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**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
WATER & LAND
and
AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT**

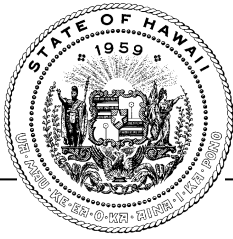
**Friday, February 7, 2020
1:35 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 3171
RELATING TO THE GREEN ENVIRONMENT**

Senate Bill 3171 includes objectives and policies and implementation guidelines for planning for the lei of green in the Hawaii State Planning Act. The bill appropriates funds for costs associated with researching, compiling, and submitting the status report on the lei of green policy. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure as it complements the Department's ongoing initiatives.**

The Department recognizes the importance of greenspaces in our communities to bring social, health, and economic benefits to the public to improve the ecosystem and quality of life in or near urban areas. The department further notes the importance of urban trees in providing large shade canopy trees to mitigate climate change through reducing ambient air temperatures. The mission of the Department's Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program is to "Balance the urban and natural environment by encouraging, empowering and equipping the people of Hawai'i to mālama the trees in our 'āina" The Kaulunani program is building capacity in our communities to plan for, establish, manage and protect trees, forests, green spaces and related natural resources in areas where we live, work, and play. The department notes the complimentary nature of the two programs and encourages collaboration between DLNR and the Office of Planning on this topic.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure



OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER AND LAND AND
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

Friday, February 7, 2020

1:35 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of
SB 3171
RELATING TO STATE PLANNING.

Chairs Kahele and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Ruderman, and Members of the Senate Committees on Water and Land, and Agriculture and Environment:

The Office of Planning appreciates the intent and offers comments on SB3171, which adds a section in Part 1 of the Hawai'i State Planning Act, Chapter 226, Hawai'i Revised Statutes that provides for objectives and policies and implementation guidelines for planning for the lei of green in the state of Hawai'i

SB3171 aligns with the Office of Planning's overall sustainability and green infrastructure goals and appreciates the opportunity to comprehensively identify green infrastructure opportunities. However, due to limited personnel on statewide sustainability initiatives, the Office of Planning requests an amendment to section 4 of SB 3171, to extend the reporting requirement of the lei of green policy, including any proposed legislation, to twenty days prior to the regular session of 2022.

Lastly, due to limited personnel and project funding resources of the Office of Planning, we feel that this measure should include an appropriation of \$400,000 to conduct the report, provided that it does not adversely impact the priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

O'AHU ISLAND PARKS CONSERVANCY

Senate Committee on Water and Land Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Joint Committee Hearing
Friday, February 7, 2020
Senate Conference Room 224
1:35 PM

Senate Bill 3171 Relating to the Green Environment Testimony in Strong Support

Aloha Chair Kahele and Chair Gabbard, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Ruderman, and Joint Committee Members:

Senate Bill 3171 is an important policy measure to ensure perpetuation and connection of Hawaii's green environmental resources.

SB 3171 is consistent with HRS 226, which sets forth priority guidelines for the protection and enhancement of Hawaii's shorelines, open spaces and scenic resources; and defines as critical environmental areas Hawaii's scenic and recreational shoreline resources, open space and natural areas, historic and cultural sites, and scenic resources.

Hawaii's Lei of Green policy has been a long-standing objective to link green tree-canopied parks, recreational open spaces and greenways mauka to makai along the shoreline, interconnected with tree-lined pedestrian paths for shade and climate protection.

This important policy was first recommended by renowned national planner Lewis Mumford to benefit the Territory of Hawaii. This policy has been further emphasized by the Hawaii Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, and incorporated as a priority guiding principle in the Kaka'ako Makai Master Plan by the Hawaii Community Development Authority.

The purpose of enacting this long-standing policy within HRS 226 is to benefit the people of Hawaii and future generations by ensuring perpetuation of the green physical environment that embodies significant natural and scenic resources, historic landscapes and other natural features; and to maintain and improve the quality of life for Hawaii's people with a green physical environment and the linkage of green historic parks, recreational open spaces, and scenic greenways in the greater public interest and as a legacy to benefit present and future generations.

To accomplish this objective, there is a need for coordination among related State and county agencies to guide this green environment policy in view of Hawai'i's fragile environment, sustainability goals and policies, and the specter of climate change.

We applaud the State Senate's consideration of this important measure, and all the Senators who have participated in the introduction of this Bill.

Mahalo nui loa,
Michelle Spalding Matson
President, O'ahu Island Parks Conservancy



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**The Trust For Public Land's Testimony In Support Of
SB 3171 Relating To A Green Environment**
Senate Committee on Water & Land and
Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment, Conf. Room 224
Friday, February 7, 2020, 1:35 p.m.

Aloha e Chairs Kahele & Gabbard, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran & Ruderman,
and Committee Members:

The Trust for Public Land supports SB 3171, which proposes to incorporate the decades-old concept of a Lei of Green into state planning efforts. The Trust for Public Land is part of a coalition of community groups advocating for a Lei of Parks or Lei of Green connecting Diamond Head to West O'ahu.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify. I apologize that I cannot be present at the hearing of this bill due to scheduling conflicts.

Me ke aloha,

Hawaiian Islands State Director
Edmund C. Olson Trust Fellow



SB-3171

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 3:44:42 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2020 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Henry Curtis	Testifying for Life of the Land	Support	Yes

Comments:



Written Testimony before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND and
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Friday, February 7, 2020
Conf. Room 224 (1:35 pm)

RE: SB3171 RELATING TO THE GREEN ENVIRONMENT.

Chairs Kahele and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Ruderman, Members of the Joint 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 SB3171, which includes objectives and policies and implementation guidelines for planning for the lei of green in the Hawaii state plan. An integral part of such a lei of green are trees. We especially like the emphasis of "including large shade canopy trees to mitigate climate change". Benefits of trees extend well behind climate change to include improved: 1) Human Health; 2) Water Quality and Management; 3) Public Well-Being and Safety; 4) City Planning; 5) Economic Development; 6) Air Temperatures; 7) Air Quality and Energy Use; and 8) Transportation.

We note funding is also requested to effectuate the purposes of this bill. The dollars expended will pay back at tremendous multiples. Green, and trees in particular provide an excellent return on investment so encouraging more is a smart action to take.

We ask that this bill be passed on to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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

SB-3171

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 6:38:18 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2020 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: