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GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
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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
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**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 168/HOUSE RESOLUTION 150
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/House Resolution 150 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 these resolutions 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 these measures.

HR-150

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 10:16:20 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Andrea Quinn | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support HR150. Hawaii is the “endangered species capital of the world” because we haven’t done enough to protect all these species which are endangered.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei

HR-150

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 3:39:41 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Carrie Ostroski | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

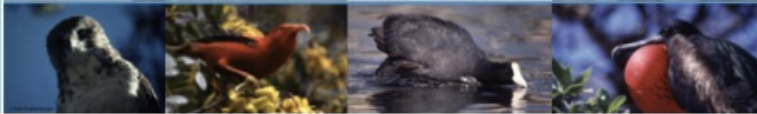
I am in strong support of funding for Hawaii Wildlife Center as the only wildlife emergency response facility in Hawaii. I am both professionally and personally engaged with the organization. As the executive director of The Dorrance Family Foundation, I can say with great confidence that the organization is operationally and fiscally credible and professional and are a tremendous resource to Hawaii. We have funded and followed their programs for the last decade. They are experts in their field and are fiscally responsible in their use of funding and their grant reporting. They provide a specialized service found nowhere else in the state and truly care about the very special, unique and fragile wildlife of Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration,

Carrie



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



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

LATE

**PRESENTED TO THE
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

DATE: Tuesday, March 19, 2019

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 325

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 169/HR 150, Relating to Native Wildlife

To the Honorable Nicole Lowen, Chair, Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair and members of the Committee:

I am submitting testimony in support of HCR 169/HR 150. 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/HR 150 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.

LATE

HR-150

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 5:16:59 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cheri Johnston | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I have been a volunteer and fund raiser for the Hawai'i Wildlife Center since moving to the Big Island 3 years ago. Upon my first visit to the center, I was immediately impressed by the dedication and passion of the staff. Their professional and comprehensive approach to the critical care of Hawai'i wildlife was evident in the pristine condition of their facility and their absolutely amazing knowledge of their patients. I was hooked!

As I became more involved with the center, I saw how they understood the need to go beyond the treatment of their patients, for the sake of their patients. They created a high-quality interactive educational center at HWC and work with local schools, youth groups, and island visitors to help educate them on native Hawai'i species. It is always fun to be a part of these visits, and again, I am always impressed with the quality of instruction and the amazing level of knowledge of the entire staff. You should all personally check it out!

HWC outreach goes even further than that. The Center actively searches for, and participates in, pertinent programs, festivals, fairs, STEMFESTs, cultural celebrations, and educational programs around the world. The center is blessed with a very talented and passionate staff who attend these events and enthusiastically influence everyone they come in contact with.

As is the case with all non-profits, funding is always a burning issue for the success of their program. HWC is no different. I would love to see the center receive regular funding from the State to alleviate some of their on-going challenges of searching for funding sources and creating fundraising projects. The Hawai'i Wildlife Center is the only facility in Hawai'i providing care for our native species. To see their efforts compromised, or worse, because of lack of funding, would be tragic. I believe funding of the Hawai'i Wildlife Center is a long-overdue budget item that the State of Hawai'i should embrace immediately.

Thank you ~ Cheri Johnston

LATE

HR-150

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 5:23:46 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Caroline A Garrett | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I have volunteered with the Hawaii Wildlife Center for two years and am well acquainted with the excellence of the services they provide to address threats to Hawaii's unique species.

Hawai'i Wildlife Center is a well-conceived, professionally managed, and dedicated NFP operation which maintains high professional standards in every aspect of its wildlife education and rehabilitation mission.

I urge your most favorable consideration in support of their unique and crucial efforts on behalf of Hawaii's wildlife.

HR-150

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 6:05:50 PM

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



| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nancy Rustad | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

As a retired scientist, a concerned citizen and a supporter of the Hawaii Wildlife Center, I feel strongly about the importance of preserving what remains of the native Hawaiian bird population.

Such preservation is key not only to maintaining our native species themselves, but also to maintaining the quality of life for those living on these islands and enjoying the natural world.

The Hawaii Wildlife Center is a world class rehabilitation and conservation center with a proven track record. HWC already has in place the professional experience, the protocols and procedures, and the facility to address oil- and fuel-related spills in order to maximize wildlife survival in the face of such a disaster. Moreover, it can do so in a manner ensuring the safety of the personnel involved. HWC has trained responders in the past and formed collaborative partnerships to maximize the success of such efforts.

HWC is the only such resource in our state. I hope the State Legislature agrees as to the criticality and the importance of the capability HWC can provide and appreciates the importance of supporting such activity in a proactive rather than reactive manner.

Please support HR150.

LATE

HR-150

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 6:30:17 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| REBECCA H. COLVIN | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am a resident of Kailua Kona, Hawaii. I am also on the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Wildlife Center ("HWC"). I strongly support HR 150, not only because the HWC currently provides ongoing wildlife response and rehabilitation for threatened and endangered native birds of the region, but because it is the only qualified entity that can provide large scale wildlife emergency response and rehabilitation in the event of an oil or fuel related spill. The citizens of this State expect protection of Hawaii's endangered wildlife and the HWC serves that public interest, currently without any operational funding assistance from the State or federal government. Accordingly, it is appropriate for the legislature to evaluate and identify funding available to provide support and help maintain the Hawaii Wildlife Center facility so that it can continue to be available to service that public interest.

Rebecca H. Colvin