

OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

Director
OFFICE OF PLANNING

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Statement of
LEO R. ASUNCION
Planning Program Administrator, Office of Planning
before the
**HOUSE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**
Tuesday, February 12, 2019
8:55 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of
HB 1483
RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

Chairs Lowen and Yamane, Vice Chairs Wildberger and Todd, and Members of the House Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection and Water, Land, & Hawaiian Affairs.

The Office of Planning (OP) appreciates the intent of HB 1483 and offers the following comments:

- HRS § 225P-4(c) provides that director of transportation or the director's designee is a member of the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force (GHGSTF). OP has discussed considerations in this proposal with the transportation director's designee regarding appropriate green infrastructure that may be placed within the Honolulu Urban Core, along Department of Transportation (DoT) highways and at Daniel K. Inouye International Airport. The logistics must be carefully and prudently planned, including but not limited to determining location of green infrastructure, maintenance of green infrastructure (with the attendant increase in manpower and hours required for maintenance), and legal liability issues surrounding maintenance of infrastructure impacted by green urban core pilot projects.

Thus, OP recommends providing more than two fiscal years to plan, design, and construct the installation of vegetation through the urban core. A pilot project should be a multi-year effort – at least five (5) years or more.

- Additionally, given that HB 1483 provides that the green urban core pilot project is to be administrated by the GHGSTF, which is administratively attached to OP pursuant to HRS § 225P-4(a), the sums appropriated therein should not be expended by the DLNR but by OP.

- Further, OP strongly supports removing the requirement that GHGSTF members are subject to HRS § 26-34 to efficiently seat members to fulfill statutory mandates.
- Lastly, the GHGSTF is presently supported by a OP staff position whose GHGSTF duties **are in addition to** the staffer's full-time position obligations. The GHGSTF was made permanent by Act 15, SLH 2018, and the interest in its activities has proven to require a dedicated position to adequately fulfill its growing mandates.

Therefore, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget, OP requests that a portion of the appropriation be directed to support a fulltime GHGSTF coordinator permanent position (1.0 FTE) to support the various initiatives and activities which are currently in progress, including but not limited to studying sequestration potential in our natural and working lands, supporting best management practices, reviewing draw down pathways, and studying avenues to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
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

**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
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
and
WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Tuesday, February 12, 2019
8:55 AM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1483
RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

House Bill 1483 proposes to establish the Green Urban Core Pilot Project to develop a plan to increase trees and vegetation in urban areas to sequester greenhouse gases and improve visual appearance. The bill also proposes to amend the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force nomination process. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent and offers the following comments.**

The Department recognizes the critical importance of expanding our green infrastructure as a means to: 1) reverse the trend of Honolulu's urban tree canopy loss (documented at 5% loss from 2010 to 2014, a trend which continues); 2) reduce storm water run-off and flooding; 3) reduce the urban heat island effect; and 4) promote human health. The Department notes that the proposed pilot planting site on the H-1 freeway is one among many transit corridors that could benefit from urban greening, and that the Department of Transportation has an enormous inventory of lands that could contribute to this effort. The Department notes the need for consideration of maintenance costs after the design and installation of green infrastructure, especially in the first five years as plantings are established, and recommends that the work be designed and supervised by landscape architects and certified arborists. The Department recommends that painting concrete (rather than installing vegetation) should be a last resort and then should consider the use of murals that demonstrate Hawaii's unique aesthetics and arts. Finally, the Department acknowledges we will need multiple avenues for mitigating climate change.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



Environmental Caucus

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

HOUSE JOINT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND
WATER, LAND, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

February 12, 2019 8:55 a.m. Room 325

In **SUPPORT** of **HB1483**: Relating to Climate Change

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Yamane, Vice Chairs Wildberger and Todd and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i (ECDPH), we **support passage of HB1483**, relating to Climate Change.

Climate change and efforts to mitigate its effects is the single most pressing issue of our time. Any effort to 1) reduce the amount of carbon released into the atmosphere and 2) remove atmospheric carbon and sequester it back into the Earth is a crucial step in reaching Hawai'i's ambitious goal to be net zero by 2045. Planting trees in Honolulu's urban core and beyond addresses the latter imperative.

Urban greening has multiple positive environmental and social effects including sequestering atmospheric carbon, improving air quality, bolstering aesthetic appeal, and reducing inner city temperatures. Increases in quality of life for our residents and overall enjoyability of the city by tourists are certain via efforts set forth in this measure.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB1483**.

Kimiko LaHaela Walter

Interim Chair, Energy and Climate Change Subject Committee, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

HB-1483

Submitted on: 2/9/2019 4:46:23 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2019 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Edmondson	350 Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I urge passage of HB 1483 which Establishes the Green Urban Core Pilot Project to develop a plan to increase the number of trees and vegetation in urban areas to sequester greenhouse gases and improve visual appearance. I is needed now. Mahalo

HB-1483

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 8:51:52 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2019 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollack	350Hawaii.org	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1483

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 1:59:13 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2019 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Kohn MD	We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	No

Comments:

There is no rational reason to pollute our own environment or destroy ecosystems.
www.WeAreOne.cc

HB-1483

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 8:23:42 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2019 8:55:00 AM

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

Comments:

HB-1483

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 3:42:12 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2019 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl M Jellings Sr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1483

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 4:04:00 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2019 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Augusto Decastro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1483

Submitted on: 2/9/2019 8:47:59 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2019 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeremy Garrett	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1483

Submitted on: 2/9/2019 3:59:30 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2019 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan Boyne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB1483 which establishes the Green Urban Core Pilot Project to develop a plan to increase the number of trees and vegetation in urban areas to sequester greenhouse gases and improve visual appearance.

HB-1483

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 8:57:26 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2019 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erica Scott	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1483

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 1:54:53 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2019 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dain Christensen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1483

Submitted on: 2/9/2019 4:26:52 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2019 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Gray	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

We know that we have already decided to do our part to stop climate chaos. Our good Gov. Ige has made that clear and also, we have joined the U.N. in that effort as well. We understand that because we have the ability to do certain things like solar and growing trees more easily than other places, we will need to focus on those things. The Outdoor Circle and Sierra Club as well as 350 Hawaii have been strongly advocating for trees for a long time as a way to off-set carbon. It will also help with urban blight and make our cities more healthy and liveable. Mahalo, Laura Gray

HB-1483

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 11:32:14 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2019 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Meredith Buck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support bill HB1483!! Urban areas provide an excellent opportunity to sequester carbon and beautify the city with trees and plants. Please pass this bill!

HB-1483

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 4:06:59 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2019 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Gannon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: EEP/WLH

From Joan Gannon voter and resident of West Hawaii

Re: HB1483 which would establish the Green UrbanPilot Porject to develop a plan to increase the number of trees and vegetation in urban areas to sequester greenhouse gases and improve visual appearance.

thank you and please do your best

HB-1483

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 9:19:15 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2019 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support HB1483 to establish a Green Urban Core Pilot Project to develop a plan to increase the number of trees and vegetation in urban areas to sequester greenhouse gases and improve visual appearance.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

HB-1483

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 2:14:41 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2019 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stacy K. Tang	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I support HB1483. We need to increase the number of trees and vegetation in our urban areas to sequester greenhouse gases and improve the visual appearance of our urban spaces.

The science is very clear that we need to capture greenhouse gases in order to decrease the Earth's temperature. The proven way to capture these gasses is through the growing of more trees and vegetation. Why not have Hawai'i lead the way towards some beautiful and innovative urban areas that are doing just that, but also produce organic food for shelters, schools, government buildings? Employ the participation of community involvement with Permablitz Hawai'i to educate the public on how its done! Permaculture is the solution!

Please pass HB1483. Climate change is destroying the whole planet, but Hawai'i will be most effected with the rising oceans. **WE MUST ACT NOW, ACROSS THE BOARD AND IN EVERY SECTOR OF CIVILIZATION!** Let the nation look at us to lead the way!

HB-1483

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 11:14:41 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2019 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jordan Moniuszko	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this measure. Aloha

HB-1483

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 2:40:41 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2019 8:55:00 AM

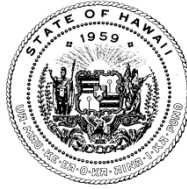
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wai Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee Chair,

As an individual, I support this bill. However, this bill needs to address long term maintenance.

1. long term maintenance - a pruning and tree care plan must be part of this bill to ensure the long term survival of these trees. Currently, the bill does not stipulate how the trees will be cared for after they are planted. No matter DLNR or DOT maintain them. They must follow industry-accepted Best Management Practices.



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN
DEREK J. CHOW
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 12, 2019
8:55 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 325



H.B. 1483
RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

House Committee(s) on Energy and Environmental Protection
& Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** this bill to increase the number of trees and vegetation in urban areas to sequester greenhouse gases and improve visual appearance.

The DOT has the following concerns:

- Additional cost of approximately of \$200,000 in maintenance cost has not been considered.
- The additional maintenance work along high-speed zone will increase exposure of our highway maintenance workers.
- Safety and efficiency are the highest priority of our program; landscape improvements are not a part of DOT's core objective.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Healthy Climate
Communities

LATE

Testimony in support of HB1483

**House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
House Committee on Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs**

Hearing Tuesday February 12, 2019, 8:55am

Dear Chair Lowen, Chair Yamane and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of HB1483.

HB1483 provides for planting trees and otherwise greening two locations deficient in tree canopy in urban Honolulu. Greening these areas will provide multiple benefits, including reducing the heat island effect, absorbing storm water, and beautifying the city of Honolulu. Investing in green infrastructure will save our State money in the long run and is an important adaptation to climate change.

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago, the second-best time is now. Please support this bill.

