

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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Thursday, February 2, 2017
8:30am**

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1570
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

House Bill 1570 proposes to require lessors of rental motor vehicles to include an option to the lessee in the motor vehicle arrangement to contribute a sum to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) for the preservation and protection of the environment. **The Department supports this bill to supplement funding for programs that protect Hawaii's world-renown beauty and the natural resources needed to sustain the visitor industry.**

Check-offs are used in 36 states to provide funding for conservation programs.ⁱ The funds receiving check-offs support a variety of critical natural area protection and land acquisition programs.

The visitor industry clearly relies on natural resources. The Koolau Forest Watershed on Oahu is estimated to provide a net present value of \$1-3 billion for ecotourism alone.ⁱⁱ Forests prevent erosion that muddies beaches, coral reefs, and fisheries. Forests also mitigate climate change effects from rental vehicles by absorbing greenhouse gases. Protection sustains the native plants and animals unique to our islands and important to the Hawaiian culture.

The Land Conservation Fund (LCF) supports the Legacy Land Conservation Program (LLCP). The LLCP protects rare and unique cultural, natural, agricultural, and recreational resources from destruction by funding the acquisition of fee title or conservation easements by nonprofits, counties, and state agencies.

The Conservation and Resources Enforcement Special Fund supports the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE). DOCARE's objectives are to effectively uphold the laws that serve to protect, conserve and manage Hawaii's unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources, and to promote the safe and responsible use of Hawaii's natural resources.

ⁱ Department of Land and Natural Resources. 2001. Annual Report to the Twenty-First Legislature 2001 Regular Session on Act 152 SLH 200 (HB 2835, HD2, SD2, CD1) Relating to Watershed Protection.

ⁱⁱ Roumasset, J., J.B. Kaiser, N. Krause, D. Mecham and J. Wooley. 1997. Draft Environmental Valuation and the Hawaiian Economy. University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization, UH-Mānoa.



HB1570
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

February 2, 2017

8:30 a.m.

Room 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment Committee will recommend that the Board of Trustees **SUPPORT** H1B570, which will allow Hawai'i's visitors to voluntarily contribute towards the maintenance and conservation of our natural and cultural resources.

Numerous studies in Hawai'i and abroad have indicated that visitors to areas of natural beauty and importance are often more than willing to contribute financially to maintaining the environmental quality of these areas. Given the prominence of our natural environment as a tourism driver, these "user fee" studies therefore indicate the existence of a currently untapped revenue source for natural resource protection, i.e. visitors who may be willing to contribute financially to the environment they travel thousands of miles to enjoy.

By allowing visitors to voluntarily contribute to our natural environment at the time of their visit, this measure will allow the state to tap into a substantial potential revenue stream for the protection and conservation of our islands' resources. Given the clear need for greater financial investment in our watersheds, coastlines, and other natural and cultural resources, and given the growing strain placed on these resources by the visitor industry, this measure thus provides much-needed revenues from an appropriate source of funds, without burdening taxpayers or our existing tourism industry. In addition, visitors who contribute funds under this measure will know that they played a part in protecting the natural resources and environmental integrity of our island home.

Therefore, the OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB1570. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SanHi Government Strategies

a limited liability law partnership

Gary M. Slovin
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DATE: February 1, 2017

TO: Representative Chris Lee
Chair, Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Submitted: EEPtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: **HB 1570 Relating to the Environment**
Hearing Date: Thursday, February 2, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room: 325

Dear Chair Lee and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection:

We submit this testimony on behalf of Enterprise Holdings, which includes Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Alamo Rent-A-Car, National Car Rental, Enterprise CarShare and Enterprise RideShare (Van Pool).

Enterprise **opposes** H.B. 1570 which requires lessors of rental motor vehicles to include an option to the lessee in the motor vehicle agreement to contribute a sum to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the preservation and protection of the environment beginning July 1, 2019.

Enterprise already offers a voluntary contribution for research to offset carbon emissions on each contract. The details are available on a website we identify for our renters. We do not feel that it is appropriate for the state to require rental car companies to include the voluntary contribution provided for in H.B.1570. Rather, this should be left to each individual company. As it is, the state already collects from rental car customers substantial sums of money to be used for state purposes. We do not feel that it is justified to solicit additional contributions from renters, and feel that it will alienate our customers.

Gary M. Slovin
Mihoko I. Ito
R. Brian Tsujimura
C. Mike Kido
Tiffany N. Yajima
Matthew W. Tsujimura

Page 2

For these reasons, we oppose H.B. 1570 and respectfully request that the Committee hold this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 6:36 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1570 on Feb 2, 2017 08:30AM*

HB1570

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for EEP on Feb 2, 2017 08:30AM 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.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 2:28 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: cchaudron08@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1570 on Feb 2, 2017 08:30AM

HB1570

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for EEP on Feb 2, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Camila Chaudron	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hi, my name is Camila Chaudron, and I live in the Manoa/Makiki area. I support this measure because it seems like a sensible option to offer renters. Tourists come to Hawaii to enjoy its natural beauty, spend their money on pleasure, and should also have an opportunity to give back to the state. For the sake of our Island community, thank you for supporting this measure. Mahalo.

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LATE



February 1, 2017

Representative Chris Lee, Chair
Representative Nicole Lowen, Vice Chair
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

HB 1570

Relating to the Environment

Thursday, February 2, 2017 8:30 am State Capitol. Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaiian Islands Land Trust (“HILT”) is a nationally accredited, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that protects over 17,500 acres of land in Hawai‘i with *scenic views, agricultural resources, wildlife habitats, water resource areas, cultural and historical values, and outdoor recreation opportunities*. Established in 2011 as a statewide consolidation of smaller land trusts on each of the major islands, HILT complements the stewardship others are providing for mountaintop watersheds by concentrating largely on needs and opportunities for coastal and agricultural lands. The importance of these lands stems from the fact that they are rich in cultural values and often under the greatest threat of development.

To connect people in beneficial ways to these precious landscapes, HILT fosters public appreciation and stewardship of strategically situated HILT owned preserves throughout the Hawaiian Islands. HILT also holds and monitors perpetual conservation easements, HILT’s primary conservation tool, to assist owners who wish to ensure long-term protection of lands with high conservation values.

HILT supports HB 1570 to provide the opportunity for persons renting cars in Hawaii to make a voluntary contribution toward the protection of the State’s unique environment, which is a critical component of our tourism-based economy.

Many unique and environmentally and culturally significant lands in Hawaii have been protected through the legacy land fund that benefit both residents and visitors.

The additional funding made available to the land conservation fund through voluntary contributions provided by this bill would allow for the protection and enhancement of unique and special landscapes in Hawaii, some of which may not have been protected in the past due to limited funding. These funds and projects enhance the quality of life for residents and those visiting Hawaii and ensure that those places that make Hawaii unique and special and preserved and enhanced for future generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Me ke aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KK Burgess', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Kawika K. Burgess
Chief Executive Officer

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 6:01 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: carolyndillon4@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1570 on Feb 2, 2017 08:30AM*

HB1570

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for EEP on Feb 2, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carolyn Dillon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Thursday, February 2, 2017 8:30 AM Conference Room 325

In SUPPORT HB 1570 Relating to the Environment

Aloha Chairman Lee and members of the Energy and Environmental Protection Committee,

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i strongly supports HB 1570, which seeks to add an option on rental car contracts for lessees to add a voluntary donation to DLNR to support conservation and management of legacy lands.

We have 20,000 members and supporters throughout the Hawaiian Islands. Since 1968, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i has been working to protect the unique natural and cultural resources of our islands.

DLNR manages over 1.3 million acres of state land, including 750 miles of coastline.¹ This land includes water resources, the habitat of many endangered species, public recreation areas, and forest reserves. The Club agrees that DLNR would benefit from extra funding to help the agency protect the State's land, coastal areas, and natural resources for the sake of residents, guests, and future generations.

Including a checkbox on car rental agreements to provide an optional donation to DLNR is an uncontroversial way to raise more funding. Travelers visiting Hawai'i to enjoy the unique natural resources of the islands will likely be willing to voluntarily donate to the protection and maintenance of our environment.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.

Mahalo,

Marti Townsend
Director

¹ <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/about-dlnr/>

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 7:46 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: lea.hong@tpl.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1570 on Feb 2, 2017 08:30AM

HB1570

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for EEP on Feb 2, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

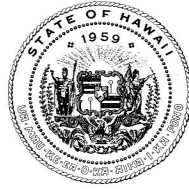
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lea Hong	The Trust for Public Land	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair and Committee Members - The Trust for Public Land strongly supports this measure, which would allow voluntary contributions by rental car users into the Legacy Land Conservation Fund. The Legacy Land Conservation Program has protected special places throughout the Hawaiian Islands -- Turtle Bay Makai and the Ka Iwi Coast (pending) on O'ahu, Black Pot Beach on Kaua'i, Kuamo'o Battlefield & Burial Grounds and Lapakahi State Historical Park on Hawai'i Island, Nu'u on Maui, and Kawaikapu on Moloka'i. The contribution would be voluntary, and is designed to give visitors who enjoy Hawai'i special places and scenery a chance to give back to preserve these places. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify. I apologize that I cannot attend the hearing. Lea Hong Hawaiian Islands State Director Edmund C. Olson Trust Fellow The Trust for Public Land

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



Testimony by:
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
JADE T. BUTAY
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 2, 2017
8:35 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 325

**H.B. 1570
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** H.B. 1570 which requires lessors of rental motor vehicles to include an option to the lessee in the motor vehicle agreement to make a voluntary contribution to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) for the preservation and protection of the environment.

The importance of natural resource protection continues to grow as the State braces for the impacts of climate change. Providing the opportunity as an option for persons renting cars in Hawaii to make a voluntary contribution toward the protection of the State's unique environment, which is a critical component of our tourism based economy will alleviate some of the need of additional resources for DLNR, allowing them to carry out their mission effectively.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.