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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Tuesday, March 15, 2016
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2257, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Senate Bill 2257, Senate Draft 1 proposes to make eligible for membership on a county arborist committee, certified arborists, horticulturists with specialization in trees, and persons who have received a master's degree in botany. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources supports this measure.**

The intent of this measure is to expand the qualifications for eligible members on the county arborist committees. The current restriction of membership only to landscape architects has made it difficult for some counties to have an active committee. In particular, the proposed addition of certified arborists and horticulturists will provide the county committees with other important skill sets and expertise essential for managing our urban forests.



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

Testimony of
Piilani Kaawaloa
Aha Moku Advisory Committee – Moku O Keawe (Hawaii)

Before the House Committee on
Energy & Environmental Protection

Tuesday, March 15, 2016
8:30 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

**In Consideration of
SENATE BILL 2257 SD 1
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

Senate Bill 2257 SD 1 makes eligible for membership on a county arborist advisory committee certified arborists, horticulturists with specialization in trees, and persons who have received a master's degree in botany. **Aha Moku supports this measure and asks that the following amendment to be considered.**

Because there is deep appreciation for the counties who recognize the value of trees for their beauty and ecological function, we believe that this arborist advisory committee is much needed today. However, it has also been acknowledged that although with the best of intentions, many landscape architects focus on the ambience of a project and often use trees and plants, that although are beautiful, are not native to the area. There is always a possibility that these trees and plants could become invasive to the area and overtake the endemic or indigenous flora which normally thrives in that place. An example of this on Hawaii Island is the albizia tree.

We have also found that in the proposed language for (3) of §58-2 the word "Hawaiiiana" is too broad and does not convey the level of protection to the environment that is needed within this committee. We fear that under the category of "Hawaiiiana" within this advisory committee, well-meaning landscapers would inadvertently use trees for landscapes that are not native to the area, but are "tropical" in appearance and therefore would be considered as Hawaiiiana. Actually, there is no traditional word for "Hawaiiiana". The word was created in modern times to convey a general sense of all things Hawaiian. That generality does not work when considering the environmental and ecosystem protection of a specific place and the determination of a community to negate or avoid invasive resource species.

And, while it is understood that it is often difficult to find one who can advise on native trees and plants that are endemic to a place, through the Aha Moku System, local experts in *kumula'au*, those with empirical knowledge of native plants and trees for the specific ahupua'a and/or moku where they live could be located, and consult with the committee as needed.

We ask that this committee support this measure and to take our recommendation into consideration. Mahalo nui loa.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2016 10:36 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: malamaopuna@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2257 on Mar 15, 2016 08:30AM

SB2257

Submitted on: 3/12/2016

Testimony for EEP on Mar 15, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rene Siracusa	Malama O Puna	Support	No

Comments: Malama O Puna is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit volunteer environmental organization. We have been involved with the Exceptional Tree Ordinance since its inception on Hawaii Island. Since 2008 the Big Island has not been in compliance because the State Act mandates that the chair of the Arborist Advisory Committee be a practicing certified landscape architect. The intent is that the chair should be a person who is knowledgeable about trees and tree issues. This works fine on O'ahu, where there is a large pool of professionals who qualify. On other islands, however, such is not the case. But this is fixable, and this legislation proposes to do just that. The solution is to open up the qualifications for the chair to include other professionals who also have tree expertise. Once you pass this, the Counties will have to follow suit, and then we can have a functioning Arborist Advisory Committee again. Not only will we be able to nominate and protect exceptional trees, but County and State agencies will have a body they can call on when they need tree expertise. These agencies include County Parks & Recreation, Public Works and Planning, as well as DLNR Land Division and Parks. For such a simple housekeeping amendment, the result will have widespread benefits. Please pass this. Mahalo.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 12:09 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2257 on Mar 15, 2016 08:30AM*

SB2257

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for EEP on Mar 15, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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