

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



ANNE E. PERREIRA-EUSTAQUIO  
DIRECTOR

JOANN A. VIDINHAR  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

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March 2, 2021

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair,  
The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Date: Tuesday, March 2, 2021  
Time: 11:00 a.m.  
Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol

From: Anne E. Perreira-Eustaquio, Director  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**Re: H.B. No. 1176 HD1 RELATING TO A JOB CORPS PROGRAM**

**I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

HB1176 HD1 proposes to establish a job corps program within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) similar to programs administered by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), to help address the unemployment impacts of COVID-19 pandemic and support economic diversification.

DLIR appreciates the intent provided that it does not conflict with the priorities as identified in the Governor's Supplemental Budget request, and has comments on the measure.

**II. COMMENTS ON THE HOUSE BILL**

DLIR recognizes the importance of assisting and retraining the state's unemployed residents and diversifying the state's economy. DLIR notes that the intent of the measure involves establishing an existing federal program at the State level. Currently, the Hawaii Job Corps Center in Waimanalo helps to administer the education and career technical training program authorized by Title I-C of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 through the DOL.

If the legislation is passed and funded by the Legislature, DLIR will work with Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT), the

Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), the Hawaii JOB Corps Center and other educational partners to build upon any existing programs similar to those proposed in this measure and establish a curriculum and training program.

The DLIR believes that there are a number of variables, including the number of anticipated participants, number of educational entities and program costs, the award amount(s), and application time frame, that would cause difficulty in estimating the appropriation required to fund the State's establishment and operational costs for this measure.

**HB-1176-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 9:03:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

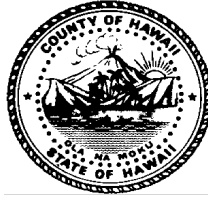
<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Douglass S. Adams	Research and Development, County of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

This bill has the potential to assist with the economic revitalization of the Island of Hawaii, to include training in areas of employment that give the promise of sustainable practices. The Department supports the bill and encourages the passing of the bill by the Committee.

v/r Douglass S. Adams, Director

County of Hawai'i  
Council District 4 -  
Lower Puna



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**HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER ASHLEY L. KIERKIEWICZ**  
Chair: Committee on Planning, and Housing Agency  
25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

March 1, 2021

**House Committee on Finance**  
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice-Chair

**RE: Support for HB 1176 relating to a jobs corps program**

Aloha, Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Finance Committee Members:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support for HB 1176, relating to a jobs corps program.

The Hawai'i County Council recently adopted Resolution 35-21, which calls creation of a resilient jobs corps program that puts people back to work and fosters economic development and diversification. I put the resolution forward to foster greater collaboration across sectors, harnessing their energy and contributions to develop a trigger-ready workforce development plan that springboards off successful programs such as KUPU 'Aina Corps and Aloha Connects Innovation. Hawai'i County is working to activate a small-scale program; I hope our data and research can help inform design and implementation of the jobs corps concept.

Thank you for recognizing the importance of building up our local talent and proactively seeking ways to invest in a more regenerative, resilient and innovation-based local economy.

Mahalo nui loa,

Ashley Lehualani Kierkiewicz  
Hawai'i County Council, District 4



Testimony Before The  
Senate Committee on Ways and Mean (WAM)  
**IN SUPPORT OF HB 1176 HD 1**  
Tuesday, March 2, 2021, 11:00AM, Room 308

My name is Kevin Chang and I am the Co-Director of Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (or KUA). KUA works to empower grassroots rural and Native Hawaiian mālama 'āina groups -fishers, farmers, families- to celebrate their places and pass on their traditions to better Hawai'i and achieve 'āina momona— an abundant, productive ecological system that supports community well-being.

KUA employs a community-driven approach that currently supports a network of more than 36 mālama 'āina community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together), 40 fishpond projects and practitioners called the Hui Mālama Loko l'a, and a growing hui of Limu practitioners all from across our state.

**KUA generally supports HB 11766 HD 1.** This bill establishes a state job corps program within the department of labor and industrial relations to help address the unemployment impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and support economic diversification. Appropriates funds KUA for this purpose

A primary function of KUA includes development of an 'auwai, a stream of resources, tools, bridges, relationships, and networks that help to cultivate and take our communities' work to greater levels of collective impact. A core catalyst for the flow in this 'auwai includes increasing the percentage of our economy which helps to manage and better the condition of the natural resources systems that sustain us. Indeed, the University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization, with input from KUA and a number of partners (DLNR, Kupu, TNC, KS,OHA etc.) now tracks natural resource workforce development as a key part of a "Green Economy."

