

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 House Committee on**  
**FINANCE**

**Tuesday, March 3, 2015**  
**11:00 AM**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

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

House Bill 440 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.

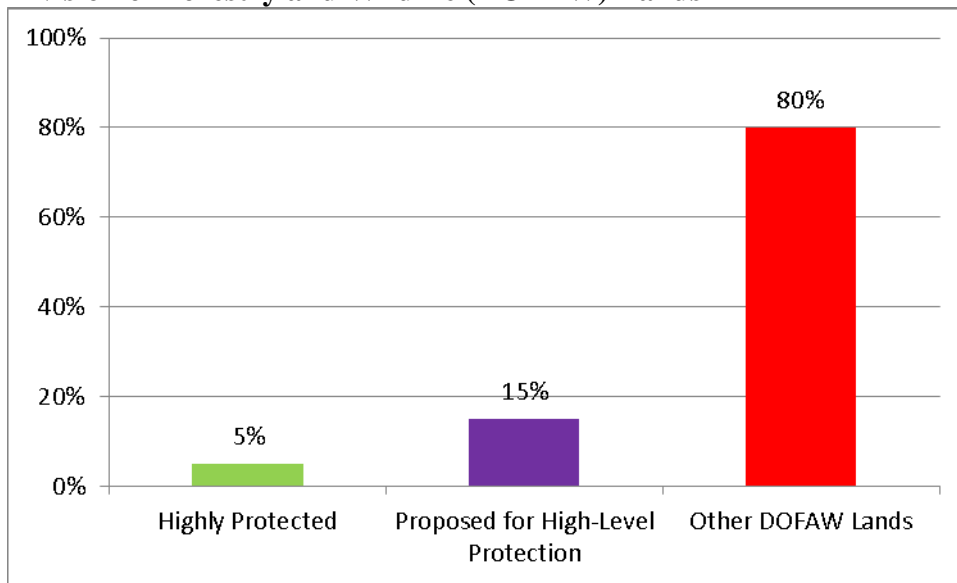
**CARTY S. CHANG**  
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**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



Elaine Young  
Acting Director

SHAN TSUTSUI  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
[www.hawaii.gov/labor](http://www.hawaii.gov/labor)  
Phone: (808) 586-8842 / Fax: (808) 586-9099  
Email: [dliir.director@hawaii.gov](mailto:dliir.director@hawaii.gov)

March 2, 2015

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Committee on Finance  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 306  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 440 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, 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 not only to protect lives and property, but also the environment. Often times the HFD responds to the first sign of smoke in the 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.

Should you have questions, please call SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7105.

Sincerely,

MANUEL P. NEVES  
Chair

MPN/LR:clc

ALAN M. ARAKAWA  
MAYOR



JEFFREY A. MURRAY  
CHIEF

ROBERT M. SHIMADA  
DEPUTY CHIEF

**COUNTY OF MAUI**  
**DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

200 DAIRY ROAD  
KAHULUI, MAUI, HAWAII 96732  
(808) 270-7561  
FAX (808) 270-7919  
EMAIL: fire.dept@mauicounty.gov

February 27, 2015

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Committee on Finance  
The House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 306  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 440 Relating to Land and Natural Resources

I am Jeffrey A. Murray, Member of the State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Maui Fire Department (MFD). The SFC and the MFD support HB 440, which proposes to provide funding for forest conservation and resources for emergency response and preparedness for fire and natural disasters.

The MFD's mission is to not only to protect lives and property but to also the environment. In fact, often times the MFD responds to the first sign of smoke in the forest reserves.

The MFD recognizes the sooner an effective fire fighting force can be dispatched and arrive on a fire scene, the less impact the fire will have to the environment and watershed areas. Wildland fires can deforest of 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 destined for underground aquifers and negatively impacts the coral reefs and near shore fisheries through siltation.

The SFC supports funding for new technologies to facilitate response and preparedness for Hawaii's emergency responders and respectfully requests your committee's passage of HB 440. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and should you have any questions, please call SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7105.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Murray".

JEFFREY A. MURRAY  
Fire Chief

**William P. Kenoi**  
Mayor



**Darren J. Rosario**  
Fire Chief

**Renwick J. Victorino**  
Deputy Fire Chief

**County of Hawai'i**  
**HAWAII FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
25 Aupuni Street • Suite 2501 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720  
(808) 932-2900 • Fax (808) 932-2928

February 27, 2015

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Committee on Finance  
The House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 306  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Yamane:

**Subject: House Bill (HB) 440 Relating to Land and Natural Resources**  
**Hearing Date: March 3, 2015**  
**Time and Place of Hearing: 11:00 a.m., Conference Room 308**

I am Darren J. Rosario, Member of the State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Hawai'i Fire Department (HCFD). The SFC and the HCFD support HB 440, which proposes to provide funding for forest conservation and resources for emergency response and preparedness for fire and natural disasters.

