

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

Wednesday, March 28, 2018
4:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2078, SENATE DRAFT 1, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO PUEO RESEARCH

Senate Bill 2078, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to support research, in collaboration with the University of Hawaii (UH), on a multi-year breeding and foraging ecology study of the pueo or Hawaiian short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus sandwichensis*) in the State of Hawaii. **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 sees a need for more studies on the pueo throughout the State. Since 2017, the Department, in collaboration with UH, has been studying the distribution of pueo on O‘ahu. The final results of this study are still pending analysis, but thus far a standardized survey protocol has been developed for pueo, a citizen science project implemented, and surveys at 35 sites over six different habitat types (wetland, grassland, agricultural fields, shrub-land, alien forest, native forest) on O‘ahu have been completed. Survey data will be used to model predicted distribution and abundance across these six habitat types on O‘ahu. On completion of the study, further studies on distribution, biological threats, and life history traits for this species are recommended. The Department appreciates and strongly supports the amendments of the Committees on Water & Land and Higher Education to expand the breeding and foraging ecology study statewide, as the pueo is ecologically and culturally important throughout Hawaii, and there is a significant knowledge gap of the pueo statewide.

This measure would provide the funding support for a comprehensive research study on pueo breeding and foraging and is expected to provide information on preferred habitat characteristics for nesting and foraging and identify threats to the species over its life-cycle, beginning on O‘ahu

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

and advancing across all counties in subsequent years. The Department notes that the current proposed measure does not specify the amount of funds to appropriate for such an effort and recommends a minimum amount of \$352,440 for the first year to support the necessary personnel and equipment for the initial year of the study on O‘ahu. The information gained from such efforts would be strongly beneficial for the species and allow for better informed management decisions directly benefitting the pueo.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.

By
Nicholas Comerford
Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
And
Michael Bruno
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Vice Chancellor for Research
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2078 SD1 HD1 – RELATING TO PUEO RESEARCH

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 2078 SD1 HD1.

The Hawaiian short-eared owl (Pueo) is on the endangered species list for the state of Hawai'i. This subspecies has a unique place in the Hawaiian culture, and its survival is complicated by the fact that it is a ground nesting species. This characteristic, along with diminishing habitat, cause concern for the ultimate survival of the Pueo. The ground nesting habit leaves its eggs vulnerable to predators that were not part of its natural history.

The hope is that the proposed research on the Pueo's interaction with its habitat, and identification of preferred breeding habits, will provide the necessary information to land managers that will assure the continued survival of a species which is considered to be the guardian of Hawaiian families. This research will help to better identify its autecology, potential ecological benefits, and the ecosystem services that it provides to society.

Dr. Melissa Price of CTAHR has been working with the UH West O'ahu (UHWO) group to develop the ideas behind this research. This bill represents a collaboration between the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, UHWO and CTAHR. Another benefit gained from passing this bill will be the training of one postdoctoral fellow, two graduate students, and two undergraduates in ecology and ecosystem service disciplines. This workforce will be well-suited to work in state agencies or private enterprises to further protect Hawai'i's fragile ecology.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2078 SD1 HD1.



SB2078 SD1 HD1
RELATING TO PUEO RESEARCH
House Committee on Finance

March 28, 2018

4:00 p.m.

Room 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following **COMMENTS** on SB2078 SD1 HD1, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to conduct a breeding and foraging ecology study of pueo throughout Hawai'i, in collaboration with the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Research and Human Resources (UH).

OHA appreciates this measure's recognition of the need better understand and protect the endangered pueo, an animal of great Native Hawaiian cultural significance, and believes this measure would support DLNR's kuleana contained in Hawai'i Revised Statutes §195D-5, to "conduct research . . . on endangered species and their ecosystems."

Unfortunately, O'ahu's pueo are now considered endangered by the State. While Hawai'i's pueo populations thrived and were widespread at the end of the 19th century, experts now believe that the pueo population has been declining for many years. Currently, little data exists to inform potential conservation strategies to stop and reverse this decline. Habitat loss, predation of eggs and young, contaminants or toxins, and human interaction are believed to threaten the pueo population. In 2017, DLNR conducted a four-month pueo habitat inventory survey on O'ahu. During the survey of thirty-five sites, only eleven pueo were observed. A more substantial body of data is therefore needed to estimate pueo populations and identify threats to their survival.

OHA believes that the study contemplated under this bill would provide DLNR and the State with critical data necessary to plan and implement conservation management strategies for pueo on O'ahu and throughout the islands, which may allow our pueo to thrive once again.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-2078-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 10:43:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Cabral	Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation	Support	Yes

Comments:

SB-2078-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2018 10:30:06 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2018 4:00:00 PM

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. Mahalo.

SB-2078-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2018 1:55:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
michele matsuo	Democratic Party of Hawaii's Education Caucus, and Environmental Caucus	Support	Yes

Comments:

Good Afternoon, Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

I am the Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawaii's Education Caucus and the point person for the Democratic Party of Hawaii's Environmental Caucus relating to Endangered Species and Endangered Species Habitat. The Democratic Party's Education Caucus is in strong support of this bill, and I am also speaking for the Environmental Caucus, in strong support of protecting the Pueo and other endangered species, and their habitat at UHWO.

There was great dismay, discouragement and disappointment that HB2629, regarding an endangered species habitat for the Pueo and other endangered species documented on UHWO lands, was not heard by the House committees, despite the strongest of daily pleas from the Democratic Party's legislative coordinator.

Due to a Senate resolution last year, the endangered Pueo were studied last year. Only 11 were found by the State's retained certified ornithologist. This triggered a need for a Supplemental EIS. Yet, UHWO nonetheless reportedly cleared approximately 100 acres of documented Pueo habitat and hunting/mating grounds, and HB2629 which could have allowed UHWO to possibly become legal again, did not move forward to protect a portion of the remaining habitat.

HB2629 called for a habitat conservation preserve in UHWO's makai lands for the endangered Pueo and a whole list of endangered and protected wildlife in their existing habitat, where they already are, and the evaluation, planning and use of UHWO's mauka lands for the development projects that UHWO seeks. UHWO would have had the opportunity to become unique and premier in the World by having a place where endangered species could be studied right on its grounds.

One of the top priorities of the Education Caucus is to prevent use of educational lands in harming our precious endangered species and their habitat. We accordingly request

that you amend this bill, SB2078, SD1, HD1, to provide for the endangered species habitat conservation preserve specified in HB2629.

I do not know how or when we came to this incredibly sad point where our precious endangered species can be harmed on public lands on our watch, but I beg you to amend SB2078 to include HB2629's proposed habitat conservation preserve on a portion of UHWO's undeveloped makai lands. If for no other reason, please consider the liability of placing government-related housing near the shoreline.

With warmest Aloha and Mahalo,

Michele Matsuo

Sent from my iPad

SB-2078-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/24/2018 10:37:05 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:



Hawaii's Thousand Friends

300 Kuulei Rd. Unit A #281 * Kailua, HI 96734 * Phone/Fax (808) 262-0682 E-Mail: htff3000@gmail.com

March 28, 2018

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

SB 2078 SD1 HD1 RELATING TO PUEO RESEARCH

Aloha,

Chair Luke
Vice Chair Cullen
Committee Members

Hawaii's Thousand Friends *supports* SB 2078 SD1 HD1 that appropriates funds to DLNR to conduct, in collaboration with the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, a breeding ecology study and foraging ecology study on the pueo.

While pueo are found on all the main islands and protected by the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act only the Oahu pueo is listed by the State as *endangered*.

Very little is known about the pueo. There is no data on population size, population trend estimates, distribution or movement estimates and little understanding of ecology, especially breeding.

Pueo were wide spread at the end of the 19th century, but are thought to be declining

Unlike most owls, pueo hunt during the day mostly during twilight hours, eat small mammals, hunt in open areas and nest on the ground year round.

Due to its nesting habits the pueo is vulnerable to habitat loss due to conversion of open habitat and foraging areas to recreation, housing and resort development. All key factors in their decline.

Information from these studies will provide data so that well-informed decisions can be made to prevent the extinction of the unique culturally significant pueo.

We urge you to pass this bill because breeding and foraging information is urgently needed to ensure the survival of the *endangered* Oahu pueo.

SB-2078-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 3:13:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair; the Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, ViceChair, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

Good afternoon, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **SB2078 SD1 HD1**, relating to the Pueo; Research; Study; Appropriation; Uniiversity of Hawaii; Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **SB2078 SD1 HD1** and supports its passage.

SB2078 SD1 HD1 is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it appropriates funds for the Department of Land and Natural Resources to conduct, in collaboration with the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, a statewide breeding ecology study and foraging ecology study on the pueo.

The DPH Platform states that "[w]e support the growth of Native Hawaiian farming, agricultural and healing practices. We value and wish to foster the preservation of our host culture." (Platform of the DPH, P. 4, Lines 213-214 (2016)).

Given that **SSB2078 SD1 HD1** appropriates funds for the Department of Land and Natural Resources to conduct, in collaboration with the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, a statewide breeding ecology study and foraging ecology study on the pueo, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,
/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Text/Tel.: (808) 258-8889

SB-2078-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2018 3:56:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Cotin	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

March 25, 2018

I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of SB2078, Relating to Pueo research. I strongly support this bill.

I wish start by saying that while I am a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, I am offering this as personal testimony and do not speak on behalf of the University.

I believe that SB2078 is a measure very worthy of support because it will benefit not only pueo research, but will promote conservation of a native raptor that is culturally and ecologically important to Hawai'i residents. There has been a large community-led call for increased attention to pueo conservation, but unfortunately little is known about pueo nest-site selection and survival, or even long-term population numbers. Thus, those who wish to conserve pueo have little to guide their management actions.

Over the last year I have been working with Dr. Melissa Price lab at UH Manoa, conducting surveys to determine population distribution of pueo across six vegetation types on Oahu. From this study we have learned that pueo are largely using open grasslands, wetlands, and agricultural areas on Oahu. Within the next month we'll have completed analyses and can share population densities in each of these habitat types. We also developed a citizen science portal (pueoproject.com) that allows community members to report sightings of pueo. These reports, many of which came from other islands, expanded our understanding of pueo habitat use. For example, on Oahu we only observed nests in wetlands, agricultural lands, and grasslands, but on Kauai a nest was found under uluhe (fern) in high-elevation native forests. The Kauai Forest Bird Recovery Program regularly sees pueo in native forests as well, suggesting either they are behaving differently on Oahu, or more surveys are needed to detect them in forests on Oahu. The take-home message is that there are many vegetation types important to pueo habitat conservation in Hawai'i, and pueo likely utilize various habitats across the Hawaiian Islands for foraging and nesting, depending on food availability and predator abundance.

The next step is to determine which factors are having the greatest impact on pueo reproduction and survival, so managers can target conservation efforts toward actions

likely to have the greatest benefit. Pueo eggs and chicks are likely eaten by invasive predators such as cats, mongoose, barn owls, and rats. Nests may be more successful in areas with lower predator abundance. SB2078 will provide funds to support research efforts that identify management actions most likely to increase nesting success and survival, and minimize extinction risk.

In closing, I would like to reiterate my enthusiastic support for SB2078, and I want to thank your committees for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

Sincerely,

Javier Cotin

March 27, 2018

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Finance Committee: I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of SB2078_SD1, Relating to Pueo research. I strongly support this bill.

I wish start by saying that while I am an assistant professor at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, I am offering this as personal testimony and do not speak on behalf of the University.

I believe that SB2078_SD1 is a measure very worthy of support because it will inform cost-effective and sound approaches to conservation of a native raptor that is culturally and ecologically important to Hawai'i residents. There has been a large community-led call for increased attention to pueo conservation, but unfortunately little is known about pueo nest-site selection and survival, or even long-term population numbers across the islands, limiting decision-making capacity. For cost-effective approaches to conservation, we must know which conservation actions will be most likely to reduce mortality and increase reproductive success. This research will identify the main drivers of pueo nesting success, and the factors associated with nest failures and diet, so that landowners and managers can maximize pueo survival and population stability.

Over the last year my wildlife ecology lab at UH Manoa has conducted surveys to determine population distribution of pueo across six vegetation types on Oahu. From this study we have learned that pueo are largely using open grasslands, wetlands, and agricultural areas on Oahu. We also developed a citizen science portal (pueoproject.com) that allows community members to report sightings of pueo. These reports, many of which came from other islands, expanded our understanding of pueo habitat use. For example, on Oahu we only observed nests in wetlands, agricultural lands, and grasslands, but on Kauai a nest was found under uluhe (fern) in high-elevation native forests. The Kauai Forest Bird Recovery Program regularly sees pueo in native forests as well, and managers in the Maui Forest Bird Recovery program have observed pueo in native forest bird nesting areas. The take-home message from this first year of study is that there are many vegetation types important to pueo habitat conservation in Hawai'i, and pueo likely utilize various habitats across the Hawaiian Islands for foraging and nesting, depending on food availability and predator abundance.

