATF), strawberry guava and Himalayan Ginger have been treated in Wainiha and Lumahai valleys and within the Alakai Plateau. Over 6,654 ATF have been treated in Wainiha. Overall 9,000 acres of priority watershed are being managed and monitored.

This bill proposes to provide additional funding for the protection of our native forests, which are the source of nearly all the islands’ supply of fresh water and an essential cultural and recreational resource. The watershed protection programs supported with state funds and leveraged several times over with matching funds from county, federal and private sources help to ensure healthy, managed natural resources that are critical for isolated island chains such as Hawaii.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Chipper Wichman, Past Chair

Testimony of Natalie Gates, Superintendent Haleakalā National Park, Supporting HB440

The National Park Service supports this bill to provide funding for watershed management and invasive species programs.

Watershed health is critical for ecosystem health on the lands managed by the National Park Service on Maui and throughout Hawaii. Ecosystem health is in turn critical for ensuring that our native species, including those listed on the federal Endangered Species List, survive. Invasive species are the primary threat to these native species and a constant and increasing problem. Haleakalā National Park has conducted invasive species management for decades, at the cost of millions of dollars. But the national park cannot alone protect our island watersheds and combat invasive species. Such issues cross land ownership boundaries and require a consolidated partnership strategy, involving our State land managers.

This bills will provide crucial assistance to National Park Service programs. We support their passage.

Mahalo for your consideration.



Testimony of the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee
Supporting H.B. 440 Relating to Land and Natural Resources
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday April 2, 2015. 9:30 AM Room 211

The O'ahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC) supports H.B. 440 H.D. 1 to provide funding for DLNR's watershed management, wildfire and emergency response, and forest and outdoor recreation programs.

OISC is a partner organization of the Ko'olau and Wai'anae Watershed Partnerships and we recognize that healthy forests provide the ecosystem services on which Hawai'i citizens depend. Healthy forested watersheds capture rain and cloud moisture and deliver it to aquifers and surface sources for subsequent consumption in our daily lives and for the benefit of our island economy. Healthy forests ensure that rain will be directed into the islands' aquifers instead of running off and polluting reefs. Intact watersheds will control erosion. What happens in the forests affects everything below, from farm fields and residences to tourism infrastructure and the nearshore environment.

The O'ahu Invasive Species Committee works island-wide to remove incipient invasive species from O'ahu before they become so abundant that they begin to damage ecosystems. Our work dovetails with that of the Watershed Partnerships in that we strive to prevent invasive species from moving into the upper watersheds and becoming a task for the Watershed Partnerships. Knowing that Watershed Partnership staff are controlling more established species allows OISC to focus on harmful incipient species that are just beginning to become established. Together, our organizations provide good jobs for Hawai'i citizens while protecting the natural resources that support the state's economy. OISC employs 17 people.

OISC recognizes that the ability respond to natural disasters such as forest fires are also critical to forest health. We also support the funding for recreation in this bill as we believe it is important for Hawai'i's citizens to be able to connect with their forests.

The funds from this bill will be leveraged several times over with matching funds from county, federal and private sources. The additional funding from this bill will protect our native forests, which are the source of nearly all the islands' supply of fresh water and an essential cultural and recreational resource. The watershed protection and invasive species programs supported with this bill will help to ensure healthy, managed natural resources that are critical to preserve the quality of life for Hawai'i's citizens.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
The O'ahu Invasive Species Committee



Kaua`i Watershed Alliance

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

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This bill proposes to provide additional funding for the protection of our native forests, which are the source of nearly all the islands’ supply of fresh water and an essential cultural and recreational resource. The watershed protection programs supported with state funds and leveraged several times over with matching funds from county, federal and private sources help to ensure healthy, managed natural resources that are critical for isolated island chains such as Hawaii.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Chipper Wichman, Past Chair

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting H.B. 440 HD1 Relating to Land and Natural Resources
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, April 2, 2015, 9:30AM, Room 211

For more than 35 years, The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i has been working closely with government agencies, local businesses, private landowners, non-profit partners, and interested communities across the state to preserve the lands and waters upon which all life in these islands depends. The Conservancy is a private non-profit conservation organization that has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 35,000 acres in 11 nature preserves on Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i, and support 19 coastal communities seeking to co-manage marine resources in partnership with the State of Hawai'i.