The HCFD's mission is to not only to protect lives and property but to also the environment. In fact, often times the HCFD responds to the first sign of smoke in the forest reserves. For example, the HCFD dispatched the first fire companies to control the Mauna Kea 33 fire of 2010 which scorched over 1,300 acres in and around the Mauna Kea State Park and forest reserve.

The HCFD recognizes the sooner an effective fire fighting force can be dispatched and arrive on a fire scene, the less impact the fire will have to the environment and watershed areas. Wildland fires can deforest of 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 destined for underground aquifers and negatively impacts the coral reefs and near shore fisheries through siltation.

The SFC supports funding for new technologies to facilitate response and preparedness for Hawai'i's emergency responders and respectfully requests your committee's passage of HB 440. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and should you have any questions, please call me at 808-932-2903.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Rosario".

**DARREN J. ROSARIO**  
Fire Chief



**finance1-Kim**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 27, 2015 3:22 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** darakawa@lurf.org  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB440 on Mar 3, 2015 11:00AM

**HB440**

Submitted on: 2/27/2015

Testimony for FIN on Mar 3, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Z. Arakawa	Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii supports HB 440, which appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for important projects undertaken in accordance with watershed management plans; forest and outdoor recreation improvements; and fire, natural disaster, and emergency response.

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**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 Finance

Hearing: Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 11:00 am, Room 308

In Support of HB 440 Relating to Natural Resources

Aloha, Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports HB 440, 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.

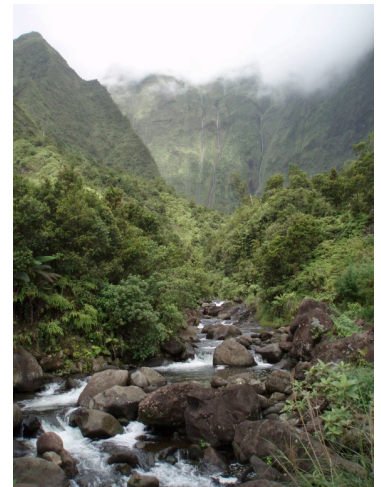
We also urge you to increase the appropriation of \$1.5 million and \$1 million for fire control and forest and outdoor recreation improvement. The amounts in HB 440 are too low when compared to the value, including economic value, of our forests and forest recreation.

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](mailto:info@conservehi.org) | web: [www@conservehi.org](http://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'aumoana | Koalani Kaulukukui**

**Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler | Administrator: Jonnetta Peters**









Testimony of the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee  
Supporting H.B. 440 Relating to Land and Natural Resources  
House Committee on Finance  
Tuesday March 3, 2015, 11:00 AM, Room 308

The O'ahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC) supports H.B. 440 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



**Testimony of Hawai'i Green Growth  
In Support of HB 440 Relating to Land and Natural Resources  
House Committee on Finance  
3 March 2015, 11:00am, Room 308**

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

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*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.*

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Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee,

**Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) strongly supports HB 440** 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 will help advance action on the *Aloha+ Challenge: A Culture of Sustainability – He Nohona 'Ae'oi'a*, 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**, 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, flowing style.

**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.hawaiigreengrowth.org/>

# The Society for Hawaii Heritage Animals

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*Promote through conservation our own unique breeds of wild livestock here in Hawaii.*

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## Opposing H.B.440

Committee on Finance  
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
Committee Members

Relating to Land and Natural Resources  
Report Title: Forest Conservation, Access

Description: Appropriates funds to the department of land and natural resources for watershed management projects; fire, natural disaster, and emergency response equipment; and forest and outdoor recreation improvements.

This Act attempts to lump together many priorities which we find important, but there needs to be better definition and specifications as to exactly how the appropriations listed in this Act will be spent by the department. DLNR should also be required to submit a report to the legislature explaining what and how these funds are spent. If this Act is amended to include specific details as to how the money will be spent, and how exactly the activities listed will be administered, along with a yearly report to the legislature our position regarding this Act may change.

