

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  
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  
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 Senate Committee on  
WATER & LAND**

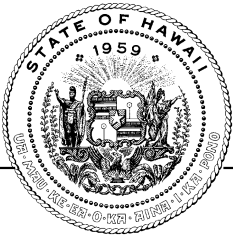
**Monday, January 27, 2020  
1:15 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 2077  
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

Senate Bill 2077 proposes to appropriate funds to The Department of Land and Natural Resources to establish a four year tree planting program in the State with the goal of planting one million trees per year for four years. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent and offers the following comments.**

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. Planting more trees and maintaining our existing canopy is a high priority. The Department notes that the goal of one million trees per year for four years is ambitious given our current capacity. If the tree planting program were to allow for first growing capacity in the way of supplies (e.g., appropriate native seed collection, nursery materials for growing seedlings), facilities (nurseries), and staff resources (both for planting trees and caring for newly planted trees) the program and the newly planted trees will be better positioned to succeed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



# 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

**LATE**

Statement of  
**MARY ALICE EVANS**  
Director, Office of Planning  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**  
Monday, January 27, 2020  
1:15 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

in consideration of  
**SB 2077**  
**RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.**

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land.

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

The Office of Planning supports the proposed tree planting program described in SB 2077. 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 notes that the proposed Hawai'i tree planting program described in this bill shall cease to exist on June 30, 2024.

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 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.



# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

January 27, 2020      1:15 PM      Room 229

In **SUPPORT** of **SB2077**: Relating to the Environment

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Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **supports SB2077**, which would establish and appropriate funding for a 4-year tree planting program under the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

For the last fifty years, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i has been leading hikes and service projects throughout the Hawaiian Islands to restore and maintain native ecosystems. In 2019, we launched our "Mālama Tree Crew" program to allow our supporters to enjoy the outdoors, increase their impact in the fight against climate change, and learn best practices for native tree maintenance.<sup>1</sup> Through partnerships with the state, non-profit, and community groups, Sierra Club volunteers participate in monthly work days to water, weed, and clear debris around recently planted trees to help new plantings survive. Examples of ongoing Mālama Tree Crew sites include Ala Mahamoe in Moanalua, Akupu Enclosure in Palehua, and in the Pu'u Wa'awa'a State Forest Reserve on Hawai'i Island.

We commend the legislature for supporting an ambitious 4-year program under the Department of Land and Natural Resources to plant 1 million native trees every year. This is an exciting project. Mass-scale, native tree planting will help to mitigate the effects of climate change in Hawai'i by sequestering carbon and maintaining proper watershed and ecosystem functions. In urban areas, increasing tree cover will improve air quality and keep our cities cooler.

We defer to the Department as to what is specifically needed to effectively implement and manage this project, but would suggest consideration and flexibility for project funding as follows:

- Allowing funding for facilities, staffing, and tools/equipment needs for the State Tree Nursery, which exists to provide high quality native, endangered and windbreak trees and plants for both the public and DLNR-state sponsored out-plantings and reforestation projects.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://sierraclubhawaii.org/malama-tree-crew/>

- Allowing funding for staff and supplies to coordinate maintenance of the newly planted trees, as there will be a need to weed, water, fertilize, and mulch plantings to reduce mortality of young trees.

A recent study published in the journal Science identified suitable land around the world for tree planting and concluded that the planting of 1 trillion trees could capture up to 25% of global annual carbon emissions.<sup>2</sup> While reforestation is not enough to solve the climate crisis, it can be one of the single most effective and low-cost strategies.<sup>3</sup> We support SB 2077 and funding for the facilitation of reforestation, carbon sequestration, and native plant restoration projects throughout the islands.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SB2077**.

Mahalo,



Jodi Malinoski, Policy Advocate

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<sup>2</sup> <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/365/6448/76>

<sup>3</sup>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jul/04/planting-billions-trees-best-tackle-climate-crisis-scientists-canopy-emissions>



**ADA**

**HAWAII**

AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

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**MAILING ADDRESS**

P.O. Box 23404  
Honolulu  
Hawai'i 96823

January 24 , 2020

TO: Chair Kahele & Members of the Committee on Water and Land

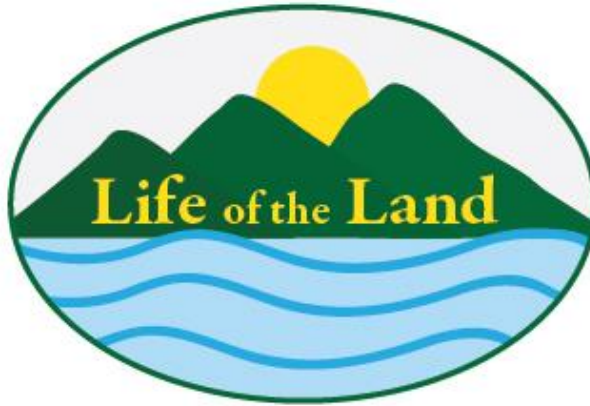
RE: SB 2077 Relating to the Environment

Support for Hearing on January 27

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support SB 2077 as it would fund a tree planting program. As climate change concerns us, we would like to see us both reduce carbon emissions and increase the plants that take carbon out of the air.





P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, Hawai`i 96837-0158  
Phone: 927-0709 [henry.lifeoftheland@gmail.com](mailto:henry.lifeoftheland@gmail.com)

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND  
Senator Kaiali`i Kahele, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, January 27, 2020  
TIME: 1:15 P.M.  
PLACE: Conference Room 229

SB 2077 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.  
Establishes a 4-year tree planting program in the State

**Support**

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee

Life of the Land is Hawai`i's own energy, environmental and community action group advocating for the people and `aina for 49 years. Our mission is to preserve and protect the life of the land through sound energy and land use policies and to promote open government through research, education, advocacy and, when necessary, litigation.

At a recent State Climate Commission meeting, the DLNR stated that tree-planting helps in the climate change fight, but that chopping down trees had to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

In May 2019 the Hawai`i Supreme Court upheld Life of the Land's appeal of the Public Utilities Commission decision to support Hu Honua's proposed clear-cutting of forests to burn to generate electricity. We are currently in the discovery phase for the re-opened contested case proceeding.

Mahalo  
Henry Curtis  
Executive Director



**LATE**

Written Testimony before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Monday, January 27, 2020

Conf. Room 229 (1:15 pm)

**RE: SB2077 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

Chair Kahele, 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 pipes. 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 the way to prevent inappropriate trees from being planted.

We ask that this bill be passed on to the Committee on Ways and Means, with the one amendment mentioned above.

Mahalo,

Daniel Dinell  
President

**HONOLULU is HOT TREES are COOL**

Visit us: [www.TreesForHonolulu.org](http://www.TreesForHonolulu.org) Contact us: [info@TreesForHonolulu.org](mailto:info@TreesForHonolulu.org) Voice/Fax/Text: 808-707-6353

P.O. Box 12051, Honolulu, Hawaii 96828





**LATE**

**Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Aha Moku Advisory Committee  
State of Hawaii  
Post Office Box 621  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Testimony of  
Leimana DaMate, Executive Director

Before the Senate Committee on  
Water and Land

Monday, January 27, 2020  
1:15 P.M.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

**In SUPPORT of  
Senate Bill 2077  
Relating to the Environment**

Senate Bill 229 recommends funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to launch a 4-year planting program in the State of Hawaii. The Bill proposes to plant 1 million trees each year for 4 years.

The Hawaii State Aha Moku System encompasses the eight main Hawaiian Islands and supports the traditional and generational knowledge of the people who are connected to each of the 46 moku and 606 ahupua'a. The system was brought forward from the 9<sup>th</sup> century, a time where sustainability and protection of resources ensured existence. It was a time where the focus of the people of the land was on survival. Today, the State of Hawaii is facing the same dilemma as the rest of the world in addressing the decimation of its natural resources.

The Hawaii State Aha Moku is centered around sharing generational and traditional knowledge with those who are stakeholders, including government. Its focus is on natural and cultural resource sustainability that is site-specific. Communities predominately take care of their resources where they live.

We believe that The Department of Land and Natural Resources is the appropriate state agency to take the lead on this endeavor even though it may be ambitious. However, we must start somewhere! We are excited that the Legislature recognizes the necessity of being proactive in growing and protecting our indigenous and endemic trees. Aha Moku already supports the forestry programs at DLNR but wants to point out that in the selection of what trees should be grown where, we ask that those with generational knowledge of specific places also be consulted as to what kind of native trees have successfully grown in that exact place in the past. That would ensure successful growth now. For example, what grows well on O'ahu may not grow at all on Maui or Hawaii.

We **SUPPORT** the passage of SB 2077. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**LATE**

**SB-2077**

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 1:01:34 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/27/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments: