

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 Senate Committee on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Monday, March 11, 2019
1:20 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1483, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

House Bill 1483, House Draft 1 proposes to amend the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force (GHGSTF) nomination process. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure and offers the following comments.**

The Department supports removing the requirement that GHGSTF members are subject to Section 26-34, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to efficiently seat members to fulfill statutory mandates.

The Department emphasizes the critical importance of expanding our green infrastructure as a means to: 1) reverse the trend of Honolulu's urban tree canopy loss, documented at 5% loss from 2010 to 2014, a trend which continues; 2) reduce storm water run-off and flooding; 3) reduce the urban heat island effect; 4) promote human health; and 5) sequester greenhouse gases. Therefore, the Department supports the original intent of this measure regarding establishment of a Green Urban Core Pilot Project per the measure's original version.

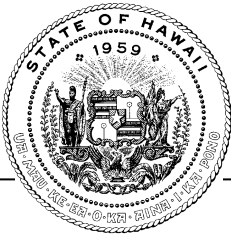
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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



OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

Director
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Statement of
LEO R. ASUNCION
Planning Program Administrator,
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Monday, March 11, 2019
1:20 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of
HB 1483, HD1
RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

The Office of Planning (OP) appreciates the intent of HB 1483, HD1 and offers the following amendments:

- HB 1483, HD1 does not provide any operational funds by which the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force (GHGSTF) may continue operating after end of the current fiscal year ending June 30, 2019. Members would have to provide their own funding to attend Task Force meetings, as there would be no funds to reimburse them “for reasonable expenses necessary for the performance of their duties, including travel expenses”. Additionally, there are no operational funds for the GHGSTF to fulfill its statutory mandates, such as studying sequestration potential in our natural and working lands, supporting best management practices, reviewing draw down pathways, and studying avenues to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045. Thus, OP respectfully requests operational funds in the amount of \$300,000, provided that this appropriation does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget.
- The GHGSTF is presently supported by a OP staff position whose GHGSTF duties are in addition to the staffer’s full-time position obligations. The GHGSTF was made permanent by Act 15, SLH 2018, and the interest in its activities has proven to require a dedicated position to adequately fulfill its growing mandates. Therefore, OP respectfully requests that a portion of the requested appropriation above (\$300,000) be directed to support a permanent (1.0 FTE) planner position that would serve as staff to the GHGSTF.
- OP strongly supports removing the requirement that GHGSTF members are subject to HRS § 26-34 to efficiently seat members to fulfill statutory mandates.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



Healthy Climate
Communities

Testimony in support of HB1483 HD1

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Hearing Monday March 11, 2019, 1:20pm

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman and members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

I am writing in strong support of the original version of HB1483 which established a Green Urban Core Pilot Project.

HB1483 originally provided for planting trees and otherwise greening two locations deficient in tree canopy in urban Honolulu. Greening these areas will provide multiple benefits, including reducing the heat island effect, absorbing storm water, and beautifying the city of Honolulu. Investing in green infrastructure will save our State money in the long run and is an important adaptation to climate change.

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago, the second-best time is now. Please restore this bill and support it.

Mahalo,

Dr. Lisa Marten

Executive Director
Healthy Climate Communities
healthyclimate@hawaii.rr.com



O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, March 11, 2019

TIME: 1:20 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 224 State Capitol

RE: HB 1483, HD 1, Relating to Climate Change

To the Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair; the Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

My name is Melodie Aduja and I serve as Chair of the O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i ("DPH"). Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony on HB 1483, HD 1. The O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities ("OCCLP") hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 1483, HD 1, Relating to Climate Change.**

HB 1483, HD 1, provides that members of the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses necessary for the performance of their duties, including travel expenses.

The Democratic Party of Hawai`i is committed to getting 100 percent of our electricity from clean energy sources within a decade. We will cut energy waste in homes, schools, hospitals, and offices through energy efficient improvements; modernize our electric grid; and make manufacturing the cleanest and most efficient in the world. These efforts will create hundreds of new jobs and save families and businesses money on their monthly energy bills. We will transform Hawai`i's transportation by reducing fossil fuel consumption through cleaner fuels, vehicle electrification, and increasing the fuel efficiency of cars, boilers, ships, and trucks. We will make new investments in public transportation and build bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure across our urban and suburban areas. We believe that the tax code must reflect our commitment to a clean energy future by preserving and extending tax incentives for energy efficiency and clean energy.

Democrats believe that carbon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse gases should be priced to reflect their negative externalities, and to accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy and help meet our climate goals. Democrats are committed to defending, implementing and extending smart pollution and efficiency standards and fuel economy standards for automobiles and heavy-duty vehicles, building codes and appliance standards. We are also committed to expanding clean energy research and development.

We will work to expand access to cost-saving renewable energy by low-income households, create good-paying jobs in communities that struggled with energy poverty, and oppose efforts by utilities to limit consumer choice or slow clean energy deployment. We will streamline State permitting to accelerate the construction of new transmission lines to get low-cost renewable energy to market, and incentivize wind, solar, and other renewable energy. *Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform (2018), p. 18, ln. 14-34.*

Climate change poses an urgent and severe threat to our National Security, and DPH believes it would be a grave mistake for the United States to wait for another nation to take the lead in combating the global climate emergency. According to the U.S. military, climate change is a threat multiplier that is already contributing to new conflicts over resources, catastrophic natural disasters, and the degradation of vital ecosystems across the globe. DPH recognizes the catastrophic consequences facing our State, our country, our planet, and civilization.

We believe that Hawai'i must lead in forging a robust global solution to the climate crisis. We are committed to a national mobilization, and to leading a global effort to mobilize nations to address this threat. Our generation must lead the fight against climate change and we applaud Hawai'i's leadership in joining the historic Paris Climate Accord. We will not only meet the goals set in Paris, we will seek to exceed them and push other countries to do the same by slashing carbon pollution and rapidly driving down emissions of potent greenhouse gases like hydrofluorocarbons. We will support other States and developing countries in their efforts to mitigate carbon pollution and other greenhouse gases, deploy more clean energy, and invest in climate resilience and adaptation. *Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform (2018), p. 19, ln. 2-16.*

For the foregoing reasons, to wit, we must lead the fight against climate change and we applaud Hawai'i's leadership in joining the historic Paris Climate Accord; we will not only meet the goals set in Paris, but we will seek to exceed them and push other countries to do the same by slashing carbon pollution and rapidly driving down emissions of potent greenhouse gases like hydrofluorocarbons, OCCLP supports HB 1483, HD 1, and urges that it passes out of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

Mahalo nui loa
Me ka `oia`i`o

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja

Chair, O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of
Hawai`i

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Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com



Testimony before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

Monday, March 11, 2019
Conference Room 224 1:20 PM

RE: HB1483 HD1, "RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE"

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

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 strongly support the original version of HB1483. HD1 deleted Part 1 of HB1483, which contained the Green Urban Core Pilot Project. We urge your Committee to restore this language. By doing so, you will tangibly assist in addressing climate change. Greening them will provide multiple benefits, including reducing the heat island effect, absorbing storm water, and beautifying our city. Investing in green infrastructure will save our State money in the long run.

Mahalo,

Tom Dinell
President
Trees for Honolulu's Future



To: The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Monday, 3/11/19

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the AEN committee,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. On behalf of our 6,000 members and supporters, 350Hawaii.org urges the committee to restore the original language of HB1483.

HB 1483's original version included planting vegetation and trees in the urban core to combat climate change. This would decrease temperatures, sequester carbon emissions, and improve quality of life in Honolulu. Deleting this language was a big mistake.

Please restore HB 1483's original language and pass it as a simple way to combat climate chaos.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on what used to be a very good bill.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



LATE

To: The Senate Committee on Agriculture And Environment
From: Brodie Lockard, Hawaii State Climate Lead, Organizing for Action
Date: Monday, March 11, 1:20 pm, 2019

In strong support of HB 1483 HD1

Dear FIN Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Committee Members—

Organizing for Action strongly supports HB 1483 HD1, ***with its original language restored.***

The preamble to HB 1483's original version spells out clearly why a green urban core pilot project is so vital. Climate chaos is the defining issue of our time, threatening everything that lives on Earth in myriad ways, and we have 11 years to take the most drastic actions possible to save ourselves.

The preamble states climate change's threats clearly:

- * Hawaii has experienced over half a foot of sea level rise in recent decades, and the rate of sea level rise is quickly accelerating.
- * Honolulu could experience regular flooding of the urban core at high tide in as little as fifteen years.
- * Hawaii has experienced a rapid rise in air temperatures averaging a 0.3 degree increase per decade, with stronger warming at higher elevations. The rising sea level and changes in temperature will have a catastrophic effect on Hawaii.
- * The increases in temperatures are causing warming seas which has led to more hurricanes of increasing intensity. A hurricane direct hit on Honolulu is estimated to cause a loss of \$40 billion to Hawaii's infrastructure and economy.
- * Greater storm surges due to sea level rise could result in the loss of coastal property and infrastructure, increased cost for disaster damage and insurance, and loss of life. If nothing is done, the adverse effects of climate change will add a significant burden to local taxpayers, our economy, and way of life.
- * Accordingly, the purpose of this part is to help combat climate change by increasing vegetation and trees in the urban core which will decrease temperatures, sequester carbon emissions, and improve quality of life in Honolulu.

How can fighting climate change in every way possible not be our number one priority? Are we suicidal? HD1 has eviscerated this bill and made it useless for fighting climate change.

