

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**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 Committees on
WATER & LAND
and
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Wednesday, February 14, 2018
10:45 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2595
RELATING TO WATERSHEDS**

House Bill 2595 proposes to appropriate moneys to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) for improvements, repairs, and maintenance of watersheds throughout the State. **The Department supports this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

The Department's supplemental budget request for Fiscal Year 19 (House Bill 1900/Senate Bill 2065) includes requests for the work identified in this bill as well as other priority watershed projects across the State. Funding for watershed protection and management projects is appreciated, and necessary for sustaining the islands' fresh water supplies.

Projects identified in this bill are detailed below:

Pāku'i (Moloka'i)

- The objective of this project is to protect and preserve high quality native watershed forest in an effort to safeguard the Molokai drinking water supply.
- This forested watershed is the primary source of fresh water for the 'Ualapu'e aquifer, which supplies water to East Moloka'i residents.

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

ROBERT K. MASUDA
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

Central Opae‘ula (O‘ahu)

- The objective of this project is to protect and preserve high quality native watershed forest on Oahu’s north shore.
- Plans call for protection of a 1,230 acre unit.

Waiawa (O‘ahu)

- The proposed project is a joint collaboration between the State Division of Forestry and Wildlife, and the Ko'olau Mountains Watershed Partnership to protect 1,400 acres of intact native forest. This project will preserve the watershed's function as an important area for ground water recharge, supplying drinking water to Oahu’s urban core.

Keauhou, Ka‘ū (Hawai‘i)

- Part of a landscape-scale watershed protection and koa reforestation project in Ka‘ū.

The Watershed Partnership Program was established to help land owners manage lands critical for recharging Hawaii’s supply of fresh water and protecting our native biodiversity. Additional funding to support the work of the watershed partnerships is core to the State’s mandate to protect public trust water resources. The Kaua‘i Watershed Alliance, and East Moloka‘i Watershed Partnership, are part of a network of ten watershed partnerships in the State. These groups are voluntary alliances of public and private landowners committed to the common value of protecting Hawaii’s forested watersheds. The Department strongly supports funding directed at management activities in watershed partnerships. Ongoing support is critical to preserving native forest and watershed areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



Water has no substitute.....Conserve it

Testimony of the County of Kaua'i, Department of Water
Supporting HB 2595 Relating to Watersheds
House Committee on Water & Land
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Wednesday, February 14, 2018, 10:45AM, Room 325

The County of Kaua'i, Department of Water supports HB 2595 appropriating funding for the Department of Land and Natural Resources for watershed management across the state, including the construction of protective fences and management of invasive animals and plants at the locations specifically noted in the bill. We support the full operational and capital requests in the DLNR's FY19 supplemental budget requests for the forest and watershed programs within the Division of Forests and Wildlife (DOFAW).

As a key member of Kaua'i Watershed Alliance (KWA), we have a vested interest in the protection and conservation of our mauka native forested watersheds and have been dedicated to these actions since 2003. The KWA has already fenced and removed feral ungulates from 7,000 acres and work in 15,000 acres controlling invasive weeds up in the Priority Watersheds on both State and Private lands.

In addition, we call the Committees' attention and offer support for the following proposed protective fence projects on the islands of Kaua'i and Moloka'i that are in the DLNR-DOFAW budget request, but not mentioned in HB 2595:

1. Koai'e and Drinking Glass fences on Kaua'i: These areas are located within the Alaka'i Wilderness Preserve in the heart of the island's forest watershed that is the primary source of fresh water.
2. Pāku'i fence on Moloka'i: This forest area is the primary source of fresh water for the 'Ualapu'e aquifer, which supplies water to East Moloka'i residents.

Hawai'i's native forests are irreplaceable biological and cultural assets and the islands' primary source of water. Healthy Hawaiian forests that are not overrun by invasive species act like a sponge, collecting rain and moisture and delivering fresh water into streams and aquifers, absorbing greenhouse gases, and reducing runoff and siltation into near shore waters during storm events. We appreciate the bill's and the Legislature's recognition of these important natural assets that support the globally unique environment and culture of Hawai'i, as well as providing abundant natural benefits to Hawai'i's residents, visitors and economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our support for this bill and watershed protection and management in Hawai'i.

Sincerely,


Bryan Wienand, P.E.
Deputy Manager-Engineer

HB-2595

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 6:14:43 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2018 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shyla Moon		Support	No

Comments:

HB-2595

Submitted on: 2/9/2018 4:40:20 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2018 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Ho`omana Pono, LLC	Support	Yes

Comments:

HB-2595

Submitted on: 2/9/2018 4:17:07 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2018 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee (HPAC)	Support	Yes

Comments:

We STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill, especially for our interests in Ka`u for our native Hawaiian community that resides on Hawaiian Home Lands.

HB-2595

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 11:02:49 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2018 10:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting HB 2595 Relating to Watersheds
House Committee on Water & Land
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Wednesday, February 14, 2018, 10:45AM, Room 325

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 more 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.

The Nature Conservancy supports HB 2595 appropriating funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) for watershed management at several locations across the state, including the construction of protective fences and management of invasive animals and plants. **We support the full operational and capital requests in the DLNR's proposed FY19 supplemental budget for the forest and watershed programs within the Division of Forests and Wildlife (DOFAW).**

We call the Committees' attention and offer support for the proposed protective fence project on the island of Moloka'i that is in the DLNR-DOFAW budget request and mentioned in HB 2595:

- Pāku'i fence on Moloka'i through upper Pua'ahala, Ka'amola, Keawa Nui, West 'Ōhi'a, East 'Ōhi'a, Manawai, Kahananui, 'Ualapu'e, and Kalua'aha. This forest area is the primary source of fresh water for the 'Ualapu'e aquifer, which supplies water to East Moloka'i residents. *(additional information attached)*

In addition, we call the Committees' attention and offer support for the proposed protective fence projects on the island of Kaua'i that are in the DLNR-DOFAW budget request, but not mentioned in HB 2595:

- Koai'e, Drinking Glass and East Alaka'i fences on Kaua'i: These areas are located within the Alaka'i Wilderness Preserve in the heart of the island's forest watershed that is the primary source of fresh water. *(additional information attached)*

Hawai'i's native forests are irreplaceable biological and cultural assets and the islands' primary source of water. Healthy Hawaiian forests that are not overrun by invasive species act like a sponge, collecting rain and moisture and delivering fresh water into streams and aquifers, absorbing greenhouse gases, and reducing runoff and siltation into near shore waters during storm events. We appreciate the bill's and the Legislature's recognition of these important natural assets that support the globally unique environment and culture of Hawai'i, as well as providing abundant natural benefits to Hawai'i's residents, visitors and economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our support for this bill and watershed protection and management in Hawai'i.

