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COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Rep. Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 3, 2021
TIME: 8:30 AM

HB 331 RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN

STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair

Life of the Land is Hawai'i's own energy, environmental and community action group advocating for the people and `aina for 51 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.

Requiring the office of planning, in partnership with the greenhouse gas sequestration task force, to make recommendations for implementing the green infrastructure objectives, policies, and priority guidelines established by this Act.

The critically important greenhouse gas sequestration task force needs to be funded.

Mahalo
Henry Curtis
Executive Director

HB-331

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 9:03:03 AM

Testimony for GVR on 2/3/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stacy K. Tang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Trees clean the air. Simple. Urban trees will improve air quality, cool temperatures, filter and retain storm water AND SEQUESTER CARBON in the soil. If we have no action plan for switching our agricultural system to a regenerative based food system, YET, then we should at least, be increasing the amount of green spaces in urban areas.

HB-331

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 9:41:53 AM

Testimony for GVR on 2/3/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
P Noel Bobilin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB 331. Urban trees improve air quality cool local air temperatures, filter and retain stormwater, sequester carbon, and contribute to a healthier and more beautiful communities. Efforts to reduce our environmental footprint and improve quality of life or is vital for everyone and needs to be supported. We need to proactively promote tree planting to cool our communities. We need to promote tree planting if we are to achieve our goal to become carbon-neutral by 2045

Mahalo,

PN Bobilin Fern Forest Hawaii

HB-331

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 12:47:44 PM

Testimony for GVR on 2/3/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Gray	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this bill. We need to have a green awakening. All aspects of infrastructure need to be looked at through the lens of a sustainable future. We live on an island and everything we do has impact. It would be really nice if we could start promoting EVs by requiring all parking lots to have solar powered charging ports that actually work, instead of letting them pave our islands and install a single port that when it breaks, they never FIX! Why not require a WORKING port?

HB-331

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 2:53:18 PM

Testimony for GVR on 2/3/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Hixon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha-- Urban trees improve air quality, cool local air temperatures, filter and retain storm water, sequester carbon, and contribute to healthier and more beautiful communities. Efforts to reduce our environmental footprint and improve quality of life are a win:win for everyone. I urge this effort to proactively promote tree planting to cool our communities and to achieve our goal to become carbon neutral by 2045. Mahalo.

HB-331

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 4:37:11 PM

Testimony for GVR on 2/3/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cathy lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I believe it's important to codify green infrastructure objectives and policies to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors. Setting up clear objectives, milestones and performance metrics will be critical to achieve climate goals.

HB-331

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 8:49:05 PM

Testimony for GVR on 2/3/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Mulinix	Our Revolution Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

On behalf of Our Revolution Hawaii's 7,000 members and supporters statewide, we are fully in support of this legislation.

Dave Mulinix, Organizer

Our Revolution Hawaii



Written Testimony before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON Government Reform
Wednesday, February 3, 2021 (8:30 am)

RE: HB331 RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN.

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, Members of the Committee on Government Reform:

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 the above-referenced bill, which establishes green infrastructure objectives and policies for state facility systems within the State Plan. It also has an important accountability aspect by requiring the the office of planning, in partnership with the greenhouse gas sequestration task force, to submit a report to the legislature making recommendations for implementing the green infrastructure objectives, policies, and priority guidelines established by this measure. That's important because a plan is only a plan, execution is where the "rubber meets the road". Hawai'i, indeed the entire planet, is running out of time. We are confident that if all government agencies act in support of mitigating climate change this bill will cause positive change.

In particular, we want to stress that trees create multiple benefits well documented by research and noted in this bill's preamble. Trees create shade and use evapotranspiration to lower temperature. Trees also recharge groundwater and decrease surface runoff protecting our reefs. Trees trap pollutants and store CO2. Trees calm traffic. Sadly though, Honolulu has been losing urban tree canopy over the past years.

We ask that this bill be passed to the next committee and continue to advance. Thank you for the foresight of the Introducers to care about the future we are leaving behind for our keiki.

Mahalo,

Daniel Dinell
President

HONOLULU is HOT TREES are COOL

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

HB-331

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 11:50:03 AM

Testimony for GVR on 2/3/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

o: The House Committee on Government Reform

From: Climate Protectors Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021, 8:30 am

In strong support of HB331

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Government Reform Committee members:

The Climate Protectors Coalition **strongly supports HB331.**

The Climate Protectors Coalition is a group inspired by the Mauna Kea Protectors but focused on reversing the climate crisis. As a tropical island State, Hawaii will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, loss of protective coral reefs, food insecurity, and rising sea levels destroying our shorelines. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become at least carbon neutral as soon as possible. The planet faces an existential climate crisis and we must act now! Scientists have made clear that we are part of the last generation that can stop or at least mitigate the devastating impacts of climate change. If we are to solve the climate crisis, it will require **all of us** working together. Hawaii can and should be a leader in showing the world the way forward towards a safe and sustainable climate and future. The sooner we inspire others to take action and lead by example, the better off the future will be for our children.