The next step is to determine which factors are having the greatest impact on pueo reproduction and survival, so managers can target conservation efforts toward actions likely to have the greatest benefit. Pueo eggs and chicks are likely eaten by invasive predators such as cats, mongoose, barn owls, and rats. Nests may be more successful in areas with lower predator abundance. SB2078_SD1 will provide funds to support research efforts across the Hawaiian Islands that identify management actions most likely to increase nesting success and survival, and minimize extinction risk.

A secondary benefit of this funding is that it will train the next generation of conservation professionals. Currently, few local managers are trained raptor biologists. SB2078_SD1 will fund training of undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral candidates in raptor management and research techniques, preparing wildlife management professionals with skills and tools to conserve Hawaii's only widespread native raptor.

In closing, I would like to reiterate my enthusiastic support for SB2078_SD1, and I want to thank your committee for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

Sincerely,



Dr. Melissa Price
Wildlife Biologist

SB-2078-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/24/2018 3:20:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
J Ashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2078-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2018 4:00:30 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mia Melamed	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2078 Relating to Pueo Research.

SB-2078-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2018 6:27:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephenie Blakemore	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

"I support SB2078 Relating to Pueo Research. "

SB-2078-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2018 4:28:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine Ahia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this important research concerning our Pueo in SB2078. Our only native owl is endangered statewide and we need to take action to ensure its survival. I live on Hawai'i Island and am fortunate to see Pueo occasionally. This bird is important culturally as well as an important part of our native fauna, and is the aumakua of the Ahia family and other Hawaiian 'ohanas as well. We are privileged on this island to see Pueo in certain locations but also wish that eventually it will be studied here as well as on O'ahu. Please lend your support to this bill.

Mahalo,

Christine Ahia

SB-2078-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2018 4:20:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jerry Fournier	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2078-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2018 10:04:10 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
deborah kremins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

thank you for your support of this very important bill! SB2078 Relating to Pueo Research, is an important and necessary step for Hawaii's cultural and enviornmental survival. Thank you for being a part of the change we need to see.

mahalo,

deborah kremins

SB-2078-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2018 2:19:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jody Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support funding a statewide breeding ecology study and foraging ecology study on the pueo. This bird is part of both our cultural and biological heritage. Our efforts today can help keep this bird alive for our children and for future generations. Please act NOW to learn more about and to protect this unique Hawaiian species.

SB-2078-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 10:31:36 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Ty Cullen, and Members of the Finance Committee:

SB2078 SD1HD1 - Strong Support

In the matter of Hawaii's pueo, an endangered species in Oahu, time is of the essence. Please pass SB2078 SD1 HD1 this year. In this case, the institutions and researchers are willing, able, and ready to be collaborative and multidisciplinary in their research.

Please ensure also the active participation of the University of Hawaii West Oahu, a community of learners and educators who have embraced the pueo as mascot.

Thank you.

SB-2078-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 12:45:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Annette L. Heu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2078. The PUEO is a very important link to Hawaii's past as an aumakua..I have been in many moments of prayer when the Pueo has been there to guide me..as well as console my doubts and reassure spiritual awareness.. I as an individual on Maui have searched many areas of documentation about Pueo to find no studies or places dedicated to their future existence by study.. . Please provide for the Pueo and those who can make a difference before it's too late.. I am grateful for the opportunity to conact you as the Pueo is in need and we together can make a big difference for our children so they may know the beauty of this AUMAKUA..Thank you for your time and attention..

SB-2078-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 12:16:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wendy Kuntz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2078 Relating to Pueo Research

SB-2078-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 12:40:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Corrina Carnes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2078 Relating to Pueo Research

SB-2078-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 4:29:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ursula M. A. Kahakauwila	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2078-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 4:38:16 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom Berg	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Everyone who is truthful and honest knows, this bill is a farce.

The law already states protocol to protect its endangered species - and this bill, violates that condition by purposely setting out to delay all action to protect the Pueo at UHWO- a very sacred and special place where the Pueo have nurtured their brood for hundreds of years.

This bill is fake news- or at least, one of major deception and deceit. For if the goal and purpose

is to protect the Pueo, then why does the bill omit all direction to initiate action for the research

on State land where the Pueo already is?

Answer is- Senator Gabbard and his ilk with the scheme here, want the public to believe this bill

will save the specie on Oahu when in reality, it delays ALL PROTECTIVE MEASURES for at least

two more years.....why?

