

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



**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  
WATER & LAND**

**Monday, March 21, 2016  
10:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 121  
URGING SUPPORT FOR THE HAWAIIAN LEGACY REFORESTATION INITIATIVE**

House Concurrent Resolution 121 urges the Departments of Land and Natural Resources, Health, and Business, Economic Development and Tourism, to support the efforts of the Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative in restoring, revitalizing, and protecting endemic species in the State of Hawaii. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

The protection and restoration of native flora and fauna in Hawaii is the primary mission of the Department and cannot be achieved without strong partnerships and continued support of non-governmental and governmental organizations. The Department has a long history of partnering with like-minded landowners to achieve landscape-scale conservation projects. Non-governmental organizations are providing leadership in the use of innovative technologies and diversified funding streams that can be used to accomplish conservation goals by applying sound economic business models.

The Hawaiian Legacy Restoration Initiative is one such initiative (HLRI). However, the Department does not feel it is appropriate to single out any one such entity for the Department to work with.

To serve the public purpose, the Department should work with any entity who can meaningfully further carbon offset and forest restoration outcomes. To the extent this resolution suggests supporting HLRI beyond the parameters of a public purpose, the resolution would be improper. To the extent t the resolution suggests that supporting HLRI furthers the Department's own goals, the resolution would be redundant and create the appearance of partiality.

**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**KEKOA KALUHIWA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.**  
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

Utilizing sound economics to achieve conservation objectives has many practical examples around the world. The Department and others have been working to develop partnerships that combine revenue generation with critical conservation objectives, and provide a broad range of ancillary ecosystem benefits such as clean air, water quality, bio-diversity, wildlife habitat, scenic values and a variety of recreational opportunities.

The Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife has been working with landowners on forest restoration measures using programs such as the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, which is a landowner assistance program. Through discussions with and support from the United States Department of Agriculture- Forest Service, the California Air Reserve, the Gold Standard Foundation, the Department of the Attorney General, and landowners, the Department and others have been working to develop potential legal and economic frameworks that would enable state lands to be used in banking carbon in koa and other native trees, and allow the sale of carbon credits through one or more global carbon markets, both voluntary markets and regulatory markets.

While still in the early stages of investigation, if developed, such programs could provide Hawaii additional mechanisms for financial support of long-term landscape level resource management projects, and further global climate change mitigation goals.

The Department applauds all participants in Hawaii's forest restoration initiatives to date, and supports exploring new technologies, economic models, and opportunities to accomplish our mission.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.



Hawaiian Fresh Farms  
PO Box 575  
Haleiwa, HI 96712

Ph:808-321-1567

To whom it may concern,

I, James Keener am writing this letter to express my sincere appreciation and support for Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative . HLRI represents a unique conscious business model that does good for all parties involved in the business relationship. They represent the highest caliber of individuals, cause, and purpose. I have had the privilege in participating in the tree planting of a legacy tree that represents my family and have personally witnessed the life changing work of this fine organization. They represent the future of business in my opinion, a model that does no harm in any way and only does good everyday in every way. Each and every person, the environment, the land, the employee, the partner, and the benefactor receive great benefit from the fine work of this group of professionals. I feel a distinct honor to participate in the reforestation of native plants and trees on the islands of Hawaii. In my nearly 26 years of business experience I have witnessed many approaches to business and participated in several business models and HLRI is without exception the only organization that operates at this level of consciousness. HLRI represents a model and standard that all business leader should strive to achieve. I am honored to participate in their program and support their company and cause.

Sincerely,

James E. Keener  
Founder, Chairman  
Hawaiian Fresh Farms

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 19, 2016 6:57 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** joe@kanileaukulele.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR121 on Mar 21, 2016 10:00AM

**HCR121**

Submitted on: 3/19/2016

Testimony for WAL on Mar 21, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joseph Souza	Kanile`a `Ukulele	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, HLRI recently celebrated the planting of its 300,000th endemic tree on Hawaii Island, which is nearly a quarter of its overall goal of 1.3 million trees to be planted for permanent reforestation across Hawaii. In addition to the environmental impact of these efforts, HLRI has created dozens of permanent green jobs and fueled growth in a critical sector of our economy. I am proud to support HLRI and its immense positive impact on many sectors and industries in our state. From eco-tourism through its highly rated Hawaiian Legacy Tours to science and sustainability, HLRI is a highly successful study in multi-faceted nonprofit innovation and growth. Joe Souza Owner Kanile`a `Ukulele

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I have worked for the Hawaiian Legacy Forest for 5 years, my current position entails management of the IT department. Working on this project has been a life changing experience. I started, like everyone, planting koa trees in the fields. It's hard, demanding and rewarding work in a beautiful setting. The planting crews dedicate very long days in very wet weather to the life of these endemic trees and plants.

After working my way up in the organization I now am privileged to participate in many other aspects of the project. I feel I have the unique perspective of a non-owner employee who understands virtually every aspect of just how this undertaking operates.

I have dedicated my life to the Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative and I am proud to testify that this organization has been built by people who are skilled, passionate about the environment of Hawaii and dedicated to changing the way reforestation is practiced, in our state and beyond. The people who make the forest a reality work tirelessly and with unwavering integrity for long hours. We love what we do and believe we can change the planet through ingenuity, collaboration and hard work.

Creating and restoring natural forests that are sustainable and that provide cultural, natural and social resources to our island communities as well as providing precious wildlife habitat is our duty as responsible environmental stewards. We all thank you for your support and efforts in fulfilling this important role.

Mahalo,  
William Gilliam

waltestimony

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From: Thomas Lenchanko <tlenchanko1@hawaii.rr.com>  
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2016 9:28 AM  
To: waltestimony  
Cc: jdunster@HLH.co; jvmandraccia@gmail.com  
Subject: HCR121 testimony

HCR121 URGING SUPPORT FOR THE HAWAIIAN LEGACY REFORESTATION INITIATIVE

NOTICE OF HEARING – Water and Land Committee

DATE: March 21, 2016  
TIME: 10:00am  
PLACE: Conference Room 325  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

anoai welina aloha

We, aha kukaniloko koa mana mea ola kanaka maui apaakuma hoalii iku pau Hawaiian Lineal Descendants, submit written testimony affirming the Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative on Oahu island that will perpetuate the continued principles and practices for watershed management with the reforestation of iliahi, lama, ohia, kauila, koa, kupukupu...at the piko, puuhonua kukaniloko 36,000 acres within and without kalana lihue, wahiawa, halemano... relative to and thereupon Department of Defense parcels, State of Hawaii Department of Agriculture ADC parcels and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs 511 acres north of Wahiawa Town.

e kukaawe i na kapu o kukaniloko no ka mea aloha no hoi kakou ia lakou i na kau a kau

Thomas Joseph Lenchanko  
kahuakaiola ko laila waha olelo aha kukaniloko koa mana mea ola kanaka maui apaakuma hoalii iku pau

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 20, 2016 7:48 AM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** annettesadventures@juno.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR121 on Mar 21, 2016 10:00AM

**HCR121**

Submitted on: 3/20/2016

Testimony for WAL on Mar 21, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments: I am in hearty support of HCR 121 Hawaiian Legacy Restoration Initiative, because I have seen the results of their koa tree plantings over the past few years. It is very exciting to see a native koa forest coming back to life as a vibrant and vital part of the Big Island landscape. Please take the opportunity to see this exciting project for yourself if you have the opportunity.

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## HCR 121

Testifier's Name: Joy Miyamoto (individual)

Committee: WAL

Date/Time of Hearing: March 21, 2016, 10AM; Room 325

Measure Number: HCR 121

As an aspiring counselor of the Hawaii public school system, it has been my pleasure to learn about HLRI and spread awareness about the sustainable reforestation efforts in support of our unique land and culture. The mission of HLRI is one that should speak strongly to future generations about Hawaii's history and traditions through the restoration of the great native koa forests. These efforts can be shared with students of all ages who will grow up to be tomorrow's leaders and, in their understanding and knowledge of sustainable forestry, will continue to be the driving force that produces further environmental, economic, and cultural impacts. The creation of new forests for plants and wildlife and the technology used to track tree growth, maintenance, and carbon data is the next step for revitalizing Hawaii's land to benefit all who are here. The past showed that we could live harmoniously with the land and we can again do so through these sustainability efforts starting now. Legacy trees and forests provide a very special connection between people and land, and if our children can learn of the valuable relationship of the past, present, and future with these Hawaiian forests, they will be able to carry on HLRI's legacy for generations to come.



**Name: Kylie Manriki, Bookkeeper; Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative**

**Committee Name: WAL**

**Date: Monday March 21, 2016. Conference Room 325**

**Measure Number: HCR121**

As an employee of Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative, I have experienced the rare privilege of working towards tangible positive change. It is amazing to walk the fields of the project and see how the planting of endemic koa trees has changed the landscape from dry cattle-feed to a young, verdant forest. Hawaii is unique in both environment and culture. This allows the state to pioneer new and creative solutions to climate change and land degradation. I am confident that HLRI will not only create a new path to revitalize Hawaii's native forests but also respect and follow native Hawaiian principles of sustainability. Many forests around the world are endangered because mankind's industry has pushed beyond sustainable harvesting. I believe Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative will be an example of how that industry, when used towards more responsible, far-reaching goals, can be used to progressively effect global change.

**Name: Betsy Maler, Secretary Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative**

**Committee Name: WAL**

**Date: Monday March 21, 2016. Conference Room 325**

**Measure number: HCR121**

I wish to express my support for Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative for HCR121. As secretary of HLRI I am privileged to hear firsthand how this program continues to affect many families. From the celebration of new life to the healing of those who have lost loved ones. The experience to plant endemic Legacy Trees has had profound emotional impact. Each tree that has been planted in the Legacy Tree program has its own story. When purpose and compassion is combined with attention to details life blossoms. This is not just about forestry but the making of history in our Hawaiian Islands. The technology component gives a unique ability to personalize each tree which in turn gives purpose. The environmental impact results are a ripple effect. The support of planting these endemic Legacy Trees will continue to provide positive outcome such as helping our watershed, preventing soil erosion, providing homes for endangered habitat and help clean the air we breathe. Watching HLRI grow from two people in a tent to the expanded work force in a depressed employment area has certainly provided much needed change. Having planted over 300,000 endemic trees, the lands have also received a much needed change. This is why I support HLRI, for their vision to improve lands, teaching awareness, helping our islands, our culture and each other and helping our environment today and for our future generations.

