

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

ROBERT YU
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2160

February 7, 2020
9:30 a.m.
Room 325

RELATING TO FORESTRY

The Department of Budget and Finance offers the following comments on House Bill (H.B.) No. 2160.

H.B. No. 2160 establishes the State Tree Nursery Special Fund; and appropriates unspecified amounts of general funds and special funds in FY 21 to expand the availability of tree and plant stocks, expand the capacity of the State Tree Nursery, and invest in public outreach and education on the benefits of trees and plants.

As a matter of general policy, the department does not support the creation of any special fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work, and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining.

In regard to H.B. No. 2160, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed special fund would be self-sustaining since the bill does not specify the sources of revenue for the special fund.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

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
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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
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

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
WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Friday, February 7, 2020
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2160
RELATING TO FORESTRY

House Bill 2160 proposes to establish a fund to increase the existing plant stocks, invest in public outreach, and renovate the equipment and facilities of the state tree nursery. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

The Department recognizes there is a clear need to increase capacity at the State Tree Nursery as well as our district nurseries to meet the growing demand for seedlings and planting stock to support climate mitigation, carbon neutrality, forest restoration, wildlife habitat improvements, agroforestry development, and diversified agricultural needs. Trees are our strongest allies for addressing the climate crisis, and the most efficient method for removing carbon dioxide- CO₂ from the atmosphere, including by direct carbon sequestration and improving soil health.

The Department has identified several necessary nursery improvements and upgrades for the State Tree Nursery, equal to approximately \$1.3 million (details available upon request), as well as additional costs for acquisition of seed material. Further, the Department notes that increasing capacity to meet needs will also require additional personnel resources at each of the Department's nurseries.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



**House Committee on Water, Land & Hawaiian Affairs
Hawai'i Center for Food Safety supports: HB2160**

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Todd and members of the committee:

My name is Lauryn Rego and I am the Director for the Hawai'i Center for Food Safety (CFS). CFS is a nationwide public interest, sustainable agriculture nonprofit organization whose mission centers on furthering the public's right to know how their food is produced, through labeling and other means. We have over 950,000 farmer and consumer members across the country, including nearing 14,000 in Hawai'i. On behalf of CFS and our members, I thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today regarding this important bill.

I am writing in strong support of HB2160, related to forestry. It is well established that agriculture contributes roughly 1/3 of greenhouse gas emissions globally. However, unlike other sectors like energy and transportation, agriculture also has the potential to sequester carbon emissions in terrestrial ecosystems. As noted in HB2160, trees have an important function in improving soil health and building climate-resiliency for Hawai'i's environment, including its agricultural landscapes. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a division of the United States Department of Agriculture, has identified agroforestry as a unique land management approach that intentionally blends agriculture and forestry to enhance productivity, profitability, and environmental stewardship. According to NRCS, the strategic planting of trees in agriculture landscapes may increase crop yield, improve soil health, provide habitat for wildlife, and provide a variety of other benefits.

CFS supports HB2160, to increase the availability of tree stocks for agroforestry and soil health in the State by expanding the tree and plant stock available to the public through the state tree nursery. A variety of NRCS Conservation Practice Standards are recommended to implement agroforestry practices in Hawai'i, including alley cropping, multi-story cropping, riparian forest buffers, silvopasture establishment, windbreak establishment, and windbreak restoration. The support and implementation of these agroforestry practices can play an effective role in increasing Hawai'i's food sovereignty, as well as our food and climate security.

Respectfully,

Lauryn Rego
Director, Hawai'i Center for Food Safety

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

660 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Suite 302
Washington, D.C. 20003
T: 202-547-9359 F: 202-547-9429

CALIFORNIA OFFICE

303 Sacramento Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111
T: 415-826-2770 F: 415-826-0507

PACIFIC NORTHWEST OFFICE

917 SW Oak Street, Suite 300
Portland, OR 97205
T: 971-271-7372 F: 971-271-7374

HAWAI'I OFFICE

1132 Bishop Street, Suite 2107
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
T: 808-681-7688



Written Testimony before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Friday, February 7, 2020

Conf. Room 325 (9:30 am)

RE: HB2160 RELATING TO FORESTRY.

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee:

Trees for Honolulu's Future (TFHF) 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 HB2160, which establishes a fund to increase the existing plant stocks, invest in public outreach and renovate the equipment and facilities of the state tree nursery. While our organization's main focus is within the city of Honolulu, we realize that trees add value in all environments and nothing on our island occurs in isolation. Encouraging more trees in forest/uplands is as critically important as facilitating the planting of trees, especially with large canopies, in our urban areas.

Former Vice President Al Gore said it best when he wrote in the September 20, 2019, New York Times: *"And so far, the best available technology for pulling carbon dioxide from the air is something called a tree."* We are running out of time to address climate change. Trees will help and so will this bill and the associated investment into building our tree nursery capacity.

We ask that this bill be passed on to the Committee on Finance.

Mahalo,

Daniel Dinell
President

HONOLULU is HOT TREES are COOL

Visit us: www.TreesForHonolulu.org Contact us: info@TreesForHonolulu.org Voice/Fax/Text: 808-707-6353
P.O. Box 12051, Honolulu, Hawaii 96828

HB-2160

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 10:33:57 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/7/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexandra Kahn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



LATE

House Committee on Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs

Board of Directors:

Hawaii Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) SUPPORTS HB 2160

Gary L. Hooser
President

Friday, February 7, 2020 9:30 a.m. Conference Room 325

Andrea N. Brower
Ikaika M. Hussey
Co-Vice Presidents

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd and Members of the Committee,

Kim Coco Iwamoto
Treasurer

On behalf of the Hawaii Alliance for Progressive Action, I am writing in strong support of HB 2160, related to forestry which establishes a fund to increase the existing plant stocks, invest in public outreach and renovate the equipment and facilities of the state tree nursery.

Bart E. Dame
Secretary

Studies show that agroforestry could play an important role in mitigating climate change because it sequesters more atmospheric carbon in plant parts and soil than conventional farming.[1]

Paul Achitoff

The transition from agriculture to agroforestry significantly increased soil organic carbon an average of 34 percent, according to a University of Penn study. The conversion from pasture/grassland to agroforestry produced soil organic carbon increases of about 10 percent, on average.[2]

Laura Harrelson

Kaleikoa Ka'eo

Michael Miranda

Agroforestry systems play an effective role in global carbon sequestration, involved in carbon capture and the long-term storage of atmospheric carbon dioxide. The process is critical to mitigating or deferring global warming."[3]

Walter Ritte Jr.

Pua Rossi-Fukino

While agriculture contributes roughly 1/3 of greenhouse gas emissions globally, unlike other sectors agriculture has the potential to sequester greenhouse gases by transitioning to regenerative practices such as the incorporation of trees in agricultural systems. Trees can build soil health and provide a variety of other benefits.

Karen Shishido

Leslie Malulani Shizue Miki

Increasing DOFAW's tree stock also has the potential to help address native forest loss due to rapid ohia death.

Thank for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Anne Frederick,
Executive Director

References:

[1] NRCS, Sustaining Agroforestry Systems for Farms and Ranches,
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/landuse/forestry/sustain/>

[2] Jeff Mulhollem “Agroforestry systems may play vital role in mitigating climate change” Penn State News, February 01, 2018
<https://news.psu.edu/story/503502/2018/02/01/research/agroforestry-systems-may-play-vital-role-mitigating-climate-change>

[3] *ibid.*