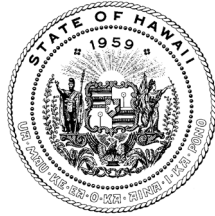


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**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
WATER & LAND**

**Tuesday, March 22, 2022
9:30 AM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 430, Via Videoconference

**In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 132/HOUSE RESOLUTION 132
URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP A NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY
STRATEGY**

House Concurrent Resolution 132/House Resolution 132 urge the federal government to develop a national biodiversity strategy. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports these measures.**

The Department works to ensure that our biodiversity and their habitat is protected to ensure that the people of Hawaii have clean drinking water, fresh air and resilient landscapes. Based on a 2004 survey "Wildlife Values in the West", 71.4% of Hawaii's residents strongly agree that it is important to take steps to prevent the extinction of endangered species.¹ Economically, wildlife viewing opportunities have become an important part of the State's \$10 billion a year tourism industry.² Hawaii's native wildlife and their habitats provide essential goods and services to residents such as water quality, soil stabilization, carbon storage, and climate control. A University of Hawaii study of the economic value of these services estimated between \$7.4 to \$14 billion in the Koolau Mountains on Oahu alone.³ Coral reefs that protect beaches, homes, and businesses from erosion, storms, and tsunami waves; wetland habitats filter the water supply, mitigate pollution, and slow storm runoff; and other natural areas provide social and human health benefits through recreation, beauty, and a spiritual connection to nature. A national strategy on biodiversity reinforces the Department's actions to protect these important resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these measures.

1 Teel, T.L., A.A. Dayer. Preliminary State-Specific Results from the Research Project Entitled "Wildlife Values in the West 2004". Fort Collins: Human Dimensions in Natural Resources Unit, Colorado State University. 2005.

2 U.S. Department of Interior Fish & Wildlife Service. Bulletin 20-983, 2003

3 Kaiser B, Krause N, Roumasset J. 1999. Environmental valuation and the Hawaiian economy. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization.

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

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 12:44:41 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maxx Phillips	Center for Biological Diversity	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please accept the Center for Biological Diversity’s testimony in **strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 132**. Our planet now faces a global extinction crisis never witnessed by humankind. Scientists predict that more than 1 million species are on track for extinction in the coming decades. Sadly, Hawai‘i is known as the ‘extinction capital of the world,’ but there’s still time to halt this crisis.

The current biodiversity crisis is entirely of our own making. More than a century of habitat destruction, pollution, the spread of invasive species, overharvest from the wild, climate change, population growth and other human activities have pushed nature to the brink. Addressing this will require leadership and appropriate funding — especially from the United States — alongside bold, courageous, far-reaching initiatives that attack this emergency at its root.

Extinction is a political choice. Lets choose life instead.

Mahalo,

Maxx Phillips, Esq.

Hawai‘i Director and Staff Attorney

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UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented to the
House Committee on Water & Land
Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

by

Kamuela Enos, Director, Office of Indigenous Innovation
on behalf of

Vassilis L. Syrmos, Vice President for Research and Innovation
University of Hawai'i System

HCR 132/HR 132 – URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP A NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports HCR 132/HR 132 which urges the federal government to develop a national biodiversity strategy.

The native ecosystems of the Hawaiian Islands are home to a multitude of the plant and animal species that are found nowhere else on Earth. Unfortunately, with 44 percent of the species on the endangered list, Hawai'i has the unfortunate distinction as the "endangered species capital of the U.S."

To help protect our island way of life, the land and its culture, UH hosts a number of programs including: UH Mānoa's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources partnership with the Army Natural Resources Program O'ahu, the establishment of a bioeconomy academy at UH Hilo, the sustainable community food systems program at UH West O'ahu and the Hawai'i Pacific Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit that serves to facilitate many of the important conservation collaborations across the state

Through the Office of Indigenous Innovation, UH is committed to examine the systems and practices that have allowed the ancestors of Hawai'i to create a symbiotic relationship with the living ecosystems around them, and begin to identify ways to restore them in contemporary times.

It is through these types of biodiverse conservation programs, that integrate indigenous knowledge and practices, will we be able to protect and preserve Hawai'i for future generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 9:03:19 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Price	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

As an Assistant Professor at the University of Hawai'i, I work closely with DOFAW and USFWS to conduct research on our native species, and to help our local agencies develop effective strategies for conserving native biodiversity. This is a monumental and sometimes overwhelming task. Hawai'i has 25% of the nation's endangered species (N=586), but only receives 3% of the federal funds to manage at-risk species. In the last 5-10 years we've seen many species that were hanging on with a few hundred individuals decline to undetectable levels, mostly due to climate change and invasive species. The good news is that tools exist to save the majority of our species, if we can mobilize adequate resources and an effective strategy.

Additionally, biocultural approaches to conservation that integrate Indigenous knowledge and practices are key to simultaneously addressing the biodiversity crisis while solving other critical challenges such as sustainable local food production and building resilient and healthy communities. Importantly, this resolution recognizes this critical component of conservation.

The Endangered Species Act has been in place for 50 years, but for many of Hawaii's species, actions have been too little, too late. We can change this, but we need to act now. Resolutions are an unfunded yet declarative action that our state legislature can take to acknowledge this dire situation, while charting a pathway of hope toward solutions. As such, I support HCR132, urging the federal government to develop a national biodiversity strategy that addresses Hawai'i's needs.

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 9:10:02 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Katayama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support.

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 9:12:03 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Idle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this effort to develop a national biodiversity strategy.

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 12:13:43 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Crampton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of HCR123.

I appreciate greatly that this resolution acknowledges the biodiversity crisis and is aimed at urging the national government to develop an effective strategy to address the crisis. It hopefully will be used as a blueprint for actions and bills moving forward. As such, I'm particularly glad to see the integration of biocultural approaches and Indigenous knowledge as critical to efforts to save biodiversity in Hawaii and throughout the nation.

Respectfully,

Dr. Lisa Crampton

HCR-132

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 8:29:00 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brissa Christophersen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support HCR132 because I believe it is important to have effective management for our Hawaiian biodiversity and support proactive management measures. I particularly support the federal trust obligations to native peoples of the Americas, Alaska, and Hawai'i, as this is a critical step in the overall ecosystem health across the globe. Please consider this bill, as it is essential to providing the frameworks for resource management agencies and land managers to use.

‘Oia‘i‘o,

Brissa Christophersen