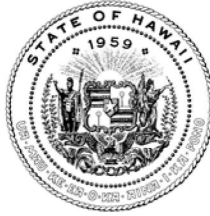


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



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DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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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 795  
RELATING TO CARBON FORESTRY CERTIFICATION

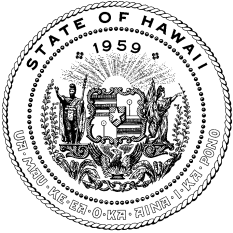
House Bill 795 proposes to appropriate funds for the certification of a carbon reforestation project at Haleakala, Maui, operated by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department), under an established forest carbon standard certification system. **The Department supports this measure and provides the following comments.**

The Department is responsible for managing, protecting, and if necessary restoring nearly 1.3 million acres of state lands, beaches, and coastal waters. The ecosystems inhabiting these areas provide a variety of functions indispensable for the wellbeing of Hawaii's communities and economy such as water replenishment and purification, carbon storage, soil protection, genetic resources inherent in its unique flora and fauna, and stunning aesthetics. Particularly in an economy highly dependent on tourism, these functions can hardly be overstated and further acknowledged in the State of Hawaii's Aloha+ Challenge and Sustainable Hawaii Initiative. However, to date the monetary valuation of those functions remains limited, and programs providing the opportunity for private entities to take on environmental responsibility through voluntary payments are almost non-existent in Hawaii. Such payments could considerably increase the Department's capacity to restore and maintain the critical ecosystem functions provided by the land and water areas under its jurisdiction.

The Department's ongoing reforestation project of degraded pasture land on the southern slopes of Haleakala, Maui will restore a variety of ecosystem functions including the additional storage of an estimated 94,000 metric tons of carbon. Carbon storage is an ecosystem function for which both compliance and voluntary markets already exist. Based on current market developments, the initial investment suggested in House Bill 795 is projected to produce a return that could not only

recoup the investment but contribute funding to the restoration and maintenance efforts of the project. Further, once the Department achieves accreditation of an established forest carbon standard, some costs for the certification of future carbon forest projects operated by the Department do not accrue again resulting in a return of the initial investment suggested in House Bill 795 beyond the pilot forest carbon project of House Bill 795. Recent scientific estimates by the U.S. Geological Survey suggest that an additional four million metric tons of carbon could be stored by the reforestation of current grass and shrublands under the jurisdiction of the Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



# OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH | 235 South Beretania Street, Suite 702, Honolulu, HI 96813 | oeqchawaii@doh.hawaii.gov

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

SCOTT GLENN  
DIRECTOR

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Testimony of  
**SCOTT GLENN, Director**

before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

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

in SUPPORT of  
**HOUSE BILL 795**  
**RELATING TO CARBON FORESTRY CERTIFICATION**

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and Members of the House Committee on Water and Land,

The Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) administers Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 343, Environmental Impact Statements (EIS). The purpose of the EIS law is to "establish a system of environmental review which ensures that environmental concerns are given appropriate consideration in decision making along with economic and technical considerations" (HRS §343-1). Additionally, the OEQC serves "the Governor in an advisory capacity on all matters relating to environmental quality control," as directed in HRS §341-3.

House Bill 795 proposes to appropriate funds for certification of a reforestation carbon project at Haleakalā, Maui, operated by Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), under an established forest carbon standard certification system. It also proposes to require DLNR to submit an annual report on the project certification to the governor and legislature.

The OEQC is currently collaborating with DLNR on the establishment of carbon reforestation accreditation for state lands. We believe that there are revenue opportunities available to DLNR that support and enhance DLNR's ability to execute its mission to steward our public trust resources. The Haleakalā project is an opportunity to test this approach.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



The Nature Conservancy  
Hawai'i Program  
923 Nu'uuanu Avenue  
Honolulu, HI 96817

Tel(808) 537-4508  
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Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Supporting H.B. 795 Relating to Carbon Forestry Certification  
House Committee on Water and Land  
Friday, February 10, 2017, 9:00AM, Room 325

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*The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which life depends. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. We manage 40,000 acres in 14 preserves and work in 19 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs and waters of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnerships with government, private parties and communities to protect Hawai'i's important watershed forests and coral reefs.*

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The Nature Conservancy supports H.B. 795 to provide funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to establish a certified forest carbon sequestration project on Maui.

Climate change caused by burning fossil fuels is an imminent and unprecedented threat to every person in Hawai'i. It is our responsibility to do what we can and what is necessary reduce our own carbon emissions, however small on a global scale, to contribute to the worldwide effort needed to mitigate the growing effects of climate change. Healthy and diverse Hawaiian forests act like a sponge, collecting rain and moisture from passing clouds, slowly delivering fresh water into streams and aquifers, and reducing runoff and siltation into near shore waters during storm events. Forests also play an essential role in regulating atmospheric levels of greenhouse gases, and we believe that reforestation with native species can meaningfully contribute to our collective strategies and goals for watershed management and reducing carbon emissions.

At The Nature Conservancy, we have spent the last few years evaluating the potential for a carbon project on Hawai'i island, including reforestation and appropriate certification for carbon sequestration and other ecosystem service benefits like native species protection and water capture. As part of our research, we considered various offset project registries, including Climate Action Reserve, American Carbon Registry, and the Gold Standard. TNC has chosen to work with Climate Action Reserve ("CAR") for any future forest carbon sequestration project because its rigorous protocols have a 100-year permanence requirement, it requires the project to use native forest species, and the forest protocols included in the California compliance cap-and-trade offset market are based on CAR standards.

We think the opportunity for The Nature Conservancy and DLNR to share lessons learned from each of our projects will strengthen the overall results of our collective work and mutual conservation goals, as well as create the best chance for developing a viable model for both public and private landowners.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill. We are excited by the possibilities.

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## kong2 - Crystal

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 7:12 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB795 on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM\*

### **HB795**

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

### Comments:

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**Sent:** Wednesday, February 8, 2017 5:44 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** todd@kamanucomposites.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB795 on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM

**HB795**

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Todd Volney Strand	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support the passing of this bill. Let-freedom-ring!

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