Mahalo,

Dr. Lisa Marten

Executive Director
Healthy Climate Communities
healthyclimate@hawaii.rr.com



Testimony before the Joint

LATE

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Tuesday, February 12, 2019
Conference Room 325 8:55 AM

Chair Lowen and Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection and Chair Yamane and Members of the House Committee on Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs:

Trees for Honolulu's Future is a non-profit organization with a vision for a tree-filled island that preserves and enhances our quality of life, especially in the face of climate change.

We strongly support HB1483. The bill targets two areas deficient in tree canopy which contributes to the heat island effect. Greening them will provide multiple benefits, including reducing the heat island effect, absorbing storm water, and beautifying our city. Investing in green infrastructure will save our State money in the long run.

Mahalo,

Tom Dinell
President, Board of Directors
Trees for Honolulu's Future

LATE

HB-1483

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 7:10:07 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2019 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brijit Reis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Lowen, Chair Yamane and Committee Members of the EEP and WLH,

I strongly support HB1483. By greening State lands in Honolulu's urban core we can both slow climate change and help mitigate the effects. Trees and greenery will reduce the urban heat island effect, absorb storm water and beautify our city.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brit Reis

LATE

HB-1483

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 7:53:17 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2019 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Debbie Schatz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support Bill 1483 to make our city more livable.

Mahalo, Debbie Schatz



P.O. Box 22597, Honolulu, HI 96823-2597
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pdcaofhawaii@gmail.com

LATE

March 16, 2018

Testimony To: House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Chair

House Committee on Water, Land & Hawaiian Affairs
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

Presented By: Dean M. Nagatoshi, Executive Director

Subject: H.B. 1483 - RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

Chair Lowen, Chair Yamane and Members of the Joint Committee:

My name is Dean M. Nagatoshi, Executive Director of the Painting and Decorating Contractor Association of Hawaii (PDCA of Hawaii). PDCA of Hawaii represents painting Contractors, material and equipment suppliers and affiliated companies that represent, support and assist the Painting Industry in Hawaii.

The Contractors in PDCA of Hawaii, due to their size and capability, will be the Contractors bidding on the painting work that will be required on the projects to paint concrete and other infrastructures to enhance the appearance of Hawaii's natural environment. They are long standing family businesses with deep roots in Hawaii.

PDCA of Hawaii respectfully supports H.B. 1483 and its intent to preserve the natural beauty of our island home.

Thank you for your time and attention and for allowing me the opportunity to testify.



**International Union of Painters and Allied Trades
District Council 50**

LATE

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**TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AND WATER, LAND, & HAWAII AFFAIRS
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019**

TIME/DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2019, 8:55 AM, ROOM 325

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1483 – “RELATING TO CLIMATE
CHANGE.”**

**TO CHAIRS LOWEN AND YAMANE AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE
COMMITTEES ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND WATER,
LAND, & HAWAII AFFAIRS:**

The Painters Local Union 1791, appreciates the opportunity to testify in
SUPPORT to House Bill No. 1483 – “RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE.” My
name is Lorna Woo, Director of Government Affairs, District Council 50.

This measure establishes a Green Urban Core Pilot project to help to
mitigate harmful greenhouse emissions throughout our island state by increasing
the amount of shrubbery and vegetation in urban areas. We believe that by
incorporating green strategies into existing structures such as highways, buildings,
concrete barriers, etc., not only helps the environment, but dramatically enhances
the natural esthetics of our island home. We believe that this pilot project is only the
beginning to create more visual improvements to the urban core and surrounding
areas.

For these reasons, we strongly urge the committees to support the proposals
in House Bill No. 1483. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this
measure.

HEARING BEFORE THE JOINT HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND WATER, LAND, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

February 12, 2019
8:55 a.m.
Conference Room 325

Painting Industry of Hawaii Labor Management
Cooperation Trust Fund
222 S. Vineyard St., PH#4
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: House Bill 1483, Relating To Climate Change

Dear Chairs Lowen, Yamane and members of the Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in **support** of House Bill 1483 on behalf of the Painting Industry of Hawaii Labor Management Cooperation Trust Fund, a labor-management cooperation fund representing the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, Painters Local Union 1791 and contractors signatory to a collective bargaining agreement with the Union.

House Bill 1483 establishes a Green Urban Core Pilot Project whose goal is to reduce urban temperatures, sequester carbon emissions, and make visual improvements to Honolulu's urban core. The Pilot Project's goal is to be accomplished by demonstrating and employing green strategies and technologies including, among other things, painting concrete and other infrastructure to blend in with Hawaii's natural environment.

We are particularly excited about the opportunity to contribute our knowledge and expertise toward the preservation and enhancement of Hawaii's scenic beauty through the visual improvements envisioned by the bill. Aesthetic treatment of our streets and highways can only improve the quality of life in Honolulu as well as its attractiveness as a tourist destination, and we respectfully urge you to advance this measure through your respective committees.

Thank you again for this opportunity to voice our **support** for this measure.