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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

Thursday, April 11, 2019
9:40 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 124, SENATE DRAFT 1
URGING THE GOVERNOR, IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF
LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT A TREE
PLANTING PROGRAM

Senate Concurrent Resolution 124, Senate Draft 1 urges the Governor, in coordination with the Department of Land and Natural Resources, assisted by the Office of Planning, to establish and implement a tree planting program. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this measure and provides the following comments.**

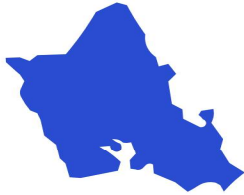
The Department has several private landowner assistance programs available for land managers interested in improving and restoring their forested or formerly forested lands. Each of these programs, including the Forest Stewardship Program, Natural Area Reserve Program, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Urban and Community Forestry Program, and the Watershed Partnerships can support tree planting projects on private lands. Although these programs provide the framework for encouraging and supporting tree planting projects, with 66% of Hawaii's forest lands managed by private landowners, there is not sufficient funding in any of these programs to meet the demand or need for tree planting support.

Additionally, the Department has the ability to conduct and a need for tree planting across the public lands that it manages (equal to almost one-half of the land area in Hawai'i). For example, the Division of Forestry and Wildlife has identified over 180,000 acres just within the Forest Reserve System that would benefit from additional tree planting to improve watershed health and that would sequester carbon dioxide (equal to approximately 5 million to 7 million trees) should funding be made available.

Forest ecosystems not only provide the water that sustains our lives in the islands, they also prevent soil erosion that damages our coral reefs and sequester and store remarkable amounts of carbon. Forest management and restoration is a powerful natural climate change solution. Recent scientific estimates by the United States Geological Survey suggest that an additional four million metric tons of carbon, equivalent to the annual average emissions of about 1.15 million Hawaii residents, could be sequestered and stored by reforesting current non-native grass and shrub-lands under the jurisdiction of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife.

The Department and partners have documented a five percent loss in urban tree canopy in a five year period on O‘ahu, our most populous island. This equates to a total removal of over 76,000 trees. The Department strongly supports actions, such as this one, to reverse this trend statewide. Trees in urban and rural areas encourage safer streets (by slowing traffic), reduce urban heat island effect, improve stormwater runoff and erosion, improve air quality, and sequester carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



O'ahu County Democrats
oahudemocrats.org



Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection (EEP):

RE: SCR 124 SD1: Urging the Governor to Establish a Tree Planting Program.

“You can always amend a big plan, but you can never expand a little one. I don't believe in little plans. I believe in plans big enough to meet a situation which we can't possibly foresee now.” — Harry S. Truman, former U.S. President, Democrat.

The O'ahu County Democrats write in proud support of SCR 124 SD1. This resolution would establish and implement a “lei of green” per the language of the resolution, for the purposes of public beautification, green space connectivity, and environmental services in the age of a changing climate.

Hundreds of thousands of people live in the affected “lei of green” area, the densest population in our state. The economic benefits from reducing the Urban Heat Island (UHI) and inducing healthy lifestyle changes—active transportation and recreational exercise—may far outpace the costs for society. We have health disparities with preventable chronic disease, inflamed by a sedentary lifestyle. Those chronically ill persons raise the cost of healthcare for all. This resolution ties into a vision of preventative behavior and lifestyle. We also collectively spend a lot of money on energy for air conditioning. Research from the EPA and North Carolina State University suggests that when properly modeled and planned, groves of multiple mature trees will reduce surface air temperature between two (2) and nine (9) degrees Fahrenheit.¹

The more that native species and cultural resources—such as our Hawaiian trees—can be re-integrated into the landscape, the more that people will come to understand our home on O'ahu on a deeper level. Interpretive signage and programmatic education are just some of the ways that can later be used to communicate the power, context and meaning of this thoughtful program.

We seek no adverse impact for an under-budgeted and expansively obligated Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). Simply, we are seeking this program's passage through SCR124 SD1 because of its monumental impact for the good. We believe the legislature and DLNR can both succeed with this resolution.

We thank Senator Dela Cruz for introducing this progressive, forward-thinking resolution. We urge the EEP Committee to vote in favor.

Mahalo nui loa,

DYLAN P. ARMSTRONG, VICE CHAIR
O'AHU COUNTY COMMITTEE, O'AHU COUNTY DEMOCRATS

1. US Environmental Protection Agency, 2019. Using Trees and Vegetation to Reduce Heat Islands. Website: <https://www.epa.gov/heat-islands/using-trees-and-vegetation-reduce-heat-islands>



Testimony before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Thursday, April 11, 2019 9:40 AM
Conference Room 325

**RE: SCR124 SD1 URGING THE GOVERNOR, IN COORDINATION WITH
THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, TO
ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT A TREE PLANTING PROGRAM.**

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The Outdoor Circle

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Daniel Dinell

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Members of the House
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection:

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 support SCR124 SD1. The resolution identifies the tremendous
value trees bring in multiple ways to our lives as well as the important
lei of green concept on Oahu.

We like how the resolution focuses on a comprehensive change effort
to further the livability and vitality of our island home. We would only
add by stating the obvious: it isn't enough to plant trees; the plan and
subsequent execution must ensure the Right Tree is in the Right Place
and will receive the Right Care.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our views and support this
measure.

Mahalo,

Tom Dinell
President

SCR-124-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2019 10:47:52 PM

Testimony for EEP on 4/11/2019 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John & Rita Shockley	FREE ACCESS COALITION	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha!

Here is a wonderful chance for our leaders to create a legacy for future generations of residents as well as Honolulu city visitors to have a coastline free of commercial activity. A place where green replaces concrete along the city's coast.

The Free Access Coalition strongly supports the Green Lei for Honolulu's coast.

Mahalo for your time.

John & Rita Shockley. Free Access Coalition coordinators.



Hawaii's Thousand Friends

300 Kuulei Rd. Unit A #281 * Kailua, HI 96734 * Phone/Fax (808) 262-0682 E-Mail: hfff3000@gmail.com

April 11, 2019

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

SCR 124 SD1

URGING THE GOVERNOR, IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT A TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger and Committee members;

Hawaii's Thousand Friends (HTF), a non-profit statewide organization dedicated to ensuring that land use planning and decisions protect the environment, human health and natural and cultural resources, supports SCR 124 SD1 to establish and implement a tree-planting program.

Trees and the lei of green that they provide are a great value to people living, working, shopping, and walking in and through Hawai'i's urban places.

The anticipated \$250-600 (including first 3 years of maintenance) cost of planting a single tree returns approximately \$90,000 of direct benefits (not including aesthetic, social and natural) in the lifetime of the tree.

Trees planted in urban areas provide visual walls between cars and pedestrians and create vertical walls framing streets to help motorists guide their movement and assess speed, which leads to overall speed reduction.

Studies have shown that urban area medians with trees are safer than those without trees.

Trees create more pleasant walking environments along with a sense of pride and ownership.

Businesses on streets with trees show 12% higher income streams.

Trees improve drainage infrastructure by absorbing the first 30% of most precipitation through their leaf system, allowing evaporation back into the atmosphere and allowing water to percolate into the ground water and aquifer thus reducing storm water runoff and flooding potential.

Trees provide shade with temperature differentials ranging from 5-15% degrees. With climate change upon us heat reduction is always welcome.

Trees help reduce health impacts from car and truck exhaust, which contains significant pollutants, including carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides and particulate matter.

Asphalt streets and parking lots increase urban temperatures by 3-7 degrees, which significantly impacts energy costs to homeowners and consumers.

Trees lower urban air temperatures. An urban area properly shaded with trees can reduce energy bills for a household from 15-35%.

Trees create a connection to nature and the human senses, provide natural environments for birds, and make a bold visual statement about place.

Please support establishing healthier, greener and cooler urban environments by passing SCR 124 SD1 out of committee.

O'AHU ISLAND PARKS CONSERVANCY

House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Thursday, April 11, 2019, Hearing
House Conference Room 325
9:40 AM

Senate Concurrent Resolution 124, SD1

Testimony in Strong Support

Urging the Governor in Coordination with the
Department of Land and Natural Resources, to
Establish and Implement a Tree Planting Program

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger and Committee Members:

Senate Concurrent Resolution 124 is an important advisory in view of climate change and sea level rise. State planning guidelines and agency partnerships are needed to identify the optimum areas in which to implement this effort. Hawai'i's scenic and recreational shoreline resources, green open spaces and natural areas, historic and cultural landscapes, and scenic resources are included as critical environmental areas to identify.

Acting on these advisories will additionally help to maintain and improve the quality of life and physical environment for all Hawai'i's communities with the linkage of existing shoreline resources, including the alignment of scenic greenways connecting public parks and recreational open spaces with additional trees throughout.

To accomplish the challenging task of planting a system of needed trees statewide, it is important that the State Office of Planning assist the Department of Land and Natural resources together with other state and city agencies and departments to meet this significant objective.

Notably, the precedent model already exists in the embodiment of the Lei of Green parks and green spaces from Diamond Head to Aloha Tower, with planned greenway connections soon to be implemented to accommodate many more trees for this purpose. For example, the Hawaii Community Development Authority adopted the Lei of Green policy as a prominent guiding principle in their 2011 Master Plan for Kaka'ako Makai.

Thus it is recommended that state and city agency partnerships engage in this purposeful tree-planting endeavor by completing and using the Lei of Green as a precedent model for island- and state-wide expansion to help meet the State's green infrastructure and carbon neutrality goals by 2045.

Michelle Spalding Matson
President, O'ahu Island Parks Conservancy

SCR-124-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 12:58:16 PM

Testimony for EEP on 4/11/2019 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Bagnall	The Outdoor Circle	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support this bill.

We are losing trees faster than they are being planted

It is essential that all new tree planting efforts be strongly supported

Trees are essential for our existence. They generate our oxygen and remove CO2

An we must achieve 40% tree cover as a matter of urgency to counteract climate warming here

SCR-124-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2019 7:20:16 PM

Testimony for EEP on 4/11/2019 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-124-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/9/2019 9:21:49 PM

Testimony for EEP on 4/11/2019 9:40:00 AM

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

Comments:

SCR-124-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 2:15:58 PM

Testimony for EEP on 4/11/2019 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dave Watase	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

Our islands, roads, and parks need more green trees to keep Hawaii looking like Paradise especially with all the higher density concrete buildings being built. Please provide funding for maintenance, fertilizer, and watering so that whatever is planted can be sustained for the long term future.

Mahalo,

Dave Watase

dwatase@hotmail.com

728-0759