We are also excited for what this opportunity could mean for increased environmental co-management, co-governance and uplifting an ethic of mālama 'āina. Our current state institutions lack in resources but also in institutional ethos and policies could better bolster citizen stewardship of our home. Key new generation staff members -such as exist within the Division of Aquatic Resources community-based subsistence fishing area and DOCARE Makai Watch programs- that do more work in partnership with communities are the future of environmental stewardship.

A state job corps that can build a conservation workforce for Hawai'i is a necessary pathway toward uplifting the environment which sustains and undergirds the "economy" for our state. It also further places our island community like others in the Pacific as a leader for environmental leadership and adaptation.

Please pass this bill out of your committee and mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Aloha 'Āina Momona.

**HB-1176-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 8:49:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Suzanne Frazer	Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawaii (B.E.A.C.H.)	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawaii (B.E.A.C.H.) in strong support of HB1176 HD1. B.E.A.C.H. had the opportunity last year to have 3 people work with us through the Kupu Aina Corps program for 2 months. It was such a beneficial program for both the young people and our organization that we wish it could have been longer and continue. Our organization gave the participants a lot of knowledge and work experience in the conservation field that they wouldn't have gotten otherwise. B.E.A.C.H. is an all volunteer organization so it was the first time we had the opportunity to have paid staff helping out (paid through Kupu). This really made a difference for us and we were able to accomplish a lot. We are really grateful for the help because of the lockdowns last year putting us behind in our work.

All of the young people we worked with were out of work and were having a hard time getting a job. The Kupu Aina Corps experience provided a transformational learning experience which has positively impacted their lives. One now has a job and another was inspired to start her own non-profit. This program was only made possible due to funding that Kupu got which has now run out. We hope that you will pass this bill and allow more young people to take part in this program.

Thank you,  
Suzanne Frazer  
B.E.A.C.H. Co-Founder.

**HB-1176-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 5:46:28 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Hanalei Colleado	Hoʻomana Farms LLC	Support	No

Comments:

Small family upstart farms such as mine struggle with being able to pay for much needed labor to help with daily farm operations. Hoʻomana Farms LLC vision is to feed a nation as well as heal a nation "One laulau at a time". KUPU is a worth while program as it gives young upcoming farmers an opportunity to work with seasoned farmers such as my self allowing hands on experience to a new an sustainable means of addressing Hawaii's food security needs. In tuff times as these, funds made available to organizations such as KUPU serves only to help farmers such as myself to expand an grow more food an when were able to move our product to market an get paid a premium dollar for it then Hoʻomana Farms LLC will be able to help shift this slumping economy back to one that serves the people in more ways then one. The need for quality paying jobs at this point is most critical! Please support HB1176 HD1

me ke aloha

V. Hanalei Colleado (Owner Hoʻomana Farms LLC)

**HB-1176-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 10:40:55 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dr. Jana Bogs	Beyond Organic Consulting, Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

Please support green jobs, especially as related to organic-type food production. Mahalo



**HB-1176-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 3:09:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jimmy Toyama	Mindful Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair and Committee Memers:

Mindful Hawaii, a organization dedicated to spreading the practice of Mindfulness fully supports HB1176. We believe that it is a timely program that will have a positive uplifting effect on people and society. Please support this worthy legislation. Mahalo,

JimmyToyama

President, Mindful Hawaii



*Hawaii's Thousand Friends*

335 Hahani Street #342132 \* Kailua, HI 96734 \* Phone/Fax (808) 262-0682 E-Mail: [htf3000@gmail.com](mailto:htf3000@gmail.com)

March 2, 2021

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair  
Committee Members

HB 1176 HD1  
RELATING TO A JOB CORPS PROGRAM

Hawaii's Thousand Friends, a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring that growth is reasonable and responsible and that planning and land use decisions protect natural and cultural resources and human health and are implemented in conformity with the law, supports the concept of creating a Green Jobs Corps but with one stipulation.

Create the Green Jobs Corps within DLNR. This will give the Department the mechanism to take advantage of future federal funding such as the CARES money to hire and train future conservation managers.

DLNR is under immense pressure to maintain, manage and improve our states valuable watersheds, forests, state parks, trails, land, aquatic and cultural resources with a consistently decreasing budget.

Our tourism economy depends on our islands natural beauty, clean and safe waters all of which comes at a cost. Residents, visitors, present and future generations will benefit from the creation of Green Jobs Conservation Corps within DLNR. Therefore, we urge the committee to amend the bill to reflect that the Green Jobs Corps program will be within the Department of Land and Natural Resources.



## Young Democrats of Hawai‘i

### Executive Board:

Trish La Chica  
**President**

Danicole Ramos  
**Vice-President**

Keoni Williams  
**Secretary**

Perry Arrasmith  
**Treasurer**

Jacob Aki  
**State Central Committee  
Male Representative**

Aria Juliet Castillo  
**State Central Committee  
Female Representative**

Saumalu Mataafa  
**Young Democrats of  
America National  
Committeeman**

Radiant Cordero  
**Young Democrats of  
America National  
Committeewoman**

Scott Grimmer  
**Communications and  
Digital Director**

Cameron Deptula  
**Legislative Liaison**

Kaleo Chang  
**Policy and Research  
Director**

**February 28, 2021**

### **House Committee on Finance**

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair

### **Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee,**

The Young Democrats of Hawai‘i (YDHI) **supports HB1176 HD 1**, which establishes a state job corps program within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to help address the unemployment impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and support economic diversification.

YDHI is a caucus under the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i. Our mission is to increase the political strength of our members by providing opportunities for civic engagement, political advocacy, and participation in the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i.

In 2020, our membership established our top three legislative priorities to advocate for affordable housing, healthcare, and the economy.

We support HB1176 HD 1 because it directly addresses our membership’s desire for a healthy economy during this pandemic in the following ways:

- It provides a pathway for our generation to obtain skills that prepare them for high-paying jobs right here at home.
- It transitions our State away from relying on tourism by attracting new industries in local agriculture, conservation, climate adaptation, renewable energy, cesspool conversion, and technology.
- It addresses another critical issue for our generation, climate change. By attracting these new industries in sustainability, we can bring green jobs that can also help our State reach its 100% carbon-neutrality goal by 2045.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill, and we urge you to pass HB1176 HD 1 to create the vibrant economy our membership desires and deserves.

Sincerely,  
The Young Democrats of Hawai‘i

**HB-1176-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 5:41:57 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Susie Osborne	Kua O Ka La NCPCS	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for your consideration of HB1176. We strongly support this bill which supports the creation of a jobs corps program to address unemployment and support economic diversification. Mahalo!

Susie Osborne



# Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

*The Voice of Business*

**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance  
Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 11:00 A.M.  
Written Testimony**

**RE: HB 1176, HD 1, RELATING TO A JOB CORPS PROGRAM**

Chairs Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports the intent** of HB 1176, HD 1 which establishes a state job corps program help address unemployment impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and support economic diversification.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

To accelerate Hawaii's economic recovery, industry leaders must collaborate to support innovative solutions to grow and strengthen the workforce and ultimately Hawaii's economy. In order to guide the right tools and tailoring them to the current employment environment, the establishment of a job corps program could be another tool in the toolbox to catalyze the challenges such as development strategy through expanding work-based learning, retraining, industry-credentialing programs, and industry-driven solutions.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

**HB-1176-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 8:07:29 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Walter Ritte	aina momona	Support	No

Comments:

Aina momona is in strong support of HB1176.

We have an obligation and strong kuleana to insure our future generations have the same healthy environment that has kept Hawaii strong and healthy.



**Testimony in Support of H.B. 1176, Relating to a Jobs Corps Program**

House Committee on Finance

Submitted by Kupu CEO John Leong, hearing date March 2, 2021

Aloha e Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is John Leong, and I am the Chief Executive Officer and co-founder of Kupu, a statewide youth-focused conservation organization. On behalf of Kupu, I am pleased to testify in **strong support** of **H.B. 1176, Relating to a Jobs Corps Program**. As written, this measure would establish a jobs corps program within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) focused on providing job opportunities and diversifying our economy. Having administered a CARES Act-funded program that is highly similar to this proposal, Kupu agrees with the value and need of establishing such a program on a permanent basis.

Kupu was established in 2007, in the early stages of the Great Recession. Today we are a statewide organization, developing youth and young adults through hands-on service training in conservation and natural resource management professions. Since 2007 we have trained close to 5,000 youth in conservation, sustainability, and environmental education. Young adults served by Kupu have provided more than 3 million service hours during this time, which included planting over 1 million native plants and removing over 100,000 acres of invasive species. This has created a cumulative \$155+ million in impact for Hawai‘i with a 1:3 cost to benefit ratio. We believe more investment in the green economy - as this bill provides - would enable similar economic benefits to our state, create jobs in related fields, and help diversify our economy.

In the early stages of the pandemic, Kupu saw the economic devastation happening in Hawai‘i and wondered what more we could do to help. We created a new program -- in concept -- that would help unemployed and underemployed people of all ages work in the green economy during the pandemic. This program, called the Kupu ‘Āina Corps, received funding and partnership from DBEDT thanks to the foresight of the legislature and the support of Governor Ige, as provided by Act 9 (SLH 2020). With this program Kupu helped over 350 displaced workers and recent graduates connect with work, training, and the dignity of helping themselves and their communities. We are humbled that our program was mentioned in the background portion of this legislation as an example of what a permanent fund of this nature could achieve.