Attachments

PĀKU'I WATERSHED PROTECTION - MOLOKA'I



From left to right: View from the Pāku'i project area looking south to the adjacent fringing reef and Keawa Nui fishpond. Proposed endangered *Schiedea diffusa* subsp. *diffusa* was recently discovered in Pāku'i. An aerial view of Pua'ahala - the western most ahupua'a in the Pāku'i project.

SUMMARY

Pāku'i forests are among the last, best unprotected forests on the island of Moloka'i. These forests are the primary source of fresh water for the 'Ualapu'e aquifer, which supplies water to East Moloka'i residents. The main objective of this project is to protect and preserve irreplaceable watershed forest in an effort to safeguard the drinking water supply of the island.

This project is part of the FY19 - "Watershed Protection & Initiatives, Statewide" lump sum CIP request.

This project is part of a regional watershed plan, which can be viewed at: goo.gl/8wEyNr

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Hawaii's forested watersheds are essential for our way of life. We rely on our forests for the air we breathe, the water we drink, the health of our reefs, the wood for our canoes, the flowers in our lei, the beauty of our islands, a home for our 'aumakua, and our hope against climate change. But due to invasive plants, animals, and disease Hawaii's watersheds are under threat. Today over half of Hawaii's original forests have been lost.

Preventing the loss of more native forest requires a toolbox of management practices. These include removing invasive weeds, controlling ungulates (hooved animals such as pigs, goats, deer), planting native forest species, monitoring forest health, constructing fire breaks, acquiring new land for hunters and hikers, and building protective fences.

This project focuses on the first step of long-term watershed protection - fencing. Fences are the best way to protect watershed forests by eliminating the damage from pigs, goats and deer. Left unchecked, these animals will significantly degrade the native ecosystem through browsing, digging and rooting. This creates bare ground and openings for invasive plants to grow. The longer the forest is left unprotected, the costlier and more difficult it will be to restore.

The 5.5 mile fence will be made from highly durable galvanized steel panels, with an estimated lifetime of over 35 years. Step overs and gates will be installed to allow continued access into the fenced area at all times. For a video clip of the Pakui Project visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uTM5MYCAGnw>

EXPECTED BENEFITS

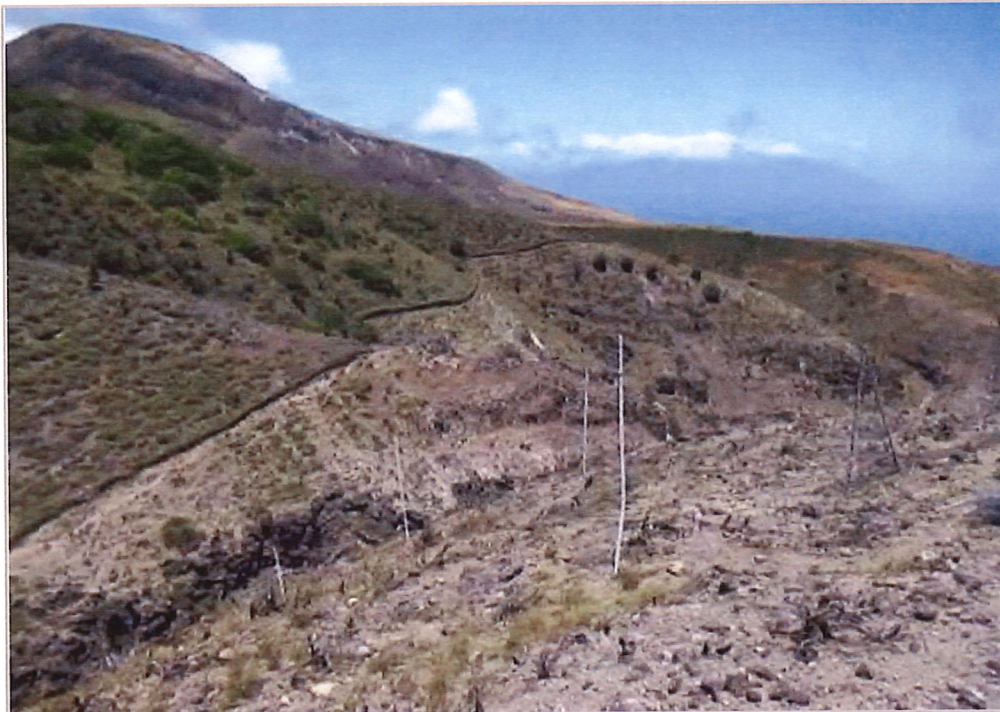
- Protect 2,080 acres of native Moloka'i watershed forest.
- Prevent the loss of rare and endangered species found nowhere else in the world.
- Improve fishpond and reef health on the South Slope by reducing soil erosion.
- Protect an estimated 3 million gallons of water per day of water recharge and preserve Moloka'i's water supply.
- Preserve cultural practices and sites in the wao akua - our native forests.





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In adjacent protected areas, the forest is recovering dramatically.

DOFAW PROGRAM PRIORITIES



Water



Fire & Forest Health



Native Ecosystems



Forestry



Recreation

PROJECT SUPPORTERS

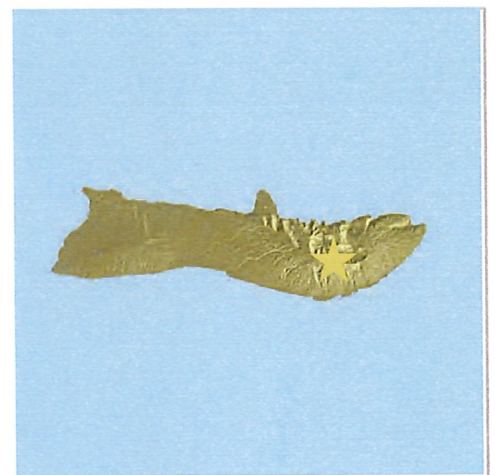
Pāku'i is a community-led project. Over the course of 3 years, input was gathered from residents, landowners, hunters, fishermen, 'Aha Kiole 'o Moloka'i, and scientists. Support for the project was created through:

- Formation of Mana'e Mauka Working Group
 - Community site visits and meetings
- Community input resulted in:
- Traditional & Customary Practices Report for Mana'e, Moloka'i
 - Pāku'i Cultural Impact Assessment
 - Final Environmental Assessment (EA) that resulted in a finding of no significant impact

NEED FOR PROJECT

Just 15% of Moloka'i's native Hawaiian ecosystems remain. The proposed Pāku'i fence will protect 2,080 acres of native forest on Moloka'i.