Amending the State Planning Act to to achieve the use of green infrastructure, vegetation, and trees in State facility systems, infrastructure and transit projects would improve the quality of life in Hawaii and help mitigate the climate crisis.

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

Climate Protectors Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

HB-331

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 12:48:59 PM

Testimony for GVR on 2/3/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
laurel brier	Kauai Climate Action Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

To fully address the Climate Crisis we must not only reduce our GHG emissions radically, we need to sequester carbon that is already in the atmosphere. Proven methods are regenerative agriculture and reforestration in particular. HB 331 would give us a plan to promote tree planting and make our communities cooler, more beautiful, more liveable and at the same time sequester carbon. Tree planting and wetands restoration has been one of the objectives and actions of our Climate Action Coalition on Kauai. There is much community support for this action.

HB-331

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 2:39:57 PM

Testimony for GVR on 2/3/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wai Lee	Smart Trees Pacific	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee,

Smart Trees Pacific is a local non-profit organization that promotes our statewide urban forest since 1998. We support HB331. This Bill offers a great comprehensive framework to promote and encourage Green Infrastructure.

Thank you!

Wai Lee

HB-331

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 4:00:17 PM

Testimony for GVR on 2/3/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sara DiGrazia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support anything that will make us and the world more "green!"



To: The House Committee on Government Reform
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021, 8:30am

In strong support of HB331

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Committee members:

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org strongly supports **HB331**.

This bill would amend the State Plan to include green infrastructure in state facilities and increase the urban tree canopy. Urban trees improve air quality, cool local air temperatures, filter and retain storm water, sequester carbon, and contribute to healthier and more beautiful communities. Efforts to reduce our environmental footprint and improve quality of life are a win:win for everyone and need to be supported.

This Bill will set the stage for all public projects in Hawaii to plan for green infrastructure from the start, thus maximizing benefits and minimizing costs.

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

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

HB-331

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 9:05:54 PM

Testimony for GVR on 2/3/2021 8:30:00 AM

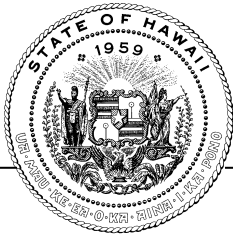
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nathan A Sparks	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

-Urban trees improve air quality, cool local air temperatures, filter and retain storm water, sequester carbon, and contribute to healthier and more beautiful communities. Efforts to reduce our environmental footprint and improve quality of life are a win:win for everyone and need to be supported.

-We need to proactively promote tree planting to cool our communities. Equally important is to have sustainable plans to maintain new and existing trees in good health.

-We need to promote tree planting if we are to achieve our goal to become carbon neutral by 2045



OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
Wednesday, February 3, 2021
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

in consideration of
HB 331
RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN.

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Members of the House Committee on Government Reform:

The Office of Planning (OP) **strongly supports** HB 331.

The Office of Planning has been actively working on sustainable development and climate adaptation planning to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The Office of Planning supports the integration of green infrastructure and incorporating vegetation, trees, and sustainable green design in the Hawai'i State Planning Act, Chapter 226, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, and public infrastructure projects to increase overall green space and urban tree canopy throughout Hawai'i.

The Office of Planning finds these proposed amendments complimentary to the Office of Planning's Statewide Sustainability Program as well as 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 Office of Planning appreciates the opportunity to share its strong support of HB 331 to increase Hawai'i's climate resiliency and implement sustainable design practices by improving the availability of green infrastructure, decreasing urban heat, and encouraging greenhouse gas sequestration throughout Hawai'i.

HB-331

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 9:20:43 PM

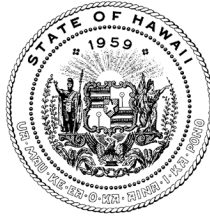
Testimony for GVR on 2/3/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Koohan Paik	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this important bill.

