

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

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

Friday, February 10, 2017
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1218
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AT
KAWAINUI MARSH ON THE ISLAND OF OAHU

House Bill 1218 proposes to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates moneys for a capital improvement project by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to install water management infrastructure for wildlife ponds and contour stream banks and overflow channels to manage flood waters at Kawainui Marsh. **The Department supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

Kawainui Marsh, part of the Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Complex, is a Ramsar Convention Wetland of International Importance and the largest remaining freshwater wetland in the State, encompassing 830 acres. A traditional fishpond in ancient times, today Kawainui is being restored as a wetland that provides valuable habitat for Hawaii's native waterbirds, including the stilt (aeo), coot (alae keokeo), duck (koloa) and moorhen (alae ula). At least 60 species of birds, fish, and other aquatic life thrive at Kawainui. Kawainui provides a number of public and community benefits, including acting as a flood control basin, providing important wildlife habitat for endemic and endangered species, and protecting the reef and Kailua bay from sediment runoff. Kawainui is an important historic and cultural hub. This bill would provide critical support to implement much needed infrastructure improvements for wildlife and flood management and is consistent with area management plans and obligations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



**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
By the Conservation Council for Hawai'i
Hearing: Friday, February 10, 2017 9 am
Room 25

Support for HB 1218 Making an appropriation for a capital improvement project at Kawainui Marsh on the island of O'ahu.

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and Members of the Committee,

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports HB 1218, which authorizes issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates moneys for a capital improvement project by DLNR to install water management infrastructure for wildlife ponds and contour stream banks and overflow channels to manage flood waters at Kawainui Marsh.

Magnificent Kawainui Marsh is one of the most important natural areas and wildlife habitats in the state. Please help protect the marsh and its resident endangered waterbirds and other species. Pass HB 1218.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Marjorie Ziegler

Marjorie Ziegler



Telephone/Fax: 808.593.0255 | email: info@conservehi.org | web: www.conservehi.org
P.O. Box 2923 | Honolulu, HI 96802 | Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 215 | Honolulu, HI 96814
President: Wayne Tanaka | Vice President: Koalani Kaulukukui | Secretary: Rachel Sprague
Treasurer: Les Welsh | Director: Anne Walton
Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler | Administrator: Jonnetta Peters



waltestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 7:13 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1218 on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM*

HB1218

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

waltestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 2:26 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: jwm7r@virginia.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1218 on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM
Attachments: Testimony.docx

HB1218

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jordan Moniuszko	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

waltestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 2:45 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: nattyw76@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1218 on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM

HB1218

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Natalie Waters	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have seen the positive effect the water transfer can have on the water quality in Kaelepulu Water System.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

HB 1218
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AT
KAWAINUI MARSH ON THE ISLAND OF OAHU

Water and Land Committee
State Capitol, Room 325
February 10, 2017, 0900

Testimony of Robert E. Bourke, Environmental Scientist,
437 Keolu Drive,
Kailua, Hawaii, 96734
Email: REBourke2003@gmail.com

Representatives;

Thank you for hearing this bill and for allowing public discussion regarding the care of this important natural resource. My testimony is in favor of the bill to appropriate funding for improvements and much needed maintenance to the Kawainui Marsh.

The Kawainui watershed, and the Kaelepulu watershed, to which it once belonged, is my Ahupua`a. Over the past four decades I've scaled all of its perimeter peaks, slogged through each of its streams, bush-wacked across the floating vegetation mat covering the marsh itself, and studied the system in an attempt to better understand how it works and how to make it work better.

Kawainui Marsh has been much abused over the past two centuries. Up until 150 to 200 years ago, the Kawainui Marsh was an open-water pond, maintained as such by Hawaiians settled around its perimeter. But by the end of the 1800's most of the taro fields surrounding the pond had been replaced by rice fields, and the higher slopes planted with coffee and other crops or converted to grazing land. The rice fields disappeared in 1923 when the Waimanalo Sugar Company bought their lease and began pumping all the water to Waimanalo. In 1925 they constructed a 1,000 foot long channel to the center of the marsh to increase the quantity of water that could be withdrawn, and in 1946 even managed to pump the marsh dry by the middle of June. But persistent winter flooding of the rapidly developing Kailua Town induced the USACE to construct the Oneawa Canal as an alternate drainage path in 1952. When this proved ineffective, they constructed the Kawainui Levee in 1966, permanently severing Kawainui from Kaelepulu. The massive quantities of nutrients pumped into the marsh in the form of sewage flows up until 1966 has contributed further to plant growth in the marsh. Today the vegetation mat covering the marsh is over 2-feet thick. The vegetation resists the flow of water and has resulted in an increased water surface elevation at the southern end of the marsh. Today there are trees growing on the floating vegetation mat, almost no open water areas for birds, and an increased incidence of black "marsh water" exiting the Oneawa Channel mouth into Kailua Bay.

To restore appropriate ecosystem functions to Kawainui Marsh, and the ecosystem services that benefit the surrounding communities, it is critically important that DLNR be provided with sufficient funds to begin the long process of mitigating for past adverse impacts to this marvelous ecosystem.

kong2 - Crystal

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 7:33 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1218 on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM*



HB1218

Submitted on: 2/10/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. 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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov