

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
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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 Senate Committees on
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM, AND TECHNOLOGY
and
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Friday, March 17, 2017
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

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.

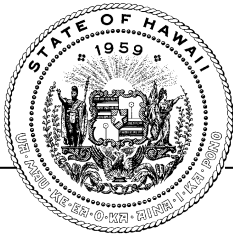
The Department is charged with the stewardship and management of the State's terrestrial and aquatic areas including its natural resources. Climate change poses an imminent threat to these natural resources. As shown by research and as already practiced around the world, climate-smart agriculture can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



**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
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM, AND
TECHNOLOGY, AND AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

Friday, March 17, 2017
1:15 pm
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

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

Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Taniguchi and Riviere, and Members of the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Tourism, and Technology, and Agriculture and Environment.

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 made on past versions of the measure, and offers the following comment for the Committees' consideration:

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 the 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



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

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM,
& TECHNOLOGY & AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT**

MARCH 17, 2017
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 414

HOUSE BILL NO. 1578 HD1
RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Chairpersons Wakai and Gabbard and Members of the Committees:

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.





Senate Committee on Economic Development, Tourism & Technology

Board of Directors:

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action strongly supports: HB1578

Gary L. Hooser
President

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Taniguchi 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

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.

Malia K. Chun

Bart E. Dame

Laura Harrelson

Kim Coco Iwamoto

HB1578 is an important measure for the future of agriculture in Hawai'i. I urge you to support HB1578.

Katie McMillan

Walter Ritte Jr.

Thank you kindly for considering our testimony in strong support of the measure.

Karen Shishido

Respectfully,

Leslie Malu Shizue Miki

Kekaulike Prosper Tomich

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

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.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

**SENATE JOINT COMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM & TECHNOLOGY AND
AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT**

Friday, March 17, 2017 1:15PM Room 414

In SUPPORT HB1578 HD1 Relating to Climate Change

Aloha Chairman Wakai, Chairman Gabbard, and members of the joint ETT/AEN 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, modern agricultural practices can be improved 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



Email: communications@uluPono.com

SENATE COMMITTEES ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM, & TECHNOLOGY AND
AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

Friday, March 17, 2017 — 1:15 p.m. — Room 414

UluPono Initiative Supports HB 1578 HD 1, Relating to Climate Change

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Taniguchi, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Kyle Datta and I am General Partner of the UluPono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally produced food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and reduce waste. UluPono believes that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

UluPono supports HB 1578 HD 1, which establishes the carbon farming task force, because it aligns with our goals of creating more locally produced food and increasing the production of clean, renewable energy in Hawai'i.

UluPono Initiative analyzes both agriculture and renewable energy sectors as part of our mission. In particular, we seek projects that find a common nexus between agriculture and renewable energy.

It is economically difficult to run an agricultural operation in Hawai'i, especially for our small farmers. According to the 2012 Agricultural Census, 88 percent of Hawai'i's farms are under 50 acres in size. For the local agricultural industry, soil health and fertility is the economic foundation for local food production. Many of Hawai'i's farmers already practice farming techniques that strengthen the land and environment.

This task force will identify benchmarks and best practices for carbon sequestration, which helps fight climate change and rising seas levels, a major threat to island economies. Once identified, best practice knowledge will spread and be adopted more easily by our local farmers and ranchers. Ultimately, once best practice techniques are quantified and measured, this can lead to certifications and financial incentives to further push our local farmers and ranchers to adopt more environmentally friendly practices while helping their fiscal profitability. Our local farmers and ranchers are positive stewards of the land and are

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



our first line of defense for protecting and managing the agricultural lands in our islands.

We believe that by collaborating, we can help produce more local food and support an economically robust homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food. As Hawai'i's energy issues become more complex and challenging, we appreciate these committees' efforts to look at policies that support renewable energy production.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta
General Partner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 8:40 PM
To: ETT Testimony
Cc: doorae@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM*

HB1578

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for ETT/AEN on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
doorae shin	Kokua Hawaii Foundation	Support	Yes

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 6:16 AM
To: ETT Testimony
Cc: rob@browerhomes.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM

HB1578

Submitted on: 3/15/2017

Testimony for ETT/AEN on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
robert brower	surfrider foundation kauai	Support	No

Comments: Surfrider Foundation Kauai strongly supports this bill. It is a first step towards awareness, and a proactive approach, in addressing one of the most important environmental issues of our time.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 3:57 PM
To: ETT Testimony
Cc: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM

HB1578

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for ETT/AEN on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Hawaii Island School Garden Network	Comments Only	No

Comments: Carbon Farming is a reality in today's world. Our farmers could be improving and preserving soil fertility while assisting Hawaii with it's climate change goals and receiving an incentive for doing so. Agriculture as a whole must move toward agroecology as soon as possible. 2 recommendations: One that at least 3 farmers be included in the task force instead of one, and Two that the task force deliver their recommendations to the Legislature 20 days before the start of the 2018 Session.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 8:45 PM
To: ETT Testimony
Cc: iambullet@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM*

HB1578

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for ETT/AEN on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
josh stumpf	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 8:45 PM
To: ETT Testimony
Cc: Dwamoto@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM

HB1578

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for ETT/AEN on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: I fully support this bill and urge you to do the same. Responsible farming is one of the best natural processes that sequester carbon. Climate change is real and we need to move toward responsible emission practices and tracking of green house gasses.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 8:43 PM
To: ETT Testimony
Cc: mckeague.mark@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM*

HB1578

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for ETT/AEN on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark McKeague	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 8:42 PM
To: ETT Testimony
Cc: maileedwards16@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM*

HB1578

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for ETT/AEN on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maile Edwards	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 8:40 PM
To: ETT Testimony
Cc: scoleman@surfrider.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM*

HB1578

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for ETT/AEN on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stuart Coleman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 4:44 PM
To: ETT Testimony
Cc: anthony_orozco@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM

HB1578

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for ETT/AEN on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anthony Orozco	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Senate bill 1578 is a scam! Stop stealing my tax dollars for the "sky is falling" junk about "global warming". Stop ripping off businesses and consumers with this "global warming" fraud. In this post CLIMATEGATE era, isn't it time to move on already.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 2:51 PM
To: ETT Testimony
Cc: freundtheresa@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM

HB1578

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for ETT/AEN on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Theresa Freund	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Chair and Members of the Committee, My name is Theresa Freund and I live in Nuuanu. I am writing to urge your strong support of HB 1578. This bill would allow local farmers to benefit from additional subsidies and support to grow local agriculture, create jobs, and diversify our economy. Agricultural land management practices that sequester carbon could provide greenhouse gas benefits, enhance the sustainability of Hawaii's agricultural lands, decrease sedimentation of the marine environment, improve the climate resistance of Hawaii's agricultural sector, and create new opportunities for local farmers. Thank you kindly for considering my testimony in strong support of the measure.

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: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 1:49 PM
To: ETT Testimony
Cc: milholen.jennifer@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM

HB1578

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for ETT/AEN on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: If Hawaii is serious in any way about becoming food secure and self sufficient, while preparing for climate change mitigation, it has to pursue strategies like carbon farming and soil regeneration. A task force is the first step in identifying feasible strategies and action plans. Please support this measure.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 12:52 PM
To: ETT Testimony
Cc: sylviacabralmaui@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM

HB1578

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for ETT/AEN on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sylvia cabral	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Why do you need a taskforce to figure out farming?. Oh if i was eloquent i'd be dangerous. Just go to UH and have one of the many kumus and Ag teachers show you how to farm.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 12:39 PM
To: ETT Testimony
Cc: tboh18@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM

HB1578

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for ETT/AEN on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support to promote better farming practices and less climate change!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 2:45 PM
To: ETT Testimony
Cc: redahi@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM

HB1578

Submitted on: 3/15/2017

Testimony for ETT/AEN on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this important bill.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 2:47 PM
To: ETT Testimony
Cc: marilynmick@pobox.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM*

HB1578

Submitted on: 3/15/2017

Testimony for ETT/AEN on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marilyn Mick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 7:41 AM
To: ETT Testimony
Cc: angkpix@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM*

HB1578

Submitted on: 3/16/2017

Testimony for ETT/AEN on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 11:22 PM
To: ETT Testimony
Cc: yappygrl1@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM*

HB1578

Submitted on: 3/15/2017

Testimony for ETT/AEN on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandra Fujita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 9:55 PM
To: ETT Testimony
Cc: treasurer@oahu.surfrider.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM

HB1578

Submitted on: 3/15/2017

Testimony for ETT/AEN on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Oahu Treasurer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I vote in Support of this bill!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 9:15 PM
To: ETT Testimony
Cc: mindyolvera@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM*

HB1578

Submitted on: 3/15/2017

Testimony for ETT/AEN on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments:

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Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 7:32 PM
To: ETT Testimony
Cc: burgharc@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM

HB1578

Submitted on: 3/15/2017

Testimony for ETT/AEN on Mar 17, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: How awesome to be able to provide incentives to people who want to do the right thing and help us with sustainable living. Thanks for considering.

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3/16/17

ETTtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Taniguchi, 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 cut funding and even 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

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