

SB 2992

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

Friday, February 8, 2016
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2992
RELATING TO HAWAIIAN SANDALWOOD

Senate Bill 2992 makes an appropriation to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for a survey of Hawaiian sandalwood on Hawaii Island. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request or any existing Department appropriated funding.**

The State of Hawaii Legislature has annually considered regulation of Hawaiian sandalwood since 2012. With limited information regarding the distribution, abundance, and reproduction productivity of sandalwood populations in the wild, the appropriate management and any necessary regulation of these species is difficult to determine. An inventory and distribution survey is needed to address the speculation surrounding Hawaiian sandalwood.

With the appropriation of \$300,000, the Department would complete an inventory and distribution survey of *Santalum paniculatum*, the only commercially-harvested Hawaiian sandalwood species, on the Department's lands on Hawaii Island. This survey would provide a snapshot of basic information on the distribution and abundance of this species, which is needed before management and any regulations can be determined.

A more comprehensive "status report" on the long-term health of this species of sandalwood, that included private lands on Hawaii Islands and reproductive productivity, would require more funding depending on the intensity of the survey.



**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 Senate Committee on
Water, Land and Agriculture

Monday, February 08, 2016
10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

**In Consideration of
SENATE BILL 2992
RELATING TO HAWAIIAN SANDLEWOOD**

Senate Bill 2992 makes an appropriation to DLNR for a survey of Hawaiian sandalwood on the island of Hawaii. **Aha Moku supports this measure and offers the following comments.**

DLNR has been addressing the issue of regulating the harvesting of the *Iliahi*, the Hawaiian Sandalwood since 2012. However, native Hawaiian practitioners who have traditionally incorporated the *Iliahi* for generations have sought ways to protect this resource since the 1800's when the value of the Hawaiian sandalwood changed from a conservation resource to an economic one. For Native Hawaiians, the *Iliahi* is critically important as part of the symbiotic relationship between the *Iliahi plant*, the *Iliahi bird*, and the *Iliahi fish*. It shows the nature connection between the *Wao Akua*, the forest areas or land of the gods; the *Wao Kele*, the coastal areas; and the *po wale wale*, the deep ocean. It symbolizes the intimate and important connection between man and ahupua'a.

The *Iliahi* is endemic to Hawaii. It should not be harvested. The *Iliahi* must be in a symbiotic relationship to other indigenous plants and trees to survive. It is often used by Hawaiians as a metaphor showing that the Hawaiian culture cannot exist without the natural resources of Hawaii. So the practical question for DLNR is what effect will this survey have on those who wish to protect the *Iliahi* in the future? It is understood that this survey will take place in public trust lands that are normally not accessible. But the concern is that when the survey is completed and made public, it will encourage illegal harvesting when the sites become known. DLNR does not have the resources or the manpower it will need to protect these areas.

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



**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 Water, Land, and Agriculture
Hearing: Monday, February 8, 2016 10 am
Conference Room 224

In Support of SB 2992 Relating to Hawaiian Sandalwood

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee.

Aloha. Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 2992, which makes an appropriation to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for a survey of Hawaiian sandalwood on the island of Hawai'i.

We assume the purpose of the survey is to enhance protection and management of sandalwood on the Big Island. In addition to the survey, concerted efforts to control existing threats to sandalwood are also needed and would help protect this precious native tree. Threats to Hawaiian sandalwood include feral goats, mouflon, feral sheep, feral pigs, feral and/or domestic cattle, and weeds.

If nothing else, please remove goats from native Hawaiian dryland forests where sandalwood and other native trees exist. Fence in goats in appropriate game management areas if we must maintain populations for hunting. Goats and other introduced continental hoofed mammals are incompatible with native Hawaiian plants and animals. Goats or sandalwood? We need to choose which species will prevail in native forests.

Please support SB 2992.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Marjorie Ziegler

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2992 on Feb 8, 2016 10:00AM*
Date: Saturday, February 06, 2016 4:02:44 PM

SB2992

Submitted on: 2/6/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 8, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments:

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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February 7, 2016

Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice-Chair

RE: S.B. 2992: RELATING TO HAWAIIAN SANDALWOOD

Dear Mr. Gabbard, Mr. Nishihara, and Committee Members:

I am writing to express strong support for the appropriation of monies to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the survey and inventory of Hawaiian Sandalwood, or 'Iliahi.

However, I am also requesting that S.B. 2992 be amended to include the survey and inventory of not only *Santalum paniculatum* on the Big Island of Hawai'i, but all six species of 'Iliahi as found on all islands as well. The five additional species that should, in my opinion, be added to the bill, are:

- (1) *Santalum ellipticum*, found on Maui, Lana'i, Moloka'i, Kaua'i, O'ahu, and Hawai'i;
- (2) *Santalum freycinetianum*, found on O'ahu;
- (3) *Santalum haleakalae*, found on Maui, Lana'i, and Moloka'i;
- (4) *Santalum involutum*, found on Kaua'i; and
- (5) *Sanatalum pyrularium*, also found on Kaua'i.

These six species of Hawaiian Sandalwood, or 'Iliahi, are endemic to the Hawaiian Islands, and populations have suffered significant losses over the years as a result of the Sandalwood trade in the 1800s, ungulate grazing, and a commercial demand for Sandalwood essential oils that has caused an increased harvest in recent years.

Hawai'i is the only place in the world where the harvest of Sandalwood has not been subjected to governmental regulation. It is in the interest of the public to preserve this tree, in all its forms and locales, because of its significance to the collective heritage of Hawai'i's people. In the near future, it would behoove the Hawai'i Legislature to follow the example of every other Sandalwood-producing locale in the world by exercising its police power authority to regulate the harvest and sale of Sandalwood products. In the meantime, it is extremely important that the government begin by authorizing and funding a comprehensive study of all species of 'Iliahi, in all of its habitats. Please do so by passing this bill with the amendments I have suggested above.

Mahalo ā nui loa,



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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: dancingcloudrefuge@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2992 on Feb 8, 2016 10:00AM
Date: Saturday, February 06, 2016 8:47:45 PM

SB2992

Submitted on: 2/6/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 8, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Culbertson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: In light of the widespread disease now ravishing large stands of Ohia trees on Hawaii island, one of Hawaii's emblematic botanical treasures, it becomes even more important to begin surveying the relevant surviving stands of Iliahi (*Santalum ssp.*). It is certainly an iconic tree of historic commercial and cultural value worthy of the highest level of protection on public lands and regulation on private lands. Nothing that once flourished in abundance can ever be taken for granted in our current times of ecological disruption. Please, let's find out what's left and in what condition it is in. Thank you.

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: shannon.wianecki@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2992 on Feb 8, 2016 10:00AM
Date: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 9:39:16 AM

SB2992

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 8, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Wianecki	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please fund the study of Hawaiian sandalwood on all islands. This precious resource is under extreme pressure from logging, fire, and invasive species. We need to know what remains of the once great 'iliahi forests so that we can effectively protect them today. Sandalwood logging operations need to be regulated; Hawaii is the only place in the world where sandalwood grows and is not regulated.

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