How awful to delay protecting the Pueo at UHWO when after two-years as the bill designates, the Pueo at UHWO will have been extirpated from the property by then.

The language of this bill is meant to dupe the public and YOU lawmakers, that this bill is good for the Pueo- when is REALITY, it is the opposite.

To save the bill- make it right, amend the bill to include the directive that where the Pueo is on

State land on Oahu such as at UHWO- that such land shall be be protected as Pueo habitat.

Why wait two-years to act?

Please see youtube! It contains the proof Senator Gabbard is hiding from the public and exposes this bill as the farce and con job it is.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9yoxlGeNCA&t=108s>

SB-2078-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 6:12:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Kumukauoha Lee	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

PLEASE AMEND SB2078 because this bill SB2078 SIDE STEPS AND DELIBERATE DELAY NOT PROTECTING PUEO INHABITING PROPERTY OWNRD BY UHWO THAT IS SLATED FOR DEVELOPEMENT AND THE PUEO ARE ALREADY IDENTIFIED AND INVETORIED BY DLNR IN THEIR PUEO COUNT AT UHWO BY jAVIER COTIN.

SB2078 MUST BE AMENDED to read; SB2078 A Supplemental Evironmental Impact Statement (SEIS) MUST be undertaken ASAP to meetcompliance to the Stae of Hawaii law that stateswhen a new condition is not observed in the Final EIS is quantified. as such of the DLNR Pueo count on UHWO property a SEIS is emediatley required under Hawaii State law and statute requirements. Michael Kumukauoha Lee (Native Hawaiian Cultural Practitioner)



For the Protection of Hawaii's Native Wildlife
HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY

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LATE

THE SENATE
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, March 28, 2018
4:00 p.m., Conference Room 308, State Capitol

SB 2078, SD1, HD1 (HSCR1354-18)
RELATING TO PUEO RESEARCH

Chairperson Luke, Vice Chairperson Cullen, and members of the committee, my name is Linda Paul and I am testifying in **support** of SB 2078 SD1, HD1 as a volunteer, President of and in behalf of the approximately 2000 members of the Hawaii Audubon Society.

Hawaii is known as the endangered species capital of the United States and unfortunately our native species are continuing to go extinct. The Pueo, Hawaii's only native owl, has joined the long list of native birds that are either extinct or are endangered or threatened. Once widely distributed on all the main islands, the Pueo began declining in the early 1900s as a result of the loss of their ground nesting habitat due to sugar and pineapple cultivation. More recently large scale suburban housing developments have reduced their habitat on Oahu still further. Alien species predation and collisions with wind farms and motor vehicles have also reduced their numbers. In 1982 the State of Hawaii listed the Pueo's Oahu population as endangered.

However, Pueo populations on the neighbor islands are also declining as indicated by the Hawaii Audubon Society's Annual Christmas Bird Count. By how much and at what rate we don't yet know. Pueo are one of the least-studied endemic species and much more data is needed to inform management decisions.

SB 2078 appropriates funds for the Department of Land & Natural Resources - Division of Forestry & Wildlife (DLNR-DOFAW) to conduct, in collaboration with the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, a two-year breeding ecology study and two-year foraging study on the pueo so that informed decisions can be made that will prevent yet another of our native bird species from going extinct. Since such studies do cost money, if funding is limited, the Society urges this committee to approve funding at least for the studies

on Oahu (City & County of Honolulu) where the need is most urgent due to the large reduction in the owl's ground-nesting habitat caused by urban sprawl.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to testify.

Linda M. B. Paul

808-262-6859

LATE

SB-2078-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2018 4:09:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Z. Arakawa	Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) **SUPPORTS** SB 2078, SD1, HD1, Relating to Pueo Research, which appropriates funds for the Department of Land and Natural Resources to conduct, in collaboration with the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, a statewide breeding ecology study and foraging ecology study on the pueo.

LURF members include Hawaii's ali'i trusts and longtime Hawaii landowners who have been stewards of their lands, natural resources, endangered species and historic resources. LURF understands that the pueo, or Hawaiian short-eared owl, is an endemic subspecies of the short-eared owl that has a special place in Hawaii's culture and ecology, and that the State currently recognizes the pueo as endangered on the island of Oahu. It is hoped that conducting comprehensive state-wide studies on the pueo will allow researchers to better identify preferred breeding and foraging habitats across the state, to ensure the continued survivability of the pueo in the State.