



OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846
Fax: (808) 587-2824
Web: <http://planning.hawaii.gov/>

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Tuesday, February 11, 2020
10:40 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of
SB 2077, SD 1
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

The Office of Planning (OP) **supports** this measure and offers the following **comments** on SB 2077, SD 1.

The Office of Planning supports the proposed tree planting program described in SB 2077, SD 1. The proposed Hawai'i tree planting program will be administered by the Board of Land and Natural Resources for the planting of at least 1 million native trees in the state per year. The proposed Hawai'i tree planting program is required to be a partnership between the Hawai'i forest stewardship program, the Kaulunani urban and community forestry program, and any county or nonprofit entity.

The Office of Planning finds this proposed tree planting program complimentary with the objectives and responsibilities of the State's Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force, which is administratively attached to the Office of Planning, pursuant to Section 225P-4, Hawai'i Revised Statutes. Among other objectives, the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force is tasked to: *"(5) Identify practices and policies that add trees or vegetation to expand the urban tree canopy in urban areas to reduce ambient temperatures, increase climate resiliency, and improve greenhouse gas sequestration in Hawaii."* The Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force is also tasked to submit a preliminary report of the task force's findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the regular session of 2023. The Greenhouse Gas Sequestration is further required to provide annual reports to the Legislature beginning with the regular session of 2024.

The Office of Planning notes that Section 225P-5, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, commits the State of Hawai'i to a Zero Emissions Clean Economy Target by the year 2045:

"(a) Considering both atmospheric carbon and greenhouse gas emissions as well as offsets

from the local sequestration of atmospheric carbon and greenhouse gases through long-term sinks and reservoirs, a statewide target is hereby established to sequester more atmospheric carbon and greenhouse gases than emitted within the State as quickly as practicable, but no later than 2045.”

The Office of Planning recommends an amendment that the proposed Hawai‘i tree planting program described in SB 2077, SD 1 work in collaboration with the State’s Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force to increase Hawai‘i’s climate resiliency and improve greenhouse gas sequestration in Hawai‘i.

The Office of Planning appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in support of SB 2077, SD 1.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



LATE

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

**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
WAYS & MEANS**

**Tuesday, February 11, 2020
10:40 AM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2077, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

Senate Bill 2077, Senate Draft 1, proposes to appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to establish a tree planting program in the State. **The Department supports this measure provided that's its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget request, and provides the following comments and proposed amendments.**

The Department recognizes that trees are our strongest allies for addressing the climate crisis, and that beyond carbon sequestration there are multiple other ecological and human health benefits of trees. Further, there are numerous areas managed by the Department that need additional tree planting to improve overall watershed and forest health. The Department notes that the goal of one million trees per year is ambitious given our current capacity, but believes this is an obtainable goal if supported through public-private-community partnerships. Additionally, to successfully reach this scale, the program would need to include state agencies responsible for managing land where trees could be planted. Expanding the program to include agricultural and conservation lands in addition to urban, peri-urban, and rural areas will increase the opportunity to meet this goal. The Department thus proposes the following amendments:

SECTION 1. (a) There is established the Hawaii tree planting program to be administered by the board of land and natural resources for the planting of at least one million native, or other appropriate non-invasive, trees in the State per year. The Hawaii tree planting program shall expand the

[~~appropriate~~] conservation, agricultural, urban, and rural tree canopies throughout the State.

(b) The Hawaii tree planting program shall be a partnership between:

- (1) The Hawaii forest stewardship program of the department of land and natural resources;
- (2) The kaulunani urban and community forestry program of the department of land and natural resources; and
- (3) Any appropriate county or nonprofit entity as determined by the chairperson of the board of land and natural resources; provided that the chairperson of the board of land and natural resources shall invite any appropriate county, ~~or~~ nonprofit, or other land-managing entity to participate in the program.

~~[(d) The Hawaii tree planting program shall cease to exist on _____.]~~

To begin building capacity needed to successfully complete tree planting projects (e.g., increase seed collection and storage facilities; enhance efficiencies at nurseries; expanding tree planting and maintenance personnel; etc.), the Department anticipates needing additional personnel resources and operational funds. Initially, two program positions (Program Specialist V and Forester IV) are needed to quantify current capacity, identify and engage partners, develop funding opportunities, and coordinate projects under the program. The Department has identified a need for approximately \$900,000 in recurring operational funds to scale-up tree planting on its forest and natural area reserves, and with additional funding could expand the proposed program for lands within urban, rural, agricultural, and conservation areas. \$1.3 million is needed for state tree nursery improvements to increase the scale at which we are able to produce tree seedlings for planting projects.

