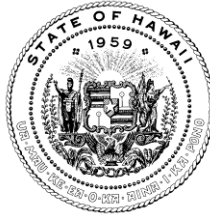


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



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 Committee on  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Tuesday, March 19, 2019  
9:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 219/HOUSE RESOLUTION 194  
URGING THE STATE AND EACH COUNTY TO ADOPT THE GLOBAL PACT FOR  
THE ENVIRONMENT TO ACHIEVE THE UNITED NATIONS PARIS AGREEMENT  
AND THE 2030 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA, AND TO SPECIFICALLY ADOPT THE  
UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, NUMBERS 13  
THROUGH 17**

House Concurrent Resolution 219/House Resolution 194 urges the State and each County to adopt the United Nations Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports these measures.**

The State has followed the lead of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and created the Hawaii Strategy for Plant Conservation (<http://laukahi.org/hawaii-strategy-for-plant-conservation/>) to commit to secure seed collections from 75% of Hawaii's most important plant species by 2020. Further, the Department continues to support the diversification of agricultural systems by providing technical and financial assistance through the Forest Stewardship Program to landowners interested in developing agroforestry systems.

The Department notes that urban forest areas and tree-lined streets have been shown to lead to reduced crime and reduces vehicle speeds which increases safety for pedestrians and cyclists. Further, placing trees next to freeways and roads, and having roads pass through and by green areas, reduces driver stress, as measured by blood pressure, heart rate, and sympathetic nervous system changes. Green infrastructure associated with roads and drainageways also reduces storm-water runoff and improves water quality, which has major advantages as the waters enter our near-shore waters.

The Department recognizes the importance of providing on-the-job training for youth and has partnered with organizations such as Kupu, who uses state funding to leverage AmeriCorps grant funds to provide service-learning programs in conservation, renewable energy, agriculture, and sustainability as a catalyst to restore communities and build a more sustainable future for Hawaii. Many Kupu interns have gone on to lead successful careers in conservation in Hawaii. The Department also supports training for educators through Project Learning Tree that connects place based environmental issues with national teaching standards for students.

The Department recognizes that watershed protection is a corner-piece to meeting a multitude of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife is actively carrying out management actions to work toward this goal to protect 30% (253,000 acres) of priority watersheds by 2030, as are 10 Watershed Partnerships representing a multitude of public and private landowners across five islands.

Natural resource related employment already accounts for a significant proportion of the State's green economy. Green jobs will continue to be an important part of a growing sustainable economy. The most recent statistical analysis of the green-job market by the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations estimates that there are over 11,000 green jobs making up 2.4 percent of Hawaii's private sector alone.

The Department notes that part of building resilient infrastructure that promotes inclusive and sustainable industrialization, fosters innovation, and makes cities and communities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable, includes the preservation, maintenance, and expansion of green infrastructure, including our urban forests. Urban forests can play a significant role in building healthier communities and people, cooling heat islands in cities, improving sales in business districts, and protecting communities from the impacts from storm events and natural disasters through storm-water mitigation and absorption.

Protecting and increasing the footprint of our native forests will have as much of an impact on mitigating the effects of climate change as reducing our carbon emissions. Protecting and managing our coral reefs for resiliency of climate-related stressors, will help sustain Hawaii's marine ecosystems into the future. By reforesting grasslands under the jurisdiction of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife alone, the State could sequester five billion tons of carbon from the atmosphere. Native forests also mitigate climate change by keeping the islands cooler, protecting our reefs from being damaged by runoff, protecting communities from the impacts from storm events and natural disasters through storm-water mitigation and absorption, and efficiently collecting rainwater for our aquifers. Increased capacity of marine management will also help mitigate climate change through invasive species control and reef restoration projects.

By continuing to work with the State Office of Planning's Sustainability Coordinator, the City and County of Honolulu's Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency office, and the other County Sustainability officers, as well as on a national level with the 18-Governor U.S. Climate Alliance, the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission's focus is on resilience and clean energy. It recognizes the urgency of climate threats and promotes ambitious strategies for climate change mitigation. In the near future, it proposes to develop a technical assistance program for state and county agencies dealing with vulnerability to climate impacts (especially sea level rise), to be conducted by experts; and provide coordination and support for a

number of clean (and sustainable) transportation actions. These strategies resonate with the proposed measure's intent to help Hawaii achieve its energy, climate change and sustainability goals.

The Department recognizes that a comprehensive marine plan is needed to conserve and sustain Hawaii's ocean and marine resources by implementation of statewide management actions, including fisheries rules, to improve nearshore ecosystems, ensure responsible use, and sustainably manage key food fish species; the identification of a statewide network of priority areas for effective management of at least 30% of Hawai'i's nearshore waters, and work collaboratively with local stakeholders to identify management options appropriate for each place; the encouragement of responsible behavior through compliance and enforcement of rules related to nearshore fisheries and ecosystems; the prevention of marine pollution; and the prioritization of monitoring and data analysis to inform adaptive management.

Core to the mission of the Department is to ensure the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their uses for their intrinsic and ecosystem services values. The Department recognizes the importance of strengthening the means of implementation and management of our natural and cultural resources. The Department currently receives less than one percent of the state budget to manage state lands mauka to makai. The Department has been working to identify alternative means of funding for conservation actions, including building public-private partnerships to help manage and steward Hawaii's natural resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these measures.

**HCR-219**

Submitted on: 3/15/2019 8:59:29 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/19/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HCR-219**

Submitted on: 3/16/2019 1:22:11 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/19/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John Bickel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Think globall, act locally! That is the logic to support this resolution.

**HCR-219**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 10:12:53 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/19/2019 9:30:00 AM

<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 HCR219. Sustainability this is critical in order to protect Hawaii's limited resources as well as mitigate the dangers of climate change, which is already occurring.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei

**HCR-219**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 11:41:45 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/19/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Erica Scott	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



ORGANIZING *for* ACTION

To: The House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection  
From: Brodie Lockard, Hawaii State Climate Lead, Organizing for Action  
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2019, 9:30 am

**In support of HCR219 / HR194**

**LATE**

Dear EEP Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Committee Members—

Organizing for Action supports HCR219 / HR194.

In the face of federal attacks on the environment in general, and sustainability in particular, the State and all four counties should do all they can to uphold the Paris Agreement through local action. They should especially adopt the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, numbers 13 through 17.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Brodie Lockard  
Hawaii State Climate Lead, Organizing for Action



**LATE**

**HCR-219**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 3:44:40 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/19/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, AS IT WILL AID OUR EFFORTS TO WORK WITH OUR HIGH SCHOOL KIDS TO BECOME AWARE OF CLIMATE CHANGE & HOW WE CAN INVOKE OUR OWN KÄENAKA MAOLI BEST PRACTICES TO HELP REDUCE THE SEVERITY OF GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE. MAHALO.**