We urge you in the strongest terms to restore HB 1483's original language and pass it to combat climate catastrophe.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Brodie Lockard
Hawaii State Climate Lead, Organizing for Action

HB-1483-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 8:36:07 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Winston Welch	Testifying for The Outdoor Circle	Comments	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman and members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Outdoor Circle has long-been an ardent supporter of increased green space with all of the mental, physical, social, economic, and other benefits that come with such green spaces.

We would ask that you please restore the Green Urban Core Pilot Project per HB1483's original version and pass it. Planting trees in our urban core will provide multiple benefits, including reducing the heat island effect, absorbing storm water, and beautifying Honolulu.

Mahalo for your kokua on this and other green advocacy matters,

Winston Welch, Executive Director, The Outdoor Circle

HB-1483-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2019 1:07:08 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brijit Reis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the **original version of HB1483 with plans to plant trees**. By greening State lands in Honolulu's urban core we can both slow climate change and help mitigate the effects. Trees and greenery will reduce the urban heat island effect, absorb storm water and beautify our city.

Thank you,

Dr. Brit Reis

HB-1483-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2019 1:10:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
stephanie frazier	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman and members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

I strongly support and ask you to put back the green infrastructure project into HB1483 and to pass it.

Mayor Caldwell has committed to increase the urban tree canopy to adapt to rising temperatures and increase stormwater we are experiencing with climate change and to store carbon. This effort in key state owned urban areas will complement county efforts and bring much-needed resources to this effort.

Mahalo, Stephanie Frazier

HB-1483-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2019 1:13:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Debbie Schatz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman and members of the AEN Committee,

I strongly support the **original version of HB1483** and ask that you amend the current version to include the original green infrastructure pilot project. Mayor Caldwell has committed to increase the urban tree canopy to adapt to rising temperatures and increase stormwater we are experiencing with climate change and to rescore carbon. This effort in key state owned urban areas will complement county efforts and bring much-needed resources to this effort.

Mahalo,

Debbie Schatz

HB-1483-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2019 1:14:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Simmons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support and ask you to pass HB1483 after restoring it to its original version which includes a budget for planting trees Mayor Caldwell has committed to increase the urban tree canopy to adapt to rising temperatures and increased storm water we are experiencing with climate change and to store carbon. This effort in key State-owned urban areas will complement County efforts and bring much needed resources to the effort.

Thank you,
Karen Simmons

HB-1483-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2019 3:50:25 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
JOHN KNOX	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

Please restore the Green Urban Core Pilot Project as it was in HB1483's original version and then pass the bill. We are losing urban canopy and need more trees and other vegetation in the urban core.

Thank you, John M. Knox

HB-1483-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2019 3:02:43 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan Boyne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB 1483's original version includes planting vegetation and trees in the urban core to combat climate change. This would decrease temperatures, sequester carbon emissions, and improve quality of life in Honolulu. Deleting this language was a big mistake.

Please restore HB 1483's original language and pass it as a simple way to combat climate chaos.

HB-1483-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2019 5:55:47 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roxanne Adams	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman and members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

Please restore the Green Urban Core Pilot Project per HB1483's original version and pass it. Planting trees in our urban core will provide multiple benefits, including reducing the heat island effect, absorbing storm water, and beautifying Honolulu.

Thank you,

Roxanne Adams

HB-1483-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2019 8:08:03 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Culbertson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please restore HB 1483's original language and pass it as a simple way to combat global warming.

Thank you!

HB-1483-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2019 9:53:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rene Umberger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1483-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2019 10:31:08 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sharon Levine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

"HB 1483's original version includes planting vegetation and trees in the urban core to combat climate change. This would decrease temperatures, sequester carbon emissions, and improve quality of life in Honolulu. Deleting this language was a big mistake.

Please restore HB 1483's original language and pass it as a simple way to combat climate chaos."

HB-1483-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2019 4:29:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dyson Chee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB 1483's original version includes planting vegetation and trees in the urban core to combat climate change. This would decrease temperatures, sequester carbon emissions, and improve quality of life in Honolulu. Deleting this language was a big mistake.

Please restore HB 1483's original language and pass it as a simple way to combat climate chaos.

HB-1483-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2019 9:43:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Pappas	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Please restore the original version of HB1483 with plans for greening State lands and Honolulu's urban core. This will also require restoring the appropriate level of funding for this project.

Planting vegetation, especially trees, in urban areas has multiple benefits for people and the environment in this era of a changing climate.

HB-1483-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 12:58:36 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Gannon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern

from Joan Gannon Hawaii Island resident

Re: HB1483. Please restore this bill's original language and pass it as a simple way to combat climate chaos.

Thank you

LATE

HB-1483-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 11:02:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Philip Fernandez	Individual	Support	No

Comments: