

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



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

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M. KALEO MANUEL  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
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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 Senate Committee on  
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Friday, April 12, 2019  
2:21 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 168**

**URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO  
EVALUATE AND IDENTIFY POTENTIAL SOURCES AND MEANS OF FUNDING  
AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR AND HELP MAINTAIN THE HAWAII  
WILDLIFE CENTER FACILITY AND HAWAII'S ENDANGERED WILDLIFE**

House Concurrent Resolution 168 urges the Department of Health to convene a task force to evaluate and identify potential sources and means of funding available to provide support and help maintain the Hawaii Wildlife Center facility for the purpose of providing a critical public service to protect the public and Hawaii's endangered wildlife. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this resolution and offers the following comments.**

Hawaii Wildlife Center is a dedicated partner of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, rehabilitating some of Hawaii's most critically endangered species in their state-of-the-art facilities, providing training for response personnel and volunteers, and they are part of our response team in the event of environmental disasters, such as oil spills. The Center also responds to disasters nationwide.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in OPPOSITION to HCR168  
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO  
EVALUATE AND IDENTIFY POTENTIAL SOURCES AND MEANS OF FUNDING  
AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR AND HELP MAINTAIN THE HAWAII  
WILDLIFE CENTER FACILITY AND HAWAII'S ENDANGERED WILDLIFE**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Hearing Date: April 12, 2019

Room Number: 224

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department views the fiscal implications as negative given that the measure seeks to  
2 evaluate the appropriate level of funding and the potential use of the Environmental Response Revolving Fund  
3 (ERRF) to help maintain the Hawaii Wildlife Center facility. The Department also expresses strong concerns about the  
4 proposed use of public resources for the benefit of a specific private entity.

5 **Department Testimony:** Proposed bill urges the Department to convene a task force to evaluate and identify  
6 potential sources and means of funding available to provide support for and help maintain the Hawaii Wildlife  
7 Center Facility and Hawaii's endangered wildlife. This measure contains language to evaluate the appropriate level  
8 of funding and the potential use of the ERRF established under section 128D-2. Efforts in the past have been  
9 forwarded to the Department requesting such funding support. The Department's assertion has and is that specific  
10 funding for such a facility is not necessary and reduces the Department's effort to maintain flexibility in utilizing  
11 ERRF resources in its overall environmental response activities. In addition, the Department did provide funding  
12 support over the years to other agencies for wildlife protection assistance. Through time, it was determined that this  
13 technical support was not necessary on an on-going basis, but could be established should specific needs occur.  
14 Overall, however, DOH is the inappropriate agency for matters relating to wildlife protection and rehabilitation.

15

16 **Offered Amendments:** The Department recommends that an alternate funding mechanism would be a Grant-In-  
17 Aid under Chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

18 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Harry Kim  
Mayor



Wil Okabe  
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow  
Deputy Managing Director

## County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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April 10, 2019

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair  
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Harry Kim Members:

**RE: HCR 168 Support for the Hawaii Wildlife Center Facility and Hawai'i's Endangered Wildlife**

Hawai'i Island is pleased to be the home of the Hawai'i Wildlife Center, and by all accounts the Center is doing an outstanding job in rehabbing some of Hawai'i's most critically endangered species, training response personnel and volunteers, and being part of DLNR's response team.

Funding for such a facility is no doubt a challenge, so HCR 168 would certainly be welcomed.

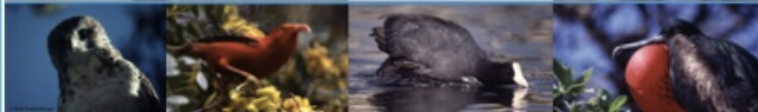
Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim  
MAYOR





**Hawai'i Wildlife Center**  
P.O. Box 551752 • Kapa'au, HI 96755



**TESTIMONY OF LINDA ELLIOTT,  
PRESIDENT AND CENTER DIRECTOR  
HAWAII' I WILDLIFE CENTER**

**PRESENTED TO THE  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT**

**DATE: Friday, April 12, 2019  
TIME: 2:21 p.m.  
PLACE: Conference Room 224  
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 168, Relating to Native Wildlife**

To the honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair, Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair and members of the Committee:

I am submitting testimony in support of HCR 168. Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment.

Hawaiian wildlife species are among the most critically threatened species on the planet. Most of their habitat has been altered or destroyed by conversion for economic use and by the introduction of non-native plants and animals. Mosquitoes transmitting avian malaria and pox have dramatically reduced the distribution of native forest birds. In addition, more than 14 million seabirds spend all or part of each year in the Hawaiian archipelago. Most are found on densely populated colonies where they are highly vulnerable to vessel groundings, pollutant spills and introduced species.

Hawaii receives more than 40 million barrels of petroleum products each year, in nearly 700 tanker trips. Much of this oil is moved throughout the main islands in an extensive network of tanks and pipelines on Oahu and between islands on many smaller vessels. Nearly 18,000 sea-going vessels travel within the islands, including commercial fishing vessels, Navy ships and submarines, cargo vessels, tugboats and cruise liners. Other sources of oil that impact wildlife include bilge discharges at sea, transfer operations and onshore storage and refining.

There have been more than 100 vessel groundings reported in the Hawaiian archipelago. We dodged the bullet in 1989 when *the Exxon Houston* grounded off Oahu with 490,000 barrels of

fuel on board and, in 1990, when the *Star Connecticut* grounded with 250,000 barrels on board, but sometimes we're not so lucky. When the *Hawaiian Patriot* sank west of Kauai in 1967 more than 715,000 barrels of fuel, nearly three times the Exxon Valdez spill, were released. A decade later, when the *Irene's Challenge* broke apart near Midway, nearly 240,000 barrels of crude oil were released. Closer to home, the barge *Hana* released 42,000 gallons of fuel off Oahu in 1987 and, in the same year, more than 127,000 gallons of jet fuel were released from a pipeline into Pearl Harbor.

State and Federal governments share statutory responsibility for the conservation of migratory birds and endangered species. This includes the requirement to respond to spills, or potential spills, of petroleum products and other contaminants. The agencies with lead roles in spill response include the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State Department of Health and the State Department of Land and Natural Resources, all acting together through an Area Contingency Plan.

**The Hawaii Wildlife Center (HWC) is the only wildlife emergency response facility in the State**

Paramount for our State to prepare for and respond to the wildlife-related impacts of oil spill events and is a well developed wildlife emergency response facility. HWC is the only facility in the State that meets all minimum requirements for this type of emergency response and native wildlife rehabilitation, and provides professional, state-of-the-art treatment for native Hawaiian wildlife affected by contamination, disease and injury.

HWC staff has the experience and capability to manage wildlife-related response, including assessment, training, mobilization, supervision, facilities management, wildlife capture, handling, stabilization and transportation. At the Center, staff will perform triage, assessment, stabilization, rehabilitation, husbandry, quarantine, hydration, feeding, cleaning, monitoring, recovery and release into the wild. The Center will also provide emergency response training for agency staff, interns, students and volunteers. The training will include wildlife identification, biology, capture, handling, stabilization, treatment, injury and illness recognition and translocation.

HWC has a Memorandum of Agreement between the Center, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the State Department of Land and Natural Resources. However, while this MOA will provide a framework for effective collaboration, it will not ensure that resources are available to keep the Center open and "ready for business."

We have been open for animal care since September 2012, and have already received over 500 birds representing nearly 40 different native species. In order to keep our critical services available to Hawai'i, we will need a predictable and consistent source of operational funding.

Currently, revenues from the barrel tax are split between DOH, DBEDT, DOA and the General Fund. The DOH share is directed into the Environmental Response Revolving Fund. To date, these revenues have been allocated to prepare for and support a physical spill response, but only minimal funds have been made available to prepare for and mitigate oil spill impacts to wildlife with no funds provided for the necessary oiled wildlife response facility.

HCR 168 will begin the critical process towards ensuring that a permitted, professionally staffed, state-of-the-art facility is fully prepared to respond to any spill event and help to satisfy the statutory responsibility of the State and Federal government.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

**Testimony of Dr. Robert Shallenberger**  
**Conservation Biologist and Wildlife Program Manager**

**Presented to the**  
**Committee on Agriculture and Environment**

**DATE: April 12, 2019**

**TIME: 9:30 am**

**PLACE Conference Room 234**

**State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 168, Relating to Native Wildlife**

To the honorable Senator Mike Gabbard Chair, Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this resolution.

Consider the facts. In less than eight years the Hawaii Wildlife Center has grown from a plastic pool and a well-used house trailer into a state of the art, professionally managed wildlife treatment and rehabilitation facility.

Ms. Linda Elliott has provided the visionary leadership necessary to get the Center off the ground.

The highly motivated Board of Directors and the Center's core staff have provided the technical capability and experience to support growth of the program.

A comprehensive program for emergency response training has been developed and implemented.



An environmental education program has been developed and the first phase of implementation has begun.

The Center has enjoyed the critical support of a diverse cadre of motivated volunteers.

The Center has developed critically important working relationships with the Federal, State and private partners that share responsibility for conservation of Hawaii's wildlife.

By any measure, the performance of the Center in its early years has been remarkable. Regrettably, the growth and implementation of Center programs have been severely hampered by the shortfall in operational funding. Convening a task force to evaluate and identify potential sources of Center funding would be a critically important next step.

I strongly support enactment of HCR168.

**HCR-168**

Submitted on: 4/9/2019 5:18:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/12/2019 2:21:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carrie Ostroski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Mahalo, for considering the critical services and conservation value of the Hawaii Wildlife Center. We are so fortunate to have Hawaii Wildlife Center serving the state through wildlife emergency response, advocacy, education, and collaboration. Their services are necessary and critical, particularly with the daily threat of oil spills and off-shore disasters.

I am a strong advocate for their tremendous work and dedicated, experienced staff. As a resident of Hawaii and executive director of a grantmaking foundation investing in conservation, I have both a personal and professional relationship with the Center and can say first-hand that their work and experience are essential and deserving of this investment.

The very things that make Hawaii amazing and unique, that provide biodiversity and ecosystems that support us, add beauty and song to our lives, and attract so many visitors, are critically at risk. Much of Hawaii's wildlife is gravely endangered and threatened by human decisions and activities on land and water. We all have a responsibility to protect what remains and create conditions that promote thriving populations of all of Hawaii's native and endemic wildlife.

It's already amazing what the Center is accomplishing with limited resources. Additional investments and funding are necessary to keep the Center operating at its highest level, meet growing demands, and be prepared and ready in a moment's notice when a disaster occurs. This is not only an investment in preventing what "could happen" but in actively protecting wildlife from what already is happening.

Mahalo again, for your consideration of my testimony in support of HCR168 and funding for Hawaii Wildlife Center.

Carrie Ostroski

**HCR-168**

Submitted on: 4/9/2019 8:10:44 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/12/2019 2:21:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Caroline A Garrett	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a Hawai'i resident and educator for more than 50 years, I have witnessed the decline and even extinction of Hawaii's native bird species.

I volunteer for - and contribute to - the Hawai'i Wildlife Center and have firsthand knowledge of the excellence with which they carry out their mission.

A visit to their facility in Kapa'au is the best evidence of the dedication and high quality of their operation.

They are uniquely prepared, experienced, and positioned to address threats to Hawaii's precious avian wildlife. Their efforts deserve your most favorable consideration and assistance.

**HCR-168**

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 3:47:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/12/2019 2:21:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support HCR168. Hawaii is the “endangered species capital of the world” because we haven’t done enough to protect all these species which are endangered. Educating people is a step in the right direction.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei

**HCR-168**

Submitted on: 4/11/2019 4:15:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/12/2019 2:21:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nona b wilson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaiian wildlife species are among the most critically threatened species on the planet. The Hawaii Wildlife Center is the only wildlife emergency response facility in the state and as such is the only hope our birds have for survival in an emergency. Funding is essential to keep this facility operational. It is difficult to imagine Hawaii without a place to send our injured and otherwise compromised birds.

Mahalo for allowing me to testify on this important matter.