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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 Senate Committees on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
and
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Wednesday, March 14, 2018
1:15 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2219, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

House Bill 2219, House Draft 1 proposes to make eligible for membership on a county arborist advisory committee, certified arborists, horticulturists with specialization in trees, and persons who have received a master's degree in botany. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources supports this measure.**

The intent of this measure is to expand the qualifications for eligible members on the county arborist advisory committees. The current restriction of membership to landscape architects has made it difficult for some counties to have an active committee. In particular, the proposed addition of certified arborists and horticulturists will provide the county committees with other important skill sets and expertise essential for managing our urban forests.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HB-2219-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2018 11:53:10 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rene Siracusa	Testifying for Malama O Puna	Support	No

Comments:

This bill to amend the Exceptional Tree Ordinance HRS 58-2 is simply a housekeeping measure, to help the Counties be in compliance without changing the intent of the ordinance. Therefore I do not understand why the effective date is set 27 years in the future to Jan. 28, 2045 "to encourage further discussions". Why do we need 27 years to discuss a simple housekeeping measure that, if anything, enhances the ordinance?

So I support this bill but not the effective date, which I think is totally unreasonable. On the Big Island we have already waited 9 years to have an Arborist Advisory Committee and have clearly seen the damage wrought by that delay. Please pass this effective immediately. Mahalo,

Rene Siracusa, President



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March 12, 2018

Cheryl Langton
Branch Representative
Josie Bidgood, Advisor
Development Chair
Diane Harding, Advisor
C. Kauai Lucas, Advisor
Nominating Committee
Chair

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2219 (Arborist Advisory Committee)

Dear Committee Members,

Directors:
Michael Moskowitz
Elizabeth O'Sullivan
Eric Hansen

The Outdoor Circle strongly supports HB2219 for passage.

The current situation in some neighbor islands is that there are no available landscape architects willing or able to serve on the County Arborist Advisory Committees.

BRANCHES

Hawai'i
East Hawaii Island
Kona
Waimea
Waikoloa Village

This has led to an inability to carry out the Exceptional Trees State Law on Hawaii Island for almost a decade, resulting in zero new additional nominations to the State Exceptional Tree list. In addition, the arborist advisory committees provide valuable guidance to county and state staff about planting and maintenance of trees and related matters. Given the increasing importance of trees in our environment from any number of factors, including aesthetic, economic, cultural, environmental, and other reasons, not the least of which is importance of maintaining Hawaii's natural beauty as our economic base, it is vital that the component of addressing tree issues via this committee not be inhibited any longer by lack of one specific job title. There are certified arborists, horticulturalists and botanists who can very well fit in to this position with specializations and expertise in trees and would do well in an expanded list of qualifications for eligibility to sit on the committees in each county.

O'ahu

Lani-Kailua
Kane'ohe
North Shore
East Honolulu
Mānoa
Waikiki

This is not a major change to the law, but will allow the intent of the law to be carried out, and as such, The Outdoor Circle fully supports this legislation.

Kaua'i

Thank you for your consideration,

STAFF

Winston Welch Executive
Director
Jacqueline Wah
Operations Director
Myles Ritchie
Programs Director

Winston Welch
Executive Director

Helping to keep Hawai'i
clean, green, and beautiful
since 1912

HB-2219-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 6:04:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lowana Richardson	Testifying for East Hawaii Outdoor Circle	Support	No

Comments:

March 12, 2018

Dear Committee Members,

The East Hawaii Outdoor Circle emphatically supports HB2219 for passage.

The Big Island has been without a County Arborist Advisory Committee for almost ten years. The reason given is that they have been unable to find a Landscape Architect and qualified persons to staff the committee.

With the implementation of HB2219 and the broadening of qualifications we will have an expansion of the candidate pool for membership on the County Arborist Advisory Committee, by including, in addition to persons actively employed in landscape architecture, certified arborists, horticulturalists with specialization in trees, and persons who have received a master's degree in botany.

Without changing the intent of the law, this slight change will assist all islands in having a greater chance in finding viable candidates to carry out the Exceptional Tree State Law.

Thank you for considering HB2219.

Lowana Richardson, Vice President

East Hawaii Outdoor Circle

HB-2219-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 11:22:29 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:



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Development Chair

Diane Harding, Advisor

C. Kauai Lucas, Advisor
Nominating Committee
Chair

Directors:

Michael Moskowitz

Elizabeth O'Sullivan

John-Carl Watson

BRANCHES

Hawai'i

Waimea

Waikoloa Village

O'ahu

Lani-Kailua

Kane'ohe

North Shore

East Honolulu

Mānoa

Waikiki

Kaua'i

STAFF

Winston Welch
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Myles Ritchie
Programs Director

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March 13, 2018

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2219 (Arborist Advisory Committee)

Dear Committee Members,

Having worked on the statewide Exceptional Tree program as an employee of The Outdoor Circle for the past four years, I strongly support HB 2219 for passage.

The current requirement for specific positions on a county's Arborist Advisory Committee has created a void where such committees cannot be formed in certain situations. Currently, this is being seen on the Big Island where a landscape architect cannot be found to sit on this volunteer committee. As a result, this county cannot add the numerous trees that qualify as Exceptional Trees candidates and thus threaten such vital specimens and the numerous environmental, monetary and cultural benefits they provide to society.

There are numerous qualified individuals from various fields of expertise (arborists, horticulturalists, botanists, etc.) that would be able to fill this void and provide meaningful contributions to such a committee. As such, the requirements regarding the composition of the Arborist Advisory Committee should be modified to reflect this.

By passing this bill, the Exceptional Tree program will be able to function as it was intended and in doing so, will protect and preserve these magnificent specimens for generations to come.

As such, I fully support this bill and hope that it will pass so that members of our society can continue to enjoy these trees and the many benefits they provide for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Myles Ritchie
Programs Director

HB-2219-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 5:17:08 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Beverly M. Deal	Testifying for East Hawaii Outdoor Circle	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support bill HB2219 as a board member of East Hawaii Outdoor Circle, a branch of the main organization on Oahu. Every island but the Big Island of Hawai'i has an active Arborist Advisory Committee. We need to reinstate this committee after ten years of being without. In order to maintain the beauty of Hawai'i and to preserve and maintain exceptional trees and to be in compliance with the law as are the other islands, it is essential that we pass this legislation .

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration.

Beverly M. Deal

HB-2219-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 10:31:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
stone willow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

I live on the island of Hawaii. We are in desperate need to get the Arborist Advisory Committee up and running. Many of our beautiful trees are being needlessly cut down and those who are in need of proper maintenance are being neglected, thereby jeopardizing their well being and ultimately their existence.

Not since Mayor Harry Kim's first stint as mayor has our island had a functional Arborist Advisory Committee. It's been too long. Currently, the AAC requires a landscape architect to serve. For whatever reason, it seems difficult to find persons with this title to nominate or serve on the AAC. The bill would allow for the position to be filled with other qualified individuals who are not landscape architects.

Please pass this bill so that the state's outer islands can more easily fill the positions in Arborist Advisory Committees, which are extremely valuable to maintaining our natural beauty which also benefits our state economically and environmentally.

Mahalo for your time and consideration to this important matter,

Stone Willow

Honolulu, Hawaii