Ua Mau ke Ea o ka 'Āina i ka Pono - The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness.

**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 20, 2016 8:26 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** memarkley1@me.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR121 on Mar 21, 2016 10:00AM

**HCR121**

Submitted on: 3/20/2016

Testimony for WAL on Mar 21, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Maryellen Markley, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This testimony is written in strong support for House Resolution 121 urging recognition and support for The Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative (HLRI). This very unique company is a Hawaii 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose mission is to establish, maintain and preserve sustainable endemic Hawaiian forests throughout the islands. They use state-of-the-art technologies to develop and maintain permanent Hawaiian forestlands, protect Hawaii's endangered wildlife species, sequester carbon (offsetting global warming caused by, for example, fossil fuel emissions) and recharge Hawaii's island watersheds. This nonprofit's activities that I most admire include the planting of genetically diverse native species that have been developed from old growth seeds, controlling and eliminating invasive species, and encouraging native birds such as the Hawaiian Owl and Hawk to return to the forest started by the great Hawaiian King Kamehameha two hundred years ago. Through their use of scientifically modern technologies, they provide a means to help the Hawaiian forest return to a natural state – only better and healthier - improve water production, enhance open spaces, increase biodiversity, improve air quality, and provide a more robust native habitat for species of wildlife found only in Hawaii. Most importantly, through development and sharing of this technology, they are helping other reforestation projects around the world to achieve best results that will benefit us all. Perhaps most importantly, this amazing company has developed innovative fee-for-service income streams that have provided solid future sustainability and has funded the vast majority of the work needed to acquire land, prepare seed, plant, and protect these endemic forests. For example, they are the first company registered in Hawaii by the American Carbon Registry to sell carbon credits, and in that way, use the planted trees to sequester carbon emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>e). This has provided a successful business model that will encourage private landowners to grow the trees for the environmental benefit rather than for the timber sales that have decimated Hawaii's endemic forests in the past. Among many other awards, Hawaiian Legacy has been honored as a Top Global Environmental Business for the past two consecutive years by the nonprofit, B Lab. This global award recognizes businesses earning an environmental impact score in the top 10% of all Certified B Corporations in more than 120 industries – a rigorous and comprehensive review of the company's

impact on its workers, community and environment. This is a truly remarkable achievement that has not been matched by any other company in Hawaii, and by very, very few in the world. Both the State of Hawaii and private landowners will benefit from the technology HLRI has developed that will make it profitable to restore Hawaii's native endemic forests. Their planting projects will provide permanent technical and agricultural employment to workers in Hawaii, and low-or-no-cost housing for those that work on the project and choose to live near the reforestation projects. Finally, the state and the world will benefit from restoration of our fragile ecosystems and the true reduction of global warming by restoration of one of Hawaii's greatest assets – her native forests. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to testify, and thank you especially for recognizing this truly noteworthy company! Maryellen Markley, Ph.D.

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Gwendolyn Chung  
Email: Pipeline@pacbell.net

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March 20, 2016

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR121

My husband & I recently toured the Hawaiian Legacy Hardwoods property in Kohala on the Big Island. This is the same original land where King Kamehameha the Great had his koa wood forest. During our 3 hours tour, we were able to experience and learn much about the majestic koa wood, sandalwood and eucalyptus forests on the property. We spotted the royal hawk ('Io in Hawaiian) returning to perch on the koa wood trees! What an amazing sight indeed!

We understand that Resolution HCR121 will help earn money for the state if passed through the legislature, and other branches if necessary. I urge you to consider passing Resolution HCR121 as the reforestation of koa wood trees in the Hawaiian Islands is crucial to the planet's atmosphere and to our keikis' future.

We are pictured below planting a legacy tree. Many visitors to the Hawaiian Legacy Tour are able to plant a legacy tree. Imagine how beautiful the koa wood forest will be for generations to enjoy! Imagine how it will benefit the state as well!

Respectfully yours,  
Gwendolyn Chung



**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 20, 2016 6:03 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** speccentral@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR121 on Mar 21, 2016 10:00AM

**HCR121**

Submitted on: 3/20/2016

Testimony for WAL on Mar 21, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments: To Whom it May Concern- It would be a wonderful thing to have unproductive state lands in Hawaii be reforested with our Native trees such as Koa, Sandalwood, Ohia, etc. and in the meantime allow the state to receive income from planting of trees by donations and purchasers. It would be a Win- Win situation as among these benefits, the importance of creating forests and contributing to reducing carbon in the environment, bringing water to our underground wells, and seeing the habitats for Hawaii's indigenous wildlife develop will be a positive thing for our future. For these reasons, I support this Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative on state lands. Respectfully yours, Randall M.

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