The Nature Conservancy supports H.B. 440 HD1 to provide funding support for DLNR's forest management programs, including watershed protection, wildfire and disaster response, and recreational improvements.

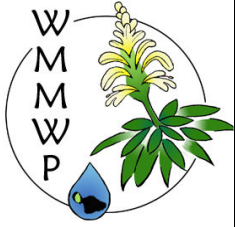
Healthy Hawaiian forests that are not overrun by invasive species act like a sponge, collecting rain and moisture from passing clouds, slowly delivering fresh water into streams and aquifers, absorbing greenhouse gases, and reducing runoff and siltation into near shore waters during storm events. Several locations in the state have recently experienced intense and 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. Easily available fresh water is not a limitless resource. Protecting and enhancing the health and function of Hawai'i's forests from the threats of invasive species and fire are a few of the most important and effective things we can do mitigate some of these impacts and ensure that this resource serves us for generations to come.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) has well-established, effective watershed, wildfire control and forest recreation programs. These programs involve the department's own direct, on the ground management work as well as working in partnership with other public and private land owners and land managers. The Department's Natural Area Reserve, Forest Reserve, Watershed Partnership, Forest Stewardship, Natural Area Partnership, Wildlife, Fire Management Programs are prime examples of how the DLNR effectively conducts its own work and leverages forest management goals across state, county, federal and private lands. With dependable base funding support from the Legislature, these programs take advantage of many millions of dollars of non-state funds and work by non-state personnel to help/ ensure the resilience, sustainability and continued health of our islands' forests, economy, and quality of life.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer our support for this bill.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mark E. Agne Paul D. Alston Alan H. Arizumi Christopher J. Benjamin Anne S. Carter Richard A. Cooke III
Peter H. Ehrman Kenton T. Eldridge Thomas M. Gottlieb James J.C. Haynes III Mark L. Johnson
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Dustin E. Sellers Dustin M. Shindo Nathan E. Smith Peter K. Tomozawa James Wei Eric K. Yeaman



West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership

March 31, 2015

Supporting H.B. 440 HD1 Relating to Land and Natural Resources
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, April 2, 2015, 9:30AM, Room 211

Aloha Legislators,

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

Watershed Partners

County of Maui
Dept. of Land & Natural
Resources
Ka'anapali Land
Company, LLC
Kahoma Land, LLC
Kahoma Land Holdings,
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

Associate Partners

U.S. Fish & Wildlife
Service
Tri-Isle RC&D

The West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership strongly supports HB440 HD1 with all voting members in favor and one abstention. Please also see testimony submitted to your committee in support of this bill by Department of Land and Natural Resources Interim Chairperson, Carty S. Chang. **We urge you to restore the bill's funding requests as originally authored** with general funds for watersheds (4 million), forest fire and emergency response (1.5 million) and outdoor and forest recreation (1 million) through the Dept. of Land & Natural Resources. Here in West Maui the need for this statewide support is very evident and we risk crippling effects and potential elimination of programs without these critical funds.

In terms of watershed management, our partnership needs additional fencing to exclude feral ungulates from 24,000 acres, 50% of our watershed, to prevent further degradation to high water recharge areas. We are also battling the advance of our worst invasive weeds. This includes strawberry guava which is known to consume 53% more water in times of drought as compared to native forest and capable of displacing entire forested watersheds. Your support of these programs is also vital to sustaining our accomplishments which could easily revert without vigilance. In our experience, State funds have been leveraged with county and federal sources at least 2 to 1.

The need for forest fire suppression and emergency response in West Maui is obvious. Thousands of acres have burned in the last 10 years. Fortunately these fires were eventually kept in check and contained by the hard fought efforts of DLNR and Maui County's wildfire crews. However, further funds can help suppression be more effective in limiting irreparable harm to native watersheds and communities. With arid environments predicted to become drier, we greatly need this support.

In terms of outdoor and forest recreation, we support managed efforts to expose our residents and visitors to some of the most inspirational places in the world. Our watersheds should also be understood, interpreted, and respected for providing a sustainable water supply to our islands. West Maui's Na Ala Hele trails provide this kind of access opportunity to hundreds of people a day and needs support to encourage proper enjoyment and understanding by all.

Without adequate support for forest protection we cannot depend on the ecosystem services like water which nourishes all of Hawaii's economic interests. If funding levels are restored, this bill could provide a balanced approach to many needed programs and will help to restore funding to levels near those prior to the recession. Without support, past gains in controlling the worst threats to watersheds cannot be sustained or improved upon. We urge you to join us in lending your support for watershed protection and a more sustainable Hawaii.



WAIMEA VALLEY

HI'IPAKA LLC

April 1, 2015

RE: Testimony in support of HB-440 HD1

Aloha,

This letter is to state that we are in **SUPPORT** to the passing of HB-440 HD 1. It is very important to appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) for land and natural resource projects related to watershed management plans; equipment for fire, natural disaster, emergency response; and forest and outdoor recreation improvement. Without this funding, the quality of life, health and safety for Hawaii's visitors and residents could be in serious jeopardy. Forest conservation and access are critical for the sustenance of irreplaceable cultural and natural values.

With the introduction of new invasive species, such as Coconut Rhino Beetle and Little Red Fire Ant, DLNR more than ever needs funding support. Many organizations and all residents benefit from the work being supported by these necessary funds. From clean water to preserving and supporting a vibrant tourist destination, these funds are essential to our way of life and livelihood in Hawaii.

Mahalo for your support in passing HB-440 HD1.

Sincerely,

Richard Pezzulo
Executive Director

Ben Dyre Family Limited Partnership

Testimony of
Ben Dyre Family Limited Partnership
Supporting H.B. 440 HD1 Relating to Land and Natural Resources
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, April 2, 2015, 9:30AM, Room 211

RE: Our family supports H.B. 440 HD1 to provide funding for watershed management; equipment for fire, natural disaster, and emergency response; and forest and outdoor recreation improvements.

The Ben Dyre Family Limited Partnership has been a part of the Kauai Watershed Association (KWA) since its formation in 2003. As a landowner on Kauai, it is an honor to be a part of such an upstanding group, which has helped to protect and conserve our most vital assets- water, and our unique native plants and animal species. We recognize the necessity of natural resource stewardship. We understand that the source of our pure water is a system of healthy forested watersheds which capture rain and cloud moisture and deliver it efficiently to aquifers and surface sources for subsequent consumption in our daily lives and for the benefit of our island economy. The Kauai Watershed Alliance has been actively managing portions of the mauka watershed on Kauai since 2003. As members, we make up a diverse group of public and private entities that own land within the mountainous watershed and understand the importance of protecting and preserving the forests that capture fresh water—our most precious resource.

This bill proposes to provide additional funding for the protection of our native forests, which are the source of nearly all the islands' supply of fresh water and an essential cultural and recreational resource. The watershed protection and invasive species programs supported with state funds and leveraged several times over with matching funds from county, federal and private sources help to ensure healthy, managed natural resources that are critical for isolated island chains such as Hawai'i. This is important for our future generation!

Thank you for your consideration and support!

Sincerely,

Holly Dyre
General Partner
Ben Dyre Family Ltd Partnership

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tsuneyos@lycos.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB440 on Apr 2, 2015 09:30AM
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 8:18:44 PM

HB440

Submitted on: 3/31/2015

Testimony for WAM on Apr 2, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Amy Tsuneyoshi | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: I support H.B. 440 HD1 Relating to Land and Natural Resources to appropriate funds to DLNR for projects related to watershed management plans; equipment for fire, natural disaster, and emergency response; and forest and outdoor recreation improvement.

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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