Mahalo,  
Tony Sylvester, Executive Director

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Supporting H.B. 440 Relating to Land and Natural Resources  
House Committee on Finance  
Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 11:00AM, Room 308

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*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.*

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The Nature Conservancy supports H.B. 440 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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A. Catherine Ngo James C. Polk Chet A. Richardson Jean E. Rolles Scott C. Rolles Crystal K. Rose  
Dustin E. Sellers Dustin M. Shindo Nathan E. Smith Peter K. Tomozawa James Wei Eric K. Yeaman

**finance8-Melanie**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 27, 2015 4:33 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** etvuong@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB440 on Mar 3, 2015 11:00AM\*

**HB440**

Submitted on: 2/27/2015

Testimony for FIN on Mar 3, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Erik Vuong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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## Dylan P. Armstrong

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*March 3rd, 2015*

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Committee on Finance (FIN)  
Conference Room 308  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Rep. Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
Committee on Finance (FIN)  
Conference Room 308  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

To the Honorable Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Committee Members,

I support House Bill No. 440, for the following reasons:

- Drinkable water is but one ecological service that native ecosystems provide.
- Native forests provide strong value in terms of ecotourism and recreation. Hiking, mountain climbing, trail running and other such activities provide the public with excellent health benefits at low costs, as our population ages and struggles to maintain health amidst common conditions like obesity and diabetes.
- Money is needed to mitigate or prevent the following declining conditions brought by invasive species:
  - Non-native grasses and thorny weeds impede recreation.
  - Albizia and other invasive trees create hazard trees along trails.
  - Pigs facilitate high densities of mosquitoes through rooting, wallowing and destroying the forest floor.
  - Little fire ants fall from the canopy, causing excruciating pain.

I have found that conservation is not in conflict with quality of living: it is essential for it.

Lastly, the hundreds of endemic Hawaiian plants, the unusual birds, thousand species of land snail, the happy face spiders, all have a right to exist. The Earth's current mass extinction crisis is unfolding here, before our eyes. During my time as a lab technician at the University of Hawaii, I have seen some of the last tree snail species become extinct in the wild. Every extinction is a loss for humanity and a destabilization of our ecosystem. We must better protect our precious natural heritage.

Mahalo nui loa,  
Dylan P. Armstrong

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Sunday, March 01, 2015 10:21 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: wctanaka@gmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB440 on Mar 3, 2015 11:00AM

**HB440**

Submitted on: 3/1/2015

Testimony for FIN on Mar 3, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments: Protecting our forests means protecting our water resources, ecological integrity and economic foundation. Mahalo nui for your support of this measure!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Sunday, March 01, 2015 7:54 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: sharon.s.coburn@gmail.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB440 on Mar 3, 2015 11:00AM\*

**HB440**

Submitted on: 3/1/2015

Testimony for FIN on Mar 3, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sharon Coburn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Sunday, March 01, 2015 2:19 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: stoltzfus34@yahoo.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB440 on Mar 3, 2015 11:00AM

**HB440**

Submitted on: 3/1/2015

Testimony for FIN on Mar 3, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rhonda Stoltzfus	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am in opposition to this bill.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Sunday, March 01, 2015 8:20 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: matt.htfa@gmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB440 on Mar 3, 2015 11:00AM

**HB440**

Submitted on: 3/1/2015

Testimony for FIN on Mar 3, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Matthew Ross	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Please take the concerns of the hunting community into consideration when passing this bill.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2015 7:30 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: krawle@hawaii.rr.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB440 on Mar 3, 2015 11:00AM

**HB440**

Submitted on: 3/2/2015

Testimony for FIN on Mar 3, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kathryn Rawle	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this bill. Our land is the base of all our endeavors, our life and our economy. Mahalo!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Sunday, March 01, 2015 9:39 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: jonikamiya@gmail.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB440 on Mar 3, 2015 11:00AM\*

**HB440**

Submitted on: 3/1/2015

Testimony for FIN on Mar 3, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joni Kamiya	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2015 4:54 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: jameskk@hawaii.rr.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB440 on Mar 3, 2015 11:00AM

**HB440**

Submitted on: 3/2/2015

Testimony for FIN on Mar 3, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
james kuniyoshi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: In any bill DLNR introduces regarding hunters or fishermen, consultation with the fish and game commission should be mandatory.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2015 3:11 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: teresamlee.51@gmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB440 on Mar 3, 2015 11:00AM



**HB440**

Submitted on: 3/2/2015

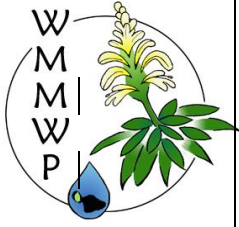
Testimony for FIN on Mar 3, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Teresa L. Nakama	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Committee on Finance Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair Committee Members HB-440 Relating to Land and Natural Resources Report Title: Forest Conservation, Access Description: Appropriates funds to the department of land and natural resources for watershed management projects; fire, natural disaster, and emergency response equipment; and forest and outdoor recreation improvements. This HB440 is another irresponsible attempt to lump together many priorities which we the public will be affected and therefore it is very important to insert strict requirements, but there needs to be better definition and specifications as to exactly how the appropriations listed in this HB 440 will be spent by the department. DLNR shall be required to submit a report to the legislature explaining what and a breakdown on how these requested funds are spent. If this HB440 must be amended to include very specific details as to how the money will be budgeted, and how exactly what their priorities of the specific activities listed will be administered, along with a required yearly report to the legislature our position regarding this HB 440 must be held accountable in order for our position to change, otherwise it will be just a request for funds that would be unaccountable.

