

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

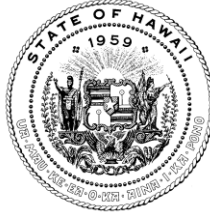
These bills will provide critical operating funds for watershed protection. The more we are able to respond quickly and effectively to fire and invasive species at the onset the less we will have to reforest or remove spreading invasive species later. Cost savings and reduced degradation rates of watershed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

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  
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**LATE**

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 1368, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
OPERATING BUDGET

House Bill 1368, House Draft 1 proposes to make appropriations for the Fiscal Biennium 2019-2021 operating budget of the Department of Land and Natural Resources' (Department) LNR407 Natural Area Reserves and Watershed Management Program. **The Department supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

The House Draft 1 includes additional general funds to be used for removal of the hooved animals remaining within recently constructed fence units. The longer these non-native animals remain, the more they reproduce and the cost and duration of removal multiplies. These animals damage the forest by eating and uprooting plants, spreading diseases and weeds, preying on native birds, and causing erosion. This request will improve the health of these forests so they will be more resilient to threats such as climate change and diseases like Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD). Indeed, preliminary studies are finding significantly fewer dead 'Ōhi'a trees in areas fenced from hooved animals in ROD hotspots on Hawai'i Island. A healthy forest improves storage and purification of fresh water, reduces flooding and sedimentation of reefs, stores greenhouse gases, harbors plants and animals sacred to Hawaiian culture, and provides many other benefits to residents and visitors.

The special fund ceiling increase for the Natural Area Reserve Fund (S342) would allow the expenditure of funds gained by revenue generation from parking fees at the 'Āhihi Kina'u Natural Area Reserve. This self-sustaining funding source is an innovative way to fund maintenance and

conservation of the Reserve – home to spectacular coral reefs, rare plants and wildlife, unique anchialine pools, and archeological sites.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**LATE**

**HB-1368-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 12:58:13 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>
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support HB1368. Coral reefs are dying in large part to warming oceans, and valuable coastline is eroding due to sea level rise. Climate change is already occurring. By granting an adequate budget for the DLNR we protect our environment thereby protecting our tourism dollars.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei

**LATE**

**HB-1368-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 10:47:09 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-1368-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 8:29:39 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:

Our lack of biosecurity and food security pose an existential threat to our state. Our native watershed ecosystems play a crucial role in replenishing our groundwater, yet they are in rapid decline. Just this year, the Hawaiian tree snail endemic to the Waianae Mountains on Oahu went extinct, heartbreaking evidence that the Makua valley watershed is in terrible shape. Viscious invasive species like the rose wolf snail, gorse, and little fire ants threaten our future. They not only attack the forest, but as in the case of gorse and little fire ants, they pose a threat to human life. gorse is particularly nasty. It is a poliferous shrub with 2 inch spines and flammable oils, and it is currently taking over the grasslands on Mauna Kea. Not only does it pose a fire hazard, it makes potentially areable land inaccessible to agricultural operations. We need to better fund the DLNR to handle these invasive species and others to protect the future of the land and our people.