The ecological, economic, and human benefits of the Kupu 'Āina Corps were clear. Over 90 percent of our participants completed the program, gaining its full benefits and helping 150 different host sites across the state. Based on a post-program evaluation survey completed by participants, one in three remained employed or were moving on to other employment at the end of the program. Logging over 89,000 work hours, these participants produced an economic benefit estimated at \$6.55 million, based on a formula developed by Columbia University. (This was more than twice the cost of the program.) Additionally, these participants collectively improved over 21,700 acres of land across our state. Community-based conservation corps around the nation have inquired about the program, which has also received national media coverage.

While the funding and authorization for the Kupu 'Āina Corps has ended, the need for this kind of program has not. We believe that future partnerships, like what is possible through this bill, can continue to provide urgent relief for underemployed kama'āina and struggling green entrepreneurs in the immediate term, and gradually help the long term pivot towards the kind of diversified economy that Hawai'i needs. For these reasons, we strongly support H.B. 1176 and urge the committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in strong support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

*John Leong*

John Leong, CEO  
Kupu





March 1, 2021

Finance Committee  
Hawai'i State Legislature  
Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.  
House Conference Room 308

RE: Testimony in support of HB1176 HD1

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee,

I would like to submit this letter and written testimony in support of HB1176 HD1 calling for the creation of a State Job Corps Program within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to help address the impact of unemployment.

As the president of a locally managed, 100% employee-owned company, with over 400 employees across the state and 315 who reside and work on Hawaii Island, I can speak firsthand to the importance, value, and benefit of workforce development programs. As a local company, we employ members of our community in not only retail positions -- which have career paths into branch management -- but also Commercial Driver's License (CDL) vehicle operators, manufacturing jobs, professional sales positions, design professionals, and administrative or office jobs (marketing, purchasing, accounting/finance, IT, human resources, and administrative support). All of these roles require training, skills and abilities which can be developed and nurtured through a job corps program.

I truly believe that many local business leaders would agree that the ability to meet our respective missions and objectives and to achieve success is reliant upon not only a trained and skilled workforce able to fill the many varying jobs and positions of our organizations, but an island community that provides opportunity for good employment in a myriad of industries that attract and retain qualified candidates.

Through the establishment of a State Jobs Corp Program, a truly collaborative public private partnership can be encouraged and fostered to support critical economic recovery and sustainability, and provide for the building and growing of a well-trained and prepared workforce to meet immediate business needs and the needs of the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and I strongly encourage your support for, and the passing of HB1176 HD1.

Sincerely,

Jason Fujimoto,  
President & CEO



PHONE 808.966.5466 • FAX 808.966.7564  
16-166 MELEKAHIWA STREET • KEA'AU, HI 96749

HPMHAWAII.COM



**HB-1176-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 10:17:53 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Robert Bence	Hawai'i Sustainable Farms LLC	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha House Chair, Vice Chair and committee members,

I support HB 1176 to develop jobs in agriculture and conservation like the Kupu 'Ä€ina Corps.

Mahalo

Robert Bence

Member-Manager

Hawai'i Sustainable Farms LLC

**LATE**

**HB-1176-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 12:28:58 PM  
Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ronald Weidenbach	Hawaii Fish Company	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii Fish Company strongly supports HB1176 HD1 to create and fund a Hawaii Job Corps to help address Covid-19 impacts and state economic diversitification. Our company was a host site under the recent but all too short Kupu Aina Program with two outstanding individual participants who were committed to assisting our small sustainable fish and aquaponics farm prepare for farm expansion and increased local food production. Both participants were graduates in natural resource fields and seeking opportunities to gain hands-on sustainable farming experience. We believe the proposed Hawaii Job Corps could provide similar opportunities, laying the groundwork for diversifying our economy to include increased conservation and sustainable agriculture and reversing the current brain drain from our State. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this imporant measure.



# INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION

LOCAL OFFICE • 451 ATKINSON DRIVE • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814 • PHONE 949-4161

**HAWAII DIVISION:** 100 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii 96720 • **OAHU DIVISION:** 451 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
**MAUI COUNTY DIVISION:** 896 Lower Main Street, Waikuku, Hawaii 96793 • **KAUAI DIVISION:** 4154 Hardy Street, Lihue, Hawaii 96766  
**HAWAII LONGSHORE DIVISION:** 451 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

## LOCAL 142

The Thirty-First Legislature  
Regular Session of 2021

### THE HOUSE

#### Committee on Finance

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Videoconference

Tuesday, March 2, 2021; 11:00 a.m.

### STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 1176, H.D.1 RELATING TO A JOB CORPS PROGRAM

The ILWU Local 142 **supports** H.B. 1176, H.D.1, which establishes a state job corps program within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to help address unemployment impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and support economic diversification and appropriates funds for this purpose.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Hawaii reached historically high unemployment in 2020. Some counties in Hawaii exceeded 30 percent unemployment – shattering all previous records. Today, the economy is still struggling with tens of thousands of residents still without work and some of the jobs lost in 2020 may not return until years from now if they ever do. It is clear we need to work on economic diversification and job training so Hawaii residents can return to work and survive in the state.

As such, we support the establishment of a job corps program. Fixing our economy is vitally important. We recommend passage of H.B. 1176, H.D.1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**HB-1176-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 2:59:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Noel Morin	Think B.I.G	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and members of the Finance Committee,

I am in strong support of HB1176 HD1.

The economic challenges brought about by the pandemic will reverberate through our economy long after the COVID-19 ends. We have the opportunity to mitigate these challenges while enabling a more sustainable economy, an opportunity to improve our environment, and encourage economic diversification while creating meaningful jobs for our people.

As a member of several sustainability groups on Hawaii Island, I appreciate the opportunities that a Job Corps Program can bring in the economy, social equity, and environment.

Thank you for supporting HB1176 HD1.

Noel Morin  
Board Member, Think BIG

[thinkbighawaii.org](http://thinkbighawaii.org)

**LATE**

**HB-1176-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2021 8:51:54 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Janice Ikeda	Vibrant Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members,

My name is Janice Ikeda, Executive Director of Vibrant Hawai'i and I am testifying in support of HB1176 HD1, Relating to a Job Corp Program.

I urge you to consider the creation of a jobs corp program to address unemployment and support economic diversification. We are fortunate to be able to look to the successful efforts and impacts of similar programs led KUPU and EDAH that have inspired Hawai'i County Resolution 35-21.

Vibrant Hawai'i urges our legislators to prioritize the creation of diversified job opportunities for our workforce.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Janice Ikeda

**HB-1176-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 2:43:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha all,

I would like to send my support for HB1176. Taking care of Hawaii's delicate ecosystem requires intentional effort as well as dedicated and passionate people who can devote their time to maintaining our lands and ocean. These folks deserve to work and make a living preserving Hawaii's beauty. Having something like this would give further incentive for people to consider being a protector of our environment, while not having to worry about life's expenses. This bill would help to do both. It would set a precedent of green job creation and further show the world how Hawaii has embraced the Paris accord.

Mahalo nui for your kokua and consideration.

Jerome Bautista

**HB-1176-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 2:50:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Loke (Susan) Simon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please vote for this bill, Personally and as member of Mindful Hawaii and Lyon Arboretum and a docent at Manoa Heritage Center and a lover of the 'aina, I see this as an important step to help restore the Native Forests of the State of Hawaii. I understand about 20,000 students graduate in Hawaii every year. Right now there are so few jobs for these recent graduates. There is so much work to be done and learning to happen through working in the environment. If you watch this documentary (as I JUST did), you will understand how helpful this bill could be for the workers, the environment and the residents of that State.

MAY EARTH LIVE: A Journey Through the Hawaiian Forest

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvIUWHsoQD8>

Thank you in advance for considering this request and hopefully voting in FAVOR.



**HB-1176-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 3:24:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support the socio-environmental-economic future of our community!!!

**HB-1176-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 4:19:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Diane Leimomi Riley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Honorable Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, & members of the Committee,

My name is Leimomi Riley. I am testifying in strong support of HB 1176.

I am a Hawaiian Mother, musician, Tutu, & resident of the Big Island of Hawaii. I thank you for this opportunity to testify. I was born in Hilo in 1956, and I have seen many changes through the years. Plantations closed & resorts opened. Tourism became a major provider of employment to the people of Hawaii. I raised my children on the Big Island, & I worked at many jobs as a single mother in order to provide for my family, sometimes working at 4 different part time jobs at a time, & I am aware that it is a struggle for many families to provide for their households in Hawaii.

The Covid-19 pandemic has presented further complications in so many ways. We need to support green jobs & programs like KUPU 'AINA CORPS to help address unemployment impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, & to support businesses which are edifying to the natural resources of Hawaii & which are not dependent upon tourism.

Thank you for hearing HB 1176. Please pass this bill.

I appreciate your time & consideration regarding this matter. Mahalo & Aloha!

Sincerely, Leimomi Riley

**HB-1176-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 5:29:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

HB1176

Please vote for this bill. Personally and as an employee of Mānoa Heritage Center and lover of the 'Āina, I see this as an important step to restore the Native Forests of the State of Hawai'i. I understand 20,000 students graduate in Hawai'i each year. Right now there are so few jobs for these recent graduates. There is so much work to be done and learning to happen through working in the environment. If you watch this documentary (as I have), you will understand how helpful this bill could be for the workers, the environment and the residents of the State.

MAY EARTH LIVE: A Journey Through the Hawaiian Forest.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvIUWHsoQD8>

Thank you in advance for considering this request and hopefully voting in FAVOR.

Mānoa Iama Pono,

Jenny Engle

**HB-1176-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 9:50:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Honorable Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee,

My name is Douglas Callison and I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1176.

I am a construction worker by trade, specializing in Plastering. I was born & raised in California, but I have lived on the Big Island of Hawaii since 1990. Over the past 30 years, I worked on many projects, homes & resorts. The recessions of 1993 & 2008 closed down many projects, & there was a huge decline in construction employment. In March of 2020, due to Covid-19, construction declined again. When tourism declines, construction declines. In my opinion, it would be wise to create industries in Hawaii which are NOT dependent upon construction or tourism.

Thanks to KUPU 'AINA CORPS, I was able to work at the Hakalau Sanctuary under the supervision of Susan Cordell PhD (Director & Research Ecologist and Director of the Forest Service Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, Pacific Southwest Research Station) & Dr. Patrick Hart (Professor of the Department of Biology with the University of Hawaii in Hilo) in the program for Conservative Leadership (CLDP) with KUPU 'AINA CORPS (KAC)

Before the opportunity with KUPU, I had bills to pay but no one was hiring. KUPU gave me a chance to work hard in return for a paycheck. This opportunity provided me with income, a sense of purpose, & hope for the future. I am very pleased with the renovative & restorative work that I was able to do for them. My supervisors are wonderful people who worked closely with me, & they were very supportive & appreciative of my work. I learned alot about Conservation from them in this program, & I feel that we need to create businesses which protect the land of Hawaii.

I feel strongly that green jobs and programs like KUPU are very valuable, especially in a time like this when we are experiencing such a huge decline in employment of all kinds because of the Covid-19 pandemic & all that it entails. Please watch Kupu's video & take to heart the many genuine testimonials of my KUPU co-workers. Please lend an ear to the voices of the people. Thank you for this opportunity to be heard, & thank you for hearing HB 1176. Please pass this bill.

Sincerely, Douglas Callison



**HB-1176-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 1:35:48 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support HB1176. Creating jobs in the sustainability and green sector will support Hawaii's economy for the long term, as well as address a short term problem.

**HB-1176-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 4:23:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I urge your support in passing HB 1176 and providing appropriate funding to implement the job corp program for our State. The program is key to helping members of our communities back to meaningful employment and work based training as we begin our economic recovery.

**HB-1176-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 5:06:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Finance Committee

I write in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB1176 HD1. Job Corps programs, when well conceived and implemented, have shown themselves to be cost effective with good long term outcomes.

The post-COVID evolution of our economy is such that our traditional sectors of Tourism, Agriculture, and Service industries must regain relevance and competitiveness. For the most optimal outcome this will require public and private partnering to catalyze the next generations participation. Much as our schools primary responsibility is to teach young people **HOW** to learn (in contrast to the more obvious **WHAT** they learn) so do these programs provide targeted information, training, and motivation to those interested in learning **HOW** to work in areas beyond their past experience.

Economic diversification requires risk taking at all levels, including of the workforce asked to participate in new industries with novel job requirements. This bill can provide a mechanism to help bridge the gap between what we have and what we need in so far as workforce resources. It is only fair to take those willing to participate in this dynamic future and support and enable them to become productive assets in our economic recovery and advancement.

Mahalo for your Support of HB1167 HD1

James McCully



Regarding HB 1176  
In Favor  
House Finance Committee

A high-visibility youth service project can be effective in the moment and transformative over the longer term. It can be a multi-pronged initiative that young people, their families, and their communities can embrace enthusiastically. By working in, and learning about, ecology from the mountains to the sea, participants can come to understand interrelationships and see the issues of human settlement whole.

Such a program could include: Upland forest conservation and renewal; Watershed recharge; Streambed cleanup and planting; Point-source and brown-water pollution cleanup; Sustainable diversified agriculture; Kalo cultivation; Community gardening; Regulation of tourist-intensive nature resources; Restoration of historic and cultural sites; Protection and cleanup of beaches and reefs; Management of nearshore fisheries, and Fishpond restoration.

My personal testimony is from my experience working in a national forest as a teenager. It was challenging and one of my best experiences. In my work life, I wrote and directed the PBS film "May Earth Live" about preservation of the native forest, recently reprised by the nonprofit Ulana Inc. in Hilo and Mindful Hawai`i on O`ahu. In the past year I have been involved in conversations with culturally-based ecologists such as KUPU, KUA, `AINA MOMONA, and others. The need is huge, and the means of filling it is readily available. The State of Hawai`i initiative of 2020, in which the contractor KUPU used CARES money to support 360 young people, demonstrated community capacity to mount such an effort. With years of background, KUPU placed young people in no fewer than 150 community partners. I am sure this merely scratched the surface of both supply and demand.

As a result of fumbling between the Governor and the Legislature, available CARES money shrank from \$36 mil to \$10 mil to \$5 mil. The time window for doing the field work likewise shrank. If government had performed even a little more effectively, the results could have been many times more far-reaching.

Now, with an environmentally-conscious national administration prepared to spend money on economic recovery, we in Hawaii have our opportunity. The

biggest challenge is yours—to activate government’s capacity to serve as a facilitator of a CARES-funded program stretching across 2021 and 2022.

My caveat regarding HB1176 is trying to do this through DLIR. Logically, it should go through the Department of Land and Natural Resources because of its familiarity with environmental problems and its enormous responsibilities in that regard. Further, in Chapter 193 HRS, DLNR already has the vehicle for a Youth Conservation Corps. DLIR or other venues such as DBEDT would be short-term fixes that will disappear when the unemployment rate goes down. Our environment and people together are our greatest resource. This is our chance to do something visionary for the long term.

Tom Coffman  
Writer and Film-maker

3/1/2021

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Yvonne Yoro  
808-352-5137  
48 Rose Street  
Wahiawā, HI 96786

Sunday, February 28, 2021

Support for HB 1176 HD1, RELATING TO A JOB CORPS PROGRAM.

Aloha Chair Representative Luke, Vice-Chair Representative Cullen and the Committee,

I am testifying in full support of HB 1176 HD1. Establishing a jobs corps program aimed at strengthening crucial sectors in our environmental and business economies are necessary in ensuring that residents are not further impacted by the pandemic, especially as we approach the anniversary of COVID-19 landing on our islands.

For nearly a full year, we've witnessed local unemployment rates rise to levels unprecedented and heard numerous calls from government officials, private & non-profit CEOs, and leaders in our communities for the need to diversify our economy away from heavy reliance on the tourism sector. The passing of this bill will accomplish that and more as we reinforce non-tourism sectors in our economy and develop individuals who will become employable, independent, and given a better opportunity to further their education or be placed in meaningful jobs.

Given the approach to mandates such as reaching 100% renewable energy by 2045 and transitioning cesspools to septic systems by 2050, we are perfectly situated in a position where individuals are yearning for opportunities to give back to our island communities in different ways. As one of the ten program coordinators given the opportunity to help execute Kupu 'Āina Corps, I was fortunate to witness and work with individuals looking for immediate employment that would give them job skills training and introduce them to a work sector they may have never considered before. Within a matter of two months, I've also witnessed many of those same individuals transform into devoted stewards of the land and pleading for more programs like Kupu 'Āina Corps (KAC). Programs, like the two pilots launched last year, will equip our workforce through specialized training opportunities that directly and positively impact our island's native ecosystems. Not only that, it will also build a clearer pathway to a more robust system that encourages our residents to stay and work in Hawai'i.

This is an opportunity to prevent further pandemic impacts to our residents, reinforce and grow the non-tourism sectors of our economy, equip our workforce by providing specialized training skills, improve our native ecosystems, and create the foundation for a robust and more diversified economy that encourages residents to stay and work in Hawai'i. Given the points stated, my position stands in support of HB 1176 HD1. Mahalo and aloha.

**HB-1176-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 4:47:48 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB1176 as it will support our local efforts to uplift and expand economic opportunities in one of the poorest areas of Hawaii, Lower Puna. A group of local citizens have banded together to create the Village Makery Team to build a hub on the campus of HAAS charter school, which will enable students and adults to receive training, coaching, and access to resources to help them manifest their dreams. We need economic diversification in Puna; we need support in our efforts to create a culture that raises expectations of what can be achieved here in Hawaii. Mahalo for your efforts in bringing exciting change to Hawaii.

**HB-1176-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 8:59:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am the program manager for Skyline Conservation Initiative. I am writing today in strong support of HB 1176 which if passed will provide “green jobs” for Hawai’i’s residents, some who are struggling to find work during these troubling times. This is an amazing opportunity to get local residents off of unemployment and trained with a multitude of land stewardship skills that will benefit the aina and our local communities in many ways. In 2020, CARES act funding allowed for the Kupu Aina Corps program to create green jobs. The community restoration project I manage in Pohakuokala Maui was selected as a host site and we received a crew of 4 amazing community members who were able to get off unemployment and support our essential conservation work. Our entry-level crew was trained in safety working around heavy equipment, chainsaw safety, emergency first aid, GIS technology, invasive species identification / landscape scale weed control methods, native species identification, seed collection, propagation, and outplanting techniques. In addition to working in our project area, we also supported 6 different partner conservation project sites. This way our crew was able to experience heavy field work days along side some of the most knowledgeable conservation practitioners on Maui. After completing the 2 month contract our crew has since moved on to various land stewardship jobs (when available,) intermittent tourism jobs, and partial unemployment. Our biggest wish is that this Kupu Aina Corps program that creates essential conservation / land stewardship jobs could be replicated and upscaled to provide long-term contracts. If HB 1176 funding is procured, the program I work for can continue providing robust vocational training curriculum at our facility for many new employees while also supporting partner conservation programs who can really use the help of skillful laborers for special projects. This is truly an amazing collaborative partnership for many stakeholders to leverage resources in a very productive way. Passing bill HB 1176 is an honorable step forward in diversification of our local economy and helping put unemployed people back to work. This is comparable to one of the most successful programs of FDR’s “New Deal” in 1933 which was the creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps which created 300,000 green jobs and provided financial stability for many American families in a post Great Depression society. Passing HB 1176 is essential to support the Aina and our local communities who are both struggling to get by during this pandemic stricken moment in time.

Please consider passing HB 1176.

Mahalo

Joseph Imhoff

Program Manager - Skyline Conservation Initiative

808-250-1469

**HB-1176-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 10:21:00 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

HB1176, HD1 (Green Job Corps)

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1176, HD1

Nearly a century ago, the New Deal's Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was a model of job creation for public works that benefited and inspired both individuals and the nation as a whole. HB1176 is a step toward Hawaii's modern equivalent.

Natural resource and conservation management is now a growth industry--and it is essential for our survival. Training young people for challenges is both the oldest and the most modern human infrastructure. Like our ancestors' open ocean voyaging, stewardship of our natural resources dares us to overcome obstacles and work together for a common goal. It may be the most valuable and lasting action this Legislature can take.

*Comment:*

DLIR is overwhelmed with unemployment compensation problems and dysfunctional. It has neither the capacity nor the vision to handle a new job corps program. Likewise, DBED lacks operational experience.

Place this jobs program and the funding in DLNR which already manages successful conservation programs (like the original CCC) and has tested field supervisors.

I urge your immediate approval of HB1176, HD1 with amendments.

**HB-1176-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 10:25:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

The Mainstreet Pahoa Association is a 501 C 6 non profit whoes mission is to promote the economic vitality of Pahoa, Puna, and the Big Island. We have over 40 businesses and numerous individuals that belong to our organization. We are longest running organization of this kind on the East side of the Big Island.

We strongly support the creation of a job corps program to address unemployment and support economic diversification.

To that end we ask that you please pass HB 1176.

Thank you, Amedeo Markoff President MPA



**HB-1176-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 10:40:35 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha and mahalo for taking the time to consider HB1176 that would prioritize incoming federal stimulus money to create a job corps program focusing on the 'Āina and providing equitable job opportunities to diversify Hawaii's economy. I have lived on Hawaii Island for nearly two years, coming here as an AmeriCorps VISTA with Kupu, and working my way through their KAC program to my position now with Hawaii County - what originally brought me out here were opportunities to give back to the land and work with communities to build capacity, and the lessons and skills I've learned through malama 'aina have unequivocally impacted my life and direction I wanted to take myself in. Rather than investing in opportunities to work at a resort or in the service industry, it is time to invest in diversifying the State's economy to focus on sustainable development across all other sectors to reach our environmental and social equity goals. I believe by expanding opportunities like these for statewide communities can not only help nonprofits and local organizations build the capacity they need to steward and enhance our lands, but it will also give communities, families, and students the opportunities they need to advance their careers, provide for their family, and learn more about themselves and the 'Āina that can not be done in a classroom.

**HB-1176-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 10:48:04 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Arleen Garcia-Herbst	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill and the jobs it will create to help diversify the state economy/jobs. I live in State District 30 currently. Thank you for your consideration.

**LATE**

**HB-1176-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 4:27:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
CAROLINE LANDRY	Workforce and Professional Development Substream of Vibrant Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Honorable Legislators:

Aloha. I support the Jobs Corp program for all the promises that it bears for economic diversification, imparting some on-the-job training while making our natural treasure more accessible to residents. Mahalo, Caroline Landry, co-chair of Workforce and Professional Development -Education Stream of Vibrant Hawaii.