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# West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership

February 24th ~~March 2,~~ 2015

Supporting **437HB440**  
Relating to Watershed Protection

**LATE**

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

Aloha Legislators,

The West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership **Strongly Supports HB437-HB440** 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, on February ~~10~~<sup>9</sup>th, 2015. This bill requests general funds for watersheds, ~~invasive species management~~, forest fire and emergency response and outdoor and forest recreation through the Dept. of Land & Natural Resources. Here in West Maui the need for this statewide support is very evident.

#### 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

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. 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 vital and can be leveraged with county and federal sources at least 2 to 1.

~~Beyond our efforts, the Maui Invasive Species Committee is keeping West Maui free of new threats including fountain grass, pampas grass, coqui frogs, veiled chameleons and little fire ants. These threats require vigilant and sustained efforts. Without further support, elimination of these species may not be possible.~~

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.

#### Associate Partners

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

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. This bill provides 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 hope that you can join us in lending your support for watershed protection and a more sustainable Hawaii.

| |





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.”*

The Testimony of the Kauai Watershed Alliance  
Supporting H.B. 440 Relating to Land and Natural Resources  
House Committee on Finance  
Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 11:00AM, Room 308

The Kauai Watershed Alliance (KWA) supports HB 440 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.

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

**LATE**

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2015 4:50 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: surfmaster008@gmail.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB440 on Mar 3, 2015 11:00AM\*

**HB440**

Submitted on: 3/2/2015

Testimony for FIN on Mar 3, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sean Higa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Ben Dyre Family Limited Partnership



Testimony of  
Ben Dyre Family Limited Partnership  
Supporting H.B. 440 Relating to Land and Natural Resources  
House Committee on Finance  
Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 11:00AM, Room 308

Our family supports H.B. 440 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. We as members 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.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

*Holly Dyre  
General Partner  
Ben Dyre Family Ltd Partnership*

**LATE**

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2015 8:24 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: alisakimura@yahoo.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB440 on Mar 3, 2015 11:00AM

**HB440**

Submitted on: 3/2/2015

Testimony for FIN on Mar 3, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alisa Kimura	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB440 to provide general funds to DLNR watersheds (\$4M), forest fire and emerg. resp. (\$1.5M), outdoor and forest recreation programs (\$1M).

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
 Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 9:43 AM  
 To: FINTestimony  
 Cc: hawaii hunting association@hawaiiantel.net  
 Subject: Submitted testimony for HB440 on Mar 3, 2015 11:00AM

**HB440**

Submitted on: 3/3/2015

Testimony for FIN on Mar 3, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom Lodge	hawaii hunting association	Oppose	No

Comments: We STRONGLY OPPOSE! No EIS, no Accountability, and no transparency.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2015 3:04 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: nanihawaii@aol.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB440 on Mar 3, 2015 11:00AM



**HB440**

Submitted on: 3/2/2015

Testimony for FIN on Mar 3, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
nani pogline	Puna Commissioner GMAC	Oppose	No

Comments: In regards to HB440: The DLNR already has funds to address all of these issues. Quality of life and health is not improved by the increase of herbicide use in forests, with known evidence that these chemicals do seep into the watershed. The fencing of conservation areas has DECREASED the opportunity for public access, and limited many historical public uses and enjoyments of outdoor activities. In many places, the loss of vehicular access has not only violated the law, but made it impossible for families with children and gear, elderly, and handicap to enjoy public lands. The economy of Hawaii residence has been hurt, as some receive jobs related to conservation, while many others are loosing rights to the historical and cultural resources relating to the harvesting of fruit and game animals from the forests and back country. All vegetation absorbs carbon, especially the fast growing albizia, known for its ability to absorb larger amounts of carbon. Albizia are being eradicated with the massive use of herbicides, where they are not endangering houses or roads. The removal of these forests IS deforestation, increasing temperatures, drying the ground, causing erosion, and destroying a significant source of carbon sequestration and retention. The wild and unchecked efforts related to eradication of non-native species has left Hawaii with a scared and unattractive land scape, void of sustainable resources for the residence and tourists of Hawaii. The water, carbon, and heat problems in Hawaii are not caused by non-native species, but by concrete and over development. Furthermore, it has been proven that the removal of grazing mammals from the grass lands has increased wildfires, as grasses build up and become a source of fire fuel during drought, endangering the native habitats.

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