Forest watershed protection is one of the most cost effective ways to preserve fresh water supplies. Economists and scientists have documented that when forests are damaged, costs rise significantly to provide water and repair damage from erosion on coral reefs. Hotter and drier conditions from climate change and loss of forests are threatening Hawaii's water supplies.



House District: 13: Rep. Lynn DeCoite

Senate District: 7: Sen. Kalani J. English

BUDGET

TOTAL BUDGET: \$1,180,998

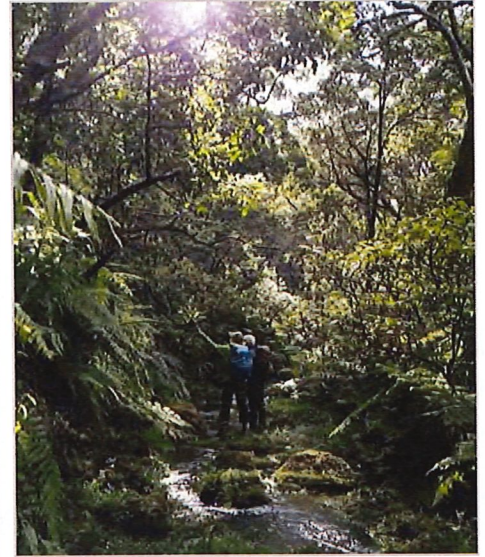
NON-STATE CONTRIBUTORS TO WATERSHED PROTECTION IN EAST MOLOKA'I:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (for acquisition of land at Pua'ahala): \$2.5M
County of Maui, Department of Water Supply: \$250,000 FY18

CONTACT PERSON

Katie Erbak
Watershed Partnerships Program Planner
Katie.C.Ersbak@hawaii.gov
(808) 587-4189

DRINKING GLASS & KOAI'E WATERSHED PROTECTION - KAUA'I



From left to right: The Drinking Glass and Koai'e project, located in the Alaka'i Wilderness Preserve, will protect some of the best intact native forest on Kaua'i (Photo: Christian Kahahawai). This forest is also home to threatened plants and animals, including the recently listed 'I'iwi.

SUMMARY

The project is located within the Alaka'i Wilderness Preserve in the heart of Kaua'i and one of the rainiest places on Earth. The main objective of this project is to protect and preserve irreplaceable watershed forest, as well as the rare and endangered plants and wildlife it supports in an effort to safeguard the drinking water supply.

This project is part of the FY19 - "Watershed Protection & Initiatives, Statewide" lump sum CIP request.

This project is part of a regional watershed plan, which can be viewed at: goo.gl/8wEyNr

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Hawaii's forested watersheds are essential for our way of life. We rely on our forests for the air we breathe, the water we drink, the health of our reefs, the wood for our canoes, the flowers in our lei, the beauty of our islands, a home for our 'aumakua, and our hope against climate change. But due to invasive plants, animals, and disease Hawaii's watersheds are under threat. Today over half of Hawaii's original forests have been lost.

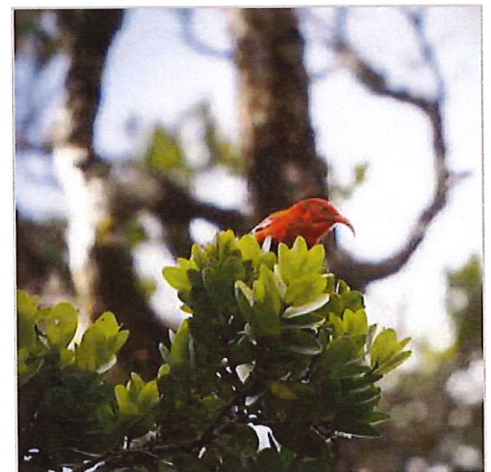
To prevent the loss of more native forest requires a toolbox of management practices. These include removing invasive weeds, controlling ungulates (hooved animals such as pigs, goats, deer), planting native forest species, monitoring forest health, constructing fire breaks, acquiring new land for hunters and hikers, and building protective fences.

This project focuses on the first step of long-term watershed protection - fencing. Fences are the best way to protect watershed forests by eliminating the damage from pigs, goats and black-tailed deer currently found in the area. Left unchecked, these animals will significantly degrade the native ecosystem through browsing, digging and rooting. This creates bare ground and openings for invasive plants to grow. The longer the forest is left unprotected, the costlier and more difficult it will be to restore.

The 5.5 mile fence will be 8 feet high and constructed with corrosion resistant fence materials and deer mesh. Step-overs and gates will be built at strategic places to allow public access into the management unit at all times.

EXPECTED BENEFITS

- Preserve 1,877 acres of priority watershed.
- Protect an estimated 10 million gallons of water per day of water recharge and safeguard drinking water supplies for the entire population of Kaua'i.
- Reduce erosion that muddies Kaua'i streams, beaches and reefs.
- Protect source that contributes to water flow into the Waimea River and the perpetuation of traditional practices downstream.
- Ensure the survival of rare plants and animals found only on Kaua'i.





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The Alaka'i plateau's forest is the source of Kaua'i's freshwater.

DOFAW PROGRAM PRIORITIES



Water



Fire & Forest Health



Native Ecosystems



Forestry



Recreation

PROJECT SUPPORTERS

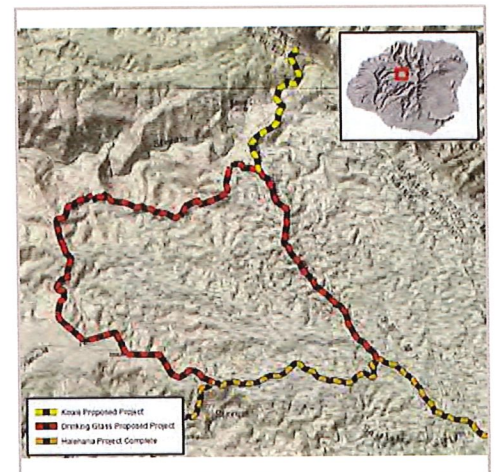
The Drinking Glass and Koai'e project is part of a larger comprehensive watershed management plan to protect the source of Kaua'i's freshwater. Partners and supporters include:

- State of Hawai'i, Department of Land & Natural Resources
- Kaua'i Watershed Alliance, which includes 11 landowners
- The Nature Conservancy
- Garden Island Resource Conservation & Development
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service

NEED FOR PROJECT

This major water source for Kaua'i is being threatened by invasive weeds and introduced hooved animals. These threats are also causing the extinction of rare plants and animals.

The fence will connect to two existing fences - the East Alaka'i summit fence and the Halehāhā fence. By doing so, protection of this key watershed area will be increased to 8,838 acres and approximately 10 million gallons of fresh drinking water per day will be protected.



House District: 16: Rep. Dee Morikawa

Senate District: 8: Sen. Ronald Kouchi

BUDGET

TOTAL BUDGET: Drinking Glass (4.6 mi) = \$1,200,000 and Koai'e (0.9 mi) = \$300,000

NON-STATE CONTRIBUTORS TO WATERSHED PROTECTION IN THE ALAKA'I PLATEAU:

Kaua'i County, Department of Water Supply: \$100,000/year

U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service: \$447,130 (FY18-20)

CONTACT PERSON

Emma Yuen

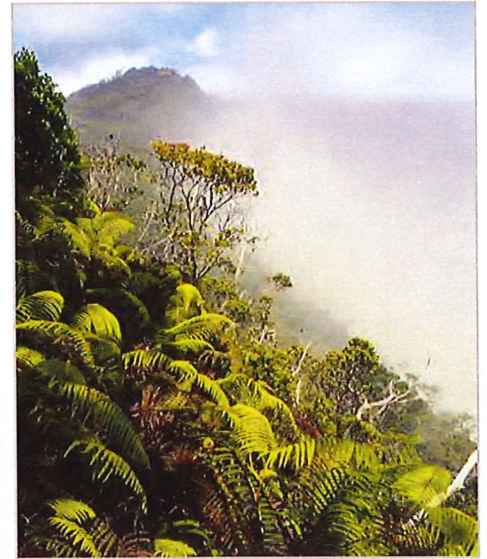
Native Ecosystems Program Manager

Division of Forestry and Wildlife, DLNR

Emma.Yuen@hawaii.gov

(808) 587-4170

EAST ALAKA'I SUMMIT FENCE RETROFIT - KAUA'I



From left to right: The existing East Alaka'i summit fence is located in the Alaka'i plateau - the highest and wettest spot on the island of Kaua'i. The forest is dominated by native shrubs, ferns, and trees including 'ōhi'a that are critical to the capture of rainfall.

SUMMARY

The East Alaka'i summit fence was completed in 2011 and protects approximately 2,000 acres of watershed forest. It is 4.5 miles long and crosses both State and private land. The unit is currently pig-free. However, since the completion of the fence, black-tailed deer have moved from lower elevation areas into the edges of this unit. Deer are able to jump over the existing fence. Because of this, it is necessary to retrofit portions of the fence with an additional 3 feet of deer mesh.

This project is part of the FY19 - "Watershed Protection & Initiatives, Statewide" lump sum CIP request. This project is part of a regional watershed plan, which can be viewed at: goo.gl/8wEyNr

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

At the heart of the island, the East Alaka'i summit fence protects and preserves the greatest and most influential watershed on Kaua'i. Freshwater from rain, mist and fog drip, flows into rivers and streams in all directions. Water moves eastward to the Wailua and Hanalei rivers, north to the Wainiha and Lumaha'i rivers and west joining with the Makaweli and Waimea rivers.

The threat of black-tailed deer moving into this area requires the addition of 3 foot deer mesh, installed on top of the existing 5 foot hog wire fence. The retrofit will help protect the area from both pigs and deer. Deer mesh will be installed along sections of the fence in key ingress areas. By doing so, deer (not people) will be excluded from the unit, allowing the native forest to thrive.

In adjacent protected areas, the forest is recovering dramatically. Ferns, mosses, shrubs, and trees are covering previously barren areas. Staff and volunteers are removing invasive weeds. Rare species are being planted and predators are being removed to aid in the recovery of endangered birds, including the extremely rare Puaiohi, Akeke'e, and Akikiki. Enhancing protection in these key areas through fence retrofits will add to the restoration of these life-giving forests.

EXPECTED BENEFITS

- Enhance protection of 2,000 acres of important watershed forest on Kaua'i.
- Further secure this source of drinking water for the residents and visitors of the island by excluding black-tailed deer.
- Protect the headwaters of the major rivers on Kaua'i, including Wainiha, Hanalei and Wailua.





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The East Alaka'i fence retrofit will protect riparian vegetation and the streams that are the headwaters for many of the major rivers on Kaua'i.

DOFAW PROGRAM PRIORITIES



Water



Fire & Forest Health



Native Ecosystems



Forestry



Recreation

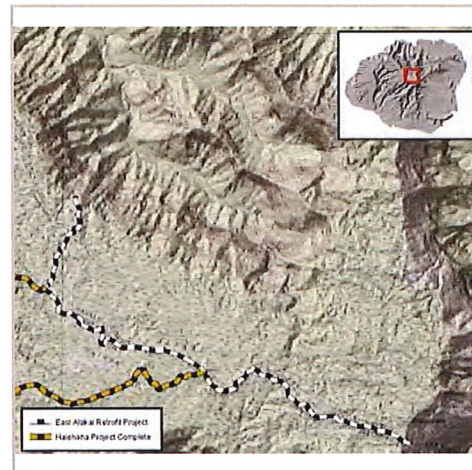
PROJECT SUPPORTERS

The East Alaka'i summit fence retrofit is part of a larger comprehensive watershed management plan to protect the source of Kaua'i's freshwater. Partners and supporters include:

- State of Hawai'i, Department of Land and Natural Resources
- Kaua'i Watershed Alliance, which includes 11 landowners
- The Nature Conservancy
- Garden Island Resource Conservation & Development
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service

NEED FOR PROJECT

Hawaii's native forests are exceptionally equipped to maximize the capture and storage of rainfall and moisture. Unfortunately, ungulates such as pigs and deer, pose a significant threat to watershed integrity of Hawaiian forests by browsing, digging and rooting, allowing invasive plants and weeds to grow. The newly completed Halehāhā fence is deer-proof and is located adjacent to the East Alaka'i summit fence. By retrofitting the East Alaka'i summit fence, protection in this area will be significantly enhanced.



House District: 16: Rep. Dee Morikawa

Senate District: 8: Sen. Ronald Kouchi

BUDGET

TOTAL BUDGET: \$350,000

NON-STATE CONTRIBUTORS TO WATERSHED PROTECTION IN THE ALAKA'I PLATEAU:

Kaua'i County, Department of Water Supply: \$100,000/year

U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service: \$447,130 (FY18-20)

CONTACT PERSON

Katie Erbak

Watershed Partnerships Program Planner

Katie.C.Ersbak@hawaii.gov

(808) 587-4189

HB-2595

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 1:57:17 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2018 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support 2595 which provides funding for the Department of Land and Natural Resources for watershed management, CIP fencing work, and invasive species prevention, control, research, and education programs and activities.

Wai, or water, flows from healthy watersheds. This funding will ensure healthy watersheds and wealth for our communities.

Springer Kaye
23 E. Kawili St.
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(808) 933-3340
biisc@hawaii.edu
www.biisc.org



HB2595

HB1984

Testimony in Support

House Committees on Water and Land, Energy and Environmental Protection

Wednesday, February 14, 2018. 10:45 a.m. Conf. Room 325

Aloha,

BIISC would like to express our support for House Bill 2595, which appropriates funds to the DLNR for improvements, repairs, and maintenance of watersheds throughout the state. We also support House Bill 1984, which requires the study of our statewide water security into the future.

We are grateful to the authors of this bill for recognizing the importance of watershed protection in securing the health and economic well-being of the people of Hawaii and our future generations. Ours was the first comprehensive watershed protection system in the nation, dating back to the beginning of the 20th century. The territorial forester fought to protect forest cover, stop active burning, and stop goats, pigs and cattle from destroying the forests' water recharge capacity back then, and we are fighting for it now.

Active management of invasive species, and active restoration of damaged land is required to keep our forests going. A clear understanding of the state of water security over the next 30 years will help us determine how much area, how intensive the management, and how much money must be allocated to be sure my kids and yours can swim in clear water, hike in healthy forests, drink pure Hawaiian water, and eat locally grown produce.

We thank you for your consideration and commend you all for your attention to take care of the land this session—your efforts are truly appreciated.

Springer Kaye

BIISC Manager



The House of Representatives
Committee on Water and Land
Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
February 14, 2018
10:45 p.m., Conference Room 325
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 2595

Aloha Chairs Yamane and Lee, Vice Chairs Todd and Lowen, and Members of the Committees, The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **is in support of HB 2595, Relating to Watersheds.** The aim of this measure is to provide funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resource for watershed protection programs. We note that this bill would appropriate funds from the Natural Area Reserve Fund. We defer to DLNR and the Legislature for best source of funds.

The native ecosystems of Hawai‘i are inundated by invasive plants, animals, and diseases. These ecosystems, specifically wet-forests, are what comprise healthy watersheds that provide freshwater to millions of residents and visitors. The species composition of these forests work harmoniously to capture fog-drip, absorb moisture with spongy-like qualities, and purify water with an intricate layering system before entering streams and aquifers. The composition of the native forest is the best system at capturing water and recharging the aquifers which store most of the freshwater in Hawai‘i. We all rely on freshwater and without it we could not live in these remote islands.

That is why the work performed by organizations like Watershed Partnerships and invasive species programs across the state is so important. They work to restore and preserve intact, native forests that are the main sources of freshwater for surrounding communities. Limited resources are a major impediment to essential invasive species control projects like installing fencing to remove damaging ungulates like feral pigs and deer, and accessing remote areas to remove weeds. The continued work of these projects need reliable sources of funding to continue this important work into the future.

Hawai‘i’s freshwater future relies on watershed protection which this measure will support. We encourage the committees to **support HB 2595.**

Aloha,
Chelsea Arnott
CGAPS

HB-2595

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 8:18:49 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2018 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Howard Dunnam	Kaluaaha Ranch	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony of Dunnam Family Trusts, Kalua'aha, Molokai

Supporting HB 2595 Relating to Watersheds

House Committee on Water & Land

House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Wednesday, February 14, 2018, 10:45AM, Room 325

I strongly support funding for the Department of Land and Natural Resources for watershed management, CIP fencing work, and invasive species prevention, control, research, and education programs and activities.

Our company is a member of the East Molokai Watershed Partnership (EMoWP) and we recognize the necessity of natural resource stewardship. We understand that the source of our pure water is a system of healthy forested watersheds which capture rain and cloud moisture and deliver it efficiently to aquifers and surface sources for subsequent consumption in our daily lives and for the benefit of our island economy.

Kalua'aha lands are part of the EMoWP's proposed Pakui fence, which aims to improve and protect the last, best native Hawaiian watersheds in East Molokai through the ahupuaa of Puaahala, Kaamola, Keawa Nui, West Ohia, East Ohia, Manawai, Kahananui, Ualapue, and Kaluaaha. The protection of these watershed rainforests is crucial to the health of Molokai and its residents.

The DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife's budget request seeks base operating and CIP funding for the protection of our native forests, which are the source of nearly all the islands' supply of fresh water. The watershed protection and invasive species programs supported with State funds and leveraged several times over with matching funds from county, federal and private sources help to ensure healthy, managed natural resources that are critical for isolated island chains such as Hawai'i.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Howard Dunnam



February 13, 2018

Testimony from the Hawai'i Association of Watershed Partnerships
Supporting HB 2595 Relating to Watersheds
House Committee on Water & Land
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Wednesday, February 14, 2018, 10:45AM, Room 325

East Maui Watershed
Partnership

East Moloka'i Watershed
Partnership

Kaua'i Watershed Alliance

Kohala Watershed
Partnership

Ko'olau Mountain
Watershed Partnership

Leeward Haleakala Watershed
Restoration Partnership

Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance

Three Mountain Alliance

Wai'anae Mountains
Watershed Partnership

West Maui Mountains
Watershed Partnership

url www.hawp.org

The Hawai'i Association of Watershed Partnerships (HAWP) supports House Bill No. 2595, and the projects specifically called out in the measure. In addition, HAWP supports related appropriations under the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) "Watershed Protection & Initiatives, Statewide" lump sum FY19 CIP request, which include additional watershed protection projects beyond what is stated in HB2595.

These funds support critical watershed protection projects that provide a multitude of benefits, both environmental and social. Just some of these important benefits include: recharge of public water supplies, erosion control and the protection of coral reefs, flood mitigation of lowland areas, the enhancement of climate change resilience, the protection of native habitats, education, recreation, and the creation of meaningful jobs for local communities. The projects also work directly toward meeting the State's commitment of effectively protecting 30% of Hawai'i's priority watersheds by 2030.

HAWP comprises ten Watershed Partnerships across five islands, and works collaboratively with public and private landowners to manage more than 2 million acres of forested watershed areas across Hawai'i. The partnerships play an important role, as they coordinate across landowner boundaries, bringing together many types of landowners and land managers with just as many perspectives and priorities to work toward the common goal of landscape-level, watershed protection. For the past 25 years, the coordinators of these partnerships and their dedicated staff have been working with their diverse partners, including the Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), constructing fences, controlling weeds, and removing destructive feral, hooved animals from thousands of acres of priority forested watershed areas throughout the state. This extremely hard work has paid off, with 132,000 acres (16%) of the State's priority watersheds currently fenced, actively managed, and effectively protected. But, continued funding and support is needed.

Protecting and sustaining the forest, the water and the people of Hawai'i.

The project areas prioritized within both HB2595 and the State's FY19 Watershed CIP request will enhance protection by approximately 25,000 acres and make additional progress toward meeting a number of the watershed partnerships' priorities along with the State's 30x30 watershed protection goal. The FY19 Watershed CIP lump sum request includes 15 individual projects across all State counties as listed below. It is important to note that the projects listed in HB2595 detail some but not all of the priority fencing projects that are part of the FY19 Watershed CIP request.

1. Hono O Na Pali, Kaua'i
2. Drinking Glass, Kaua'i
3. Koa'ie, Kaua'i
4. East Alaka'i, Kaua'i
5. Ka'ala, O'ahu
6. Central 'Opae'ula, O'ahu
7. North Shore, Moloka'i
8. Paku'i, Moloka'i
9. Lahaina, Maui
10. West Maui (various locations)
11. Pu'u Wa'awa'a, Hawaii
12. Laupahoehoe, Hawaii
13. Pu'u Maka'ala, Hawaii
14. Ka'u, Hawaii
15. Ka'u-Kaiholena, Hawaii

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

Sincerely,



Cheyenne Hiapo Perry
Chair, Hawai'i Association of Watershed Partnerships
Coordinator, Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance
chperry@hawaii.edu
(808) 854-2610

HB-2595

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 10:35:39 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2018 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Ben Dyre Family Limited Partnership

Po Box 40

Kilauea, HI 96754

**Testimony of Ben Dyre Family Limited Partnership
Supporting HB 2595 Relating to Watersheds
House Committee on Water & Land
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection**

Wednesday, February 14, 2018, 10:45AM, Room 325

Our family supports HB 2595 appropriating funding for the Department of Land and Natural Resources for watershed management across the state, including the construction of protective fences and management of invasive animals and plants at the locations specifically noted in the bill. We support the full operational and capital requests in the DLNR's FY19 supplemental budget requests for the forest and watershed programs within the Division of Forests and Wildlife (DOFAW).

As a member of Kauai Watershed Alliance, we have a stake in the protection and conservation of our mauka native forested watersheds and have been dedicated to these actions since 2003. The KWA has already fenced and removed feral ungulates from 7,000 acres and work in 15,000 acres controlling invasive weeds up in the Priority Watersheds on both State and Private lands.

In addition, we call the Committees' attention and offer support for the following proposed protective fence projects on the islands of Kaua'i and Moloka'i that are in the DLNR-DOFAW budget request:

- Koai'e and Drinking Glass fences on Kaua'i: These areas are located within the Alaka'i Wilderness Preserve in the heart of the island's forest watershed that is the primary source of fresh water.
- Pāku'i fence on Moloka'i: This forest area is the primary source of fresh water for the 'Ualapu'e aquifer, which supplies water to East Moloka'i residents.

Hawai'i's native forests are irreplaceable biological and cultural assets and the islands' primary source of water. Healthy Hawaiian forests that are not overrun by invasive species act like a sponge, collecting rain and moisture and delivering fresh water into streams and aquifers, absorbing greenhouse gases, and reducing runoff and siltation into near shore waters during storm events. We appreciate the bill's and the Legislature's recognition of these important natural assets that support the globally unique environment and culture of Hawai'i, as well as providing abundant natural benefits to Hawai'i's residents, visitors and economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our support for this bill and helping us to continue our work!

Sincerely,



Holly Dyre
General Partner
Ben Dyre Family Ltd Partnership



Princeville Utilities Company, Inc.

Testimony of Princeville Utilities Company, Inc.
Supporting HB 2595 Relating to Watersheds
House Committee on Water & Land
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Wednesday, February 14, 2018, 10:45AM, Room 325

The Princeville Utilities Company, Inc. supports HB 2595 appropriating funding for the Department of Land and Natural Resources for watershed management across the state, including the construction of protective fences and management of invasive animals and plants at the locations specifically noted in the bill. We support the full operational and capital requests in the DLNR's FY19 supplemental budget requests for the forest and watershed programs within the Division of Forests and Wildlife (DOFAW).

As a member of Kauai Watershed Alliance, we have a stake in the protection and conservation of our mauka native forested watersheds and have been dedicated to these actions since 2003. The KWA has already fenced and removed feral ungulates from 7,000 acres and work in 15,000 acres controlling invasive weeds up in the Priority Watersheds on both State and Private lands.

In addition, we call the Committees' attention and offer support for the following proposed protective fence projects on the islands of Kaua'i and Moloka'i that are in the DLNR-DOFAW budget request, but not mentioned in HB 2259:

- Koai'e and Drinking Glass fences on Kaua'i: These areas are located within the Alaka'i Wilderness Preserve in the heart of the island's forest watershed that is the primary source of fresh water.
- Pāku'i fence on Moloka'i: This forest area is the primary source of fresh water for the 'Ualapu'e aquifer, which supplies water to East Moloka'i residents.

Hawai'i's native forests are irreplaceable biological and cultural assets and the islands' primary source of water. Healthy Hawaiian forests that are not overrun by invasive species act like a sponge, collecting rain and moisture and delivering fresh water into streams and aquifers, absorbing greenhouse gases, and reducing runoff and siltation into near shore waters during storm events. We appreciate the bill's and the Legislature's recognition of these important natural assets that support the globally unique environment and culture of Hawai'i, as well as providing abundant natural benefits to Hawai'i's residents, visitors and economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our support for this bill and watershed protection and management in Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Brad Suizu
Manager



Testimony of Kapualei Ranch
Supporting HB 2595 Relating to Watersheds
House Committee on Water & Land
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Wednesday, February 14, 2018, 10:45AM, Room 325

Kapualei Ranch strongly supports funding for the Department of Land and Natural Resources for watershed management, CIP fencing work, and invasive species prevention, control, research, and education programs and activities.

Kapualei Ranch is a founding member of the East Molokai Watershed Partnership and we recognize the necessity of natural resource stewardship. We understand that the source of our pure water is a system of healthy forested watersheds which capture rain and cloud moisture and deliver it efficiently to aquifers and surface sources for subsequent consumption in our daily lives and for the benefit of our island economy.

Kapualei Ranch lands are part of the EMoWP's Kawela to Kamalo fence unit, which protects approximately 2,600 acres of vital native Hawaiian watershed, including Kamakou peak, the highest point on the island. Kapualei Ranch is also adjacent to the proposed Paku'i fence through upper Pua'ahala, Ka'amola, Keawa Nui, West 'Ohi'a, East 'Ohi'a, Manawai, Kahananui, 'Ualapu'e, and Kalua'aha ahupua'a. Construction of the Paku'i fence and subsequent management of the watershed will improve and protect one of East Molokai's healthiest remaining native Hawaiian watersheds. The protection of this resource is imperative to the health of Molokai and its residents.

The DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife's budget request seeks base operating and CIP funding for the protection of our native forests, which are the source of nearly all the islands' supply of fresh water. The watershed protection and invasive species programs supported with State funds and leveraged several times over with matching funds from county, federal and private sources help to ensure healthy, managed natural resources that are critical for isolated island chains such as Hawai'i.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Anthony Hunt
Kapualei Ranch



Testimony of Casey Watabu, Project Specialist, Grove Farm Company

Supporting HB 2595 Relating to Watersheds

House Committee on Water & Land

House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Wednesday, February 14, 2018, 10:45AM, Room 325

Chair Yamane, Chair Lee, Vice Chair Todd, Vice Chair Lowen, and Members of the Committees, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2595.

Grove Farm Company supports HB 2595 appropriating funding for the Department of Land and Natural Resources for watershed management across the state, including the construction of protective fences and management of invasive animals and plants at the locations specifically noted in the bill. We support the full operational and capital requests in the DLNR's FY19 supplemental budget requests for the forest and watershed programs within the Division of Forests and Wildlife (DOFAW).



As a member of Kauai Watershed Alliance, we have a stake in the protection and conservation of our mauka native forested watersheds and have been dedicated to these actions since 2003. The KWA has already fenced and removed feral ungulates from 7,000 acres and work in 15,000 acres controlling invasive weeds up in the Priority Watersheds on both State and Private lands.

In addition, we call the Committees' attention and offer support for the following proposed protective fence projects on the islands of Kaua'i and Moloka'i that are in the DLNR-DOFAW budget request, but not mentioned in HB 2259:

- Koai'e and Drinking Glass fences on Kaua'i: These areas are located within the Alaka'i Wilderness Preserve in the heart of the island's forest watershed that is the primary source of fresh water.
- Pāku'i fence on Moloka'i: This forest area is the primary source of fresh water for the 'Ualapu'e aquifer, which supplies water to East Moloka'i residents.

Hawai'i's native forests are irreplaceable biological and cultural assets and the islands' primary source of water. Healthy Hawaiian forests that are not overrun by invasive species act like a sponge, collecting rain and moisture and delivering fresh water into

3-1850 Kaumualii Highway Lihue, HI 96766-8609

 808.245.3678  808.246.9470

www.grovefarm.com



streams and aquifers, absorbing greenhouse gases, and reducing runoff and siltation into near shore waters during storm events. We appreciate the bill's and the Legislature's recognition of these important natural assets that support the globally unique environment and culture of Hawai'i, as well as providing abundant natural benefits to Hawai'i's residents, visitors and economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our support for this bill and watershed protection and management in Hawai'i.

3-1850 Kaumualii Highway Lihue, HI 96766-8609

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Kaua`i Watershed Alliance

Ben A. Dyre Limited Family Partnership, Department of Hawaiian Homelands, Department of Water County of Kaua`i, DLNR – Division of Forestry and Wildlife & Land Management Division, Grove Farm Company, Inc., Jurassic Kahili Ranch, Kamehameha Schools, Kaua`i Ranch LLC, Lihu`e Land Company, McBryde Sugar Company, Ltd., National Tropical Botanical Garden, Princeville Development, LLC

“The Mission of the Kaua`i Watershed Alliance is to PROTECT, PRESERVE and MANAGE our valuable watershed resources for the benefit of our residents, communities and all future generations through the concerted efforts of its members.”

Testimony of The Kauai Watershed Alliance
Supporting HB 2595 Relating to Watersheds
House Committee on Water & Land
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Wednesday, February 14, 2018, 10:45AM, Room 325

The The Kauai Watershed Alliance supports HB 2595 appropriating funding for the Department of Land and Natural Resources for watershed management across the state, including the construction of protective fences and management of invasive animals and plants at the locations specifically noted in the bill. We support the full operational and capital requests in the DLNR’s FY19 supplemental budget requests for the forest and watershed programs within the Division of Forests and Wildlife (DOFAW).

The Kauai Watershed Alliance mission is: *“The Mission of the Kaua`i Watershed Alliance is to PROTECT, PRESERVE and MANAGE our valuable watershed resources for the benefit of our residents, communities and all future generations through the concerted efforts of its members.”*. The KWA has already fenced and removed feral ungulates from 7,000 acres and work in 15,000 acres controlling invasive weeds up in the Priority Watersheds on both State and Private lands.

In addition, we call the Committees’ attention and offer support for the following proposed protective fence projects on the islands of Kaua`i and Moloka`i that are in the DLNR-DOFAW budget request, but not mentioned in HB 2595:

- Koai`e and Drinking Glass fences on Kaua`i: These areas are located within the Alaka'i Wilderness Preserve in the heart of the island's forest watershed that is the primary source of fresh water.
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Thank you for the opportunity to offer our support for this bill and watershed protection and management in Hawai`i.

Sincerely,

The Kauai Watershed Alliance Membership

LATE

February 13, 2018

RE: [HB 2595 Relating to Watersheds](#),

(Supportive of the Department of Land and Natural Resources-Division of Forestry and Wildlife (**DLNR-DOFAW**) and the watershed programs it partners and collaborates with throughout Hawai'i.)

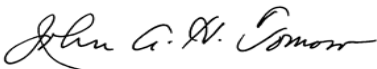
Aloha mai

The **Maui Conservation Alliance (MCA)** strongly supports this bill, for the **DLNR-DOFAW** and its watershed management, CIP fencing, invasive species prevention, and its control, research, and education programs and activities throughout **Hawai'i Nei**.

The **MCA** is a partnership made up of all the Maui Watersheds and related public and private sector conservation programs. The **MCA** recognizes the necessity of natural resource stewardship. The **MCA** understands that the source of the pure water that our moku and community enjoys comes from a system of healthy forested watersheds which capture rain and cloud moisture and delivers it efficiently to aquifers and surface sources for subsequent consumption in our daily lives and for the benefit of all who call **Maui Nui a Kama** home. By water, we know all things find life and, thus, we are supportive of **DLNR-DOFAW** in its work for the health, welfare and quality of life we share. The **MCA** is a diverse group of public and private entities, who manage or own land within the mountainous watersheds of Maui and who understand the importance of protecting and preserving the forests, and healthy forested watersheds that capture fresh water—our most precious resource. We see **DLNR-DOFAW** as important partners in the watersheds we are stewards of, and collectively manage, nurture and grow for generations to come.

The **DLNR-DOFAW** budget request seeks base operating and CIP funding for the protection of our native forests, which are the source of nearly all of our island's supply of fresh water. The watershed protection and invasive species programs supported with State funds and leveraged several times over with matching funds from county, federal and private sources help to ensure healthy, managed natural resources that are critical, both now and in the future, for Maui and **Hawai'i Nei**. Together, we are stewards of this **'aina aloha** and **DLNR-DOFAW** helps lead the way!

