



LATE

SB2078
RELATING TO PUEO RESEARCH
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 23, 2018

11:00 a.m.

Room 211

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

OHA appreciates this measure’s recognition of the need to 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 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 and 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 provided for 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.

February 23, 2018

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair



SB 2078 RELATING TO PUEO RESEARCH

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members,

My name is Kanani Wond and I am testifying on behalf of Na Pueo in support of additional funding for the purpose of ensuring the continued survivability of pueo on Oahu.

More research is needed because there is very little known about the Oahu pueo, which is the only pueo listed on the State register as endangered.

SB 2078 provides funding necessary to continue current UH Manoa research so that a comprehensive understanding of the needs of the ecologically and culturally significant pueo can survive on Oahu.

Mahalo,

Kanani Wond
kapoleinanai@gmail.com

LATE

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 12:16:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| John Bond | Testifying for Kanehili Cultural Hui | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Ways and Means Committee Chair and Members,

The Ewa Plain Pueo is on very critical life support at this very moment.

The two-year period for the Pueo study is great except that its primary Ewa Plain habitat is being destroyed right now at the UH West Oahu, its traditional Ewa Plain home and where it is recognized as the school mascot.

The UHWO should very seriously consider its responsibility to the greater Ewa, Honouliuli West Oahu community and hold off its current destruction of the Ewa Plain Pueo habitat until the study is done, or at least set aside 150 acres sufficient to allow for the Pueo to survive in currently.

Waiting two years and the UHWO Pueo habitat will be totally destroyed and the Ewa Plain Pueo dead.

Please amend **SB2078** to use reports already identifying the existence of pueo on 150 acres of land at UHWO and designate those 150 acres for a Habitat Conservation Preserve immediately.

For centuries, the area where the Hunehune gulch and Kaloi gulch converge, through what is now the University of Hawaii, West Oahu campus, has been documented as a pueo habitat.

According to the October 2017 interim report to the twenty-ninth legislature entitled "Interim Report Regarding the Pueo Study Conducted by the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the University of Hawaii at Manoa for the Period April 1, 2017 - August 1, 2017", a pueo has recently been detected at the University of Hawaii, West Oahu campus.

Additionally, according to his east Kapolei master plan biological survey published on September 17, 1996, Kenneth Nagata recommended the use of the University of Hawaii, West Oahu campus, as a bird refuge due to the sixteen different species of birds inhabiting the property."

The UH West Oahu campus is STRATEGIC HABITAT for the Ewa Plain Pueo to survive. Action must be taken immediately and **SB2078** ammended.

Waiting two years while this vital Ewa Plain Pueo habitat study is being done with totally dead and wiped out UH West Oahu mascot is a farce.

Mahalo piha

John Bond Kanehili Cultural Hui Ewa Honouliuli

LATE

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 12:11:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Molly Hagemann | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

LATE

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 12:23:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| brooke friswold | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am in strong support of Pueo research, as a native apex predator and cultural symbol we should protect them through learning about them.

LATE

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 2:06:03 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Neil Frazer | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I strongly support SB2078. Studies such as the one proposed in this bill often reveal important information about prey species as well as the predator species. In addition to giving us valuable knowledge about the pueo, a cultural icon that is becoming increasingly scarce on O'ahu, it will train biology students. As a working scientist (but not a biologist) I like this kind of proposal.

Mahalo,

Neil Frazer, PhD

LATE

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 4:35:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jason Hill | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support SB2078 Relating to Pueo Research, Hawaii has lost too many precious flora and fauna already over the centuries. i believe that since so little is really known about the pueo itself an in depth study of their habits can be invaluable in ensuring their survival.

LATE

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 11:10:08 PM
Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Pauline Mac Neil | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

The ground nesting Pueo, are active during the day and are susceptible to predation by mongoose and other predators. Although they are now listed by the state as an endangered species on the island of O’ahu, the reason for their decline is not fully understood. Their continued survival depends on an analysis of population trends and related ecosystem processes that would help DLNR better manage their exiting habitat. Please support S.B. 2078 Relating to Pueo Research. Mahalo

LATE

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 7:41:26 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| melissa burns | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

The only way to protect the pueo is to gather accurate data on its habitat and location. The only way to gather such data is with a properly funded and organized research team like the pueo project. I support SB2078.