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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
GOVERNMENT REFORM

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

8:30 AM

Via Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 331
RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN

House Bill 331 Establishes green infrastructure objectives and policies for state facility systems in the Hawaii State Planning Act to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors. Requires the office of planning, in partnership with the greenhouse gas sequestration task force, to submit a report to the legislature making recommendations for implementing the green infrastructure objectives, policies, and priority guidelines established by this measure. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) SUPPORTS this bill.**

The State of Hawaii's commitment to uphold the Paris Climate Accord and progressive move towards zero emissions clean economy by 2045 requires that we actively invest in reducing our emissions and mitigate greenhouse gases (CO₂ and CH₄). Green infrastructure provides a robust framework for resilience where the co-benefits of carbon sequestration, ecosystem benefits, and economic enhancement come together. Green infrastructure provides critical ecosystem services such as stormwater mitigation by collecting and slowing down and filtering water as it travels from land to sea. Investing in carbon positive actions such as green infrastructure will also help to create a healthier Hawaii as green spaces provide health benefits such as cooling landscapes and improving air quality.

The Department notes that while native trees and vegetation are preferred, it is not always possible to use native species. Where native species are not practical or are unavailable, non-invasive species, as identified by the weed risk assessment (<http://www.botany.hawaii.edu/faculty/daehler/wra/default2.htm>), should be used. The Department recognizes that through its watershed protection efforts and Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program the Department will play a role in supporting these efforts and is

looking forward to collaborating with the Office of Planning on carbon sequestration projects and programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HB-331

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 10:47:58 PM

Testimony for GVR on 2/3/2021 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger and the Committee on Government Reform,

Please support HB331.

Trees are the carbon sink for the planet and we need to plant more of them in our urban environment. By proactively promoting tree planting, we can create more shade to cool our communities. Urban trees improve the air quality, cool local air temperatures, filter and retain storm water, sequester carbon and contribute to healthier and more beautiful communities.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

Painting Industry of Hawaii Labor Management Cooperation Trust Fund

Hawaii Tapers Market Recovery Trust Fund

Hawaii Glaziers, Architectural Metal Glassworkers Local Union 1889
AFL-CIO Stabilization Trust Fund

Carpet, Linoleum and Soft Tile Local Union 1926 Market Recovery Trust Fund

Re: The House Committee on Government Reform
Hearing on House Bill 331 (Relating To The State Plan)
Date: February 3, 2021
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Location: Room 309

Chair McKelvey and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Painting Industry of Hawaii Labor Management Cooperation Trust Fund, Hawaii Tapers Market Recovery Trust Fund, Hawaii Glaziers, Architectural Metal Glassworkers Local Union 1889 AFL-CIO Stabilization Trust Fund, and Carpet, Linoleum and Soft Tile Local Union 1926 Market Recovery Trust Fund **in support** of House Bill 331. The aforesaid organizations are labor management cooperation funds between the Painters Union, Tapers Union, Glaziers Union, and Carpet and Soft Tile Layers Union and their signatory contractors.

This measure will promote the employment of green strategies and technologies including, among other things, painting concrete and other infrastructure to blend in with Hawaii's natural environment.

We are particularly excited about the opportunity to contribute our knowledge and expertise toward the preservation and enhancement of Hawaii's scenic beauty through the visual improvements envisioned by the bill. Aesthetic treatment of our streets and highways can only improve the quality of life in Honolulu, improve its attractiveness as a tourist destination, and benefit our local economy. We thus respectfully urge you to advance this measure through your respective committees.

Thank you again for this opportunity to voice our **support** for this measure.

LATE

HB-331

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 6:22:17 PM

Testimony for GVR on 2/3/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert B Huber	Democratic Environmental Impact Committee	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kakou -

I recommend to the Legislature to start any booklet or information to department of the State Gov't. and City and County of Honolulu pertaining to ' Green House Infrastructure ' to have a appendix and glossary of terms and definitions so people dont confuse issues . Here is once again an :Enviornemtal Engineer in Yolo County Californias clarification to

Zero Carbon Emissions and Zero Net Energy are not the same thing. Zero Net Energy is 100% plus renewable energy(solar,wind,etc.)

Zero Carbon Emissions would require getting rid of all fossil fuels emissions (fossil fuel vehicles, natural gas use in restaurants etc.)

If you do Zero Net Energy in the Hawaiian Island, you won't be at Zero Carbon Emissions unless you do all the other Technology changes, electric cars etc.

I hope this helped. I recommend you develop a Zero Net Energy Plan and that will get you closer to Zero Carbon Emissions.

Carbon Capture Technology will get you to Zero Carbon Emissions.

give you an idea of clear communication :

Mahalo , Terry Vernon EnergyExpert (State of California Engineer) ,Yolo County

LATE



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Wednesday, February 3, 2021
House Bill 331
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Members of the Committee on Government Reform:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii stands in support of HB 331 as it is designed to improve the quality of life in the State by: (1) Establishing objectives and policies for state facility systems in the Hawaii State Planning Act to achieve the use of green infrastructure, vegetation, and trees in state facility systems, infrastructure, and transit projects; and (2) requiring the office of planning, in partnership with the greenhouse gas sequestration task force, to make recommendations for implementing the green infrastructure objectives, policies, and priority guidelines established under the Act.

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i (Party) has adopted at its State Convention in 2018, clear safeguards for our community against the climate crisis found in pages 5-6 of the Party Platform:

“BUILDING A 21ST CENTURY INFRASTRUCTURE

We will protect communities from the impact of climate change and help to mitigate its effects in investing in green and resilient infrastructure.”

As an island State, Hawaii is among the first places harmed by the climate crisis, with more intense storms, loss of protective coral reefs, food insecurity, and rising sea levels destroying our shorelines.

Evidence of the climate crisis was felt in the Hawaiian Islands through the loss of East Island a little over two years ago. A piece of the United States has been dramatically wiped off the map after an island in [Hawaii](#) was washed away by a powerful hurricane. East Island, a remote spit of gravel and sand that sat atop a coral reef, has vanished after having this misfortune to come into contact with Hurricane Walaka, an intense storm that surged past Hawaii in October 2018.

East Island played an important role for wildlife, including the critically endangered Hawaiian monk seal, a species that numbers just 1,400 individuals, with many of the seals raising their young on East Island. Green sea turtles, which are also threatened, and seabirds such as albatrosses, which often had their young preyed upon by circling tiger sharks, also depended on the island.

If conditions align, atolls would always be at risk of being erased by a powerful hurricane. But climate change is causing the ocean and atmosphere to warm, making storms fiercer, while there's evidence that hurricanes are moving further north into the latitudes where East Island once lay.

Rising sea levels are also eroding away low-lying islands, with several fragments of land in the [Pacific vanishing in recent years](#). See, [Hawaiian island erased by powerful hurricane: 'The loss is a huge blow' | Hawaii | The Guardian](#)

Scientists have made it very clear that we are part of the last generation that can stop or at least mitigate the devastating impacts of climate change. Hawaii can and should be a leader in showing the world the way forward towards a safe and sustainable climate and future.

The Party Platform on page 19 describes a way forward and this measure is another step forward for the State, the Pacific, and the World toward our sustainable climate and future:

“CONFRONT GLOBAL THREATS AND GLOBAL CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

Climate change poses an urgent and severe threat to our National Security, and the Party believes it would be a grave mistake for the United States to wait for another nation to take the lead in combating the global climate emergency. According to the U.S. military, climate change is a threat multiplier that is already contributing to new conflicts over resources, catastrophic natural disasters, and the degradation of vital ecosystems across the globe. The Party recognizes the catastrophic consequences facing our State, our country, our planet, and civilization.

We believe that Hawai‘i must lead in forging a robust global solution to the climate crisis. We are committed to a national mobilization, and to leading a global effort to mobilize nations to address this threat. Our generation must lead the fight against climate change and we applaud Hawai‘i’s leadership in joining the historic Paris Climate Accord. We will not only meet the goals set in Paris, we will seek to exceed them and push other countries to do the same by slashing carbon pollution and rapidly driving down emissions of potent greenhouse gases like hydrofluorocarbons. We will support other States and developing countries in their efforts to mitigate carbon pollution and other greenhouse gases, deploy more clean energy, and invest in climate resilience and adaptation.”

This measure encourages building green infrastructure by following these sustainability design objectives: (1) minimizing stormwater runoff and replenishing the water table; (2) reducing the urban heat-island effect; (3) encouraging the removal of pollutants from the air; and (4) encouraging the removal, sequestration, and storage of greenhouse gas emissions.

For these reasons, we urge you to pass this bill as it (1) establishes objectives and policies for state facility systems in the Hawaii State Planning Act to achieve the use of green infrastructure, vegetation, and trees in state facility systems, infrastructure, and transit projects; and (2) requires the office of planning, in partnership with the greenhouse gas sequestration task force, to make recommendations for implementing the green infrastructure objectives, policies, and priority guidelines established under the Act, all of which are consistent with the Democratic Party Platform.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify,

/s/ **Melodie Aduja**

Melodie Aduja

Co-Chair, Environmental Caucus

Democratic Party of Hawai‘i