Me ka mahalo nui a me ke aloha 'oia'i'o,



John A.H. Tomoso+, MSW, ACSW, LSW
Member

Maui Conservation Alliance (MCA)

51 Ku'ula Street

Kahului, Maui, Hawai'i 96732-2906

808-280-1749

John.a.h.tomoso@gmail.com

CC: MCA Membership
Maui County Legislative Delegations

LATE

HB-2595

Submitted on: 2/14/2018 7:56:22 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2018 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
james Kimo Falconer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please consider continued support for our watershed partnerships and watershed protection.

Maintaining the ecosystem that creates our most valuable natural resource must continue to be funded.

Mahalo.

James Kimo Falconer



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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Wednesday, February 14, 2018 10:45AM Conference Room 325

In SUPPORT of HB1708 Relating to Watersheds

LATE

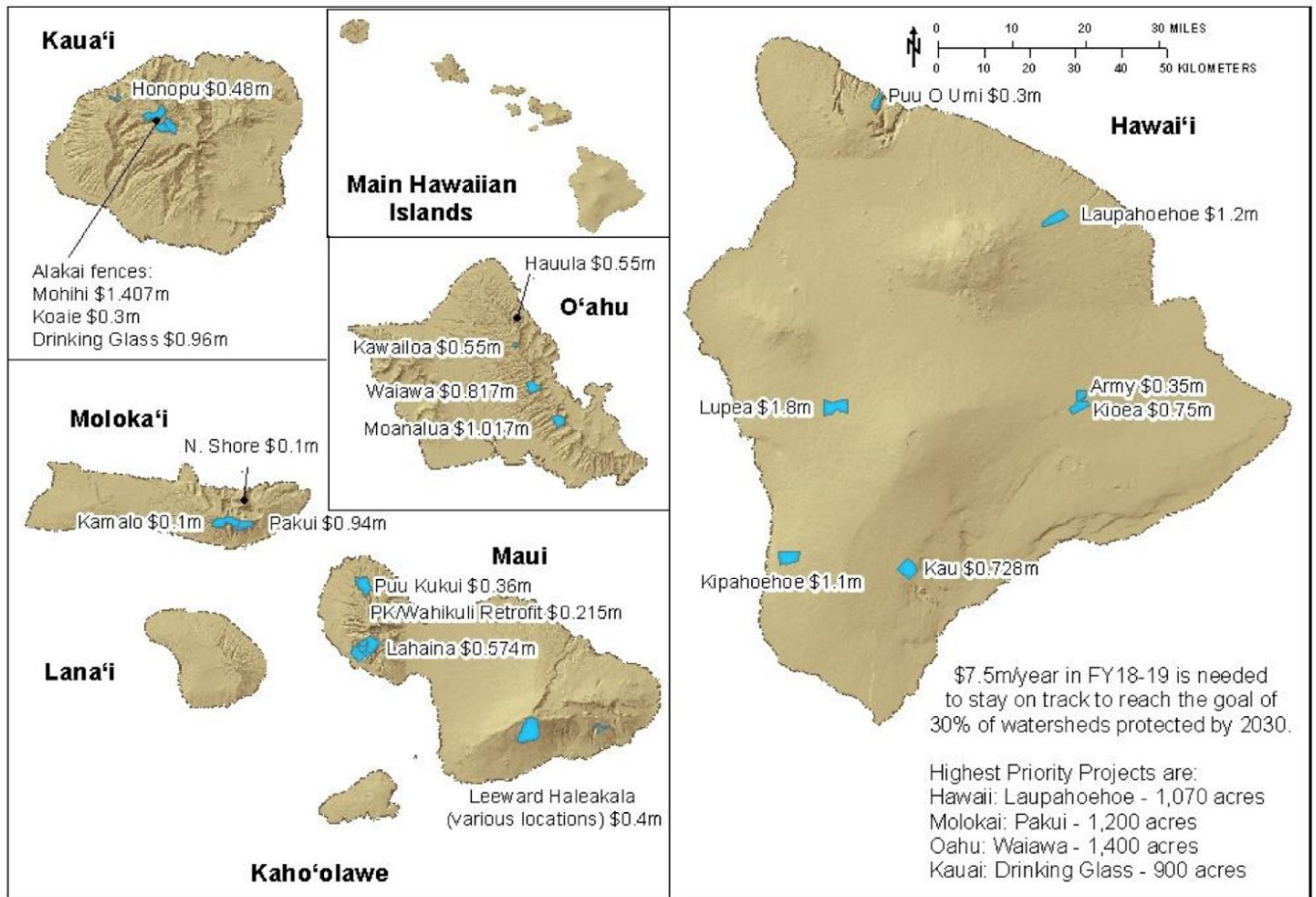
Aloha Chairmen Yamane and Lee, Vice Chairs Todd and Lowen, and members of the WAL and EEP Committees,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i, a member of the Common Good Coalition, **supports the intent HB2595** to provide funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for watershed management activities. We recommend expanding the list of projects to include DLNR's watershed priority projects.

Watersheds are foundation of our survival in the Hawaiian Islands. Healthy native forests capture rainwater, preventing harmful runoff and replenishing our future drinking water supplies. It is absolutely crucial that we fund the protection of our watersheds. DLNR, mandated to manage and protect all of Hawai'i's finite natural resources and pristine beauty receives a meager 1.2% of the State budget. Continuing this level of chronic underfunding is a form of negligence that needs to be immediately addressed. That is why we support identifying new funding for the life-saving services DLNR provides.

DLNR has identified the priority watershed areas in need of protection. For this coming fiscal year, DLNR needs \$7.5 million to complete 17 high-priority watershed protection projects throughout the Hawaiian Islands.

Fences Needing Funding in FY18-19 (\$7.5m/year)



Fencelines and projects are approximate and subject to change. Contact DLNR-DOFAW at (808) 587-4170.

For these reasons, we support the intent of HB2595.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important issue.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96843
www.boardofwatersupply.com



February 14, 2018

KIRK CALDWELL, MAYOR

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ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer

ELLEN E. KITAMURA, P.E.
Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer *EL*

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
and Members
Committee on Water & Land
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

LATE

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
and Members
Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

LATE

Dear Chair Yamane, Chair Lee and Members:

Subject: House Bill 2595, Relating to Watersheds

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) supports House Bill 2925, which provides an appropriation of funds to support the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) watershed improvements, fencing and invasive species control in specific watersheds throughout the State.

BWS has provided funding for the purchase of fencing materials for the DLNR Waiawa fencing project; however, additional resources are still needed to complete the project. The protection of our forested watersheds will ensure groundwater and surface water resources are sustained.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony on HB 2595.

Very truly yours,

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer