



**OFFICE OF PLANNING
STATE OF HAWAII**

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LEO R. ASUNCION
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of
LEO R. ASUNCION
Director, Office of Planning
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Tuesday, February 28, 2017
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of
HB 1578, HD1
RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the House Committee on Finance.

HB 1578, HD1 establishes a carbon farming task force to identify agricultural or aquacultural activities and best practices that provide carbon sequestration benefits that may be used to establish a carbon farming certification, and establishes the task force within the Office of Planning (OP) for administrative purposes and makes an appropriation. The Director of OP or the Director's designee shall serve as chairperson of the task force.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports the intent of HB 1578, HD1 which includes consideration of OP's prior comments and offers the following comments for the Committees' consideration:

1. OP respectfully requests that an appropriation amount of \$100,000/year be inserted for both fiscal years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 in order to fully address the scope of work of the carbon farming task force. OP estimates that the proposed amount would provide for:
 - a. Salary and fringe for one (1) personnel at 0.50 FTE to serve as the task force coordinator;
 - b. Services related to subject matter experts to provide the task force with an understanding of components of a carbon farming certification program;
 - c. Travel funds covering task force members' reimbursable costs to attend meetings;
 - d. Other administrative costs as needed: phone conferencing, office supplies, photocopying meeting materials, etc.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 28, 2017
11:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

HOUSE BILL NO. 1578 HD1
RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1578 SD1 that establishes the 13-member Carbon Farming Task Force, an 8-year effort assigned to identify agricultural and aquacultural activities and best practices that provide carbon sequestration benefits that may be used to establish a carbon farming certification. The Task Force is established within the Office of Planning and the Director serves as the chairperson. There is an appropriation to the Office of Planning for FY2017-18 and the same sum for FY2018-19. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure to the extent that it will benefit and improve efforts to increase food self-sufficiency in Hawaii, otherwise we defer to the Office of Planning.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Tuesday, February 28, 2017
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1578, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

House Bill 1578, House Draft 1 proposes to establish a carbon farming task force which would identify agricultural or aquacultural practices beneficial to the mitigation of climate change, to the sustainability and climate resilience of Hawaii's agriculture, as well as to water quality and reef protection. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this initiative and provides the following comments.**

The Department kindly requests that forest ecosystems and agroforestry systems are added to the range of land uses and mitigation options considered by the carbon farming task force, and that a Department forestry representative be included as a member of the carbon farming task force.

The Department is charged with the stewardship and management of the State's terrestrial and aquatic areas including its natural resources. Climate change poses an imminent threat to these natural resources. As shown by research and as already practiced around the world, climate-smart agriculture can have multiple environmental and economic benefits.

Among the different land uses, forest ecosystems and long rotation systems such as agroforests, permaculture, home gardens, and boundary plantings have the capacity to sequester greenhouse gases in plant biomass and in long-lasting wood products. Many agroforestry systems can also increase below-ground carbon storage, both in plant biomass and soil organic matter. In addition to higher rates of carbon storage, agroforestry systems provide benefits such as improved soil protection and ameliorated microclimatic conditions due to their wind break effect, improved

soil fertility through higher content of soil organic matter and higher biological activity, improved nutrient cycling, reduced soil toxicities, more efficient use of solar energy, and reduced pests and diseases, by integrating trees and shrubs into agricultural practices. These benefits are consistent with the objectives of this measure.

This type of forest stewardship and management sequesters carbon and is a core responsibility of the Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2017 11:31 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: legechair@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM*

HB1578

Submitted on: 2/26/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments:

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Board of Directors:

House Finance Committee

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action strongly supports: HB1578

Gary L. Hooser
President

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and members of the Committee,

Andrea N. Brower
Joshua D. I. Mori
Co-Vice Presidents

My name is Anne Frederick and I am the Executive Director for the Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA). HAPA is a statewide environmental, social and economic justice organization. HAPA's fair and sustainable food systems work focuses on protecting Hawai'i's environment and the health of its residents from the potentially harmful pesticide impacts and promoting regenerative agriculture. HAPA engages over 10,000 local residents annually through our work.

Ikaika M. Hussey
Treasurer

I am writing in strong support of HB1578, which creates a Carbon Farming Task Force in the State of Hawai'i.

Bianca K. Isaki
Secretary

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United States Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have both identified soil health and soil carbon as critical factors for climate resilience, food production, and climate change mitigation.

Paul Achitoff

Malia K. Chun

Many of Hawai'i's soils are currently degraded, but we have the opportunity to reverse that trend. Often taken for granted, healthy soils provide numerous benefits including: reduced sediment, erosion and dust; increased fresh water retention; improved water quality; reduced salinity; improved plant health and crop yields; a reduced need for synthetic inputs; and sequestered carbon dioxide.

Bart E. Dame

Laura Harrelson

Kim Coco Iwamoto

HB1578 is an important measure for the future of agriculture in Hawai'i.

Katie McMillan

Walter Ritte Jr.

I urge you to support HB1578. Thank you kindly for considering HAPA's testimony in strong support of the measure.

Karen Shishido

Respectfully,

Leslie Malu Shizue Miki

Anne Frederick, Executive Director
Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action

Kekaulike Prosper Tomich

Cade Watanabe

The Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) is a public non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. HAPA's mission is to catalyze community empowerment and systemic change towards valuing 'aina (environment) and people ahead of corporate profit.



Feb. 27, 2017

To: The Chair, Vice Chair and members of the Consumer Protection & Commerce (CPC) Committee

Hearing: Tue., 2/28, 2:00pm, Rm. 329

Position: Strong Support for HB 1578 (Relating to Climate Change)

Dear Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Ichiyama and Committee members,

On behalf of Surfrider Foundation's Hawai'i Chapters and our supporters across the state, I am writing in strong support of HB 1578. Following successful models in other states, this bill would establish a Carbon Farming Task Force to create incentives for farmers and ranchers to improve the resilience of their land and protect their livelihoods and our food security in the face of escalating climate uncertainty. Soil health initiatives are sprouting up across the country, and Hawai'i can and should be a leader in this field.

It is well-established that agriculture contributes nearly 1/3 of global greenhouse gas emissions. However, what is less well-known is that agriculture also has the potential to be part of the solution to climate change. By harnessing the power of photosynthesis, plants convert carbon dioxide into energy and send as much as 40% of that carbon through their roots to feed microorganisms living in the soil. This improves soil health.

The bill will help identify agricultural and aquacultural practices that sequester carbon from the atmosphere and develop incentives like tax credits, loans and certification programs that support and elevate those practices. By incentivizing farming and ranching practices based on sound agricultural and ecological principles of regeneration, we can keep that carbon in the ground. This process will also greatly enhance crop yields, improve water quality, and increase plants' resilience to drought, floods, and pathogens.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United States Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have both identified soil health and soil carbon as critical factors for climate resilience, food production, and climate change mitigation. Many of Hawai'i's soils are currently degraded, but we have the opportunity to reverse that trend.

Often taken for granted, healthy soils provide numerous benefits including: reduced sediment, erosion and dust; increased fresh water retention; improved water quality; reduced salinity; improved plant health and crop yields; a reduced need for synthetic inputs; and sequestered carbon dioxide. HB1578 is an important measure for the future of agriculture in Hawai'i. I urge you to support HB1578. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,
Stuart Coleman
Hawaii Regional Manager

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 25, 2017 3:42 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: milholen.jennifer@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM*

HB1578

Submitted on: 2/25/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Milholen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 25, 2017 12:21 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: launahele@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM*

HB1578

Submitted on: 2/25/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 12:26 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: hokuokekai50@msn.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM*

HB1578

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 1:24 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: tampaltin@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM*

HB1578

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tamara Paltin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 2:40 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: begoniabarry@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM*

HB1578

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 12:04 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: tulsigreenlee@icloud.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM*

HB1578

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tulsi Greenlee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 4:07 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: ashley.decoligny@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM*

HB1578

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashley de Coligny	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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2/27/17

LATE

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I would like to offer strong support to HB1578. I hold a MSc in Forest Ecology and Management from the University of Freiburg, Germany and spent a significant amount of time studying the importance of carbon sequestration in forest soils. The concept of carbon sequestration as a climate change mitigation tool and the forest restoration methodologies that follow from it, are widely accepted by the forest science community. It is without questions that similar methodologies can be implemented in agricultural practices with similar results. We NEED to start looking after the health of our soils—on a global scale. Let's start here, at home in our beautiful islands, and take steps to improve soil health before it is too late. Hawai'i once had the richest soils in the world and have since been devastatingly depleted by, primarily, industrial monoculture agriculture. Let's do our part to reverse this travesty. We cannot rely on the Trump administration to protect the environment. With efforts underway to dismantle the EPA, we must take action at the State level to ensure our natural resources are protected. Soils are a CRITICAL natural resource. Please, cast your vote in support of HB1578. Thank you for your consideration and for this opportunity to testify.

Aloha no,

Kimiko LaHaela Walter

Honolulu, HI 96826

LATE



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON Finance
Tuesday, February 28th, 2017 11:00 AM Room 308
In SUPPORT HB 1578 Relating to Climate Change

Dear Chair Luke and members of the committees:

On behalf of Surfrider Foundation's Oahu Chapter, I am writing in strong support of HB1578, which creates a Carbon Farming Task Force in the state of Hawai'i.

Sustainable and healthy soils are a pertinent part of a future Hawai'i that reduces the impact that agriculture land is having on our oceans – the largest economic engine for our State. One of the most successful programs of Surfrider Oahu is its Ocean Friendly Gardens & Surfblitz program which teaches home owners, school children, and businesses how to create healthy soils that retain storm water runoff. Through organic soil enrichment, we can also take huge strides in creating land that fosters its ability to sequester carbon from our atmosphere. The combination of having soils that are healthy enough to be large sinks for pollution and to be sources of home grown food production, makes HB 1578 a key step forward in a sustainable Hawai'i that takes responsibility for its part in reducing the impact of climate change.

This bill will help to identify future possibilities in agriculture that lead to regenerative soils and increased abilities of our land to harness its true potential to mitigate the effects of climate change. The benefits of creating healthier soils for food growth also mean less reliance on fossil fuel based transportation to bring food to our islands. By harnessing the power of photosynthesis, plants convert carbon dioxide into energy and send as much as 40% of that carbon down through their roots to feed hungry microorganisms living in the soil.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United States Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have both identified soil health and soil carbon as critical factors for climate resilience, food production, and climate change mitigation. Many of Hawai'i's soils are currently degraded, but we have the opportunity to reverse that trend.

There is great need to figure out ways that we can incentivize a Hawaii with regenerative soils through tax credits, composting programs, and the future of value added products from this industry. Taking initial steps in the form of a task force and information gathering is a prudent step towards this future. By using the collective knowledge of stakeholders, farmers, scientists, community groups, and citizens concerned with this issue we

will be able to formulate a program that creates a robust future for sustainable agriculture in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for taking the time to consider this testimony,

Rafael Bergstrom
Oahu Chapter Coordinator, Surfrider Foundation.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 11:11 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: stacy440@me.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM

HB1578

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stacy K. Tang	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hawaii's future is so dependent on a strong local market. We need to look towards regenerative farming, not just sustainable. Healthy soil and water is what we NEED to feed and quench our islands' people. The time for toxins being added to the soil, or growing food in a vat of petroleum based chemicals is antiquated and unhealthy for everyone on the planet. The Rodale Institute has proven that an organic agricultural model not only works, but increases yields with each year (way more than GMO yields with each year). Joel Saladin of Polyface Farms has proven that managing farm animals holistically, improves not just the flesh of the animal for sale, but improves the pasture land the animals graze on, while not accumulating the manure pollution caused by conventional factory farming. Aside from all these benefits to the soil, we also ensure our groundwater is not polluted by fertilizers and pesticides through the conventiona/GMO farming practice. These farming methods, Holistic land management or Permaculture, ensure an abundance of healthy food, (plant and animal based) unpolluted water supply AND sequester carbon in the soil, reducing the amounts that are released into the atmosphere. This is a no brainer for Hawai'i. We need more of these farmers, willing to do it right.

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Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 10:22 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: natalie.wohner@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM*

HB1578

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments:

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Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 7:43 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mamrhein5@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM*

HB1578

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Amrhein	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 7:34 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mindyolvera@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM*

HB1578

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melinda Buck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII
MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

LATE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Tuesday, February 28, 2017 11:00AM Room 308

In SUPPORT HB1578 Relating to Climate Change

Aloha Chairwoman Luke, and members of the House Environment Committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i supports HB1578, which establishes a task force to encourage farming practices that reduce the threat of climate change.

Studies show that modern agricultural practices produce nearly one third of all carbon emissions, making it a significant contributor to the climate crisis.

However, agricultural practices can be tweaked to harness the natural power of photosynthesis in plants to actually pull carbon from the atmosphere, and thereby reduce the risks of climate change.

The Carbon Farming Task Force proposed in this bill would create incentives for farmers and ranchers to employ these climate-friendly practices and turn their farms into carbon sinks. Climate friendly farming practices, known as regenerative agriculture, not only captures carbon but also enhances crop yields, improves water quality, and increases our resilience to extreme weather events.

Climate-friendly farming is a boost for our environment and a boom for farming businesses. We strongly encourage the Legislature to establish this program.

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

Mahalo,
Marti Townsend
Director



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
 Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 6:36 PM
 To: FINTestimony
 Cc: clareloprinzi@gmail.com
 Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM

HB1578

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
clare loprinzi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Pass this bill....we need to take better care of our island in all ways.

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: clareloprinzi@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM

HB1578

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
clare loprinzi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Pass this bill....we need to take better care of our island in all ways.

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