

Mauna Kahalawai  
Watershed Partnership

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Westmauiwatershed.org

#### Watershed Partners

County of Maui

Hanaula Ranch, LLC

Ka'anapali Land  
Company, LLC

Kahoma Land, LLC

Kahoma Land  
Holdings, LLC

Kamehameha Schools

Makila Land Co., LLC

Maui County  
Department of Water  
Supply

Maui Land & Pineapple  
Company Inc

State of Hawaii  
Dept. of Land & Natural  
Resources

The Nature  
Conservancy

Tri-Isle RC&D

U.S. Fish & Wildlife  
Service

Wailuku Water Co. LLC

## Mauna Kahalawai Watershed Partnership

February 18, 2019

### Supporting Watershed Protection Programs in HB1171, HB1368 & HB561

House Energy and Environmental Protection Committee (EEP)  
Thursday, February 14, 2019, 8:30 AM Conference Room 325

Aloha Legislators,

The Mauna Kahalawai Watershed Partnership supports budget requests in the following bills enhancing watershed protection. Please also see testimony submitted in support of these bills by Department of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson, Suzanne Case.

- [HB1171](#) \$5m to DOFAW for fire equipment and response
- [HB1368](#) Appropriates small amounts of additional funds for DLNR account LNR407 relating native resources and watersheds
- [HB561](#) Establishes an invasive species rapid response special fund with \$400k

These bills will provide critical operating funds for watershed protection. The more we are able to respond quickly and effectively to fire and invasive species at the onset the less we will have to reforest or remove spreading invasive species later. Cost savings and reduced degradation rates of watershed resources should be considerable.

Wild fires have increased in range, severity and frequency. This last year brought thousands of acres of fire to West Maui alone and threatened forested watershed resources along with life and property. Your support for fire related solutions is critical to protecting our watersheds and communities.

The invasive species rapid response fund makes a lot of sense. At a time when significant and new invasive species threats are immersing regularly, a rapid response fund to get to at the problem early would be a prudent mechanism to have in place and avert higher costs.

The above requests are important because watershed lands and their native cover capture rain and cloud moisture and deliver it efficiently to aquifers and surface water sources. Subsequent consumption enhances every aspect of our daily lives and benefits all sectors of our island economy.



Senate Committee on Finance  
Monday, February 25, 2019, 3:00PM, Room 308

Testimony of the *Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species*  
Supporting Funding for the Department of Land and Natural Resources'  
in HB 1171 Relating to the DLNR

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Committee Members,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **is in support of HB 1171, Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources.** The aim of this measure is to make appropriations to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for their operating budget. These appropriations will support the Department of Land and Natural Resources invasive species projects and the goals outlined in the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan.

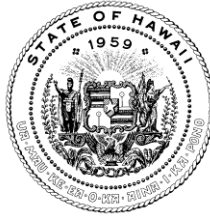
The legislature recognizes the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan as the State's strategy for improving biosecurity with actions and policies outlined over the course of 10 years to mitigate the risk from invasive species introduction, establishment, and spread. This funding will increase DLNR-DOFAW's capacity to address invasive species on the ground by creating 10 new invasive species technician positions, support the construction of a coqui frog barrier fence on Maui, and direct funding to invasive species programs allocated by the HISC.

This funding will also continue the multi-agency response to Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD). We would like to call your attention to the DLNR's critical role in the response efforts to the two fungal pathogens causing ROD that continue to spread on Hawaii Island and both pathogens were confirmed on Kauai last year. Funding provided by the Legislature for ROD is critical for leveraging federal and other non-state funds for research and field work necessary to prevent, monitor, and manage the spread of the disease as well as seek means for controlling it. The ROD Strategic Response Plan (see <https://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/dl/rod/strategicresponseplanfinal.pdf>) budget reflects a need of \$3.2 million, and we believe that with \$2 million in state funds, we will be able to raise the remaining amount from federal, county and private sources.

We encourage the committee to support this measure. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,  
Chelsea Arnott  
CGAPS

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



**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  
FINANCE**

**Monday, February 25, 2019  
3:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1171, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

House Bill 1171, House Draft 1 proposes to make appropriations for the Fiscal Biennium 2019-2021 operating budget of the Department of Land and Natural Resources' (Department) LNR402 Native Resources and Fire Protection Program for fire, natural disaster, and emergency response equipment and other expenses. **The Department strongly supports this measure.**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**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

**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-1171-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 10:50:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2019 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lana Olson	Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-1171-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 8:18:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2019 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nathan Park	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Last year we saw a huge spike in wildfires. More than 30,000 acres were burned across the state last year in 2018 according to HWMO. These included the areas affected by the Kilauea eruption and West Oahu. In the Makua Keaau Forest reseve, endangered plants were killed, including the Gouania vitifolia, whose population is below 50 individuals. Our firefighters did a great job responding to these disasters, but the DOFAW budget was heavily strained. We need to ensure that the state is adequately prepared to handle the next round of fires to prevent loss of human life and property, as well as to protect our delicate native ecosystems. Hawai'i island is particularly under threat. The linvasive shrub, Gorse, contains highly flammable oils that fuel wildfires and it is rapidly spreading around Mauna Kea and other grassland areas. We must act quickly to remove the weeds, and in the meantime prepare to efficiently stamp out fires in those areas. The proposed budget will allow us to do this. Since 99% of wildfires are caused by humans, we have a solemn obligation to be vigilant in protecting our 'Aina from these disasters.