

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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**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 178/HOUSE RESOLUTION 128
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
PRESERVE PUEO HABITAT AREAS ON THE EWA PLAINS AND CONDUCT AN
EXTENSIVE PUEO HABITAT INVENTORY**

House Concurrent Resolution 178/House Resolution 128 urge the protection of Pueo (*Asio flammeus sandwichensis*) habitat areas on the Ewa Plains and for an extensive Pueo habitat inventory to occur. It is noted that no funding is being allocated for the habitat inventory, nor whether the inventory is to be restricted to the Ewa Plains or occur statewide. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

The Pueo is an endemic subspecies of the short-eared owl found across Hawaii. On Oahu, this species is protected as endangered by the State of Hawaii due to limited information on its distribution, population size, and threats. Pueo occur most often in open areas, including grasslands, pasturelands, and farmland, but do utilize forested habitats for foraging as well. One key aspect of their biology that makes them vulnerable to introduced predators is their habit of ground-nesting.

The Department is currently developing a Request for Proposals to solicit bids to conduct scientific research on the Pueo based on funding that has been received through the development of Habitat Conservation Plans on Oahu and Maui. Key research needs that are being targeted include island-wide distribution and population of the Pueo through surveys, identification of key nesting habitat, and documenting their use of different areas for foraging. Most of these basic research questions need to be answered in order to adequately assess management of the species on Oahu. Expanding this work to the rest of the state is outside of the current scope and would require additional funding and resources for the Department.

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

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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 Water and Land

Hearing: Monday, March 21, 2016 10 am
Conference Room 325

In Support of HCR 178 and HR 128 Urging the Department of Land and Natural Resources to Preserve
Pueo Habitat Areas on the 'Ewa Plain and Conduct an Extensive Pueo Habitat Inventory

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee.

Aloha. Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports HCR 178 and HR 128. The pueo, or Hawaiian short-eared owl, is listed as an endangered species on O'ahu by the State of Hawai'i. The State has a duty to take positive actions to enhance indigenous aquatic life, wildlife, and land plants, and their habitats and enhance their prospects for survival.

The DLNR is required to conduct research on indigenous aquatic life, wildlife, and land plants, and on endangered species and their associated ecosystems, and shall utilize the land acquisition and other authority vested in the department to carry out programs for the conservation, management, and protection of such species and their associated ecosystems. In addition, the DLNR is hereby authorized to acquire by purchase, donation or otherwise, lands or interests therein needed to carry out the programs relating to the intent and purpose of this chapter.

Pueo hunt in agricultural fields and grasslands, and they are negatively affected by urbanization of their habitat as former sugarcane lands and other natural areas are lost to development or invasive species. It is necessary for DLNR to set inventory pueo habitat and to take actions to protect, manage, and/or purchase habitat necessary to conserve and recover the pueo. Please provide sufficient funds for the DLNR to carry out the requests in these resolutions.

Without affirmative action, we will eventually lose this bird on O'ahu, and that would be very unfortunate. Let us protect the pueo and its habitat now – before it is too late – for our children and generations to come. Please adopt HCR 178 and HR 128.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Marjorie Ziegler

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HCR178

Submitted on: 3/18/2016

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I strongly support this legislation for awareness and protection of the Pueo, Mahalo,

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**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Aha Moku Advisory Committee
State of Hawaii
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

LATE

**Testimony of
Shad Kane, Ewa Moku Representative
Moku O Kakuhihewa (Island of O'ahu)**

**Before the House Committee on
Water and Land**

**Monday, March 21, 2016
10:00 A.M.
Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 178
HOUSE RESOLUTION 128
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO PRESERVE PUEO HABITAT
AREAS ON THE EWA PLAINS AND CONDUCT AN EXTENSIVE PUEO HABITAT INVENTORY.**

Aloha Chair and committee members. My name is Shad Kane and I am the 'Ewa Moku Representative on the State of Hawaii Aha Moku Council. I am in support of House Concurrent Resolution 178 and House Resolution 128 urge the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to preserve Pu'eo habitat areas on the Ewa Plains and conduct an extensive Pu'eo Habitat inventory. **Aha Moku supports this measure.**

An endemic species of Hawaii, the endangered Pu'eo is located on all islands in the Pae'aina. It holds a special place in the culture of the Hawaiian people and is most closely associated with 'aumakua, spiritual embodiments of kupuna and ancestors of different families. Prior to development in Ewa, the Pu'eo was known to be plentiful in number. Now, due to the loss of habitat, the Pu'eo is scarcely seen. The only places seen by me today are in the forested areas of Kalaeloa (formerly Barbers Point NAS) known as the Kalaeloa Heritage Park and mauka regions of Palehua, Lihue (Kunia) and Kupehau (Kunia). In these areas they can be seen on the ground or in the trees. In the area between these mauka and makai regions (former sugar and pineapple lands) they are only seen flying in the early morning and late evening between these mauka and makai regions. In the area between the former fence for the Barbers Point NAS (makai) and the H-1 Freeway (mauka) is now a pass over region to their nesting and rest areas. Historically and today the only nesting and rest regions were mauka of the freeway and within the forested areas of Barbers Point. Sugar and pineapple lands was not a nesting or rest areas. These areas the Pueo foraged for rats. Today they forage for rats in Kalaeloa and mauka of the freeway. They no longer forage in the developing areas (former sugar lands) now known as Kapolei. Today the Pueo nesting areas at risk can be found in the Kunia Farm Lands adjacent to Kunia Road. It is in these areas where the Pueo habitat is being compromised by the clearing of farm and house lots. Our Aha Moku Representative who has been monitoring that region and working with the current farm lot owners in the care of biological (birds and animals) and the preservation of cultural sites and burials is Sheila Valdez.

We understand that the DLNR is currently developing a Request for Proposals to garner bids to conduct scientific research on the Pueo on Oahu and Maui. We believe the support of HCR 178 can assist DLNR in their endeavor to begin this research. And, while DLNR is focusing on the scientific research on habitat and biology, it would also be beneficial to explore the importance of the Pueo to the Hawaiian culture. It would be a mistake to dismiss generational knowledge of an endemic species that is so closely attached to the indigenous people of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution and we support its passage.