The tree planting program will be more successful at securing partnerships and assuring tree survival if appropriate non-native but non-invasive tree species are included in the measure, such as Polynesian introductions and other non-invasive species that may be more tolerant of conditions in challenging urban environments, and for use in agro-forestry systems.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



Written Testimony before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Conf. Room 211 (10:40 am)

RE: SB2077 SD1 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran 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, with amendment, the above-referenced bill, which establishes a Hawaii tree planting program within the DLNR. Trees create multiple benefits well documented by research. Trees provide an excellent return on investment so encouraging more is a smart action to take.

TFHF likes the bold approach taken by this measure's sponsors. We do, however, humbly suggest that the words "native trees" be removed from Section 1 and be replaced with "appropriate, non-invasive, trees". Our point is that not all planting locations are appropriate for native trees. The important aspect is to plant the Right Tree in the Right Place and ensure it receive the Right Care. Our group focuses on urban areas with particular emphasis on shade/canopy trees. Native trees are not always appropriate in certain locations due to the amount of space available, conflicting infrastructure such as overhead wires and underground utilities. We love native trees. We also love many non-native trees. We do not want, encourage, nor would we ever plant non-native, invasive trees. Applying the scientifically derived WRA (weed risk assessment) for a species being proposed is a way to prevent inappropriate trees from being planted in our beautiful state, thus our suggested amendment of "appropriate" and "non-invasive".

We ask that this bill be passed with the one amendment mentioned above.

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

LATE

February 10, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT for SB2077 SD1**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways & Means:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of **SB2077 SD1**. Blue Zones Project was brought to Hawaii by HMSA to help increase the overall well-being of our communities and to make Hawaii a healthier, happier place to live, work and play. To accomplish that goal, we address ways that we can lower obesity rates, tobacco use, and chronic diseases.

While not often discussed, trees greatly contribute to the public health of our communities. In both rural and urban communities alike, tree canopy provides rain, sun, heat, and skin protection and reduces the harms from tailpipe emissions. With more trees, our communities becomes more livable by promoting the use of active transportation, such as walking and biking, which we know encourages regular physical activity. Trees, especially through the practice of forest therapy, can also support psychological well-being by increasing vigor and reducing anxiety, depression, and anger.¹

Planting more trees also has significant economic impacts; Dan Burden, one of the most well-recognized authorities on city design and walkability, calculated that for a planting cost of \$250-\$600 (including first three years of maintenance), a single street tree returns over \$90,000 of direct benefits (not including aesthetic, social, and natural) in the lifetime of the tree.²

Over the past two years, Blue Zones Project has had the opportunity to partner with the Department of Land and Natural Resources, through the Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program, to promote the many benefits of trees with people of all ages—keiki to kupuna. We look forward to a continuing to support our shared goal of more trees across our state.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **support of SB2077 SD1**.

¹ Li, Q. (2010). Effect of forest bathing trips on human immune function. *Environmental Health and Preventative Medicine*, 15(1)..

² Burden, D. (2016). 22 reasons trees in cities keep us healthy and save us money. *Blue Zones*.

SB-2077-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 8:35:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2077-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 10:45:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victoria Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this important bill! Trees help us sequester carbon!

SB-2077-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 4:48:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

I am writing in support of SB2077 SD1.

I believe that the state would benefit from a tree planting program. Trees in the urban areas helps to cool homes and buildings from the shade that the trees provide. These trees also help to create a healthier environment for people because trees can break up noise pollution and absorb some of the air pollution created by cars. We need funding for this program for implementation.

Please support this bill.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

SB-2077-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 6:09:11 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Esteemed Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I write in support of Senate Bill 2342.

The Kāpuna Caregivers Program is an opportunity to match our deeds with our words and value the necessary and unsung labor that goes into safeguarding our elders. This measure would expand eligibility to many more caregivers by reducing the required average hours worked from thirty to twenty. Many workers in Hawai'i, including caregivers, work an average of not more than twenty hours. I am in support of helping our caregivers help our kāpuna, and passage of SB2342.

Respectfully,
Dylan P. Armstrong

SB-2077-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 8:19:14 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I am a lifelong resident of Hawai'i on O'ahu. I am writing in to say I support this bill.

me ke aloha 'Ä• ina,

Nanea Lo

LATE

SB-2077-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 2:20:11 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Justin Salisbury	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-2077-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 3:24:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Colby Takeda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-2077-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 9:24:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments: