

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 10:29:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Kwan	Carol Kwan Consulting LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2059 because 'ōhi'a lehua is environmentally and culturally important to Hawaii. I am a Certified Arborist who works as a consultant with trees.

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 10:34:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aloha Arborist Association	Aloha Arborist Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Arborist Association supports SB2059. ‘Ōhi‘a lehua should be designated as Hawaii's endemic tree because it is culturally and environmentally significant. It is also under threat, and we need to provide as many protections as possible to help it survive.

Aloha Arborist Association is an organization of approximately 80 individuals and companies who work in the tree care industry.

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 10:48:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Boyd Ready	Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee members:

The ohia lehua should have special symbolic significance in the State of Hawaii.

This action will assist in efforts to combat serious threats to the species' survival.

Boyd Ready, Director Emeritus

Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 2:21:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Azuma Chrupaluk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you

Date & Time of Hearing: 2022 March 29, 2:00 p.m.
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Mrs. Addie Kim's 4th grade students at 'Iolani School, I would like to formally submit testimony in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols, which designates the 'ōhi'a lehua as the State Endemic Tree. Included in this document are students' written statements, poems, and artwork expressing their support for this bill and love for the 'ōhi'a lehua.

In recent months, the 4th graders have been learning and building their awareness of the 'ōhi'a lehua. Students first learned about the importance of the 'ōhi'a lehua to our watersheds, its significance in Native Hawaiian culture, and the critical threat of Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (R.O.D.).

Our haumāna have come to recognize and seek out the seven 'ōhi'a trees on 'Iolani's campus. They look forward to every opportunity to observe, admire, and understand more about our 'ōhi'a lehua - from their seed propagation through every flowering stage. While they are naturally embracing a sense of kuleana for it, their relationship with the 'ōhi'a lehua is fostering their commitment to conservation and biodiversity, and building skills for reflection, observation, questioning, and communication.

Thank you for your consideration of our students' testimony.

Sincerely,
Candice Sakuda
Director of Community & Civic Engagement
'Iolani School

Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

We, Grace and Sofia, 4th grade students at Iolani School, are in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohia`a lehua as the state endemic tree.

We are in support of the bill because we are aware of Rapid Ohia Death. Ohia is beautiful and we want to stop Rapid Ohia Death from killing many of Ohia trees and taking homes away from many Of Hawaii's native, birds, snails and many other types of amazing native species.

The Ohia tree means a lot to us and has really changed our perspective on life. We may not be Hawaiian but it would break our heart to see the Ohia tree die. We really hope you can consider making this a bill to kokua. During the time we noticed that the Ohia was even here on our campus, we noticed that people seem to not treat our island like how they used too. The least you can do is help us care for the Ohia by making it the state's endemic tree, Spread the word to family and friends, and care for the Ohia.

Thank you for reading our testimony. We hope you can consider making the Ohia the state's endemic tree.

Sincerely,

Grace and Sofia

Iolani School 4th Graders



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

We, Reyn and Benji, 4th grade students at Iolani School, are in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohia lehua as the state endemic tree. We have recently learned that the Ohia tree is in danger of extinction due to Rapid Ohia Death (R.O.D.), an infectious disease that has been terrorizing and killing Ohia trees in Hawaii. R.O.D. is a fungus that grows inside of a tree, taking all their water, and causing the tree to die.

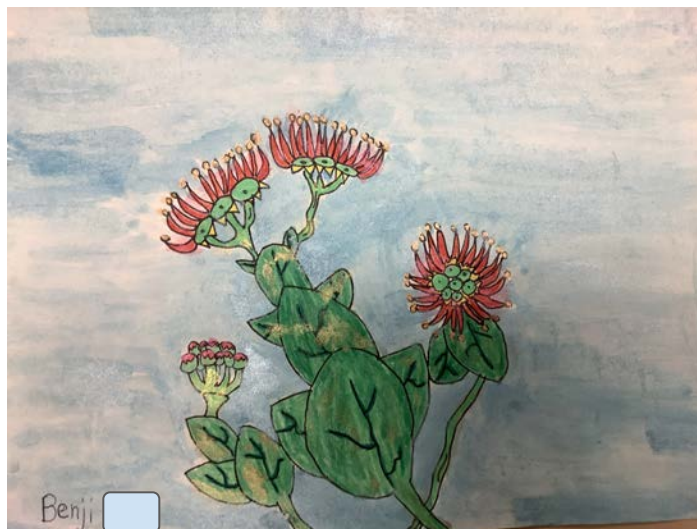
As 4th graders, we are learning that the Ohia tree is important to Hawaii in several ways. The Ohia tree is endemic, and can only be found in Hawaii. The Ohia tree is an essential water collector in the watershed. The Lehua flower captures a lot of water and allows it to slowly drip down and fill the aquifer. The aquifer is where water collects underground and supplies the Hawaiian Islands with drinking water. The Ohia tree is also important because many animals, like birds and snails, thrive in its branches. Endangered species like the honeycreeper and tree snail call the Ohia home. Without it, the animals will have no home and will therefore become extinct. The Ohia tree is also a valuable part of Hawaiian culture because it is featured in Hawaiian legends and myths. The story of Ohia and Lehua is a famous story about how the Ohia tree came to be. The Ohia tree's wood is used in making images of Hawaiian akua or gods. Ohia wood is also used for woodworking, landscaping, firewood and building.

At school, we are doing our part by planting and taking care of Ohia trees. We humbly request your support of the bill SB2059, which would bring awareness of the Ohia tree, its importance to Hawaii, and the problems it is facing. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Benji and Reyn

Iolani School 4th Graders



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

We, Claire and Hulaliwai, 4th grade students at Iolani School, are in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the Ohi`a Lehua as the state endemic tree.

We support this bill because the Ohi`a Lehua is an endemic tree to Hawaii and is presently being threatened by Rapid Ohia Death (a deadly fungus attacking Ohi`a). We need to raise awareness and protect the Ohi`a Lehua so we don't lose them forever. Another reason we should protect the Ohi`a Lehua is because the Ohi`a is one of the few plants that prevents erosion and mudslides in our rainforests that contributes to the water supply in the aquifer. The Hawaiians of old and today respect and honor the Ohi`a Lehua. Today, the Ohi`a are dying and we need to continue respecting and honoring the Ohi`a by making others aware of their importance to Hawaii.

We live in Hawaii, so protecting the native animals and plants in Hawaii is important to us. We need to save these native species so the invasive don't take over and so Hawaii can be like it was before. Thank you for reading this, and we hope you do consider naming the Ohi`a our endemic state tree to help raise awareness.

Aloha,
Hulaliwai and Claire
Iolani School 4th Graders



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

We, Lily and Kaelyn, 4th grade students at Iolani School, are in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohia lehua as the state endemic tree.

We believe that the Ohia should be the state endemic tree. One reason for this is because it could weaken our watershed if it became extinct. The Ohia is important because its petals capture rainwater and allow it to drip into the aquifer from rainforests. Another reason is that it is part of our Hawaiian culture. If it goes extinct, we'll lose some of our culture. Hawaiians did dances about Ohia. The Hawaiians believed they were the gods, also known as Ohia and Lehua together, so they made a legend about the akua (gods) and worshiped them.

To us, Ohia Lehua is important because lots of birds depend on it. For example, if there are no Ohia trees left, Iiwi, Hawaiian Tree Snail, Happy-Faced Spider, and the Akepa would go extinct as well.

Here is an acrostic poem that we wrote about the ohia lehua.

Only a little bit of the Ohia population left! We need to protect this lovely flower so it doesn't go extinct.

Helpful. Ohia is helpful because many animals need it for habitats and food. Animals like insects and birds. For example, the Iiwi and the Tree Snail.

Important part of nature. The Ohia can capture rain water on its petals and release it into the aquifer, so we need it to stay in its natural habitat in nature so it can help us!

A species threatened by ROD (Rapid Ohia Death) because we aren't careful, and spread it with our utilities and equipment. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,
Lily and Kaelyn
Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Ethan, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohia lehua as the state endemic tree.

I recently learned that the ohia tree is being infected by a disease called rapid ohia death or R.O.D., once the tree is infected it will die in just weeks. Another thing that I learned is that lots of native Hawaiian birds live and eat the in the ohia tree. I also learned that Hawaiians used the ohia tree for many things like structures of houses and canoes. Thank you for your time to read this testimony. The last thing I will say is that the ohia trees' Rapid Ohia Death is like our COVID-19 because it spreads very fast.

Please enjoy a poem about the Ohia that I wrote.

Our ohia trees are very important to the aquifer by letting water slowly drip from its leaves.

Hawaiians once protected the ohia trees.

In some forest ohia trees make up 80% of the trees.

Aohia tree can grow from 2 ft to 100 ft tall.

Sincerely,

Ethan

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

We, Kylie and Emily, 4th grade students at Iolani School, are in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree.

We think that Ohi`a should be named state endemic tree, we think this because a lot of animals depend on it, like the honeycreeper. If Ohi`a stopped growing, many animals like the honeycreeper would go extinct. Also the Ohi`a is also important to our watershed because water drips through its blossom slowly instead of it going down at one time and making a mudslide.

After we started to learn about and plant Ohi`a, we felt it was our Kuleana to care and look after these plants. Mahalo for reading our testimony and we hope you consider passing this bill.

Mahalo,
Emily and Kylie
Iolani School 4th Graders



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Payton, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohia lehua as the state endemic tree.

I have learned that Rapid Ohia Death is killing our ohia trees. I have also learned that the ohia tree is food for the I'iwi bird and many other birds. If all the ohia trees die, the native birds might go extinct too. One last fact is that ohia was used to make poi boards, kappa beaters, and medicine.

The ohia tree made me notice how important this endemic tree is to the island's birds. At first, I didn't even know about the ohia tree. Once we started learning about the ohia tree, I started to realize how important it is to the native birds. Thank you for reading and considering this bill.

Here is an acrostic poem I wrote about the ohia lehua.

Outstanding endemic tree

Helpful to the Hawaiians

I'iwi's food

An important tree to the watershed

Sincerely,

Payton

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Kaila, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree.

The ohi`a is facing a problem called Rapid Ohi`a Death. Over the past weeks I learned the importance of the ohi`a. The ohi`a provides food and shelter for native species. If the o`hia dies from this disease the native species will be extinct too. The o`hia was also very important to the Hawaiians. One way it was important to the Hawaiians was that the nectar of the o`hia was used for medicine. Also the strong wood of the o`hia was used to build their homes and canoes. The o`hia is very important.

The ohi`a really has made me realize my surroundings more too. It has made me discover more about the resources around us. I noticed that the ohi`a is important just like any other plant would be but people don't realize how important the ohi`a really is. I want to raise awareness of this wonderful plant. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kaila

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Starr, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of SB2059. Relating to state symbols which designates the ohia Lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawai'i.

The ohia was very important to the Hawaiians. It was important to them because the sweet nectar of the ohia blossoms was used for medicine by mothers when they were giving birth, and the strong wood was used for building their canoes. I've also learned that without the ohia, some of our native species, that rely on the ohia, could become extinct.

The ohia is facing a problem called Rapid Ohia Death. This particular disease could kill thousands of ohia. It would be terrible to lose the ohia. If the ohia becomes extinct, other native birds will become extinct because they will have no homes and food to survive. This is so important to me because it opened my mind to care more about other native plants and to see what they are facing. I learned that every plant has a problem including Rapid Ohia Death. I hoped you learned something about what's going on in the native forests and considering to name the ohia lehua the endemic tree of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Starr

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Jake, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohia lehua as the state endemic tree.

The Ohia is important to me because over the time that I have been studying, growing, and visiting the Ohia it made me realize how special endemic trees or really anything that's endemic are and how we don't do much to save them if they are dying off just like the Ohia. Thank you for reading my testimony and hopefully you will name the ohia the state endemic tree.

Here is an acrostic poem I wrote about the ohia lehua

On top of many mountains, feeding lots of birds, such as the honeycreeper.

Hawaiians used the Ohia's hardwood to make tools, buildings, and flowers to make medicines

Important part of the watershed. It did this with its flowers which would catch the water and make it fall to the ground slowly.

And it is getting attacked by rapid Ohia death which has killed 1m+ Ohia trees on Maui.

Sincerely,

Jake

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Klinton, 4th grade student at Iolani school am in support of SB2059,
Or naming the Ohi`a tree the state endemic tree.

The Ohi`a is important in many ways. Over the past few weeks I learned that the Ohi`a tree was facing a threat. That threat is Rapid Ohia Death. I also learned that the Ohi`a Lehua was taken care by the Hawaiians because it represented two gods in love.

The Ohi`a Lehua is important to me because I was always curious on it surviving in the volcano and how much animals depended on it. I want the Ohi`a tree to live forever so I can learn more about it as I grow older. By naming the Ohi`a the state endemic tree this may make others interested in learning more about it and protecting it.

Sincerely,

Klinton

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

We, Nixon and Ace, 4th grade students at Iolani School, are in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree.

The Ohi`a is important to Hawai`i, because it is a key part of our island's watershed. The Ohi`a collects water on its pedals so the water doesn't just go rushing down and create mudslides. The Ohi`a is also being threatened by Rapid Ohi`a Death also known as R.O.D. This is bad. Because if Rapid Ohi`a death kills all of the Ohi`a, then it will be extinct, and will affect our collection of water in our aquifers. Ohi`a also reminds us about the gods that created the islands of Hawaii.

The Ohi`a has changed me. Now we realize all we have been missing. We didn't even notice the Ohi`a and we have walked by it many times. I even have one in my backyard and I didn't even notice it.

Aloha and thank you for listening to our testimony.

Sincerely,

Nixon and Ace

Iolani School 4th Graders



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

We, Craig and Juliette, 4th grade students at Iolani School, are in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohia lehua as the state endemic tree.

We have learned that Ohia trees wood was used for kappa boards and more because the wood is so strong. The Ohia tree provides shelter and food to many native birds like the I'iwi. Many Ohia trees are being affected by Rapid Ohia Death/R.O.D.

Acrostic poem:

Ohia trees are used for shelter
Hard wood for kappa boards
Important for watershed
An important tree to the islands

Let's rainwater drip into aquifer
Early sprouting after a volcano's
Hard wood for tool
Underground aquifers are being helped
And dying to Rapid Ohia Death

Sincerely,
Craig and Juliette
Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

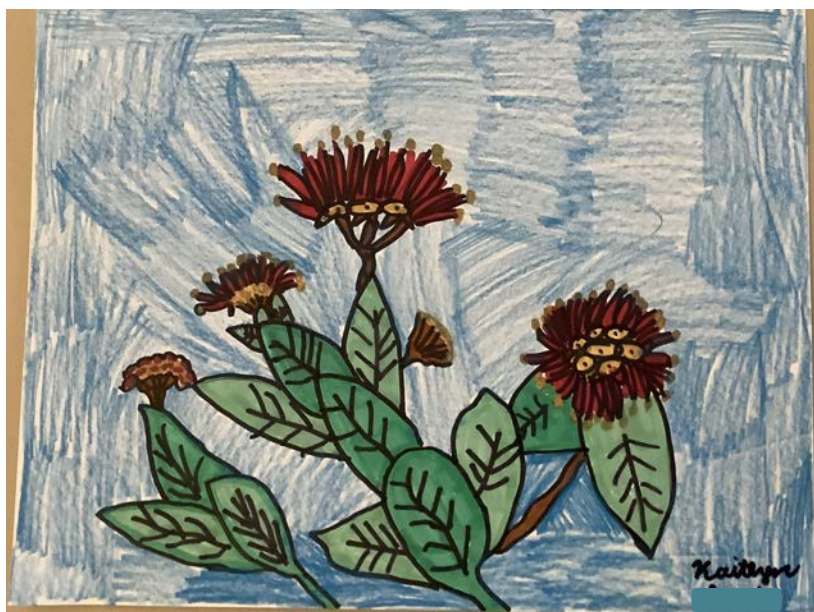
Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

We, Kaitlyn and Madison, 4th grade students at Iolani School, are in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree.

The ohi`a Lehua tree is endemic, many native animals depend on this tree. The ohi`a also collects water to send to the watershed which supplies us with the water we drink. The ohi`a is threatened because of a disease called Rapid Ohi`a Death, also known as R.O.D.

What ohi`a means to us is that it makes us feel joy in our lives. It makes us feel sad that it has this disease and we wish we could help. We are feeling this way because we planted our own ohi`a Lehua and saw our school's ohi`a which made us change our thoughts about the ohi`a. Thank you for your time and considering this bill.

Sincerely,
Kaitlyn and Madison
Iolani School 4th Graders



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Alexander, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi`a Lehua as the state endemic tree.

A recent fact I learned was that Rapid ohi`a Death, or R.O.D. for short, is a new threat to the ohi`a. R.O.D. has killed about 1 million ohi`a Trees on the island of Hawai`i. The ohi`a Tree is also very important to the watershed ecosystem, by helping the water seep into O`ahu's aquifers. It also is very important in Hawaiian culture and heritage. Finally, it feeds many of our native birds, such as the `I`iwi, `Apapane, and `Akohekohe.

Here is an acrostic poem that I wrote about the ohi`a lehua.

Our Ohi`a tree feeds many native animals

Hawaii's pride and joy is the Ohi`a

Is very important in the watershed

A very big part of our forests, Hawaiian culture, and heritage

Sincerely,
Alexander
Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

We, Addyson and Chelsie, 4th grade students at Iolani School, are in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohia lehua as the state endemic tree.

I learned that some native endangered animals rely on Ohia flower's nectar for food. I learned that Ohia trees are dying due to R.O.D. I also learned that Ohia is endemic. Endemic means that it only grows in Hawaii. Ohia is also really durable. It can live on hard and dry volcanic rocks. Ohia is also important for the culture. Ohia was used for medicine, tools, such as kapa beaters, poi boards and structures for homes. Ohia is also very important to our water supply. The tree's leaves hold the water and help refill our aquifer so we have water to drink.

On our campus, we have several Ohia trees. Almost everyday we walk past the Ohia trees and stop to look at it. The Ohia trees are thriving, but if no one protects them, the trees will die from R.O.D other diseases. R.O.D is a fungus, it kills the Ohia within 2 weeks of entering the trees. R.O.D stands for rapid Ohia death. Ohia taught me to care for nature, and to observe them. I've learned to be careful around plants. I've also learned to not spread R.O.D. If the Ohia is named the state endemic tree, people will be more careful about the trees. Thank you for taking time to read this testimony. I hope you consider this and turn this into a bill.

Here is an acrostic poem we wrote about the ohia lehua.

Ohia is an endemic tree.

Has been used for many different things such as medicine long ago

Important because it feeds native birds. So, if Ohia dies, those birds do too.

A cres of Ohia are dying from R.O.D.

Sincerely,
Chelsie and Addyson
Iolani School 4th Graders



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Daniel, Iolani 4th grader, am in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the Ohi'a lehua as the state endemic tree.

I recently learned that the Ohi'a are dying of Rapid Ohi'a Death (ROD) and now I want to care for them. I also think this because they are home to many birds and insects such as the 'I'iwi bird. I also support this bill because the Ohi'a is an important part of the watershed because it makes the rainwater go into the aquifer so we can drink the water. The ohi'a also has cultural importance because it is a part of a few legends.

I like the ohi'a because it is unique and is endemic to Hawaii. I used to not even know about the Ohi'a but now we like to care for them and let them live to their full extent. Thank you for listening to my testimony, I hope you take this bill into consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniel

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Kana, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree. I have recently learned that the Ohi`a Lehua tree is a really important part of our community. Sadly the Ohi`a Lehua tree is dying because of a fungus named Caratasis.

This is an acrostic poem I wrote representing the Ohi`a Lehua tree.

One of the endemic trees to Hawai`i. It is threatened by Rapid Ohi`a Death.
Has a mean fungi on it's trail that is trying to steal the Ohi`a Lehua's water supply,
Is super strong and tough but looks delicate,
And can grow on magma rock and can grow in forests.

The Ohi`a Lehua tree is important to nature and me because Hawai`i's native birds rely on the lehua blossom for nectar. I have changed to loving nature even more ever since my classmates and I started studying the O`hia Lehua tree. I hope that you consider this bill.

Sincerely,
Kana
Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Jonah, a 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the Ohi`a Lehua as the state endemic tree.

I have recently learned that the O`hia is endangered due to a sickness called Rapid Ohi`a Death (R.O.D.). I also have learned that it is home to many native Hawaiian animals which are either rare or extinct. This tree feeds the birds nectar and provides a very large and happy habitat to natives.

In my opinion, the Ohi`a should be named the state endemic tree because it is very beautiful, and it has taught me to be more mindful of it and to other trees and plants. My studies about the Ohi`a makes me want to protect it. I do not want to see a tree like the Ohi`a go extinct. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jonah

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Riley, 4th grade student at ‘Iolani school, am in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols, which designates the ohia lehua as the state endemic tree.

The ohia tree is valuable to Hawaii’s ecosystem and is part of Hawaiian culture. It is important to our watershed because it collects mist and rain water with its canopy. If the ohia tree dies, native species like the honeycreeper and the i’iwi will die too. These kinds of birds rely on the ohia tree to pollinate. Ohia is also important to Hawaii’s culture too. The ohia’s bark was used for structures of homes and ancient Hawaiian statues. The flowers were also used for medicine. We should remember how crucial this tree was to our ancestors and culture.

The ohia tree is like ohana to our fourth grade community because we have these trees on our ‘Iolani campus, and we can visit them whenever we want to. They are located behind the Sullivan Center. We always make sure to check on the trees every week and write down some notes of our observations of how the trees are doing. When I first heard that R.O.D. was killing ohia trees, it made me feel sad because ever since my teacher introduced me to these trees, I have started to pay more attention to them and notice how they are special. Everyday, while walking back from swimming, I also make sure to check on the ohia trees to see how they are doing. Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony, and I hope you will consider this.

Sincerely,

Riley

‘Iolani School 4th Grader



Ohia Lehua Haiku

A beautiful tree
A tree that means ohana
Precious lehua

Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Melody, 4th grade student at 'Iolani school, am in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols, which designates the ohia lehua as the state endemic tree.

Recently, I have learned that the Ohia Lehua, or the Ohia flower is filled with a sweet nectar, a source of food for the endangered I'iwi, or Hawaiian honeycreeper that is rapidly disappearing. Many living organisms depend on the Ohia tree for food and water. The Ohia tree is part of the watershed and collects water on its leaves and lets it drip into the aquifer. This gives humans clean and fresh water. Many birds in Hawai'i depended on the Ohia flower, and some are now extinct. There is also a fungus called Rapid Ohia Death (R.O.D.) which is wiping out many Ohia trees by taking the Ohia's water. There is currently no cure for this fungus.

Learning about the Ohia tree has forged a bond between me and the tree. There is an Ohia tree on campus which I never really paid attention to, and now I pay more attention to the tree and its growth. I want to protect the trees from R.O.D. and save the Ohia trees. Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony and please consider this bill.

Ohia Haiku

Ohia's nectar

Source of food for many birds

Some are now extinct

Sincerely,
Melody
Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Bradley, am in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ōhi`a lehua the state endemic tree of Hawai`i.

I have recently learned that the ōhi`a tree is being threatened by a disease called Rapid Ōhi`a Death(R.O.D.). R.O.D. has knocked out a big chunk of the ōhi`a population. I would not like it for the ōhi`a tree to go extinct because that would have devastating effects on the native birds and snails. The ōhi`a is also important for culture. The ancient Hawaiians used the ōhi`a tree wood for building canoes. They also used the ōhi`a blossoms for medicine.

Here is a haiku I wrote for the ōhi`a tree.

Oh Great Ōhi`a

Devastate natives

From on land to shining sea

We must act quickly

The ōhi`a tree and I have this sort of connection. I know that many of the last natives of Hawai`i depend on the ōhi`a's nectar to survive, so because of that I will protect it so that the ōhi`a tree and the natives that depend on it can survive as well. Please consider this bill, and thank you for taking the time to read this message.

Sincerely,

Bradley

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Mikayla, am in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ōhi`a lehua the state endemic tree of Hawai`i.

Some facts you should know about the Ohia Lehua is that it provides canopy shade. This tree is very important to our watershed because it captures mist from precipitation which we will eventually drink. The Ohia`a Lehua provides a habitat for native species like the I`iwi and Honeycreeper. In addition, it's beautiful colors like red, yellow, orange, salmon and white brighten our environment. Something bad is also happening to these trees. Rapid Ohia Death is happening (R.O.D.).

My personal connection is that my preschool (Unity Preschool) named their classes after certain plants. I grew up loving all the plants at my preschool and especially loved the Lehua flower. The Ohia Lehua is a big part of my childhood and I would like to know that the Lehua is thought of more now. Thank you very much for taking time to listen to my testimony.

Sincerely,

Mikayla

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Kiara, a 4th grader at ‘Iolani School, am in support of SB2059, Relating to the State Symbols which designates the ohī‘a lehua as the state endemic tree.

I recently discovered the ō‘hi‘a lehua tree and I learned the cultural importance not only to the Hawaiians but also to the native birds that drink the sweet nectar from the lehua flower. I have also learned that rapid ō‘hi‘a death also known as R.O.D. has taken over our ō‘hi‘a forest and hurt 90% of the population of trees in the past 3 years. In addition, the ō‘hi‘a lehua tree collects rain water and leads it into our aquifers.

The ō‘hi‘a lehua is important to me because it makes me more curious to learn more about the different stages of the tree and helps me be more aware of my surroundings.

Sincerely,

Kiara

Iolani 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Kameron, am in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ōhi`a lehua the state endemic tree of Hawai`i.

I have learned that the Ōhi`a Lehua is getting killed by a fungus called, Rapid Ohia Death. It is a fungus that goes into the tree from any wounds or holes in the tree. The Ōhi`a helps native birds live like the I`iwi or the Apapane. The native birds drink the nectar from the flower and that's how they get their food. The Ōhi`a can also help make small canoes from the tree trunks.

The Ōhi`a taught me to notice more of the nature around me. It taught me to respect nature and I used to never notice it in nature but now I see the Ōhi`a. Thank you for taking the time for reading my testimony, and I hope you pass this bill on.

Sincerely,

Kameron

Iolani School 4th Grader



Date & Time of Hearing: 2022 March 29, 2:00 p.m.
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of my Iolani 4th grade students, I would like to formally submit their written testimony in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols, which designates the ‘ōhi‘a lehua as the state endemic tree. Included in this document are student written statements, poems, and artwork expressing their support and love for the ‘ōhi‘a lehua.

In recent months, the 4th graders have been learning and building their awareness of the ‘ōhi‘a lehua. Students first learned about the importance of the ‘ōhi‘a lehua to Hawai‘i’s watershed, its cultural connections to the Hawaiians of old, and the unfortunate threat of Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death (R.O.D.) that a growing number of these endemic trees are facing.

To assist students with forming a deeper understanding and connection to the ‘ōhi‘a lehua tree, students were introduced to the seven ‘ōhi‘a trees on our ‘Iolani School campus. Many of our 4th graders were unaware that these beauties even existed in our own backyard. Since then, students have taken occasional walking trips across campus to observe, admire, and connect with our ‘ōhi‘a lehua. They have witnessed firsthand every flower stage of the ‘ōhi‘a lehua and are forming a special relationship and kuleana for being caretakers, as they have each harvested and planted their own ‘ōhi‘a seeds. It is exciting that they now have the opportunity to mālama the ‘ōhi‘a and advocate for these native trees to increase awareness in other people. Their love for the ‘ōhi‘a lehua is growing and will hopefully blossom into something wonderful in the months to come.

Thank you for your consideration and time spent reading through my students’ testimony.

Sincerely,
Addie C. Kim
‘Iolani School 4th Grade Teacher

Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

We, Mia and Allison, 4th grade students at Iolani School, are in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohī`a lehua as the state endemic tree.

Here is an acrostic poem we wrote about the ohī`a lehua.

Ōhi`a Lehua trees need to stick around because native birds and insects depend on the `Ōhi`a.

However, Rapid Ōhi`a Death is killing the Ōhi`a and soon might be extinct.

Important to Hawaiian culture.

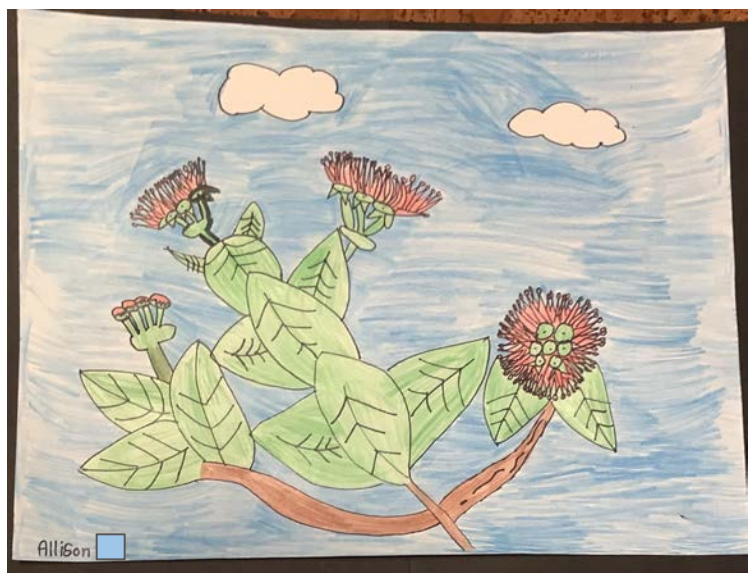
Aquifer depends on the Ōhi`a Lehua.

Since we were introduced to the ohī`a lehua tree it has changed the way we think about nature and our surroundings. Thank you for taking the time to read our testimony and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Allison and Mia

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

We, Avery and Seri, 4th grade students at Iolani School, are in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the `ohia lehua as the state endemic tree..

We have been learning about the `ohia tree and that it is very important to many other native species. It is also important because it preserves the Hawaiian culture and replenishes our aquifer after it replenishes our aquifer we can drink the water and/or use it for different uses . We have also learned that ROD (Rapid `Ohia Death) has been a threat to our `Ohia trees and this would affect the animals that depend on the `ohia. It is also our Kuleana (responsibility).

We feel since we learned about the `ohia that it made us more aware of our surrounding and the `ohia we have on our campus. We recently planted our own `ohia seeds and have been taking care of our seeds, these seeds are very important to us. I hope you will consider this bill as it will kokua (help) protect our ohia and will raise awareness of R.O.D. Mahalo for considering this bill.

Sincerely,
Avery and Seri
Iolani School 4th Graders



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Kaika, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of bill SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohia lehua as the state endemic tree.

Here is an acrostic poem I wrote about the ohia lehua.

Ohia wood helped the ancient Hawaiians make things like a house post to keep their hale strong.

Hawai'i used to have tons of Ohia in its forest before R.O.D. came along. We need to keep our Ohia healthy for the future of Hawai'i.

In the Hawaiian islands, Ohia were important to the watershed because they helped get water to the aquifer. The leaves would allow rainwater to slowly drip to the ground.

A lot of animals depended on the Ohia trees like the Honeycreeper or I'iwi.

I care about the Ohia because I recently learned Ohia are endemic to Hawaii because they can only be found in the Hawaiian forest or mountains. I also care about the Ohia because they help me understand that the Ohia is very important to Hawai'i. I don't want the tree to be extinct like some of the birds that are already extinct. I also care for it because I don't want the birds that drink from it to be extinct too. Also, I don't want an important piece of the Hawaiians to be extinct. I have lots of ho'ihi (respect) for the Ohia because I had so much care for the Ohia tree when I first learned about it. Please consider this bill so that the Ohia can be named the Endemic Tree of the state of Hawai'i. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kaika

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

We, Tye and Luke, from Iolani school 4th grade, are in support of bill SB2059. We are in support of it being designated the State Endemic Tree of Hawaii. Thank you for your time and consideration of our testimony.

Here is an acrostic poem we wrote about the ohi`a lehua.

Ohi`a trees gave nectar to birds such as the black hawaiian honeycreeper which are now extinct. Today, the Ohi`a provides nectar to birds like the i`iwi.

Hawaiians used the Ohi`a trees' blossoms for medicinal purposes.

In Hawai`i Ohi`a tree's are endemic and it's important that we keep them around because they are an important part of our aquifer because they slow down the dripping water with their leaves.

An Ohi`a can be dying right now because of R.O.D. If we don't become more aware of the ohi`a and take action or the Ohi`a trees will go extinct. Naming the Ohi`a trees our endemic state tree, will help others to be more aware of this island treasure.

Sincerely,

Tye and Luke

Iolani School 4th Graders



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Ellery, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohia lehua as the state endemic tree.

The Ohia has an enemy, R.O.D (rapid ohia death). R.O.D. is a fungi that enters through cuts and clogs the tree's water system. Sadly R.O.D. only affects Ohia trees. We need this tree because it provides us with healthy rainforests, beautiful lei, and a lot of shelter for animals like the `i`iwi. Not a lot of people know about this amazing tree. More people would know and pay more attention to it if it was named our state endemic tree. People would help fight off R.O.D. I think it is my kuleana (responsibility) to malama (care) for these precious Ohia. Thank you for considering this bill.

Sincerely,

Ellery

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

We, Sophia and Mikayla, 4th grade students at Iolani School, are in support of bill SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohia lehua as the state endemic tree.

We have learned that the ohia is extremely important to the preservation of Hawaiian culture, it's a cornerstone species of our forests, and is important as a vital water gatherer to refill our aquifers. We've also learned the sad reality of Rapid Ohia Death or R.O.D. R.O.D. is a fungus that clogs it's water supply.

We think that if the ohia lehua is made the state endemic tree, people would pay more attention to it, want to learn about it, and help stop R.O.D. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sophia and Mikayla
Iolani School 4th Graders



...



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Aya, 4th grade student from Iolani school, am support of SB2059, relating to state symbols which designates the Ohi'a Lehua as the state endemic tree.

I have recently learnt about the Ohi'a tree and rapid Ohi'a death (R.O.D). I have also learnt about the cultural importance to Hawai'i.

Another reason for this is there are many birds that depend on the Ohi'a tree for food. I think if the Ohi'a tree is named The State Endemic Tree Of Hawai'i, people will Ho'ihl (respect) it more. As I said before, I have learned a lot about the Ohi'a tree in class. I hope you accept this bill and choose to name the Ohi'a tree The State Endemic Tree of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Aya

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Sydney, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohia lehua as the state endemic tree.

I have recently learned that the ohia has an enemy, Rapid Ohia Death, which is also known as R.O.D. Something else I have learned is the cultural importance the ohia brings to Hawaii, like it being an island flower and part of some of the legends of which Hawaiians believe. In addition to this, there are many birds who depend upon this lovely tree for part of their lives. I also believe that if the ohia was the state endemic tree of Hawaii, people would ho'ihi (respect) and kokua (help) it a bit more than they do now.

I have made many connections to this tree and one is that I have lived around it, as it's in my backyard, and have learned so many interesting facts just by looking at it every day. I thank you for reading and considering this bill and hopefully making the ohia lehua the State Endemic Tree Of Hawaii.

Thank you for your service,
Sydney
Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Audrey, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of bill SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree.

During Social Studies, while we learned about the Hawaiian plants, I realized the importance of this endemic tree. The beautiful `Ōhi`a is extremely durable and important to our environment. It is one of the main parts of Hawai`i's water supply. The `Ōhi`a, along with the Koa tree, slows rainwater from creating run-off on the mountains. The `Ōhi`a was also a resource of medicine for the ancient Hawaiians. Plus, it is a native plant and keystone species. A keystone plant is a plant that is a very important part of an ecosystem. Native birds and insects rely on the `Ōhi`a for food and homes. With strong, hard wood, the `Ōhi`a also has many uses.

While we speak a fungus called R.O.D. (Rapid `Ōhi`a Death) is infecting our `Ōhi`a. To protect our beloved `Ōhi`a we ask you to consider our bill. These `Ōhi`a are so important to me because they help the environment. It's also an important part of Hawaiian culture.

Here is a haiku poem I wrote about the ohi`a lehua.

A Beautiful Tree

Blood-red flowers sway,
Strong wood rooted in the earth,
Both make `Ōhi`a.

Sincerely,
Audrey
Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

We, Hunter and Jax, 4th grade students at Iolani School, are in support of SB2059 relating to State Symbols which designates the Ohi`a Lehua as the state endemic tree.

In class we have learned that the Ohi`a tree holds a lot of rainwater that drips slowly into the aquifers. Another thing that we have learned about the Ohi`a is that Hawaiians used Ohi`a for many things like canoes and posts to support their home. The Lēhua blossom was used for dyes, leis, clothes, and medicine for women giving birth. Another thing that we have learned is that R.O.D. or Rapid Ohi`a Death is killing our Ohi`a trees.

The Ohi`a tree means a lot to us because it is an important part of Hawaiian culture and good for our aquifer, native plants, and native animals. If we didn't have Ohi`a trees we would not have enough rainwater to drink from our aquifer. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,
Jax and Hunter
Iolani School 4th Graders



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Mattie, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ōhi`a lehua as the state endemic tree.

I have been learning about the ōhi`a lehua tree and have started to realize that it is a very important part of Hawaiian culture, our watershed, and the life of many native birds. I have also been learning about Rapid Ōhi`a Death (R.O.D) which has been affecting and killing millions of ōhi`a in the state of Hawai`i. With many ōhi`a trees dying, it is our kuleana (responsibility) to protect and ho`ihi (respect) it. If we don't protect the ōhi`a, this would not only affect many native birds and animals it would also affect us. I believe that if you decide to make the ōhi`a the State Endemice Tree of Hawai`i, people would become more aware of the situation that the ōhi`a is facing. For these reasons I think that the ōhi`a should be named the State Endemic Tree of Hawai`i. Thank you for reading and considering this bill.

Mahalo,
Mattie
Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

We, Carter and Henry, 4th grade students at Iolani School, are in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree.

We have recently been learning about Rapid Ohi`a Death, the fungus that spreads to Ohi`a trees. We have learned that R.O.D. has killed over one million Ohi`a trees. The trees are in danger so it's our kuleana (responsibility) to ho`ihi (respect) and care for them. We need to do this because the Ohi`a trees give many animals shelter, food, and nectar. Ohi`a is also a staple of Hawai'i history being the mostly used tree for lei and canoe. Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony and we hope you will consider this bill.

Ohi`a Haiku

The Ohi`a Tree
Brilliant Red, White, Yellow
Honey and Nectar

Sincerely,
Carter and Henry
Iolani School 4th Graders



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Kara, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohia lehua as the state endemic tree.

In our social studies class we started to learn about the Ohia tree. I learned how it kokua (helps) Hawai'i. It gives shelter to native birds, its flowers are made to make leis, and much more. Sadly, the Ohia tree has an enemy. R.O.D., also known as Rapid Ohia Death. R.O.D has killed over one million Ohia trees. I think if you make the Ohia tree the state endemic tree, people will try to learn about the Ohia and tree to help it. I think it is my kuleana (responsibility) to inform you about this and I feel strongly towards showing malama (care) to the Ohia. Mahalo for your time.

Sincerely,

Kara

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Brady, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohia`a lehua as the state endemic tree.

I have recently learned about a tree called Ohia. We also planted Ohia seeds and are caring for them. But there is a enemy to the Ohia called ROD it is a disease that is killing millions of Ohia they need our help. We know the Ohia was important to the Hawaiians to make medicines, canoes, and house supports. That is not all it is helpful for we have also learned that the Ohia is important to the watershed by funneling the water with its leaves and transferring it into the aquifer. We are not the only ones who depend on the tree. This tree gives shelter and food to native help birds and bugs that inhabit our island.

We want the Ohia to be named the state endemic tree so that we can build awareness to preserve this tree. The Ohia is important to us because it has it has also helped the it also gave me water to drink which helped our aquifer collect more. I want to spread awareness to help the Ohi`a with stopping R.O.D. Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you for your consideration,

Brady

Iolani 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Archie, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohia lehua as the state endemic tree.

I have learned that the Ohia is a very important tree to the environment because it provides shelter and food for many endangered and native Hawaiian animal species such as the honeycreepers and spiders. I also learned that animals are losing their shelter and food to wood gathering and **R.O.D.** (Rapid Ohia Death). It's my Kuleana (responsibility) to care for the Ohia on and off our campus.

This tree is important to me because when I planted an Ohia at school, I learned to care for it. Now the Ohia are like family to me. Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,
Archie
Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Avalon, am a student at Iolani School, and I am in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols, which would designate the Ohi`a Lehua as the State Endemic Tree of Hawai`i.

I have recently learned that Ohi`a trees are extremely important to Hawaiian culture. The Ohi`a trees also have a vital role in Hawai`i's watersheds. The Ohi`a allows water to sink into Hawai`i's natural aquifers. Unfortunately, the Ohi`a trees are in danger. R.O.D. (Rapid Ohi`a Death) has killed over 1 million Ohi`a trees on the Island of Hawai`i alone.

Learning about the Ohi`a has made me feel ho`ihi (respect), it is my kuleana (responsibility) to help protect the Ohi`a. I feel that if the Ohi`a Lehua is the State Endemic Tree, we could spread awareness about R.O.D. and how to protect our beloved Ohi`a. Thank you for putting this into consideration.

Sincerely,

Avalon

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Thomas, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of SB2059, Relating to state Symbols which designates the Ohi'a Lehua as the state endemic tree.

I have been learning about how the Ohi'a tree is so important to Hawaii. The Ohi'a's sweet nectar helps feed the native birds. The Ohi'a tree also sucked the water in and then goes into the aquifer for us to drink. The Ohi'a tree is in danger because of the Rapid Ohi'a Death. Rapid Ohi'a Death has been killing a lot of Ohi'a trees.

It is our job to protect the tree from ROD and let everyone else know how important this tree to Hawaii. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Thomas

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Aiden, a 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohia lehua as the state endemic tree.

These past few weeks, I've learned a lot about the ohia tree, including the fact that the ohia is endemic to Hawai'i. If the tree becomes extinct because of R.O.D., then, you cannot find it anywhere else in the world. I've also learned that if the ohia becomes extinct, the native birds that need the tree to live will also become extinct. The native birds are a cultural importance to Hawai'i, so people that live in Hawai'i will be really sad because it may be very important to them.

The ohia is important to me because it taught me to be more careful around plants because they can be very important too. I've learned how to take care of an ohia tree because I had experience planting my own ohia. The ohia is also important to me because whenever I see a fully bloomed tree, I get filled up with joy for the rest of the day.

Thank you for your time and maybe considering this bill.

Mahalo,
Aiden
Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Kaitlyn, an Iolani 4th grader, am in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the Ohi`a Lehua as the state endemic tree.

I have recently learned that Ohi`a is very important to the Hawaiian cultural and ecosystem. I have also recently discovered that Rapid Ohi`a Death (or R.O.D.) has invaded our Ohi`a forest and has damaged many of these special trees. The Ohi`a is a big part of our water cycle. It leads the water droplets to our aquifers which leads into our everyday lives. Ohi`a was also important to the Hawaiians of old. They used the Ohi`a wood for carvings of their akua (or Gods). Ohi`a also provides sweet nectar to our native birds, such as the I`iwi and Honeycreeper. These birds depend on the nectar to survive.

When my family and I take an evening walk, I like to take a look at the Ohi`a that hides behind a big tree up our street. This Ohi`a is small but it has beautiful blossoms blooming. I`d like people to know more about the Ohi`a and why it`s so important to us and nature. Thank you for your kind courtesy towards our sacred Ohi`a Lehua.

Here is an Ohi`a Lehua acrostic poem that I wrote.

Ohi`a has made me care and notice the beauty around us much more.

Helping this Ohi`a has made me want to save our Native creatures around us too.

I feel like the Ohi`a gives me a calming sensation.

As the months pass, Rapid Ohi`a Death (or RO..D) has killed to much Ohi`a, that now

I want to help these trees as much as I can before it`s too late.

Mahalo,
Kaitlyn
Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Kayde, a 4th grader at Iolani School, am in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the Ohi`a Lehua as the state endemic tree.

I recently learned that native birds like the `i`iwi like to suck the nectar from the ohi`a lehua. If the ohi`a lehua is gone, the native birds may be extinct soon due to Rapid Ohia Death. The ohi`a is important because it can be a food source for animals, and can make things like canoes or medicine. The ohi`a tree also mattered to the native Hawaiians, they were the ones who made the canoes and medicine.

The ohi`a is important to me because it has made me realize that it's only here in Hawai`i. We have to be aware of the ohi`a because they are dying to Rapid Ohia Death. We need to help the ohia, before the tree itself and a lot of animals die too.

Sincerely,
Kayde
Iolani School 4th Grader

Ohia Haiku
Red, yellow, orange,
Really high in the mountains,
On volcanic land



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

We, Asher and Angelina, 4th grade students at Iolani School, are in support of SB2059, relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi'a lehua as the state endemic tree.

We have recently learned that the Ohi'a is dying of the spreading of Rapid Ohi'a Death. We think that by naming the Ohi'a Hawaii's state endemic tree, people will recognize it more and help protect it from dying out. We need to save the Ohi'a because it is food for many animals, and those animals depend on Ohi'a to survive.

Learning about the Ohi'a has changed how we feel about nature. We have seen Ohi'a before, but have never really noticed it. We hope you will consider naming Ohi'a the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Sincerely,
Asher and Angelina
Iolani School 4th Graders



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Luke 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohia lehua as the state endemic tree.

I have recently learned that native birds rely on this tree to live. For example the native birds drink out of the ohia blossoms, so if the ohia tree dies out the native birds will too. I have also learned that the ohia is endemic to Hawaii. Since it is endemic to Hawaii, if it dies out, it's gone forever. If it's gone forever Hawaiian people may be really sad.

In my opinion I think that the ohia tree represents Hawaiian culture because back in the day the old Hawaiians used it, and without it, Hawaii wouldn't be the Hawaii we are today. Thank you for your time and hopefully considering this bill.

Sincerely,

Luke

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Arya, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohia lehua as the state endemic tree.

I have learned many things about the 'ohi'a and its vital importance to our ecosystem. I have learned that the 'ohi'a is an important freshwater gatherer, and catches water for our daily activities. The 'ohi'a's leaves are cupped and they catch freshwater from the clouds. There's an endangered bird species called the Hawaiian honeycreeper, and it relies on the 'ohi'a's nectar for food. Without it the honeycreeper would probably go extinct. It also helps to remind us of the story of 'Ohi'a, Lehua, and the fire goddess Pele. Pele was jealous of 'Ohi'a and Lehua's love, so she turned 'Ohi'a into a tree, then the akua turned Lehua into a beautiful flower so the two lovers could be together again, the legend is that if you pick the 'ohi'a flower their tears will fall from the sky. I have also learned of a big threat to the 'ohi'a called Rapid 'Ohi'a Death, or R.O.D. A fungus that is killing and infecting these beautiful trees.

If I hadn't been introduced to the 'ohi'a I would have thought it was just a tree, but now that I am caring for and slowly understanding the 'ohi'a tree, I've grown to respect it and other trees more. I think growing and learning about the 'ohi'a made me realize that it's more than a tree, that it's a species that has many benefits to our ecosystem. I hope you will understand and consider this bill to help our beloved 'ohi'a. Mahalo for your time.

Sincerely,

Arya

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Emma, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree.

I think this because the tree is important in many ways, for example, native birds. The O`hia is important to native birds because the birds drink the sweet nectar from the flower. Another important thing to know about the O`hia is that ancient Hawaiians used the stump of the tree to make a house also known as a hale. If the O`his is named the state endemic tree, people will find out about the Rapid O`hia Death and they will be more aware of it. I think that making it the state endemic tree will teach people more about the tree and might get attached to it like how I did.

I think that the tree is really cool and amazing. Sometimes in school, I go to visit the O`hia trees on campus and always find something different and interesting to look at. Finding out that I was going to have the opportunity to plant my own O`hia tree made me really excited. Thank you for listening to my testimony. I hope that you will consider accepting it.

Sincerely,

Emma

Iolani School 4th



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Alec, a 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree. I think that the Ohi`a Lehua should be designated as the state endemic tree.

I have learned that the Ohi`a is an important part of our ecosystem because it helps in all different kinds of ways for different things for example the honeycreeper drinks the nectar of the Ohi`a tree. The Ohi`a tree is resilient like the people of Hawaii.

The Ohi`a tree made me more careful where I step. The Ohi`a tree has made me more observant of the Ohi`a tree now I see details I didn't see before. Thank you very much for reading my testimony and I hope you consider this bill.

Sincerely,
Alec
Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Maddy, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohia lehua as the state endemic tree.

I support this bill because the Ohia is important in so many ways, for example the native birds. The Ohia is important to the birds because they rely on the trees' sweet nectar from the flower to drink. Another important thing to know about the Ohia tree is that naming the Ohia the state endemic tree will make others notice the tree and realize how important it is. If this tree does become the state endemic tree then people will find out about the Rapid Ohia Death and hopefully be more aware of what's happening to them.

Sometimes in school I go to visit the Ohia trees on our campus. Every time I check the tree there are more interesting things to see. When I first heard about the Ohia I wasn't too excited because I thought that it was just a simple tree but as I learned more about it I got more connected to the Ohia. Planting my own Ohia was super exciting to do.

Thank you for listening to our testimony and I hope you will consider this.

Sincerely,

Maddy & Emma

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Aryanna, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohia lehua as the state endemic tree.

I have recently learned that Ohia is an important part of the watershed and culture. The Hawaiians used to use the ohia flower for medicine, They also used the ohia flower's nectar to help feed native birds. Rapid Ohia Death, also known as R.O.D., is spreading and killing the Ohia. The hardwood of the Ohia tree was used to make homes and statues by the ancient Hawaiian people.

The ohia is very important to me because I used to walk past the tree everyday, now every time I walk past the ohia I always check if it's healthy so we can keep the ohia protected. Thank you for taking your time to read this bill, I hope you take it into consideration.

This is a acrostic poem about the Ohia`a

Ohi`a is an endemic tree.

Hawaiians used Ohia`a's tree wood for tools

In the Hawaii island it is illegal to take Ohia`a off of the island.

A serious disease is spreading killing Ohia.

Sincerely,

Aryanna

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Rylen, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree.

This bill is important to me because it will get people interested in the Ohi`a tree so maybe they will be more careful and considerate about nature and it might get people interested in R.O.D (Rapid Ohi`a Death) and the Ohi`a is also important to native birds because it is food to these native endangered birds of Hawai`i.

I like the Ohi`a because ever since we planted our own Ohi`a in school and saw some on our school campus, I just find these plants and nature is making me notice stuff I never noticed before.

THE OHI`A BLOSSOM

Usually bright red
Pick blossom and sky will cry
On molten lava

Sincerely,
Rylen
Iolani 4th Grader





The House of Representatives
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Tuesday, March 29, 2022
2:00 PM VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference room 325 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Testimony in Support for SB2059 SD1 HD1

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kailee Lefebvre and I am testifying on behalf of the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS). We **are in support of SB2059 SD1 HD1, Relating to State Symbols** which would designate ‘ōhi‘a lehua as the State Endemic Tree of Hawai‘i.

Passing this bill not only recognizes the importance of ‘ōhi‘a, but it acknowledges the efforts of the incredible people across the state and beyond who are working towards a brighter future for our native forests, and for the endemic species, those native species that evolved only in Hawai‘i. ‘Ōhi‘a lehua is uniquely Hawaiian.

As the CGAPS Planner, I work closely with the Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death (ROD) Response team. I am impressed by the coordination of operations, research, and outreach, and interwoven with Hawaiian cultural knowledge. The people who do this work are passionate, persistent, collaborative, ingenuitive, and always making progress.

Leading up to this session, I’ve had the opportunity to engage with kumu and K-12th grade haumana across the state in a hands-on lesson in civics, to help this next generation learn about ‘ōhi‘a lehua and how to participate in legislature. I’ve been inspired by the hard work and dedication of these classes to call and email legislators, and prepare and submit hundreds of written testimony, especially during the peak of COVID. One kumu shared with me the loss that her haumana have faced during COVID, and yet they choose to participate in this project to celebrate and protect life- the life of ‘ōhi‘a. Kumu have shared how excited and proud their haumana are to share testimony with their legislators to help save ‘ōhi‘a. Their stories of love, appreciation, and dedication have inspired and motivated me.

Hawaiian cultural practitioners often remind us to bring the conversation back to the intention. The intention of this bill would be to celebrate and raise awareness about the uniqueness of ‘ōhi‘a lehua, and its importance for the watershed, as a keystone for other native species, for its importance in Hawaiian culture, and its relevance to people today. Also, ‘Ōhi‘a Lehua Day is on April 25th. It would be an amazing way to celebrate with the added recognition as the State Endemic Tree of Hawai‘i. For these reasons, we ask that you pass SB2059 SD1 HD1 and designate ‘ōhi‘a lehua as Hawai‘i’s State Endemic Tree. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Aloha,
Kailee Lefebvre
CGAPS Planner
kaileehl@hawaii.edu (808) 726-0181

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 7:03:59 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Drew Cohick	Hawaii Technology Academy	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Chair Nakashima,

I, Drew Cohick, am in support of SB2059, relating to state symbols, which would designate Ohia Lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Each year we hear the devastating news of our native forests being lost. This loss is due to introduced invasive species overcrowding and out competing our native flora. Recently Rapid Ohia Death is claiming more and more of our critical keystone species: the Ohia Lehua tree.

By voting to designate this tree our state's endemic tree we can better advocate for its protection, secure funding for research to protect it, and more readily inform our citizens and visitors of its importance. Without Ohia there will be no forests, little water, murky coastal waters, and no tourists to want to come visit. Thank you in advance for voting in support of SB2059.

Sincerely,

Drew Cohick

Science teacher & Kauai resident

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 8:18:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brooke-Michelle Okawaki-Chun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Brooke-Michelle Okawaki-Chun am writing to support SB2059.

The reason I support this bill is because the ‘ōhia lehua tree is endemic to the state of Hawai’i. When I say endemic I am explaining that this tree is only found in Hawai’i. It was naturally founded here and it has been here for as long as possible. The ‘ōhia lehua tree is also used as habitats for all types of animals/creatures. These animals include honeycreepers, bees, spiders, butterflies, snails, crickets, and more. It was used for a lot of cultural significance such as weapons, kapa, flower leis, and poi pounding. The ‘ōhia lehua tree can also be found as a very valuable water source in the state of Hawai’i.

A few more reasons/facts why this tree deserves a bill consist of how beautiful the blossoms of the tree are. They include bright colors of red, yellow, and even red with peach tips. The ‘ōhia lehua tree has a forest on the island of Hawaii that is becoming scarce, and they also have many mo'olelo/legends made about them too. I truly believe that the ‘ōhia lehua tree deserves a bill at least, its name deserves to be known.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Brooke-Michelle Okawaki-Chun

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 8:22:44 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin S.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

January 19, 2022

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi

I am writing this in support of the ‘ōhia/SB 2509 Testimony/bill. The reasons I support it include the fact that we depend on the ‘ōhia for its abundance in water and the ability for us to use its flowers for a lei.

The ‘ōhia tree is one of our main sources of water. Without it, we probably wouldn’t be able to find another source quite easily. We use water for many things in life, such as drinking water, showering/bathing, washing our hands, etc. Not also us, but it also provides its water for all the other living animals around it. This just shows how important of a water source ‘ōhia is to us.

Leis might not be a super flashy thing we use, but when giving it to someone, it is a way of showing gratitude to somebody. To make a lei, we need some flowers. The ‘ōhia tree has such amazingly beautiful flowers. It can also come in a rainbow/variety of colors, giving the lei more detail and vibrance. It may be that we have other flowers to choose from other than the ones the ‘ōhia produce, but it's still a way to keep our “Hawaiian culture” alive.

With Aloha,

8th Grade student(s)

1460 Ho'olaulea Street | Pearl City HI, 96782

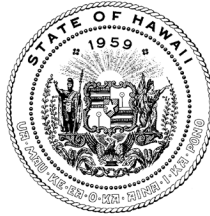
(808) 307-5000

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Sukita, Justin

Highlands Intermediate School

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
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Tuesday, March 29, 2022
2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325, Via Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2059, SENATE DRAFT 1, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO STATE SYMBOLS

Senate Bill 2059, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1, proposes to designate 'ōhi'a lehua (*Metrosideros polymorpha*) as the official endemic tree of the State. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

As the agency responsible for managing natural resources, including native plants and ecosystems, the Department recognizes the critical ecological and cultural roles of 'ōhi'a lehua in Hawai'i. The Department is a lead agency on the response to Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death, and supports this designation as a tool to highlight awareness of 'ōhi'a and the importance of protecting this foundational forest species, and native Hawaiian forest health, generally.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 8:35:24 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lucie Jager	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House of Representatives

Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

March 29, 2022, 2:00 pm

Room 325

State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB2059, Relating to State Natices Tree

Aloha Chair Mark Nakashima , Vice Chair Scot Matayoshi., and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs.

My name is Lucie Jager, a current student attending Kalaheo High School and I would like to share my support regarding SB2059, about Ohia becoming our Natices State Tree.

Recently, my class and I have learned about the importance of Ohia in Hawaii as well as its cultural significance. Rapid Ohia Death is a widespread disease killing Ohia. I believe that if we make Ohia our native state tree, we will be able to draw awareness and hopefully revive Ohia.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,

Lucie Jager

Kalaheo High School

Grade 11

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 8:36:35 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Josh Atwood	DLNR	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am available for questions to DLNR. Please allow me Zoom access.

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 8:38:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jolie Contreras	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Of Representatives

Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

March 29, 2022

3:10 pm, Conference room 325

State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB 2059, Relating to State Native Tree

Aloha Chair Mark Nakashima, Vice-Chair Scot Matayoshi, and Members of the Committees on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs. My name is Jolie Contreras I am a 10th-grade student at Kalaheo High School. I support SB 2059 relating to the State Native Tree to designate Ohia Lehua as the state endemic tree. I would like people to learn and understand the importance of the Ohia Lehua tree. Also making our community aware of the problem of the Ohia Lehua tree.

This Bill is very important to me because the Ohia Lehua tree should be our endemic tree. The reason why it should be is that the current state tree the Kukui is not native to Hawai'i, The Ohia Lehua is going through many struggles such as the majority of Hawaii's endemic birds are threatened with extinction, losing the dominant tree from their remaining habitat makes these birds even more vulnerable, particularly if the fungus spreads to other islands. Even non-threatened birds, such as the blackbird, could become endangered following severe habitat loss. These trees should be native to all the insects, the flowers are important sources to the birds they sip the nectar from the red blossom and glean insects in bark and trees.

Thank you for taking your time and reading this letter

Sincerely

Jolie Contreras

Kalaheo High School, 10th grade

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 8:38:51 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaslene Vierra	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I Jaslene Vierra and am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because ‘Ōhi‘a Testimony

The reason I support this bill is because of the cultural significance and is a keystone species. To begin, the ‘Ōhi‘a has lots of cultural significance to Hawaii, like the background and how people use it. ‘Ōhi‘a can be used in many various ways like creating weapons, making lays, making tea, kappa cloth, pounding boards for koi, and so much more. Not only, taking away the many resources, it also has an old legend behind how ‘Ōhi‘a first grew. Basically how Pele got rejected by this man and got turned into a tree and his lover also turned into a tree to be with her lover (lover became into ‘Ōhi‘a).

In addition, ‘Ōhi‘a is a keystone species. Lots of birds actually depend on ‘Ōhi‘a by feeding on the flower and the seeds. Also, removing/transferring ‘Ōhi‘a can be very dangerous and may cause many risks like diseases. ‘Ōhi‘a is not only a keystone species but it's also endemic, pioneer species, water source, and etc. These are reasons why I support the bill because of the culture it represents and how it is a very dependent species.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Jaslene Vierra,

Highlands Intermediate School

SB2059
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
March 29, 2022, 2:00PM
Room 325
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB 2059, Relating to State Native Tree

Aloha Chair Rep. Mark Nakashima, Vice Chair Rep. Scot Matayoshi and Members of the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts. My name is Madelyn Begin and I am a freshman at Kalaheo Highschool and I support SB 2059, in concern of the State Native Tree which would label the Ohia Lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

The Ohia bill is a bill that will designate the Ohia Lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii. It is important that this bill gets passed because while the Ohia Lehua is not endangered, it is at risk of becoming endangered because of threats such as Rapid Ohia Death (ROD). The Ohia Lehua is very important to Hawaii because the trees replenish our state's underground aquifers. They need to be protected because if their population were to decrease it would affect all of Oahu's population and land negatively.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Madelyn Begin
Kalaheo Highschool grade 9

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 8:41:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ethan Rieb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB2059

Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiiin Affairs

March 29, 2022, 2:00 pm

Room 325

State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB 2059, Relating to the State Native Tree

Aloha Chair Mark Nakashima and Vicechair Scot Matayoshi and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiiin Affairs,

My name is Ethan Rieb, and I Feel the Ohia tree should be the state tree of Hawaii replacing the kukui because Ohia is endemic to hawaii. I am in support of SB 2059, which would designate ohia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

I would like this bill to come into place because I feel that an endemic tree to Hawaii should be the state tree not the kukui because it is native to polynesia and not Hawaii. It would bring more meaning to Hawaii if Ohia was changed to become the state tree and it would hold more value to the people of Hawaii. I take pride in ohai and in my opinion I feel it deserves to be the state tree of its homeland.

Thank you for your time reading this and I hope you take it into consideration.

Sincerely, Ethan Rieb

Kalaheo High School, 11th Grade

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 8:42:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yanisa Nakata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Yanisa Nakata, I am writing to support SB2059. The importance ‘ōhi‘a has to nature and its cultural significance are among the reasons I support it. The ‘ōhi‘a tree is endemic to Hawaii, and it is a pioneer and keystone species. Since the tree is endemic to Hawaii, it is only found on the Hawaiian Islands. Because the tree is a pioneer species, it is the first to grow, which in this case means it is the first to grow after a lava flow. Furthermore, as this is a keystone species, meaning many other species rely on it to survive.

The ‘ōhi‘a tree has cultural significance in the form of being used for myriad purposes, used in Hawaiian mo’olelo, wood which is used to make objects, and flowers that are used to make leis. Because the tree was used for myriad purposes, it refers back to songs, chants, and stories. The tree is also used in Hawaiian mo’olelo, which are native stories told by the native Hawaiians, adding to the tree’s cultural significance. The tree’s wood is used to

make weapons, kapa cloth beaters, poi pounders, and other items. Finally, the flowers of this trees is used to make leis, which are given to people.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Yanisa Nakata

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 8:43:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ezekiel Duquez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Ezekiel Duquez, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because of its cultural and ecological significance. The ‘ōhia lehua tree has flowers that are used to make leis. As you know, leis are a very important part of the Hawaiian culture. The ‘ōhia is used in many songs, chants, and stories. It also had many uses and was very important to ancient Hawaiians. For example, the wood was used to make boards to pound poi, and kapa cloth beaters. The flowers on the other hand, were used for medicinal purposes.

The ‘ōhia tree is also important because it is endemic to Hawaii. The ‘ōhia is also a pioneer species. The tree produces nectar that is used as food for some birds. Many birds also use the tree as a home. With all these reasons, I believe that the ‘ōhia lehua tree should be another one of Hawaii’s symbols. Accepting this bill will not only make the ‘ōhia lehua tree the official endemic tree of Hawaii, it will also save them from being endangered or even extinct. Please take these reasons into consideration. Thank you for your time.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Ezekiel Duquez

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 8:44:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Connor Caniete	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I Connor Caniete am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because it includes that it is a-pioneer species which shows that it is one of the first species to take root on an island. It is used as a main water source, in order to replenish forests. As you should know ‘Ōhi‘a is endemic to Hawaii which emphasizes that it is native to Hawaii and needs to be protected. Furthermore the history of the ‘Ōhi‘a Lehua goes along into Hawaiian culture, seeing how it was used for cloth and making leis, along with weapons, poi, and tea. This tree was great for survival due to the fact that it was able to withstand harsh conditions. Although nowadays these trees face R.O.D (Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death) which at the moment is killing them, and with your help this could stop.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Connor Caniete

Highlands Intermediate School



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

Testimony of Hawaii State Aha Moku

Before the House Committees on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Thursday, March 29, 2022
2:00 P.M.

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

**In SUPPORT of
Senate Bill 2059 SD1 HD1
Relating to State Symbols**

Senate Bill 2059 SD1 HD1 Designates the 'Ohi'a Lehua as the state endemic tree.

The Hawaii State Aha Moku (Aha Moku) supports this measure with an amendment.

The Hawaii State Aha Moku System encompasses the eight main Hawaiian Islands and supports the traditional and generational knowledge of the people who are connected to each of the 46 moku and 606 ahupua'a. The system was brought forward from the 9th century, a time where sustainability and protection of resources ensured existence. It was a time where the focus of the people of the land was on survival. Survival included the traditional practices and religion which was inclusive of the 'Ohi'a Lehua tree, a tree directly connected to Pele, one of the major gods of Hawaii.

Since ancient times, the 'Ohia tree has been incorporated into the many different ethnic cultures of the State of Hawai'i. It also exists on all the main Hawaiian Islands and is worthy of becoming the Hawaii State tree.

We ask that these House Committees on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs adopt Senate Bill 2059 SD1 HD1..

Respectfully,

Kawaikapuokalani Hewett, Ka Mea Ho'okumu
808-382-6043
kahalelehua@outlook.com

Rocky Kaluhiwa, Kahu Nui O Pae'Aina
808-286-7955
Rockykaluhiwa1122@gmail.com

Leimana DaMate, Luna Alaka'i/Executive Director
808-640-1214
Leimana.k.damate@hawaii.gov

The House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Tuesday, 3/29/2022
2:00 PM VIA Videoconference

Testimony in Support for SB2059

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ambyr Mokiao-Lee and I am the Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD) Statewide Outreach Coordinator, which is part of the ROD Strategic Plan. I am testifying in **support of SB2059, Relating to State Symbols**, which would designate 'ōhi'a lehua (*Metrosideros polymorpha*) the State Endemic Tree of Hawai'i. This is a personal testimony and does not reflect the University of Hawaii's legal stance towards the issue.

This bill seeks to recognize the importance of our most iconic and beloved Hawaiian tree, 'ōhi'a lehua, by designating it as Hawaii's State Endemic Tree. By definition, endemic is something that has evolved over time in a location and is found nowhere else in the world. Our native 'ōhi'a lehua is a true definition of an endemic species and is uniquely Hawaiian. This tree has not only ecological value but it is so entwined with the Hawaiian culture and its peoples and is currently being threatened by a disease that has been decimating forests across our islands.

ROD is caused by a recently discovered fungal disease that infects 'ōhi'a lehua, and is killing 'ōhi'a at an alarming rate. This tree is not only the most abundant tree in our state, but it also serves as the foundation of our native forests, providing much of our water supply that we rely on. Wide-scale loss of the 'ōhi'a forests would be an environmental and economic catastrophe for the state.

Over the past 6 months, I have been working with the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) staff to reach out to K-12th grade students and teachers from across the state and engage them in the legislative process. We have taught them lessons about the importance of 'ōhi'a lehua, ROD, advocacy to over 25 schools across the state. We have been impressed with the dedication and commitment from these teachers and students and their willingness to engage in the legislative process.

The intention of this bill will aid in raising awareness about ROD and the ecological and cultural importance of 'ōhi'a lehua. Without 'ōhi'a, we will not only lose part of a unique and important ecosystem, but more importantly we would lose the function and ability for our systems to create the freshwater that we need to survive here in Hawai'i. The loss of our native forests would also equate to a loss of the cultural identity of the people of Hawai'i. For the reasons stated above, we ask that you pass HB2202 and designate 'ōhi'a lehua as Hawaii's State Endemic Tree. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Mahalo Nui Loa,
Ambyr Mokiao-Lee
ROD Outreach Coordinator
ambyr@hawaii.edu
(808) 989-7222

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:22:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
aiyanna galapia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I am Aiyanna Galapia and I am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

‘ōhia is very useful/resourceful, helps our environment, and plays a huge role in Hawaiian culture. ‘ōhia is used for building various items like poi pounding boards, dancing sticks for hula, structures, enclosures, weapons, and even used for flooring in housing. The ‘ōhia leaves are also used for tea medicine. The ‘ōhia plant parts are so useful that even the seeds are used to feed the native birds in Hawaii. Since the ‘ōhia plant only grows by where the lava flows, ‘ōhia helps block out the toxic volcanic gas. The ‘ōhia plant is not only a plant to Hawaii, it's been so useful to the people of Hawaii for so many years in the past.

The ‘ōhia plant is not only useful for building, medicine, and feeding, but the ‘ōhia plant plays a huge role in Hawaiian culture. In most Hawaiian chants, songs, and stories you

cannot miss the name 'ōhia in it. 'ōhia has its own story, and it has a deep meaning. This 'ōhia plant has been so important to Hawaii and its people for hundreds of years, giving more reason why 'ōhia lehua should be our state's endemic tree.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Aiyanna Galapia

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:25:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kashana Watts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I Kashana Watts am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the Ōhi'a tree holds a lot of meaning to Hawai'i and it's environment. The ‘Ōhi’a tree symbolizes mo’olelo (stories), mele (songs), and ‘olis (chants). They also serve as physical manifestations of many Hawaiian deities such as Kū, Laka, and Pele. The wood of the tree was also used for many sacred ceremonies. The red of the lehua symbolizes the bloodshed during war.

The ‘Ōhi’a tree is extremely important to Hawaii's ecosystem. It is an endemic pioneer and keystone species in Hawaii and it ties the whole ecosystem together so it can thrive. It provides food for the ‘apapane, the ‘i’iwi, insects, snails, and other invertebrates. The

‘Ōhi’a tree protects natural seedlings and epiphytes. The canopies capture mist and rainwater that can feed Hawaiians. Without the Ōhi’a tree Hawai‘i would be in danger and Hawai‘i would lose some of its cultural meaning.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Kashana Watts

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:26:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tera Cypriano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Tera Cypriano, am writing to support SB2059 because of the tree’s importance to Hawaii. For not only our culture but also for our ecosystem. They as a keystone species are important to our ecosystem. They give shelter, food and protection. Ohi’a trees are also important because they are woven very deeply into our culture. They are a main symbology towards the Hawaiian gods and used in multiple ceremonies. They are used to make Lehua which is used to describe people who are experts in their field of work, as well as bloodshed of war and the very first warrior that had fallen in battle.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Tera Cypriano

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:27:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle Woodward	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Danielle Woodward, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because back then a long time ago in ancient Hawaii, the Metrosideros polymorpha, more commonly known as ‘ōhia Lehua has been very important and had made a huge cultural impact, not only that but the ‘ōhia Lehua tree is endemic to the land of Hawaii. It has been shown that the ‘ōhia Lehua has been used for various purposes to help the people of Hawaii back in ancient times. For example, the ‘ōhia tree is a food source and shelter for the native birds including endemic Hawaiian nectar-feeding honeycreepers such as the ‘apapane and ‘i‘iwi, the ‘ōhia wood was also used to create various different heiaus. Today the ‘ōhia tree is now being used to create flooring, house posts, fencing posts, decoration, and even firewood. This shows that the ‘ōhia tree has numerous purposes that ancient Hawaiians used back and now.

Another reason why I support this bill is that ‘ōhia has been a very important part of Hawaiian culture for it has been told in many Hawaiian mo’olelo, mele, and ‘oli. The ‘ōhia tree serves as a sacred kinoalu for multiple Hawaiian deities or gods such as Ku’, Laka, Pele, Hi’kala, and Kāne. This alone can show that the ‘ōhia tree was a very important part of Hawaiian culture. All of this evidence proves that we should make the ‘Ōhi‘a tree our state endemic tree.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Danielle Woodward

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:31:24 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aislyn Schreiner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ohia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Aislyn Schreiner am in support of the ‘Ohi’a Bill , relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate ‘ohi’a lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawai’i. The reason I support this bill is because Ohia is so important in Hawaiians culture and way of life. Ohia is deeply woven into the Hawaiian’s Culture through stories, chants, and songs. Hawaiians use Ohia Flowers Lehua in their hula to feel connected to the land. The Hawaiians also use it to build various ceremonial structures on heiau temples. Not only is Ohia important in Hawaiians culture, they also used it to collect water. The Ohia trees make canopies that capture mist and rainwater in the Lehua Flower of the Tree and the water helps replenish our lands' aquifers, which provides drinking water. Ohia trees are used so much now to make things like flooring, house posts, fencing posts, decoration, framing, and firewood. They say that the Ohia tree is ecologically and culturally one of the most vitally important trees of the Hawaiian forests.

With Aloha,

Aislyn Noelani Schreiner

8th grade student

Highlands Intermediate School

1460 Ho'olaulea Street

Pearl City, HI 96782

(808) 307-5000

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:31:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kara Kitabayashi	Highlands Intermediate	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I Kara Kitabayashi am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because Ohia Lehua which is endemic to the Hawaiian islands. Ranges from any size, shape, and color. Is going through ROD (rapid Ohia death) caused by a fungus. The Ohia Lehua grows in sea levels more than 7000 feet and grows from a small shrub to 100 feet. The reason this Plant needs to be saved is because a lot of nature and humans depend on it. Native Hawaiian birds feed on flowers and seeds including the I’iwi. Ohia was used for many purposes including (kapa clothes beaters, boards for pounding poi, building structures, statues, medical purposes, easing the pain of childbirth, and colorful feathers were used for creating hula adornments.)

Although it's going extinct here are some ways you can help the problem. To avoid injuring Ohia, open wounds are entries for fungal pathogens/can spread from tree to tree or other tools. Clean hiking boots gear with rubbing alcohol, wash off vehicles after driving near forest, and dont transport Ohia interisland. If you see Ohia crowns turning brown take a pic and send it to island invasive species. This disease poses an imminent threat to hundreds and thousands of trees that have been killed across 34,100 acres of forest. The loss of trees will not only affect to native forest but also Hawaiian tradition and storytelling so that is why support the Ohia bill.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Kara Kitabayashi

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:34:28 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
chivasco carnate-tomoichi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I Chivasco carnate-tomoichi am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

The reason I support this bill is because this tree is endemic to Hawaii and means it is only found in Hawaii. ‘ōhia should also be the state tree because it is important to a lot of people’s religion like Hawaiians. ‘Ōhi‘a is also one of the first plants to grow on lava rocks. ‘Ōhi‘a is also a water collector that helps get water for the island to grow and so that people get water. ‘Ōhi‘a is important because it helps repair the land for other plants to grow in other places so the island has more trees.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Chivasco carnate-tomoichi

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:34:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dalia Hembal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House of Representatives

Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

March 29, 2022

2:00 PM, Conference Room 325

State Capitol

Testimony is Support of SB 2059, Relating to State Native Tree

Aloha Chair Mark Nakashima, Vice Chair Scot Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Dalia Hembal and I am a freshman at Kalaheo High School. I am in support of SB 2059, Relating to State Native Tree which would designate ohia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Ohia lehua is a very important plant to the Hawaiian ecosystem. It provides native birds with food and shelter, makes up the main portion of the canopy in native wet forests, is critical to our watershed and holds moisture, allowing streams and aquifers to refill. In addition, almost 40% of above-ground forest carbon is stored in ‘Ohi’a forests. Not to forget the many cultural uses this plant has, especially the many things its wood and leaves were used for by native Hawaiians. So, taking all this in consideration, I believe that ‘Ohia lehua should be designated as Hawaii's state endemic tree, especially since it’s the most common native tree species on our islands.

Thank you, Committee, for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dalia Melody Hembal

Kalaheo High School, 9th Grade

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:34:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie acstro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing to you in support of SB 2059 regarding ‘Ōhi‘a becoming the state endemic tree.

The reason I suppose this bill is because that the ‘Ohi’ a is a important species to the Hawaiian islands for food and shelter. It also helps prepare other plants/species to grow in the future. Also ‘Ohi’ a is one of the first plants to grow on the lava field In hawaii.

The ‘Ohi’ a plant species is a keystone species and is highly valued in commerce. ‘Ohi’ a today is used for flooring, housing and fencing. The ‘Ohi a tree makes up the largest proportion in the canopy. The ‘Ohi a tree’s trunks provide water and protection for native seedlings.

With Aloha,

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Jamie Castro

8th grade student

Highlands Intermediate School

1460 Hoolaulea Street

Pearl City, HI 96782

(808) 307-5000

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:36:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Makoa Reyes, am in support of the (‘Ohi’a Bill) , relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate “ohi’a lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawai’i.

The ‘Ohi’a tree is a native tree and endemic to Hawaii you can’t and won’t see this tree anywhere else on this earth but the Hawaiian islands. We must protect the ‘Ohi’a tree because it is being threatened by a disease that is killing the tree from the inside out there are also beetles that are making their way inside the tree and making holes inside the tree that they push out dust of this act is killing our ‘Ohi’a tree if this continues we will not have an ‘Oh’a tree much longer doing this you can help stop the spread of the virus by cleaning your shoes before you enter a forest or a hiking trail or cleaning them before you leave by doing this the virus can’t spread to other trees or plants help save the “Ohi’a tree

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Makoa Reyes

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:37:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nisha Mhiel E. Lagua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I Nisha Mhiel Lagua am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

the reason I support this bill is because organisms rely on the ‘Ōhia. ‘Ōhia is one of the most important trees for native Hawaiian birds. They feed on the flowers and seeds of the ‘ōhia tree; it also provides shelter for them. Another reason is the ‘ōhia lehua tree is useful for many things, the wood is useful for building houses and fences, creating seats and decks for canoes, and burning as firewood. It is said that the honey made from its flowers has a subtle floral taste, in addition to that, the flowers of this plant have long been used for traditional leis worn during performances by those who perform hula.

Furthermore, where there is lava; the ‘Ōhia plant grows. This plant helps block toxic volcanic gasses, the ‘ōhia tree is one of the first plants to grow in these dry and obsidian

lava rocks. This tree is fitting to be Hawaii's endemic tree since there are active volcanoes in Hawaii. Additionally, the 'Ōhia is a floral swiss army knife. The wood is used for building structures and statues, while the flowers were used for medicinal purposes. These are the reasons why I support this bill.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Nisha Mhiel Lagua

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:37:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmine Dias	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I’m Jasmine Dias am writing in support of bill SB2059. I support this bill because

The reason I support this bill is because the Ōhi’a tree is very important to Hawai‘i and its environment. The ‘Ōhi’a tree is related to many Hawaiian deities like Kū, Pele, and Laka.

It symbolizes Hawaii's culture which contains their chants, songs, and stories. The wood of the tree was used for many sacred ceremonies. The red in the lehua represents the bloodshed during the war.

The 'Ōhi'a tree is also very important to Hawaii's ecosystem. It is a very important tree and helps many parts of the forest's environment. It provides food for the insects, snails, and other invertebrates. The 'Ōhi'a tree protects natural seedlings and epiphytes. The tops of the trees capture mist and rainwater that can feed people. Without the 'Ōhi'a tree Hawai'i would be in great danger and Hawai'i would lose some of its cultural meaning

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Jasmine Dias

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:37:49 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Joshua Chang, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the tree blooms colors which look beautiful. The tree is also the only tree that grows where lava flowed in the land which helps start forests in the area. The flowers can be used to paint. The wood was used to make kapa cloth beaters used for boards for pounding poi. The wood was also used to make building structures and statues. The flowers can be used for medicinal purposes. The nectar can feed Hawaii’s native birds. They also come in different shapes and sizes all endemic to Hawaii. The ‘ōhia tree is found in mo’olelo, meles, and oli so the tree is already culturally known in Hawaii. The tree is also a keystone species so we should protect the tree or else the ecosystem will change a lot.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Joshua Chang

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:37:51 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samantha DeAnne Lucas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I Samantha Lucas am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because Ohia is important to Hawaiians, birds and the rainforest. Ohia trees are very important in Hawaiians culture because they use the Lehua to help collect rain water and mist to use as drinking water. Not only is Lehua used to collect water it's also used to make beautiful leis and Haku leis for Hawaiians beautiful hula. The Ohia tree is also used in Hawaiians chants ,stories and songs. We often don't think that birds need a place to live. The Ohia tree is the perfect home for many native birds. The Ohia tree also provides great food for our native birds. Our rainforest is very special in Hawaii one of the most important trees is the beautiful Ohia. The Ohia trees also create great beginnings for new trees by making the soil fertilized to help new trees grow.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Samantha DeAnne Lucas

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:39:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caleb Colmenares	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Caleb Colmenares, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the Ohi’a tree is a very important part of Hawaiian culture. It gathers water for Hawaii’s aquifers, keeping the citizens hydrated and living. I have learned about the Rapid Ohi’a Death, threatening the survival of the Ohi’a trees. If they become extinct, some animals won’t have homes, and we could run short on water. This bill will help protect the Ohi’a tree and keep it from becoming extinct .

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Caleb Colmenares

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:39:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anthony Tyler Madelo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Anthony Tyler Madelo, am writing to support SB2059. The reason I support this bill is because the ‘Ōhia is an endemic pioneer keystone in Hawaii and is also one of the first plants to grow on a cooled lava field. The ‘Ōhia provides food shelter for ‘apapane, ‘i’iwi, insects, snails, and numerous native birds. The trunks of the ‘Ōhia act as nurse logs, supplying nutrients, water and protection for native seedlings and epiphytes. The canopies capture mists and rainwater that replenish our aquifers, which provide drinking and irrigation water for Hawaii’s communities and agricultural sector.

The ‘Ōhi‘a are woven deeply into Hawaiian culture through symbology in mo‘olelo, mele and ‘oli. The ‘Ōhi‘a serve as the sacred kinola of multiple Hawaiian deities such as Kū,

Laka, Pele, Hi'iaka, and Kāne. 'Ōhi'a wood was used for various ceremonial structures on heiau. Today, 'ōhi'a wood is used for flooring, house posts, fencing posts, decoration, framing of traditional hale, and firewood.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Anthony Tyler Madelo

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:40:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alleanna Alexa Catriz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Alleanna Alexa Catriz , am in support of the `Ohi`a tree, relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate 'ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawai`i.

The reason I support this bill is because the `Ohi`a tree is important to the Hawaiian community. First, `Ohi`a trees make up the largest portion of the canopy wet forests. Next, the `Ohi`a tree was used for flooring, house posts, decoration, framing of traditional hale, and firewood. It's even the first plant to grow on a cooled lava! Next, the `Ohi`a tree provides shelter and food for numerous native birds and other native animals. They are very important to humans because their canopy captures mist and rainwater that replenish the island's aquifers. Aquifers that are our source of drinking water and for agriculture. Lastly, it is woven deeply into Hawaiian culture through symbology in mo`olelo. `Ohi`a even serve as the sacred kinalou of multiple deities such as ku (god of manifestation). These are some reasons why the `Ohi`a tree should be an endemic state tree.

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:42:50 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marina Vowell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Marina Vowell, am in support of the SB2059, relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate “ōhi’a lehua ” as the state endemic tree of Hawai’i.

The reason I support this bill is because I have recently learned that the Ohia Tree is a very important endemic pioneer keystone species. It is the home for many species of birds, such as the rare and endangered akiapolaau species, and home to many insects.

Another reason why I support this bill is because it means a lot to the cultural aspect of Hawaii. For starters, the tree is deeply woven into Hawaiian culture. The tree is told through mo'olelo (stories), mele (songs), and oli (chants). These stories are passed on from generation to generation, thus telling the importance of the Ohia tree. The tree also served as a sacred Kinohi'o, or physical manifestation of multiple Hawaiian deities. Some of which include Ku, the god of war and manifestations, Laka, god of hula, Pele, god of volcanoes, Hiiaka, the sister of Pele, and Kane, the god of water. Not to mention the wood is used for many ceremonial structures on heiau, or temples. Finally, the red lehua, the blossoms of the ohia tree, is seen as a reflection of the bloodshed of war. With many wars throughout Hawaii's history, you could see why the flowers would be important.

In conclusion, this is why the Ohia Tree should be made the state endemic tree.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Marina Vowell

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:43:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Yi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

0Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Catherine Yi, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because it has recently come to my attention that ‘ōhi‘a is a pioneer keystone species in Hawaii that serves as food and shelter for other numerous endemic species, provide the communities in Hawaii with safe drinking water, and the wood of ‘ōhi‘a trees has many purposes including the creation of furniture, flooring and much more which contributes to the economic importance of the ‘ōhi‘a trees. I’ve also recently discovered that there are several threats to the ‘ōhi‘a trees such as Rapid 'Ohi'a Death which would cause a devastating blow to the economy as well as the wildlife who rely on the ‘ōhi‘a trees. I hope you will consider this bill as it would help provide protection for our ‘ōhi‘a trees. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Catherine Yi

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:43:35 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaymerson Ryan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding 'ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I Jaymerson Ryan am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

The Ohia is a cornerstone tree providing for other species besides itself, it is native to Hawaii and has a deep connection to Hawaiian culture. It has been used for everyday construction and was used in the past to create weapons, kapa cloth beaters, boards for pounding poi, enclosures, and statues.

Mahalo for considering my testimony,

Jaymerson Ryan

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:44:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cosette Kaminske	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Cosette Kaminske, am writing in support of HB2059 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

The reason why I think the Ohia tree should be designated as the state endemic tree is because one, it's always been deeply woven into Hawaiian cultures. Whether that be by the stories or songs (etc) or things like ceremonial structures. Even being the physical manifestations of multiple Hawaiian deities such as the god of war and manifestations, god of water, sister of Pele, and so on. It has always provided for people and even animals alike with things like shelter or even food for insects. By making the Ohia tree the state endemic

tree it would allow awareness of the slowly declining population of the tree and get people to help take action.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Cosette Kaminske

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:45:33 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danica	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Danica Takemoto, am writing in support of SB2059 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

The reason I support this bill is because not only has the Ohia tree helped to benefit people and animals' lives such as a habitat for native birds, the Ohia tree has provided a purpose all around hawaii. I've learned a lot recently about the ohia tree and its importance as an endemic tree that is only found in hawaii. The Ohia has served its purpose such as it's roots of the tree to help prepare the area for future plant species to begin it's stage of growing. It provides food and shelter for apapane, i'iwi, insects, and snails. The trunks of the tree act as nurse logs, providing and supplying nutrients, water or protection for native seedlings

and epiphytes. Also, Ohia trees have become a very important cultural significance with a symbolic representation of mo‘olelo (stories), mele (songs) and ‘oli (chants). ‘Ōhi‘a serves as the sacred kinolau (physical manifestations). It’s been brought to my attention that another cause of threatening to the trees was the Rapid Ohia Death that endangered many species. I hope you take into consideration the creation of this bill to have protection for the ohia tree. Mahalo for your time.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Danica Takemoto

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:45:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brayden Silva	Highlands Intermediate	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ohia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Brayden Silva support this bill because the ‘ohia tree is an endemic pioneer species which could be only found in hawaii. Since it is a pioneer plant, it is one of the first plants to grow on a cooled lava field. The ‘ohia tree provides food and shelter for insects, different types of birds, and snails. The ‘ohia tree makes up the largest amount of the cover in native wet forests. The roots of the ‘ohia tree provide a vass area for new plants to grow. However, Their trunks act like nurse logs, allowing them to supply nutrients, clear water and cover for native seedlings and epiphytes.

Ohi‘a is also highly valued in commerce. These days ohi‘a wood is used for flooring, house posts, fencing posts, decoration, framing of traditional houses, and firewood. ‘Ohi‘a

seedlings are also the most sought-after plants for native landscaping. Thus, ecologically and culturally, ‘ōhi‘a stands as one of the most vitally important trees of Hawaiian forests. Several native Hawaiian birds feed on the flowers and seeds, including the ‘i‘iwi , ‘apapane, and ‘akohekohe which feed mostly on the flowers and insects.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Brayden Silva

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:45:53 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaysen Hinata De La Cruz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I Kaysen De La Cruz am writing to support bill SB2059. I support this bill because it is important to learn more about this tree, from our culture. It is also a very unique tree to us especially, for multiple reasons. It can be used for everyday use from furniture or even used for hula. If this keeps continuing the culture will be failing and it wouldn't be used in everyday use. Lastly, it is very important to us in our lives and culture, but it is very hard to control since its population is decreasing which is a big problem especially because it is spreading rapidly, and it can reach such a far distance from island to island.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Kaysen Hinata De La Cruz

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:49:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adriel Jonas Garrido	Highlands Intermediate	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Adriel Garrido, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

The ‘ōhia trees are endemic to Hawaii, yet it is not well-known. This means it is found nowhere else but the Hawaiian islands. It is also a keystone species that starts a new ecosystem and without it, the ecosystem would cease to exist. The trees are major water collectors, like giant sponges that fill the aquifers. However, Rapid ‘Ōhia Death (ROD), a fungus that easily spreads among the open wounds of the ‘ōhia trees, threatens the ‘ōhia population. It cuts off the trees’ water supply in the short span of days or weeks and has already infected over 20% of the forests.

If ROD spreads onto all the 'ōhia trees, the whole ecosystem would fall apart due to its importance to nature. The trees provide food and shelter for many bird species and humans also have many uses for the trees. The wood is used for kapa cloth beaters, board pounding poi, and structures and statues. People even use the flowers for medicinal purposes. Therefore, the loss of the native 'ōhia species due to ROD will negatively affect the people, as well as the rest of the ecosystem. If the 'ōhia tree becomes the state endemic tree, it would spread awareness and more people would take charge to help save our 'ōhia.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Adriel Garrido

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:49:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Trevis Corpuz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I Trevis Corpuz am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the ‘ōhia is an incredible tree and should be our state endemic tree. This tree is very important to Hawaiian culture. The tree is used in hula and other Hawaiian traditions. It would mean a lot to the culture if it was the state’s tree. This tree is also only in Hawaii. If the tree is no where else that is special and deserves some kind of attention. This tree helps our forest grow by sheltering and supplying nutrients to insects and animals. Many animals depend on this tree and if the tree doesn’t exist then the animals will go extinct. Not only does it help animals but it also helps provide drinking water for us. It’s wood also provides shelter for us too.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Trevis Corpuz

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:49:59 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elijah Ladera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Lil Nas X, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because I’ve learned that the Ohia tree is very important to Hawaii. The Ohia Tree is a keystone species, as the forest relies heavily on it. It also helps replenish the state aquifers. A fungus called Rapid Ohia Death is threatening these trees and has already caused over 1 million of them to die. I hope you consider this bill as it will help raise awareness towards the Ohia Tree.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Lil Nas X

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:50:05 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harley Ota	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I Harley Ota am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death is only found in Hawaii. Since ‘Ōhi‘a Lehua is only found in Hawaii, I think the tree should become the State Endemic tree. This won't be replacing the current state tree though. ‘Ōhi‘a is used for many things in Hawaii and is also very durable. Some things the tree could be used for are boards for poi pounding, building structures, cloth beaters, medicine, and more! Since this is an endemic tree, there is no other place than Hawaii to have this. In class we have recently learned that Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death (ROD) is spreading quickly and we should try to prevent this. This bill will help ‘Ōhi‘a get recognition by becoming the State Endemic tree so we can help ROD. Mahalo for taking consideration.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Harley Ota

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:50:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dewayne Williams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ohia Testimony

The reason I support the ‘Ōhi‘a tree becoming the state tree is because ōhia is a tree that helps the island out a lot. Their canopies capture mist and rainwater that replenish our island aquifers which provides drinking water for Hawaii communities. ‘Ohia is one of the most common trees found on the island, the flowers on the tree help birds and insects by providing food and also providing shelter . The wood is used for kapa cloth beaters and boards for pounding poi. ‘Ōhi‘a has come a long way and has been in Hawaii a long time, like any other trees.

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:50:24 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ikaika	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is also **one the first plants to colonize new lava flows**. ... It is also one of the most important trees for native Hawaiian birds such as 'Apapane and 'Akohekohe, which get their food from nectar-producing flowers. Dozens of extinct species would have fed frequently on 'ohi'a, too. this is why we need to keep the ohia tree in our environment.

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:50:39 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiani Giffard-Cordeiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I Tiani Giffard-Cordeiro am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

Dear congressman, the reason I support this bill is because i think that the ‘ōhia tree should be the state endemic tree. It’s always the first tree to grow on a lava field and it has many good qualities that helps are mokupuni and the kaiaulu like. The roots of ‘ōhia helps prepare the area for future plant species to begin growing. Their canopies capture mists and rainwater that replenish our island aquifers, which provide drinking and irrigation water to drink. the wood of the tree is used to build houses, make furniture, canoes and the flowers are used in hula. The ‘ōhia tree takes a a big role in the hawaiian legends and i think we should keep the tree alive.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Tiani Giffard-Cordeiro

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:50:40 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ikaika Lozano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ohia becoming the state endemic tree.

I Ikaika Lozano am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the ‘ohia is an endemic pioneer keystone species in Hawaii. As a pioneer plant, it is one of the first plants to grow on a cooled lava field. The roots of ohia help prepare the area for future plant species to begin growing. It provides food and shelter for apapane, ‘i’iwi, insects, and snails. The ‘akiapola’au feeds on insects and caterpillars living in the wood and under the bark of koa trees. Its bill is one of the most unusual in the honeycreepers family; it can be found from sea level to 9000 feet. The rare and endangered ‘akiapola’au occurs in only a few areas at upper elevation koa/‘Ōhi‘a forests on the big island. Thus, ecologically and culturally, ‘ohia stands as one of the most vitally important trees of the Hawaiian forests.

The ohia tree made a huge change in our lives because the ohia tree provides us shelter and food for numerous native birds, including endemic Hawaiian nectar feeding honeycreepers such as the ‘Apapane, ‘Akohekohe, and ‘i’iwi, as well as innumerable insects, snails and other invertebrates. Therefore we will have a better environment for us and the species that live off of the ohia tree. The ‘ohia is highly valued in commerce. Today ‘ohia wood is used for flooring, house posts, fencing posts, decoration, farming of traditional hale, and firewood. ‘Ohia seeds are also among the most sought-after plants for native landscaping.

With Aloha,

Ikaika Patrick Lozano

8th grade student

Highlands Intermediate School

1460 Ho'olaulea Street

Pearl City, HI 96782

(808) 307-5000

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:50:57 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Micah	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Micah Ynigues, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because Recently over 1 million or 20% of Ohi’i trees have been infected and killed due to ROD (Rapid Ohi’i Death). ROD or Rapid Ohi’i Death is caused by a beetle which infects the tree’s causing the tree to slowly be infected and eventually die because of the tree not obtaining water. To prevent this, we propose a bill helping to prevent the doom of our endangered tree, the Ohi’i. This bill will support the tree’s by having them be secured in a safe location rather than the tree’s be left in the wild and slowly die out over the course of time.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Micah Ynigues

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:51:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zsaleh Arias	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Zsaleh Arias, am in support of the HB2202, relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate "ohi'a lehua " as the state endemic tree of Hawai'i. The reason I support this bill is because the Ohia tree is very significant to Hawaiian culture. The Ohia tree had songs, chants, and physical manifestations made about it. It's used in everyday life and is very common. For example, Ohia trees are being used for flooring, house posts, decoration, framing and firewood.

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:53:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jacob	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I Jacob Kambel am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

The reason I support this bill is because the Ohi’a tree is only found in Hawaii and is also a cornerstone tree. Many animals such as ‘akiapola’av which is endangered/ rare, make their home in the Ohi’a. It it also provided drinking water and irrigation for Hawaiians. It is deeply woven into Hawaiian culture and bold thought stories,songs and chants.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Jacob Kambel

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:54:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
dreyten anguay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Dreyten Anguay, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the tree is dying at a fast rate. Also because we can still use it for materials. Another reason is so we can keep this native tree in the world. To also keep this tree up and running for a long time coming.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Dreyten Anguay

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 10:03:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brennan Nagamine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Brennan Nagamine, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because of how important the ‘Ōhi‘a tree is to Hawaii’s environment. Throughout the first two weeks of school after returning from winter break, I have learned that the ‘Ōhi‘a is not just a tree that's part of some of the forests in Hawai'i, but it's also the home to several of Hawaii’s native birds by providing food and shelter for them which means that without the ‘Ōhi‘a tree, probably most of our native birds would die. I have also learned that since the ‘Ōhi‘a tree is a keystone specie, many other species highly depend on it to live, meaning that if we let the ‘Ōhi‘a die and be destroyed by ROD, or also known as Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death, the ecosystem would change drastically. The ‘Ōhi‘a tree is the dominant tree in the wet forests on all islands meaning that if the ‘Ōhi‘a dies due to ROD, the forests on all islands would change dramatically. I believe that the ‘Ōhi‘a tree should become the state endemic tree because many of the ‘Ōhi‘a trees have died on all of the islands and since its endemic,

meaning that it is only found here in Hawaii, if we don't do our best to protect this tree, it would never be found again.

I've also learned that the 'Ōhi'a is really important because of how it ties in with Hawaii's history. The 'Ōhi'a trees were used by ancient Hawaiians for many things and to do many things. For example, they used the wood for kapa cloth beaters, as boards for pounding poi, and for building structures and statues and they would use the flowers for medicinal purposes. I've also learned that the 'Ōhi'a tree is a flower that is born from a legend. I really hope that you will take this bill into consideration as it will not just help the 'Ōhi'a but Hawaii as a whole. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Brennan Nagamine

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 10:07:18 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peyton Fontanilla	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Testimony in support of SB2059

Dear Rep. Mark M. Nakashima (Chair),

I, Peyton Kelly Fontanilla, am in support of SB2059: relating to state symbols, which would designate Ohia Lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii. I am in 7th grade and attend Hawaii Technology Charter School. Normally, I would try and convince you why you should help us make the Ohia Lehua Tree The State Endemic Tree. But...I'm sure you have read hundreds of testimonies saying the same things. It is habitat to our birds. It collects water and it filters air. Although all this is true, it is not as important as the bigger picture. And well... Here is the bigger picture.

Ohia is the head of our culture, the neck of our rivers, holds an arm out to the sick/weak, reminds our hula dancers to, "break a leg." And most importantly, it is the foot of this

land. Without the Ohia Trees, we would not only not be here today, we wouldn't have the beautiful flowers for the merry monarch or most of the native birds.

Wouldn't you love for your future generations to live with this culture surrounding them. We have already lost 40-50% of our Ohia Forests, let's change that. Re-grow the trees, raise awareness, make this a place that keeps Ohia endemic, so that it doesn't go extinct.

Please see my vision,

Sincerely,

Peyton Fontanilla

Kauai Resident

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 10:25:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vryze Kendrick Beloy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

January 20, 2022

Dear Senator Bennette E. Misalucha,

I am writing to you in support of SB 2059 regarding ‘Ōhi‘a becoming the state endemic tree.

The reason I support this bill is because Ohia can only be found in Kaua‘i, O‘ahu, Moloka‘i, Lāna‘i, Maui, and Hawai‘i which makes it special. Insects and hawaiian birds eat its flowers, seeds, and nectar. This is also a habitat for birds and other insects because it gives camouflage for them which means they are safe from predators. The bird that's protected from the tree is ‘i‘iwi (Vestiaria coccinea), ‘apapane (Himatione sanguinea), and ‘akohekohe (Palmeria dolei). Its predator is owls, hawks and many more.

Ohia come in different variations like leaf colors and shapes, and floral colors which is amazing. There's a lot more variations and they would be really beautiful if you saw them. Ohia Is native here which makes it special because it can't be found anywhere else. This tree is so special they made a legend about it and a video. This makes me wonder if people really love this tree.

With Aloha,

Vryze Kendrick Beloy

8th grade student

Highlands Intermediate School

1460 Ho'olaulea Street

Pearl City, HI 96782

(808) 307-5000

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 10:25:39 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Duke Nakayama	Pearl City Highlands Intermediate	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Duke Nakayama, am writing to support SB2059.

The reason I support this bill is because in ancient Hawai’i, the ‘Ōhia Lehua, or *Metrosideros polymorpha* had a huge cultural significance and not only that but this tree is endemic to the islands of Hawai’i. Referenced in mele, oli and mo’olelo, ‘ōhi’a trees were used for a number of purposes by ancient Hawaiians. Its wood was used as kapa cloth beaters, as boards for pounding poi, and for building structures and statues. Its flowers were used for medicinal purposes, like easing the pain of childbirth. The nectar of its flowers helped to feed Hawai’i’s menagerie of native birds, such as the ‘apapane or the

Hawaiian honeycreeper and the now-extinct mamane the black Hawaiian honeycreeper, whose colorful feathers were often used for creating hula adornments.

Another reason I support this bill is because 'Ōhi'a is also highly valued in commerce. Today, 'ōhi'a wood is used for flooring, house posts, fencing posts, decoration, framing of traditional hale, and firewood. 'Ōhi'a seedlings are also among the most sought-after plants for native landscaping. Thus, ecologically and culturally, 'ōhi'a stands as one of the most vitally important trees of Hawaiian forests. Ōhi'a serve as the sacred kinolau (physical manifestations) of multiple Hawaiian deities such as Kū (god of war and manifestations), Laka (goddess of hula), Pele (goddess of the volcano), Hi'iaka (sister of Pele), and Kāne (god of water). 'Ōhi'a wood was used for various ceremonial structures on heiau (temples). The red of lehua ('ōhi'a blossoms) was seen as a reflection of the bloodshed of war, and "lehua" was a term used for the first warrior to fall in battle. These are the reasons why I support the bill.

Sincerely,

Duke Nakayama

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Duke Nakayama

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 10:31:28 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zylen Kahalewai	Pearlcity Highlands intermediate	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Zylen Kahalewai, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

“‘Ōhi’a Testimony

The reason I support this bill is because one it is important to forests and native birds. It also provides food and shelter. The ‘Ōhi’a tree provides shelter and food for numerous birds, including insects and other animals or creatures. The ‘Ōhi’a tree makes up the biggest portion of the canopy in native wet forests. Without the tree it would be a burden

on those creatures, insects, or animals that rely on it. Ōhi'a is the keystone species in Hawaiian forests.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Zylen Kahalewai

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 10:38:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tavares	highlands intermediate	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I Tavares Hunt am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because ‘Ōhia is an endemic pioneer keystone species in Hawaii.

As a pioneer plant, it is one of the first plants to grow on a cooled lava field. The roots of ‘ōhia help prepare the area for future plant species to begin growing.


It provides food and shelter for ‘apapane, ‘i‘iwi, insects, and snails.

The rare and endangered ‘akiapōlā‘au occurs in only a few areas of upper elevation koa/‘ōhi‘a forest on the Big Island.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Tavares

Highlands Intermediate School



State Senate
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
March 29, 2022
2:00 PM, Conference Room 325
State Capitol



Testimony in support of SB 2059

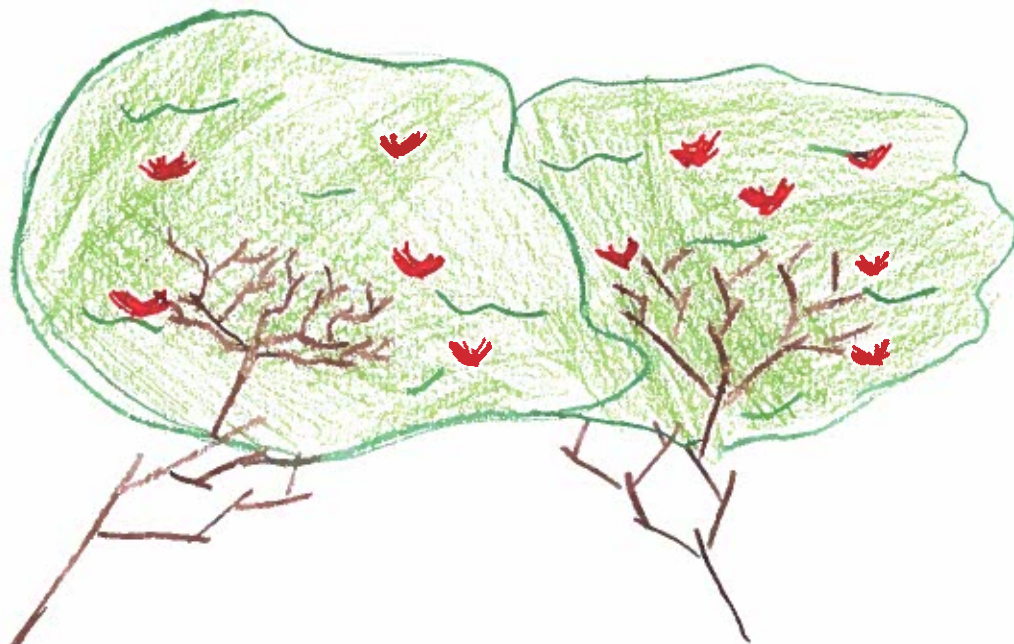
Aloha chair Nakashima, Vice chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Teheira Pimental, am in support of SB 2059, Relating to State Endemic tree, which would designate Ohia lehua as the State Endemic tree of Hawaii.

One reason you should make Ohia the state endemic tree of Hawaii is because if it were to go extinct we would lose most of our natives animals. Native Animals live in Ohia and rely on Ohia as a place to keep them safe. That's their home. Ohia is like a warm safe place our natives can come home too. It can also affect our food chains. IF one goes down all the natives can go down. Ohia is an important part of Hawaii, so help treat it like it is. Another reason for you to make Ohia Hawaii's state endemic tree is because Ohia provides a lot and is used a lot. For example, woodworking, building, and firewood. It is very important in our nature too. Ohia provides homes, food, and water for our animals. Lastly, Ohia is important to Hawaiian culture. Ohia is used for dancing, chanting, and stories. For Dancing, Ohia has pretty flowers that are actually mostly used for dancing in our islands. Ohia is so important, maybe even our hawaiians will start a movement. Ohia is an important part of Hawaii. Let's treat it like it is.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Teheira Pimental
Manoa Elementary School, Grade 5



State Senate
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
March 29, 2022
2:00 PM, Conference Room 325
State Capitol

Testimony in support of SB 2059,
Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, James Alipio-Gerry, am in support of SB 2059, *Relating to State Endemic Tree*, Which would designate Ohia Lehua as the State Endemic Tree of Hawai'i.

We should protect the Ohia tree because it can funnel water to our aquifers and is a great contributor to water collection, but due to Rapid Ohia death *ROD*, water collection could slow down. The Another reason Ohia should be protected is because it is the food for almost all Of the native indiginous HoneyCreeper call this Home and Food, and without Ohia, the forests would be no longer green, no longer beautiful and can make Hawai'i a gray and brown, barren landscape.

Mahalo for your time and consideration

Sincerely,
James Mathew Alipio-Gerry
Manoa Elementary School, Grade 5



State Senate
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
March 29, 2022
2:00 PM, Conference Room 325
State Capitol

Testimony In Support of SB 2059

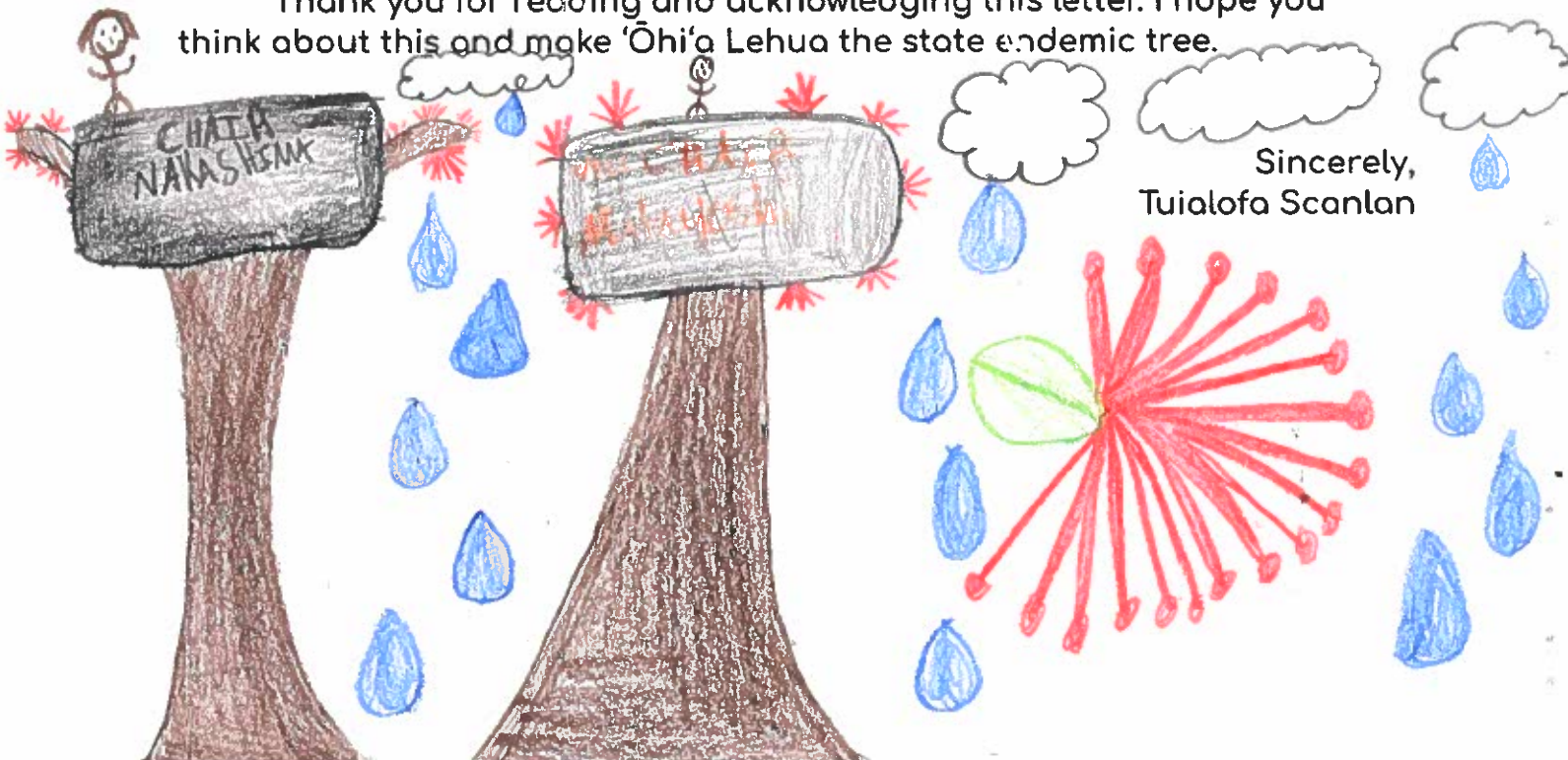
Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

I, Tuialofa, am in support of the SB 2059, relating to the State Endemic Tree, which would designate 'Ōhi'a Lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii. My thoughts for this bill to pass are...

First, the 'Ōhi'a Lehua is endemic to the state of Hawaii, so who should be the state endemic tree. Second, the 'Ōhi'a Lehua produces a lot of resources for habitats for our native birds, such as the Hawai'i 'Ākepa, 'Apapane, I'iwi, and 'Akikiki. Third, it stores and filters our water. This is important for us and our watershed. Lastly, 'Ōhi'a is important to Hawaiian culture because it's part of the story of *Metrosideros polymorpha* or Hawaiian storytelling. Hawai'i is where we live and if we don't save this tree then we're losing a significant part of our culture. If you don't protect this tree then they'll die, do you want that? That's what I thought! Caring about this tree could change a lot of stuff, such as bird habitats, helping our watershed, and helping our culture. Be a good person, save the 'Ōhi'a Lehua!

Thank you for reading and acknowledging this letter. I hope you think about this and make 'Ōhi'a Lehua the state endemic tree.

Sincerely,
Tuialofa Scanlan



State Senate
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
March 29, 2022
2:00 PM, Conference Room 325
State Capitol

Testimony In Support Of SB 2059

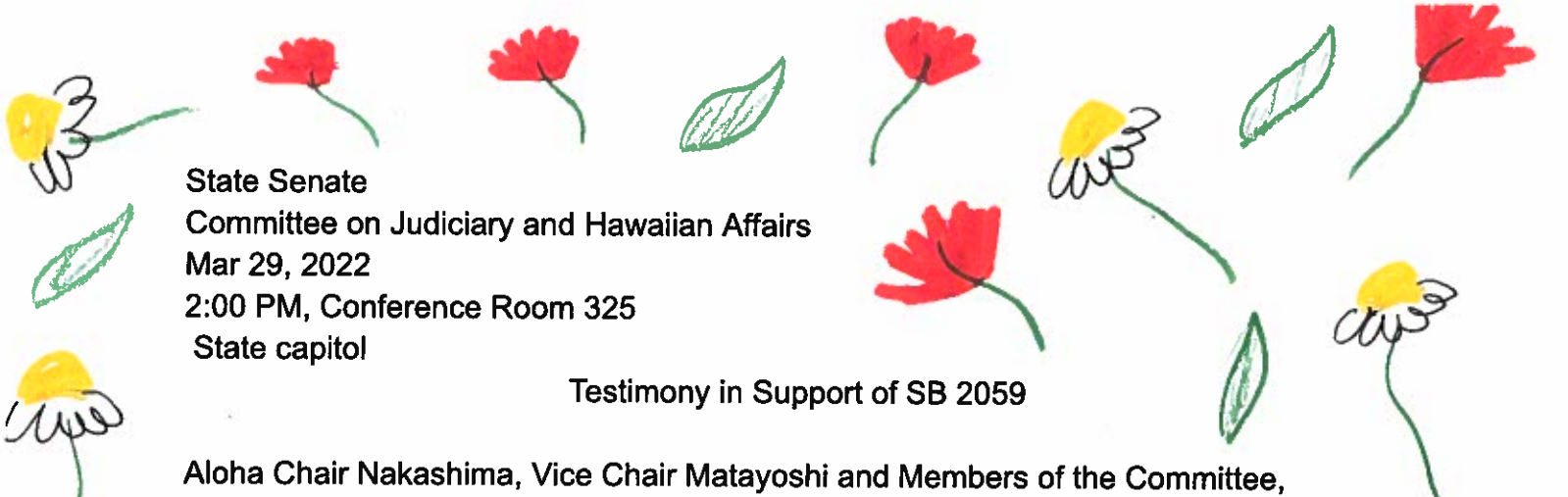
Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,
I, Zane Dalgamouni, am in support of HB 2202, Relating to State Endemic Tree,
which would designate 'Ōhia Lehua as the State Endemic Tree of Hawaii.

The 'Ōhia is very important since it is endemic and making it the State Endemic Tree will raise awareness of Rapid 'Ōhia Death (R.O.D). Also, it helps a tremendous amount to help protect the watershed. Without the 'Ōhia, we would likely not have a local water supply. If ROD expands and we don't help, we will likely lose the 'Ōhia forever. Losing the 'Ōhia will negatively impact the local food chain and possibly cause other native species to go extinct. The 'Ōhia is endemic meaning that it can only be found in Hawaii. It can be found nowhere else in the world. Having more awareness of R.O.D. will reduce it majorly.

I hope that you agree that the 'Ōhia Tree should be Hawaii's State Endemic Tree.
Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,
Zane Jared Carlile Dalgamouni
Manoa Elementary School, Grade 5





State Senate
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Mar 29, 2022
2:00 PM, Conference Room 325
State capitol

Testimony in Support of SB 2059

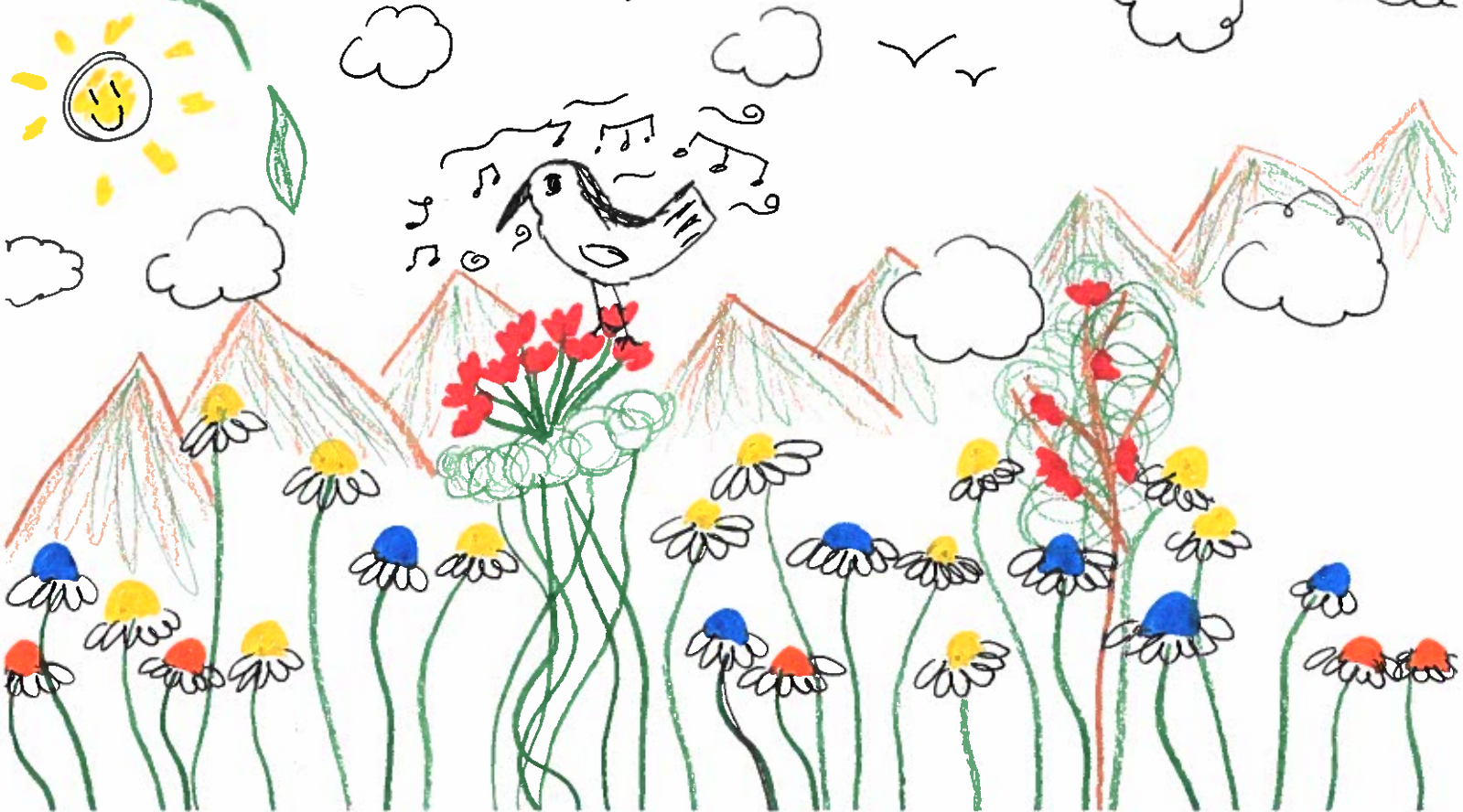
Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi and Members of the Committee,

I, Olivia Liu, am in support of SB 2059, Relating to the State Endemic Tree, which would designate Ohia Lehua as the State Endemic Tree of Hawaii.

I think we should make Ohia our State Endemic Tree and here are some reasons why. First it's our main water source, it stores a ton of water. It filters our water for our watershed. Since the Ohia Tree gathers water from passing clouds that rain we would have fresh, purified water for our watershed and for to drink and use, and plus when the fungi gets to this special tree it will cut our water source and have NO FRESH WATER! And these Ohia trees can be used for building/shelter for us and other native animals and food and ohia trees create landscapes for us. It's also our Cultural Tree that represents Hawaii . We wouldn't want to destroy our culture. Also if we never had the ohia tree some animals would be extinct or not living at all and could affect the food chain.

!Mahalo for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,
Olivia Liu, Manoa Elementary School, Grade 5



State Senate
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
March 29, 2022
2:00 PM, conference Room 325
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB 2059

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the of the Committee,

I, Leyah Barretto, am in support of SB 2059, Relating to state Endemic Tree, which would designate 'Ohia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

We should protect the 'Ohia because the 'Ohia is an important part of Hawaiian culture. It also provides shelter, food, firewood, landscaping and more. Sadly the trees are dying because of a fungus infecting trees and traveling around by humans, cars and more. The 'Ohia is endemic, which makes it special to Hawaii. So we have to protect it. If we don't then the animals that eat the 'Ohia will die and it will throw the food chain off causing many problems.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Leyah Barretto
Manoa elementary school, Grade 5

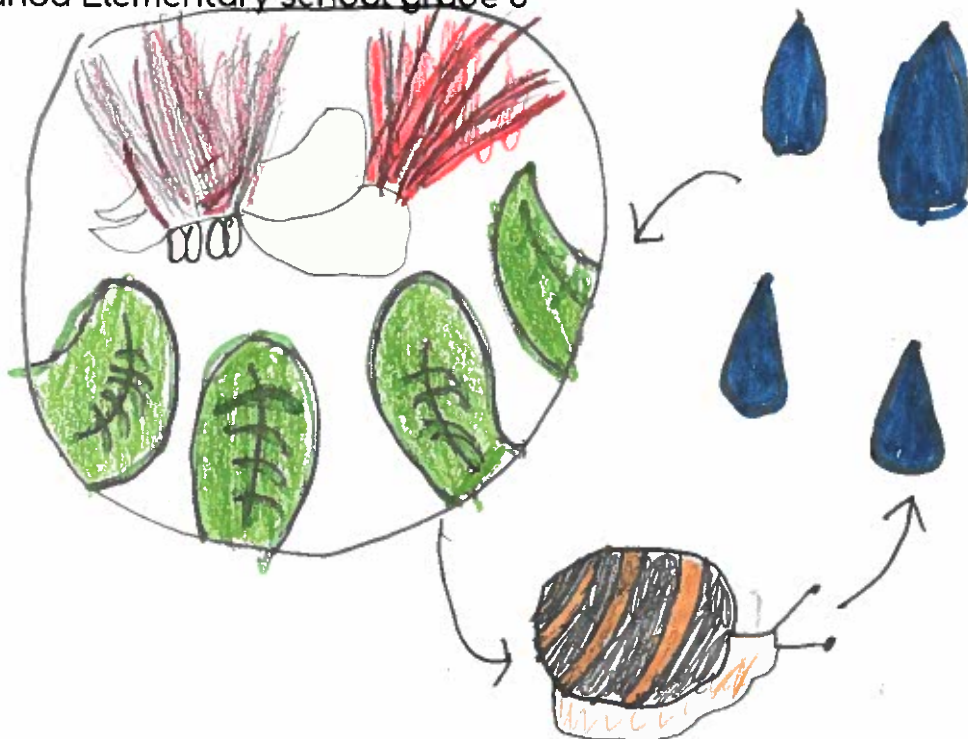


State Senate
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
March 29 , 2022
2:00 PM, Conference Room 325
State Capitol

Testimony in support of SB 2059

Aloha Chair Nakashima, and Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee, I Judah Althof, are in support of the SB 2059 Relating to the state endemic tree of hawaii. Here are 3 reasons why O'hia should be the state's tree! Reason 1, The Ohia is a very special tree because it can collect rain water and send it down to the aquifer and watershed and it also purifies because rain water is 10% acidic and that's bad. Reason 3, the Ohia is a critical habitat for native animals and plants. If we tear it down then the Ohia can be extinct along with native wildlife! Reason 3, The Ohia is under attack by an invasive fungus which can kill Ohia in weeks, and we can't even tell! There is still no cure and there won't be any Ohia left and it can ruin so many things! Culture would be ruined. Hawaii is only beautiful if we can make it beautiful and if we don't take care of it we could lose visitors and the beauty of hawaii, plus we can lose hawaiian culture and the sacred land could be lost!

Mahalo for your time and Consideration
Judah.S Althof
Manoa Elementary school grade 5



State Senate
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
March 29, 2022
2:00 PM, Conference Room 325
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB 2059

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee.

I, Wyatt Robinson, am in support of SB 2059, Relating to the state Endemic tree, which would designate Ohia Lehua as state Endemic tree of Hawaii.

I think we should make the Ōhi'a Lehua the State Endemic tree because it provides fresh water that flows to our watershed. It also provides food and housing for native species. The Ōhi'a nectar provides food to the native birds such as the Apapane, and Akohekohe while the Ōhi'a tree provides shelter for them as well.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Wyatt Robinson
Manoa Elementary school,
Grade 5



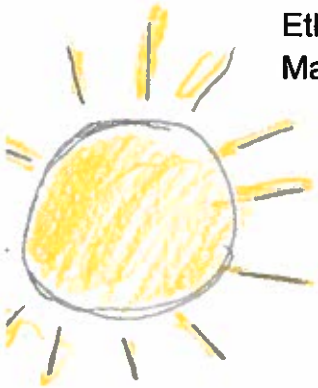
State Senate
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
March 29, 2022
2:00 PM, Conference Room 325
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB 2059

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,
I, Ethan Moszkowicz, am in support of SB 2059, Relating to the state
endemic tree, which would designate Ohia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

I think the Ohia tree should be Hawaii's state endemic tree because first of
all, the Ohia can be useful as water because it gets rain water and develops it into
freshwater. It is also very delicate, and home to native birds. Lastly, Ohia is useful to
humans because when it grows to its full size, it might provide shade if it grows to full
size because it is a well known canopy tree in Hawaii, and because it is a big part of the
food system that all humans take part of. If we don't have this law, the Ohia will go
unprotected and maybe extinct.

Mahalo for your time and consideration
Sincerely,
Ethan Moszkowicz
Manoa Elementary School



State Senate
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
March 29, 2022
2:00 PM, Conference Room 325
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB 2059

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee
I, Brycen Sogawa, am in support of SB 2059. Relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate Ohia Lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

The Ohia tree is important because it is dying from Rapid Ohia Death or ROD. It is also a habitat for lots of native birds and insects. If they lose the Ohia Tree a lot of animals will not have a habitat and they will go extinct. The Ohia Tree is also a water collector that makes water clean that you can drink. It is also a part of the Hawaiiin culture. It is a huge part of Hawaiiin culture because it's used in chants and dances and if it dies it will be a huge loss for Hawaiiin culture. The last thing is that the Ohia Tree is endangered.

Mahalo for your time and consideration
Sincerely,
Brycen Sogawa
Manoa Elementary School, Grade 5



State Senate
Committee on Judiciary
March 29, 2022
2:00 PM, Conference room 325
State capitol

Testimony in support of SB 2059

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the committee

I, Xavier Mals am in support of the SB 2059

Relating to State Endemic tree, which would designate Ohia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii

I think there are 3 main reasons why I think the spectacular Ohia tree should be our state's endemic tree. The first main reason why the Ohia should be our state endemic tree is because the Ohia is a cultural and sacred tree to the Native Hawaiians because it is a huge part of Hawaiian storytelling. The second reason why the Ohia should be our state's endemic tree is because native animals can use the Ohia for shelter and can also get water from it. And if the Ohia starts to die, native animals would have no shelter and die. The third main reason why the Ohia should be our state endemic tree is because the Ohia tree is used for firewood, water, wood working, etc. The tree also helps us by giving us shelter and to keep us warm. In conclusion these are the 3 main reasons why the Ohia tree should be our state's endemic tree

Mahalo for your time and consideration

Sincerely,
Xavier Mals

Manoa Elementary school, Grade 5



State Senate
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
March 29, 2022
(2:00 PM, Conference Room 325)
State Capitol



Testimony In support of SB 2059.

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,
I, Miriya Matsumoto, am in support of SB 2059, Relating to State Endemic tree
which would designate Ōhi'a lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawai'i.

I think the 'Ōhi'a lehua should be the state tree because it provides important
resources to humans and animals. It's a water collector that takes clean water and
makes it drinkable for humans/animals. Ōhi'a also provides food and shelter for
animals, plants, and humans! If the 'Ōhi'a dies then animals won't have shelter and
might cause endangered species. Ōhi'a has cultural importance and needs to be
protected. Rapid Ōhi'a death is real and is horrible. If 'Ōhi'a dies it will majorly affect the
food web. This is because of fungi. Some things about Ōhi'a is that it's endemic to
Hawai'i, a pioneer species, and it's a canopy tree.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Miriya Matsumoto
Manoa Elementary School Grade 5





State Senate
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Mar 29, 2022
2:00 PM, Conference Room 325
State Capitol

Testimony in support of SB 2059

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,
I, Madison, am in support of SB 2059,
Relating to State Endemic Tree, which would designate 'Ōhi'a Lehua as the state endemic tree of
Hawai'i.

I feel we need to protect this tree for many reasons. First, 'Ōhi'a has made shelter for us for times we needed it. Second, Ōhi'a has a lot of cultural importance, and we wouldn't want to destroy a big part of our culture. Another thing, if we never had this tree some native animals would've never had life. And if they never had life, it would affect the whole food chain, resulting to corruption to the land. Also, Ōhi'a has collected water from the clouds for us which is very important for our watershed. Our watershed is very important to our islands because it provides us water. Ōhi'a has also created landscapes for us. As you can see, Ōhi'a Lehua is very important to Hawai'i and its needs.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Madison Kilinoionole Garcia

Mānoa Elementary School, Grade 5



State Senate
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
March 29, 2022
2:00 PM, Conference Room 325
State Capitol

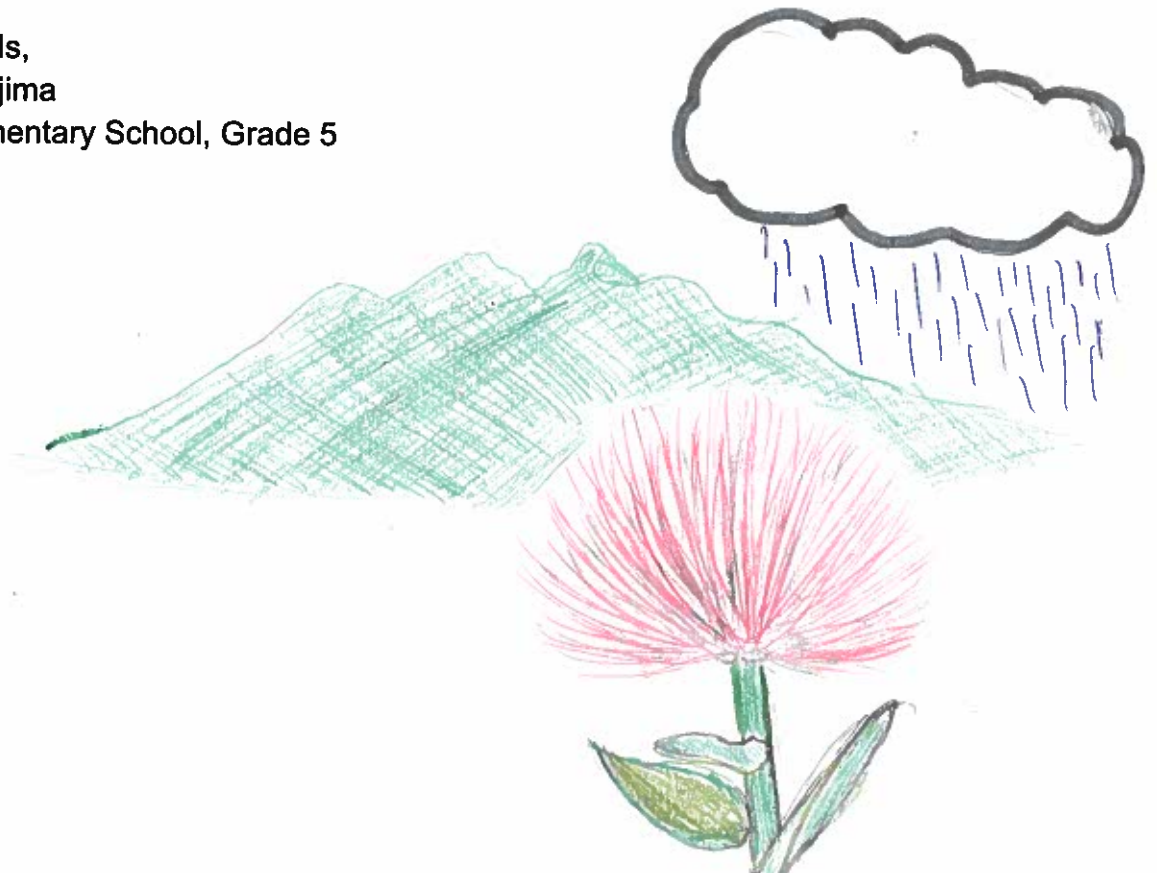
Testimony in Support of SB 2059

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,
I, Marnie Ushijima, am in support of SB 2059, Relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate Ohia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawai'i.

I believe that the Ohia Lehua should be the State Endemic Tree of Hawaii. This is because it's important to culture. I've heard many stories where the Ohia takes place. Secondly it is a major water collector which means that it collects water from the clouds for use on the land. Water is very important to it and for the life around it. The Ohia is also endemic to Hawaii and there is sadly an illness going around endangering the Ohia. It is called Rapid Ohia Death or R.O.D. Otherwise native species might not have a home and without a protective home they could go extinct too. It is important for people to know about R.O.D to stop the spread and protect Ohia. Finally I think it should be the state tree not because it's endemic but because it has cultural importance to life too as of how much it can provide. This is why I think the Ohia Lehua should be the state tree because of these reasons.

Mahalo for your time and consideration. Thank you!

Best Regards,
Marnie Ushijima
Manoa Elementary School, Grade 5



State Senate
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
March 29, 2022
2:00 PM, Conference Room 325

Testimony in support of SB 2059

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,
I, Jayzen Ichiyama, am in support of SB 2059,
Relating to the State Endemic Tree, which would designate Ohia Lehua as the state endemic tree
of Hawai'i.

I have many different reasons why I think this bill should be passed. One of the first and most important reasons is that Ohia Lehua is one of the only state endemic trees. This means that Ohia Lehua can only be found in the Hawaiian Islands. Ohia Lehua also provides food and shelter to other native and endemic species that live on Hawaii. So if the Ohia Lehua goes extinct some of the native and endemic species that require Ohia Lehua as part of their habitat may go extinct as well as the Ohia Lehua. The next reason is that Ohia Lehua stores and provides us with water. It provides almost all of Hawaii's water source, so if Ohia Lehua goes extinct we might not have enough water to provide the entire island. Lastly, It has a great cultural importance to the people of Hawaii. It is used in leis, chants, hulas, and stories on Hawaii. So if it dies out a MAJOR part of Hawaiian culture will be removed because Ohia Lehua is extinct.

Mahalo for your time and consideration
Sincerely,
Jayzen Ichiyama
Manoa Elementary School, Grade 5



State Senate
Committee on judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
March 29, 2022
2:00 PM, Conference Room 325
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB 2059

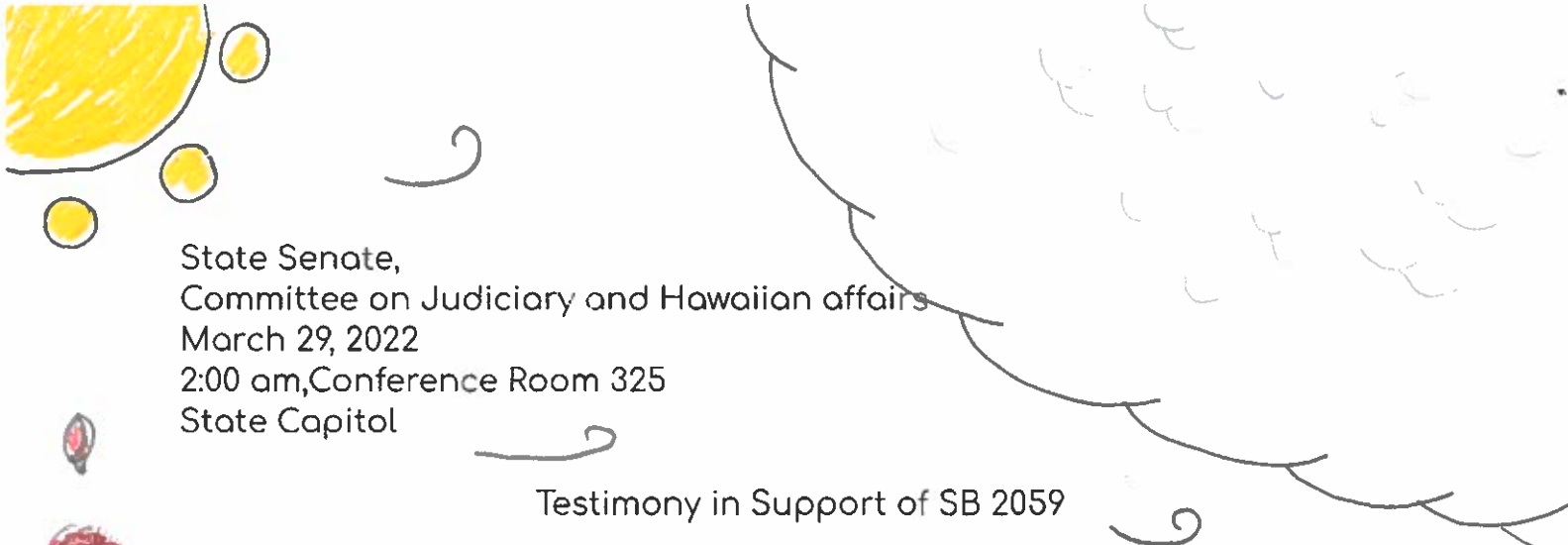
Aloha Chair Nakashima , Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,
I, Matisse Esparza-Queloz, am in support of SB 2059,
Related to State Endemic Tree, which would designate Ohia lehua as the state Edimic
Tree of Hawai'i.

I think that this is important because the Ohia collects the passing water and
cleans our water source which we, and others, need to survive. The Ohia provides
food, and shelter to many native animals. It also provides building wood that helps us
make houses, and fire wood.

Mahalo for your time and consideration

Best Regards
Matisse Esparza-Queloz
Manoa Elementary School, Grade 5





State Senate,
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian affairs
March 29, 2022
2:00 am, Conference Room 325
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB 2059

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice chair Matayoshi, and Members of the committee, I Abigail Alo am in support of SB 2059, Relating to the State Endemic Tree, Which would designate Ōhi'a Lehua as the State Endemic Tree of Hawai'i.

The reason I think it's important to protect Ōhi'a is because, first, it collects a lot of fresh water that flows into our watershed, and if ROD (Rapid Ōhia Death) continues killing all of our Ōhi'a plants that would mean less fresh water in our watershed. Secondly, the flower is used to make cultural clothing or other cultural things that remind people of Hawaiian culture, and if people forget Hawaiian culture; The islands are just going to be tourist hotspots. Lastly it provides shelters to Native and Non-native species (mostly birds). But if the plant is gone that would be Less native species having homes.

In conclusion it is very important to protect the Ōhi'a Lehua.

Mahalo for your time and consideration

Best Regards from,
Abigail Hulilimaikawaiolohia Alo,
Mānoa School,
Grade, 5



State Senate
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
March 29, 2022
2:00 PM, Conference Room 325
State Capitol

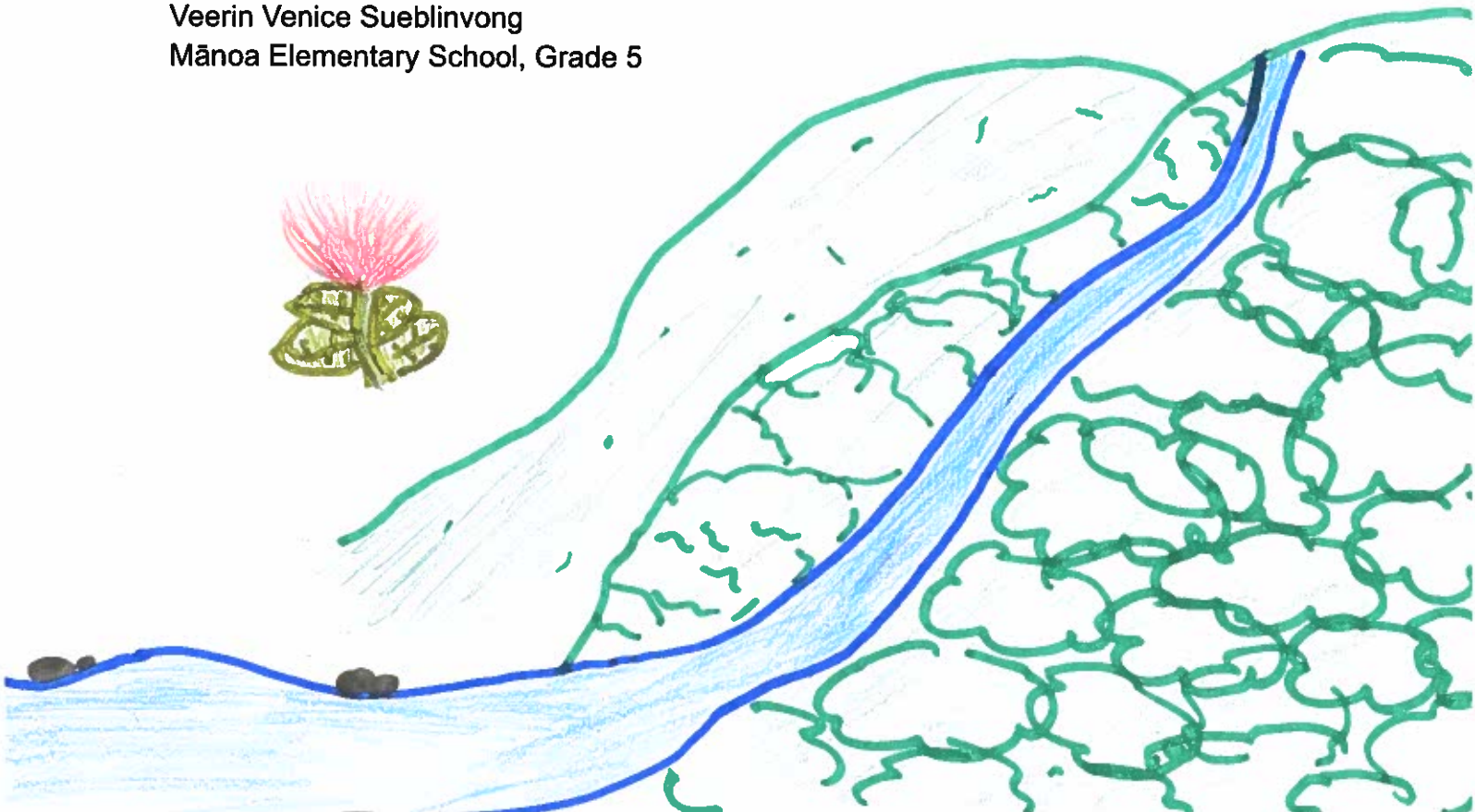
Testimony in support of SB 2059

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,
I, Veerin Sueblinvong, am in support of SB 2059,
Relating to the State Endemic Tree, which would designate `Ōhi`a Lehua as the State
Endemic tree of Hawai`i.

The `Ōhi`a Lehua is important because this grand tree provides shelter, food, water, wood, and oxygen. It's cultural importance is very sacred. Having this tree be extinct would affect Native Hawaiians, and us as well. It can grow upon volcanoes, and is a big part of our forests. It's endemic to our islands, making Hawai`i a special place full of beautiful trees. This tree is also a home to many other native and endemic species, having this incredible tree die off to Rapid `Ōhi`a Death (Caused by *Ceratocystis lukuohia* and *Ceratocystis huliohia*) would have a devastating chain effect on the delicate islands, people, and animals of Hawai`i. It would cause millions of native species to go extinct, which would affect all of us. If this tree was made State Endemic Tree, it would raise awareness of ROD, which could save our beautiful tree from a horrible extinction.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Veerin Venice Sueblinvong
Mānoa Elementary School, Grade 5



SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 10:45:57 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cian Granthiel Tamayo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I Cian Granthiel Tamayo am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because not only are we saving many other plant and animal species, we are helping support a unique tree. One reason I support it is because we can use the community to keep the tree alive. Many of these trees are infected by fungal species leading them to die. We believe that our community will help with this problem by planting this tree in our backyards.

Another reason why I support this bill is so we can have a unique tree as our endemic tree. Not only does it only grow in Hawaii it also grows on cooled lava rocks. Although lava kills a wild variety of species in its path, Ohi'a can help make a new forest.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Cian Granthiel Tamayo

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 10:46:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Poponi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I Julia Elizabeth Poponi am writing to support bill SB2059. I support this bill because ohia is a big part of Hawaiian culture. It is mentioned a lot in mo'olelo, mele, and oli's. Hula dancers also wear it as a symbol of their culture. If we do not protect the tree, all of the cultural things about it might disappear and be forgotten. Ohia is very important to the culture so I don't think that ohia disappearing would be a good thing at all.

Ohia is also a great resource. We use it for many things everyday. We use ohia wood to make things. Ohia feeds and shelters our birds. Ohia even provides water for us. Without ohia our water supply would definitely be way worse. We need ohia to collect water for us. Without it we might not have enough one day. And ohia is endemic to Hawaii so if it disappears here we will never see it again.

It is a very beautiful tree. And there are so many stories about it. We can't just forget about the tree that provided us with so many things. We should try to protect it because it's been helping us for many years.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Julia Elizabeth Poponi

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 10:46:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leila Jose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I Leila Lorene Jose am writing to support bill SB2059. I support this bill because not only are the ‘Ōhi‘a trees dying, but it’s also part of our island and home and I believe we should protect it. When people/members started finding out what was happening, it turned into ROD. It stands for Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death because they were being taken away from our islands. Since there was and maybe still more stuff they needed to learn about ROD, they made a Puaenaena Ceromony for the trees and burned any ‘Ōhi‘a parts that were brought to Merrie Monarch and returned their ashes to the forests instead. Taking ‘Ōhi‘a parts should be banned because it's Hawaii’s plant, and it had many uses back then for the hawaiiens. It was also one of the first plants to recolonize otherwise the barren islands blanketed lava. The Loss of these trees would be very tragic because it’s a part of the native forests and it was also in the Hawaiians' storytelling and tradition.In the end, i believe the ‘Ōhi‘a trees should not die out.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Leila Lorene Jose

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 10:47:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chloe Bulatao	School	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I Chloe Marie Aiko Bulatao am writing to support SB2059.

The reason I support this bill is because the ‘ohi’a tree is very important to Hawai’i in many ways. The ‘ohi’a tree provides many things for other organisms, and is a part of Hawaiian culture. Though I will only be explaining two reasons, the ‘ohi’a tree is important to Hawaii, and we would like to keep the ‘ohi’a trees alive and healthy.

The ‘ohi’a tree provides many different things to many native birds. One of those birds is the state endemic bird, Hawaiian honeycreepers. The ‘ohi’a trees supply the birds, and many other organisms, with nutrients, water, and protection. These ‘ohi’a trees have a big part in Hawaii's ecosystems. These trees collect water and mist so the organisms that need water, can get water. We too also collect and use the water from the ‘ohi’a trees.

‘Ōhi‘a are included in Hawaiian culture through symbols in mo'olelo (stories), mele (songs), and ‘oli (chants). The ‘ohi’a tree has its own legend that explains how the ‘ohi’a tree came to life. It is the first plant to grow from new lava flows. ‘Ōhi‘a serves as the sacred kinolau, or physical manifestations, of multiple Hawaiian deities. ‘Ōhi‘a wood was used to make various ceremonial structures on heiau, or temples. In conclusion, ‘ohi’a trees are very important to Hawaii's culture and ecosystem.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Chloe Marie Aiko Bulatao

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 10:48:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlie Concepcion	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhi‘a becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Carly “Charlie” E. Concepcion, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because making the ‘ōhi‘a lehua tree the state endemic tree is crucial to Hawaiian culture and ecology.

In Hawaiian culture, there’s a legend about how the tree came to life. It involves Pele, the Hawaiian goddess of fire and volcanoes. Long story short, a warrior and a maiden, ‘Ōhi‘a and Lehua, had fallen in love. Pele tried to interfere with their love life and failed, ultimately turning ‘Ōhi‘a into a tree. The other gods of the forest decided to turn Lehua into the blossoms for the tree to reunify the two lovers. This tale is one of the most known in Hawai‘i.

There are also several different structures made out of ‘ōhi‘a wood. For example, ceremonial structures on Hawaiian temples are made of ‘ōhi‘a, as well as the framework for traditional Hawaiian houses, flooring, firewood, decor, and house/fence posts. Alongside housing and other infrastructure, they serve as the physical representation (statues) of Hawaiian deities/gods, those being Kū, Laka, Pele, Hi‘iaka, Kāpo, and Kāne.

As for native life forms and ecology, the ‘ōhi‘a tree provides shelter, nutrients and other necessary qualities for the things living here, more specifically the ‘apapane, the ‘i‘iwi, the ‘akiapōlā‘au, the ‘akohekohe, the extinct mamō, as well as other specimens like snails and insects. The trees also help replenish Hawai‘i’s aquifers, giving residents more water to use and more water to grow agriculture.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Carly “Charlie” E. Concepcion

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 10:49:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Micah Makana Nacnac	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I Micah Nacnac am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because ‘Ōhia is an endemic pioneer keystone species in Hawaii. As a pioneer plant, it is one of the first plants to grow on a cooled lava field. The roots of ‘ōhia help prepare the area for future plant species to begin growing. It provides food and shelter for ‘apapane, ‘i‘iwi, insects, and snails. ‘Ōhi‘a trees also make up the largest portion of the canopy in native wet forests. They provide shelter and food for numerous native birds, including endemic Hawaiian nectar-feeding honeycreepers such as the ‘apapane and ‘i‘iwi, as well as innumerable insects, snails and other invertebrates.

Their trunks also act as nurse logs, supplying nutrients, water and protection for native seedlings and epiphytes. Their canopies capture mists and rainwater that replenish our island aquifers, which provide drinking and irrigation water for Hawai‘i’s communities and agricultural sector. The ‘Ōhi‘a are woven deeply into Hawaiian culture through symbology in mo‘olelo (stories), mele (songs) and ‘oli (chants). ‘Ōhi‘a serves as the sacred kinolau (physical manifestations) of multiple Hawaiian deities such as Kū (god of war and manifestations), Laka (goddess of hula), Pele.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Micah Makana Nacnac

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 10:49:57 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan Dash Baugio Andres	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I ,Jordan Dash Baugio Andres, am writing to support bill SB2059. The reason I support this bill is because it can possibly give more attention to the growing problem named R.O.D (Rapid, ‘Ōhi‘a, Death). R.O.D is a fungus named Ceratocystis fimbriata that spreads throughout openings in the tree. This is a big concern because like other plants and trees of the Islands, it’s role in the culture of Hawaii. It is used for houses and/or property (ex: wood flooring, fences, house posts, etc) and culture. Also a second reason with R.O.D. The fungus goes into the plants by openings by insects or if a branch were to break off. It can kill a tree in a couple of weeks without any of us knowing. This bill can give more attention to the ongoing problem that’s starting to kill the ‘Ōhi‘a trees.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Jordan Dash Baugio Andres

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 10:50:53 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cayden Sabas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I Cayden Joshua Sabas am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

The ‘Ōhi‘a tree is very important to the Hawaiian islands as they provide so much for us , so I will be talking about how they came about on our island and if they all died off to rapid ‘Ōhi‘a death

First is that the ‘Ōhi‘a is invasive to the the hawaiian islands which means that it only grows here.And they way they grow is after a volcano erupts so after the lava hardens through the cracks of it the ‘Ōhi‘a starts to sprout out and grow. The roots of Ōhi‘a help prepare the area for future plant species to begin growing. It provides food and shelter for ‘apapane, ‘i‘iwi, insects, and snails. And Because the trees make up the largest portion of the canopy in native wet forests. They provide so much for us and the animals. Their canopies capture mists and rainwater that refill our island aquifers, which provide drinking and farming water for Hawai‘i’s communities.

That shows why the Ōhi‘a is very important to us. Now the R.O.D is causing the Ōhi‘a to die and it is spreading quickly among the Ōhi‘a trees. They are spread by a little bug that carries R.O.D and they get into the tree through the damages that are caused by weather or by us.These little bugs do so much damage to them on one island they are almost wiped out.If you look around in the forests you can just see dead trees for miles and miles.Some people don’t know the Ōhi‘a is dying as Today we use ‘ōhi‘a wood for flooring, house posts, fencing posts, decoration, framing of traditional hale, and firewood. ‘Ōhi‘a seedlings are also among the most sought-after plants for native landscaping.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Cayden Joshua Sabas

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 10:54:20 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mehanaokala Lydia Bishop	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I, Mehanaokala Lydia Bishop, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the Ohia Tree is currently dying at a very fast rate due to rapid ohia death and making this bill happen would help protect the ohia tree. I wanna protect the Ohia Tree because it has a very big significance in Hawaiian culture in different ways such as using its wood for weapons and boards for pounding poi. Its flowers were used for traditional Hawaiian lei for hula dancers. The leaves of the Ohia tree were used for medicinal tea. If the tree were to go extinct then it would be taking away a lot of Hawaiian culture. Another reason why I support this Bill is because a lot of native species live off of the Lehua tree such as apapane and i'iwi feed off of the trees flowers and seeds. Other insects and snails live off of the tree and help the tree by providing nutrients for it. The tree also captures water to feed our aquifers which provides drinking water for communities.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Mehanaokala Lydia Bishop

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 10:54:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaeda Mayumi Rivera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I Jaeda Rivera am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the ohi'a tree is important to many in hawaii. Ohi'a is used in Hawaiian culture and is native to hawaii. Many people think that Ohi'a should be the endemic tree of Hawaii. Ohi'a is used for many things in Hawaii. Ohi'a is used as an insect food source, to help with Hawaiian culture, and it's beautiful. Ohi'a could help build more things for Hawaii.

With Aloha,

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Jaeda Rivera

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 10:55:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mailey Joy Galano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Mailey Joy Galano, am writing to support SB2059. The reason I support this bill is because the ‘Ōhi‘a tree is special to the Hawaiian islands, the animals that depend on it, and the culture. This tree will only grow on a cool lava field that will soon start a forest over time. The ‘Ōhi‘a tree can grow by sea level just at 9,000 feet Many insects and animals will need this tree to survive. Hawaiian birds depend on this tree as a source of food for energy and shelter to stay in. It will also go for insects that would need a habitat.

Though there is a rapid ‘Ōhi‘a death is happening right now. It is a fungus that is spreading causing the tree to be unhealthy and die. The colors of the ‘Ōhi‘a’s leaves will turn into an unusual color between some days to weeks. Inside the tree, you will find discoloration in the tree. The tree will show a different color inside than a normally fine ‘Ōhi‘a tree. These signs will show between 2-3 weeks. The fungus has no cure yet to help

stop the death of these trees. I want to bring awareness to this tree because I don't want this tree to die out and the many things that depend on this tree.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Mailey Joy Galano

8th grade student

Highlands Intermediate School

1460 Ho'olaulea Street

Pearl City, HI 96782

(808) 307-500

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 10:57:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathan Jones	Highlands intermediate	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Nathan Jones, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

Ohia Testimony

The reason I support this bill is because the plant ‘Ōhia is a plant of culture and is a huge chunk of Hawaiian culture and history. The plant is only found in the state of Hawaii and we are all for ‘Ōhia to be the state endemic tree. Not to mention ohia is also one of the most

important trees for native Hawaiian birds such as 'Apapane and 'Akohekohe, which get their food from nectar-producing flowers.

‘Ōhia is a very special plant to Hawaiian ancestors and future kids. The wood was used to create weapons, kapa, cloth,beatre,enclosures and statues. There is a legend to follow up this great fact where the ‘Ōhia flower is the favorite to the Hawaiian Goddess pele. Lastly, it's used in traditional dance like hula.

In conclusion, the ‘Ōhia tree should be known as the state endemic tree so for generations to come will see the greatness that was ‘Ōhia and if it were to ever be gone that there will always be a past and history to tell. (Thank you for reading)

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Nathan Jones

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 10:58:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kai Wataoka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I am Kai Wataoka writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because, the Ohī’a is one of the central parts of Hawaiian culture and its ecosystem. The Ohī’a tree is extremely important to the natural environment due to its numeris variations throughout the Hawaiian that help start back the ecosystem after an eruptions. The trees also make up a large portion of our forest area that also provide some of our native birds to flourish in its branches. The tree itself is extremely important to Hawaiian myth. It served as a physical manifestation of some of the gods the Hawaiian’s worshiped, and the wood from the tree would be used for ceremonial temples. The trees are also extremely marketable for flooring and other homing projects due to their nature, the seeds themself are highly sought after due to their tropical nature. After all, the Ohī’a tree is extremely important to Hawaiian culture and environment.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Kai Wataoka

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 11:14:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caleb Stebbins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022, 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

I, Caleb Stebbins, Am in support of SB 2059, relating to state symbols, which would designate Ohi'a Lehua the State Endemic Tree of Hawaii.

Rapid Ohia Death is changing the way we live our lives today and it will continue to unless we stop it. The Ohia's crowns turn yellowish when the Rod fungus infects the tree. Ohia is important to the survival of our ocean reefs and watersheds. Ohia captures the rainwater runoff which helps keep the water clean. I believe that without Ohia, our coral reefs will die and the water will turn brown.

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 11:17:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ailesh Magboo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

Ailesh Jayden Magboo is writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the ‘ōhia can show cultural representation and be really helpful to the environment. The representation is in hula and lays, it is only native to hawaii too. One way it helps the environment is that it's a key-stone for most animals on Hawaii so they can live. The other reason I support this bill is because it makes up a large portion of a canopy. Another thing I'd like to add is that it's one of the main resources of animals and human's water supplies.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Ailesh Jayden Magboo

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 11:25:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hylee Hueu-Clymer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Hylee Hueu-Clymer, am writing to support SB2059. The reasons I support it include: Its cultural significance. These trees play a big role in Hawaiian culture. The ‘ōhia Lehua legend originated from an urban legend passed down from generation to generation, since its appearance is particularly unique. Furthermore, they were used to make necessities and goods in Ancient Hawai’i (weapons, medicine, tapa , etc.)

These trees are also ecologically important. In fact, they are pioneer species, meaning they start forests. Many endangered species seek shelter in these trees, which proves that not only forests rely on them, but animals do too.

By passing this bill, you will not only preserve the significance of the ‘ōhia Lehua, but you will also preserve Hawaiian culture for future generations.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Hylee Hyeu-Clymer

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 11:35:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jack Darby	Highlands Intermediate	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara and members of the committee,

I, Jack Darby, am in support of SB2059 regarding making Ohia Lehua the state endemic tree. I support this bill because honoring this tree as the state endemic tree will support Hawaiian culture and endangered species, mostly birds. The tree is home to endangered species of birds, and has many uses such as the wood for boards for pounding poi, fencing, building, and tools. The leaves also can be used for medicinal tea. On top of that, the Ohia tree is pretty much the most culturally significant keystone species in the Hawaiian islands. It is known as one of the first trees to grow on cooled lava in Hawaii. It is part of Hawaiian legends. It is named after ‘Ōhi‘a and Lehua, two lovers betrothed to each other but separated by the great goddess Pele.

Sadly, Ohia lehua is already suffering from Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death (ROD). But hopefully, it can be recognized by it’s importance and it’s value it brings to Hawaii as well as the endangered bird species (such as the honeycreeper) and other animals that call it home. If it became the state endemic tree more people would be aware of it and its significance. With your help, the ‘Ōhi‘a Lehua tree can be recognized. To conclude my testimony, we ask you to make the ‘Ōhi‘a lehua tree the state endemic tree.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Jack Darby

Highlands Intermediate School

Grade 8

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 12:29:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyli Lofton	Hawaii Tech Academy	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022, 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Testimony in Support of HB2202

Dear

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair,

I, Kyli Lofton, am in support of HB2202, relating to state symbols, which would designate Ohia Lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Each year we hear the devastating news of our native forests being lost. This loss is due to introduced invasive species overcrowding and out-competing our native flora. Recently Rapid Ohia Death is claiming more and more of our critical keystone species: the Ohia Lehua tree.

By voting to designate this tree as our state's endemic tree we can better advocate for its protection, secure funding for research to protect it, and more readily inform our citizens and visitors of its importance. Without Ohia, there will be no forests, little water, murky coastal

waters, and no tourists to want to come to visit. Thank you in advance for voting in support of HB2202.

Sincerely,

Kyli Lofton

Middle School student & Kauai resident

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 12:36:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maka Resurrection	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“The House of Representatives

Committee on Water and Land

January 19, 2022

State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB2059

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee.

I, Maka Resurrection, am in support of SB2059, relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate “ohi’a lehua ” as the state endemic tree of Hawai’i.

The reason I support this bill is because the ohia branches are used to create traditional kalaau or dancing sticks. Another reason is many hula halaus use the ohia trees to make traditional lei’s to give out to their dancers after their performances. Several native birds and small species feed on the flowers and seeds.

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 12:38:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shawna Rabe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara,

Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Shawna Lynn Rabe, are writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because I have learned that Ohia is a keystone species meaning that it is highly dependent on other organisms. The roots of Ohia help prepare areas for future plants to begin growing. Ohia trees make up the largest portion of the canopy in native wet forests, this helps provide shelter and food for numerous native birds apapane, ‘i‘iwi, insects, and snails. Not only this but it’s canopy helps capture rainwater that replenishes our island aquifers, which provides drinking water for us. These Ohia trees benefit us as much as it does for other organisms. Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Shawna Lynn Rabe

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 12:39:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jarrold Orsino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I (Jarrold Orsino) am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because it provides food & shelter for animals like the ‘Apapane, i’iwi, insects, and snails. This means that if the ‘Ohi’a tree wasn't there, the animals that relied on the ‘Ohi’a tree would probably die. Another reason why I support this bill is because it has roots that are special for future plants. This means that the roots can help the seeds that’s around the ‘Ohi’a tree grow in the future to provide shelter and food. The last reason why I support this bill is because the ‘Ohi’a trunks are special to seedlings. What this means is that the trunks are protecting the seedlings while giving it nutrients and water to grow. This is why I support the bill.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Jarrold Orsino

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 12:40:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Daguay	Highlands Intermediate School	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Jacob Greg Daguay , am in support of SB2059, relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate “ōhi’a lehua ” as the state endemic tree of Hawai’i.

(Your reasoning below)

The reason I support this bill is because the “ōhi’a tree is an important tree to provide materials for the island like kapa cloth beaters, boards for poi pounding, etc. The “ōhi’a tree has tons of purposes for the island. So I think that the “ōhi’a tree should be the state endemic tree.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

[Jacob Greg Daguay](#)

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 12:41:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jezhryel Gray	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I Jezhryel Gray am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the ohia tree is very important to Hawai'i, the animals who depend in it for food and shelter, and us. The ohia tree collects water for us which we can barely survive without. The tree is also a home to tons of endangered species in Hawai'i. If this tree becomes the endemic state tree, it will symbolize protection for other native plants and animals. This does not mean changing the state tree (kukui), it is merely adding a state endemic tree. Without the ohia we wouldn't be able to survive here in Hawai'i.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Jezhryel Gray

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 12:41:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Ellie Chan, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the ohia tree is important to the Hawaiian islands. It had much significance in the olden days and now. The hawaiians used to use it for homes and for poi pounding. It is also a large water source for us. It also provides shelter for many native Hawaiian animals and insects. Without the ohia tree life would be harder and inhabitable on the islands.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Ellie Chan

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 12:42:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kacey Kusuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I Kacey Kusuda, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because these trees are very important for the environment. A reason I learned is that it provides shelter for many small animals including birds, bugs and snails. It also can grow in cool lava fields which means that when its roots start to grow, it allows other future plants to grow later on in that area. It was also used for structures like flooring, house posts, decorations, firewood, and etc. Please think about this bill, this could help protect our ‘ōhia trees.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Kacey Kusuda

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 12:44:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hezekiel Dasalla	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Hezekiel Dasalla, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because The Ohia’s roots help prepare the area for future plant species to begin growing. It provides food and shelter for ‘apapane, ‘i‘iwi, insects, and snails. Their trunks act as nurse logs which supply nutrients, water and protection for native seedlings. Their canopies capture mists and rainwater that replenish our island aquifers, which provide drinking and irrigation water for Hawai‘i’s communities. The Ohia is tied deeply into Hawaiian culture through symbolism in stories & chants, as well as Ohia being tied to multiple Hawaiian gods and goddesses. The Ohia’s wood was used for various ceremonial structures on temples. This concludes why I support this bill.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Hezekiel Dasalla

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 12:44:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tayten Quimoyog-Nguyen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara,

Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding 'ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Tayten Quimoyog-Nguyen, are writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because I have learned that Ohia is a keystone species meaning that it is highly dependent on other organisms. The roots of Ohia help prepare areas for future plants to begin growing. Ohia trees make up the largest portion of the canopy in native wet forests, this helps provide shelter and food for numerous native birds apapane, 'i'iwi, insects, and snails. Not only this but it's canopy helps capture rainwater that replenishes our island aquifers, which provides drinking water for us. These Ohia trees benefit us as much as it does for other organisms. Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Tayten Quimoyog-Nguyen

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 12:49:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kerstyn Afuso	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi and Members of the JHA Committee,

I fully support SB2059 which designates the ‘ōhi‘a lehua as the state endemic tree. If you have ever seen these trees, it is easy to pick them out in a forest because of their bright red blossoms (sometimes yellow, sometimes orange) and unique leaf structure. But, I only ever get to see ‘ōhi‘a lehua around a few times a year, on the off chance that it is present in the forest on a hike, or a cultural space I enter that is nurturing native plants like itself. It is not normal to see this precious tree around, because many factors have caused its decline. But, the ‘ōhi‘a lehua used to be commonplace. The leaves were used in medicinal teas and our native birds love to feast on the flower! The wood was so abundant and strong that it was used to make poi boards, kapa cloth beaters, and later used in houses like my own. There are three ‘ōhi‘a poles that stand strong as the foundation of my home, but it may not be the foundation for homes in the future with ‘ōhi‘a lehua’s rapidly declining population due to ROD, urbanization, and other human-caused issues.

Not further protecting the ‘ōhi‘a lehua, which has immense cultural significance to Native Hawaiians, would be further ignoring the cultural, generational, and spiritual ties that Native Hawaiians have to this ‘āina. Please pass SB2059, because letting the ‘ōhi‘a lehua go down would be also letting the countless other native species that rely on it, go down also. Hawai‘i has some of the highest rates of endemism, due to its isolated nature, and we need to protect this fact. The ‘ōhi‘a lehua needs more protection and SB2059 will help to spread awareness of this beautiful tree to spark even more conservation efforts across Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Kerstyn Afuso

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 12:50:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mia Garlitos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I Mia Garlitos am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because while ‘Ōhi‘a lehua flowers most commonly bloom scarlet red, they also blossom in salmon, garnet, yellow and on very rare occasions white. The ‘Ōhi‘a lehua come in a variety of shapes and sizes, all five species endemic to Hawai‘i and just because the ohia lehua flower looks dainty and delicate, the plant itself is incredibly durable and can grow in rugged and barren environments. ‘Ōhi‘a is also one of the many species endemic to hawaii. ‘Ōhi‘a trees also provide shelter and food for many native birds, including endemic hawaiian nectar feeding honeycreepers, innumerable insects, snails and other invertebrates. The ‘Ōhi‘a tree trunks act as nurse logs, supplying nutrients, water and protection for native seedlings. ‘Ōhi‘a seedlings are also one of the most sought after plants for native landscaping.

‘Ōhi‘a is a part of Hawaiian culture through symbolism in stories, songs and chants. ‘Ōhi‘a serve as the sacred physical manifestations of multiple Hawaiian deities such as Kū, Laka, Pele, Hi‘iaka, and Kāne. ‘Ōhi‘a wood was used for various ceremonial structures on temples. The red of lehua was seen as a reflection of the bloodshed of war, and "lehua" was a term used for the first warrior to fall in battle. ‘Ōhi‘a wood is used for flooring, fencing posts, firewood and decoration. ‘Ōhi‘a is also highly valued in commerce.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Mia Garlitos

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 12:50:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kolten maon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Highlands Intermediate School

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara,

Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I Kolten maon am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because it is a really nice tree and everyone know and respects it. It also show culture to use and how important it is.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Kolten maon

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 12:51:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julianna Muramoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing a Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Julianna Muramoto, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because it is a part of Ancient Hawaiian culture, has a beautiful legend connecting to our environment today, has a significant role in the ecosystem, and is one of the most important endemic plants to grow in Hawai’i. The ‘ōhi’a lehua, as you may have seen, is a common factor of life and story in Ancient Hawai’i. The wood collected from these trees beat kapa cloth, and built sturdy statues and buildings. The flowers were medicinally useful, and are beautifully vibrant which help tell stories of the god Pele, whose lava burned as brightly as the lehua themselves.

The tree and the flower we call “‘ōhi’a lehua” is a direct citation from the great legend itself. Ōhi'a and Lehua, two inseparable human lovers, face challenges from the lava god Pele and are finally united forever as they are transformed into the tree we see today. Raising this bill to show the importance of this tree is greatly needed, considering how much ‘ohi’a matters to our state and to our environment. Ōhi'a is a key part in keeping the

majority of our endemic species alive altogether, and supplying us with water. The 'apapane (honeycreeper) that also appears in the legend is one of the native animals that rely on this tree for food. This tree is relied on and used in Hawaiian wildlife and culture frequently, and is currently suffering from Rapid Ōhi'a Death, which is all the more reason to promote this bill. As my classmates and I write these testimonies to convince you, I greatly appreciate it if you can consider our voices and officially make 'ōhia our state endemic tree.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Julianna Muramoto

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 12:52:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tyler-Nam Quach	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I Tyler-Nam Quach am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

The ‘ōhia tree is very important to the native species of Hawaii and it holds a lot of power culturally. For example, in the past the wood was used to make tools and poi pounding boards, while the flowers were made into lays for hula dancers. Also because the flowers resemble the colors of fire and it is one of the first trees to grow out of a lava flow, they had a story about the tree and the goddess Pele. The fact that this tree has many legends and stories made about it tells me that this tree is an important part of Hawaiian culture, but that’s not all.

Like I said, this tree also plays a big role in the environment. For example, this tree helps shelter and feed many native birds. Without this tree, these birds and many other native

species will suffer the consequences. The ‘ōhia tree also helps other trees grow through its roots. It holds water in its roots which help replenish aquifers that other trees can take from, which could help the next generation of trees grow. This tree is an important part of Hawaii in more ways than one, but if it dies out then the culture and environment may go along with it. This is why the ‘ōhia tree should become a state endemic tree and we should get the word out.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Tyler-Nam Quach

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 12:53:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Helena Beltran	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhi’a becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Helena Beltran, am writing to support SB2059.

I am in support of this bill for several reasons. To begin with, the ‘ōhi’a provides refuge and food for the native birds of Hawaii. For instance, the flower produces nectar as food and the coloration acts as a camouflage for the birds. Furthermore, the wood of the ‘ōhi’a stores and collects water to help refill the state aquifers. Water is a very divine necessity of life. Especially in these times, we need the ‘ōhi’a to help replenish our aquifers, giving the land and people water to thrive. Additionally, the ‘ōhi’a itself is very resourceful, each part of it - such as the leaves, wood, and flowers - being used for many different purposes. Lastly, this bill will help raise awareness of Rapid ‘Ōhi’a Death (ROD) and help contribute

to the conservation of the 'ōhi'a. Not only is the 'ōhi'a rapidly dying from this disease, it is endemic to Hawaii. By raising awareness of ROD, we can help protect this tree from going extinct.

The 'ōhi'a is an endemic keystone species to the beautiful state of Hawaii. By putting this bill in motion, it will recognize and protect this wonderful pioneer plant. For these reasons, I hope you will consider supporting this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Helena Beltran

Highlands Intermediate Schoo

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 12:53:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jared Antonio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I Jared Antonio am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because I’m in favor of the ‘ōhia tree being named our state endemic tree. I think this is an amazing tree because it acts like a swiss army knife of nature. The ‘ōhia tree has many many uses such as medicine purposes to food supply for birds like apapane. The ‘ōhia tree also acts as the water collector of nature, which is crucial for the environment. If the ‘ōhia is not there anymore, there will be many negative consequences if we are not able to access its many uses for the environment and the people.

This tree is especially legendary because it has been mentioned in many Hawaiian mo‘olelo. In the stories, it speaks about the origin and how pele turns the couple ‘ōhia and lehua into

a tree . This tree is suffering from multiple fungal species called ROD. Rapid 'ōhia Death has been happening on Maui, Hawai'i Island, Kāua'i and O'ahu. This tree deserves to be a state tree because of all the useful things it has done for Hawaii and its people.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Jared Antonio

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 12:53:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gavyn Rodgers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I Gavyn Rodgers am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because of the many advantages to having ‘ōhia on our islands. For example, they are an endemic pioneer species for the Hawaiian islands. The ‘ōhia is one of the first trees to grow after a lava flow and it helps break down rock to help make way for other plants to grow. The ‘ōhia tree also provides shelter and food for different species of insects and snails, it also helps native species like ‘apapane and ‘i‘iwi. These trees also capture mists and rainwater which fill are islands aquifers, which produces drinking and irrigation water for Hawai‘i’s communities and agricultural sector.

The ‘ōhia tree is also tightly woven deep in our culture here in the islands. It is depicted in stories, songs, and chants. The ohia serves as a physical manifestation of many of the gods on our islands, this list includes Kū (god of war and manifestations), Laka (goddess of hula), Pele (goddess of the volcano), Hi‘iaka (sister of Pele), and Kāne (god of water). The ‘ōhia’s wood is also used in our culture as it was used in many structures for ceremonies. Also the blossom of the ‘ōhia is seen as a reflection of the bloodshed of war, and “lehua “ is a term for the first warrior to fall in battle.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Student name

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 12:53:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frian Tallo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I ,Frian Tallo, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because The Reason I support this bill is as follows: is because the ‘ōhia tree is important. The reasons as to why I think that it is important, is first the ‘ōhia tree is very culturally important because it was said to be the first plant that grows after magma cools. It's also known as “the tree of the gods” or even “tree of life”. Another reason is that it's also important to the environment, the ‘ōhia tree helps collect water by storing it underground which helps supply most of our water. It also is a home of many animals such as birds, Not only that it has a wide range of habitats where it can live and grow.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Frian Tallo

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 12:54:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
highlands	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I Daimen Chase Olipares am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

The reason why I support this bill is because the ‘ōhia tree makes up one of the largest segments of the given canopies in native Hawaiian rainforests, plus it provides many different life beneficial properties like shelter, food, materials, and the ohana to many numerous native birds, animals, and the people with the Hawaiian Islands. For example, with the use of ‘ōhia’s sturdy wood, it can be used to create weapons, Kapa cloth beaters, boards for pounding poi, enclosures, statues, medicinal teas from ‘ōhia leaves, food for animals, and it is sometimes even used within such important adornments in hula and special ceremonies around each Hawaiian islands. Though the ‘ōhia tree can also be found growing in dry and wet environments from starting sea levels to heights above 5,000+ feet as a shrub, making it being extremely incredible, and more durable within the rugged,

barren environments around the islands of Hawaii. Making the ‘ōhia more apparent in areas that have been covered by recent lava flows, and the ‘ōhi‘a tree tends to be one of the first plants to colonize these dry, obsidian lava rock habitats. The ‘ōhia tree can also range its blossoms in many beautiful amazing colors, ranging in white, red, scarlet, orange, yellow, and salmon!

Although only these ohia trees can only be found within the Hawaiian islands, there is still a major problem that is occurring today that could possibly change the most important overview with these native endemic trees. For more information, a rare case of numerous ‘ōhia trees are dying from a fungal disease otherwise called Ceratocystis. This type of fungal disease has infected and killed more than hundreds of thousands of ‘ōhia within a few days to a few weeks and it has the potential to kill off ALL of the ohia trees statewide. Otherwise from this type of problem, the ohia tree is as well related to many culturally symbolic uses and meanings that relate to the Hawaiian fire goddess and the tale of their intertwined fates. In short, there once was a beautiful man named ‘Ōhi‘a. Unfortunately for Pele, ohia had his eyes set on a woman named Lehua, who also happened to fancy ‘ōhia. In a fit of rage, Pele transformed ‘ōhia into an ugly, gnarled tree, and while Lehua tried to convince Pele to change him back, she refused. Lehua then asked the other gods to intervene, and in a compromise, they decided to transform Lehua into a beautiful flower that would adorn the ‘ōhia tree, so the lovers could stay together forever..

At the end of this conclusion, I believe that the ‘ōhia tree should be the State Endemic tree because it provides and represents the Hawaiian Islands with many things such as good habitats, food, materials, stories, and much more.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Daimen Chase Olipares

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 12:54:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaila Slate	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I Kaila Slate am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because ‘ōhia Testimony

The reason I support this bill is because ‘ōhia is very significant to Hawaiian culture. ‘ōhia is a Swiss army knife, it is used for many things such as clothing, for hula, it’s more than 60% of our water system, etc. Also the story of ‘ōhia Lehua is very cultural. The story shows why the name of ‘ōhia was given and our Hawaiian gods were also included. ROD is also very bad and the fact that it is even happening to our ‘ōhia lehua trees is very sad. A lot of trees are getting infected and we need to put a stop towards it.

‘ōhia grows after a lava flow. So wherever lava flows appear, ‘ōhia Lehua will show. ‘ōhia is also very pretty. There are many colors that ‘ōhia can be shown in. ‘ōhia turns red, salmon, garret, yellow, and it is rarely white. Lastly, ‘ōhia is a key stone towards the Hawaiian islands. ‘ōhia is born in Hawaii and it grows nowhere else. That makes it an endemic tree. That means ‘ōhia is very rare and we need to take care and cherish it. These reasons all show why the ‘ōhia lehua tree should be our state endemic tree.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Kaila Slate

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 12:55:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Riley Leong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I Riley Leong am writing to support SB2059.

‘ōhia Testimony

The reason I support this bill is because the ‘ōhia lehua is a very important tree to Hawaiian culture. While reading some sort of story or Chanting about the land or gods, in some sort of way there will be a reference to ‘ōhia or its flower, the Lehua. If there was a volcano that erupted and its lava had dried up, the ‘ōhia Lehua is one of the first pPlants to regrow the land and return it back to its colors. ‘ōhia itself was used in many different ways for the Hawaiian people. For example, ‘ōhia’s wood was sturdy and strong enough to be used for weapons, Poi pounding boards, and statues. The leaves from the tree itself were used for medical tea and its flowers were used to feed the native birds.

The story of the 'ōhia Lehua is also very important to know. It starts with a man named 'ōhia that Pele, goddess of volcanoes, loved, but 'ōhia had his eyes set on someone else. It was a lovely woman named Lehua and they loved each other very much, but Pele didn't like this. In anger, Pele erupted the ground with lava while transforming 'ōhia into a scary tree that was born from the lava. Lehua was devastated to see her loved one transformed into this tree. Other Hawaiian gods saw this and felt pitiful towards Lehua. They then transformed her into a beautiful flower that grows on the tree so that they can be together forever. Legends say that if you were to pick the flower off of the tree, it would start to rain because you have separated the 2 apart causing them to cry.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Riley Leong

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 12:56:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brenden Deguchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Brenden Deguchi and am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because, the ‘Ōhia tree is a keystone species to hawaii. What that means is that a lot of plants in the ecosystem relies on the ohia tree. The second reason is that the ‘Ōhia tree helps collect water when it rains. The ‘Ōhia tree can live up to 600 years. So the tree can collect water for 600 years.

We need to protect the ‘Ōhia tree because there is a virus for the ‘Ōhia trees called ROD. We need to protect the ‘Ōhia from rod because without the ‘Ōhia tree we wouldn't get as much water because the ‘Ōhia wouldn't be there to help collect water. The third reason is that ‘Ōhia is used for many things. For example the wood of the ‘Ōhia tree is used for pounding poi and the leaves are used for medical tea.



‘ŌHI‘A

‘Ōhi‘a Helpers In Action

Kāne‘ohe Elementary School



Oli Mahalo

Na Kehau Smith and Malia Nobriga

‘Uhola ‘ia ka makaloa lā

The makaloa mat has been unfurled

Pū ‘ai i ke aloha lā

In love, (food is/was shared) we share

Kū ka‘i ‘ia ka hā loa lā

The great breath has been exchanged

Pāwehi mai nā lehua

Honored and adorned is the lehua

Mai ka ho‘oku‘i a ka hālāwai lā

From zenith to horizon

Mahalo e Nā Akua

Gratitude and thanks to our Akua

Mahalo e nā kūpuna lā, ‘eā

Gratitude and thanks to our beloved ancestors

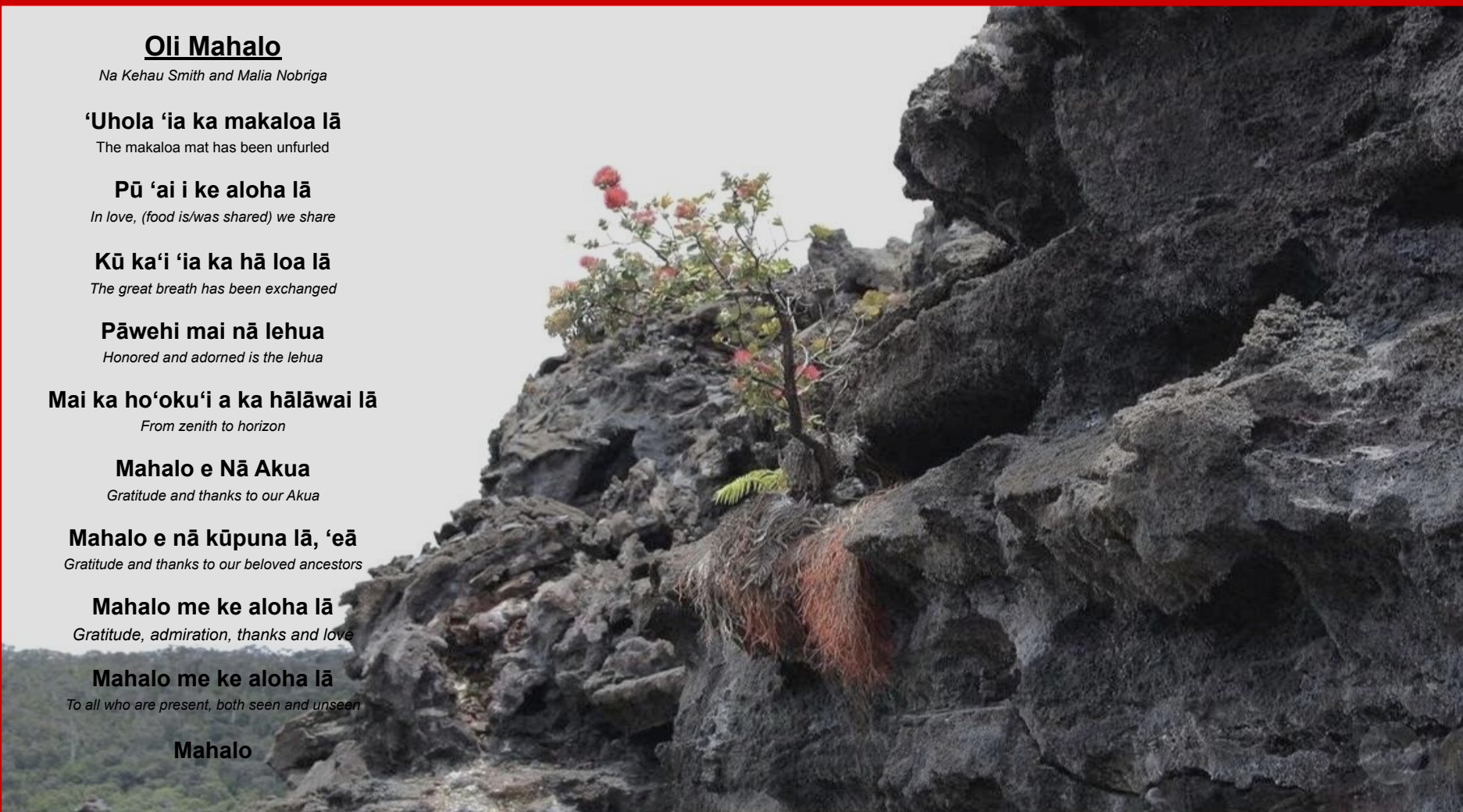
Mahalo me ke aloha lā

Gratitude, admiration, thanks and love

Mahalo me ke aloha lā

To all who are present, both seen and unseen

Mahalo







Kumu Kathryn Ellwanger
Kāneʻohe Elementary School
Aloha Ambassador, Advisor

Written Testimony
from Kathryn Ellwanger



Olive Dumarán
Kāneʻohe Elementary School
Student, Grade 4



Written Testimony
from Olive Dumarán



Akio Hayashi
Kāneʻohe Elementary School
Student, Grade 3



[Written Testimony](#)
[from Akio Hayashi](#)



Paige Pana

*Kāneʻohe Elementary School
Student, Grade 3*



Written Testimony
from Paige Pana



Abigail Fong

*Kāne'ōhe Elementary School
Student, Grade 3*



Written Testimony
from Abigail Fong



Cade Yamada
Kāneʻohe Elementary School
Student, Grade 3



Written Testimony
from Cade Yamada



Avalon Spencer

*Kāneʻohe Elementary School
Student, Grade 4*



Written Testimony from
Avalon Spencer



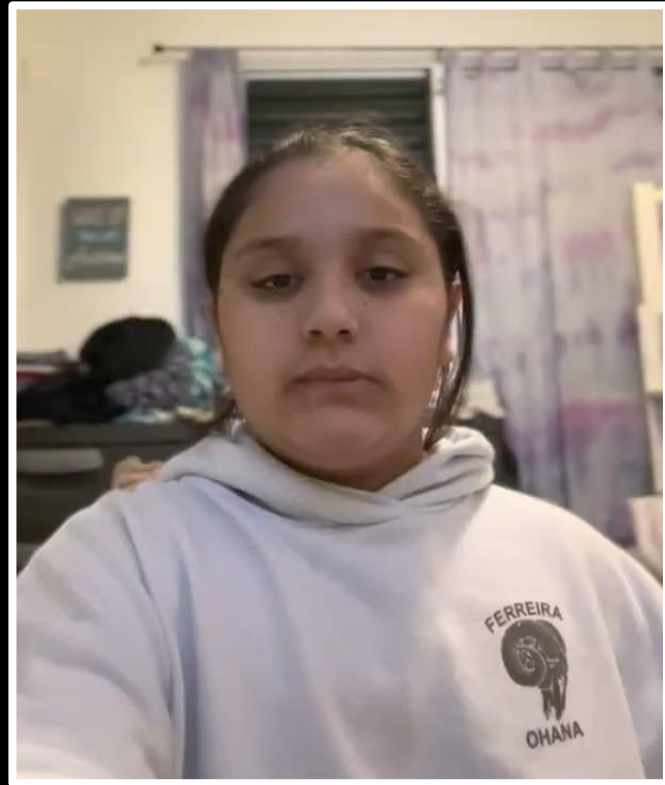
Kross Uemura
Kāneʻohe Elementary School
Student, Grade 4



Written Testimony
from Kross Uemura



Isabela Duenas
Kāneʻohe Elementary School
Student, Grade 5



Written Testimony
from Isabela Duenas



Tatiana Pana

*Kāneʻohe Elementary School
Student, Grade 5*



[Written Testimony
from Tatiana Pana](#)



Kumu Kathryn Ellwanger
Kāneʻohe Elementary School
Aloha Ambassador, Advisor

We, as Aloha Ambassadors, meet after school, two times a week, for an hour. We contribute our best amidst long school days, Covid surges, and short timelines. We come together with interest in serving our community.

I am pleased here, with the “heart” of our club. Amidst this hectic season of life, our Aloha Ambassadors give of themselves, even during off-school hours.

We support ‘Ōhi‘a Lehua. We consider this all to be important work as ‘Ōhi‘a Lehua has given and still, continues to.

More than this slideshow being an assignment of writing or a display of student presentation skills, our involvement is to show “**pure heart.**” Kid-made. Nothing super-fancy, considering our timeline, but of pure desire, coming together to express “our hearts.”

Last year, Governor Ige proclaimed April 25, 2020 as “Hawaii’s official ‘Ōhi‘a Lehua Day.” We hope that we can all come together this year to agree upon her well-deserved title as ‘Ōhi‘a Lehua - Hawaii State Endemic Plant. Mahalo nui loa!

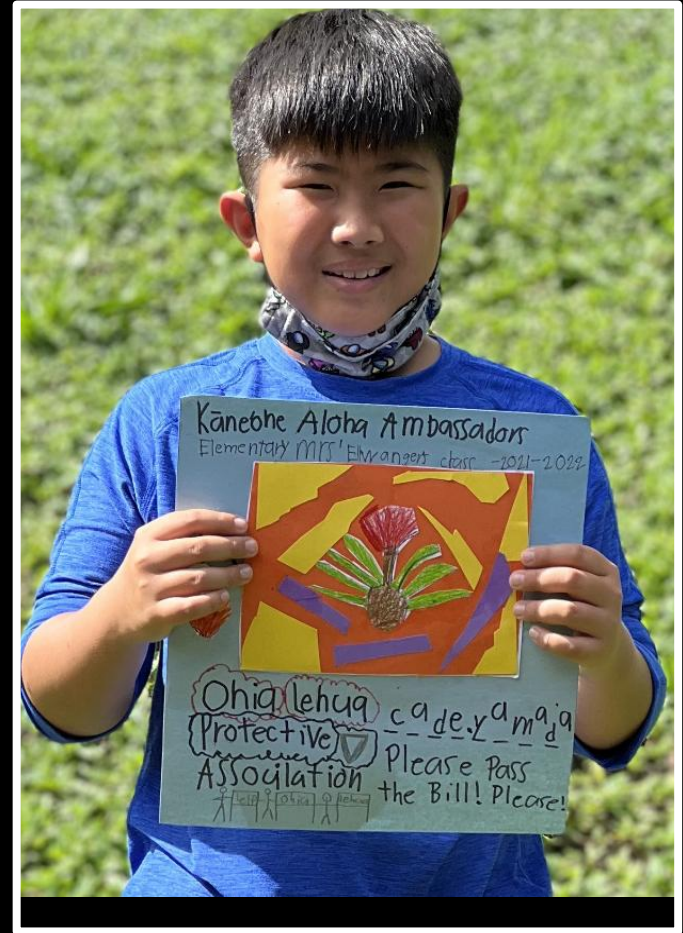


**BREAKING
NEWS**



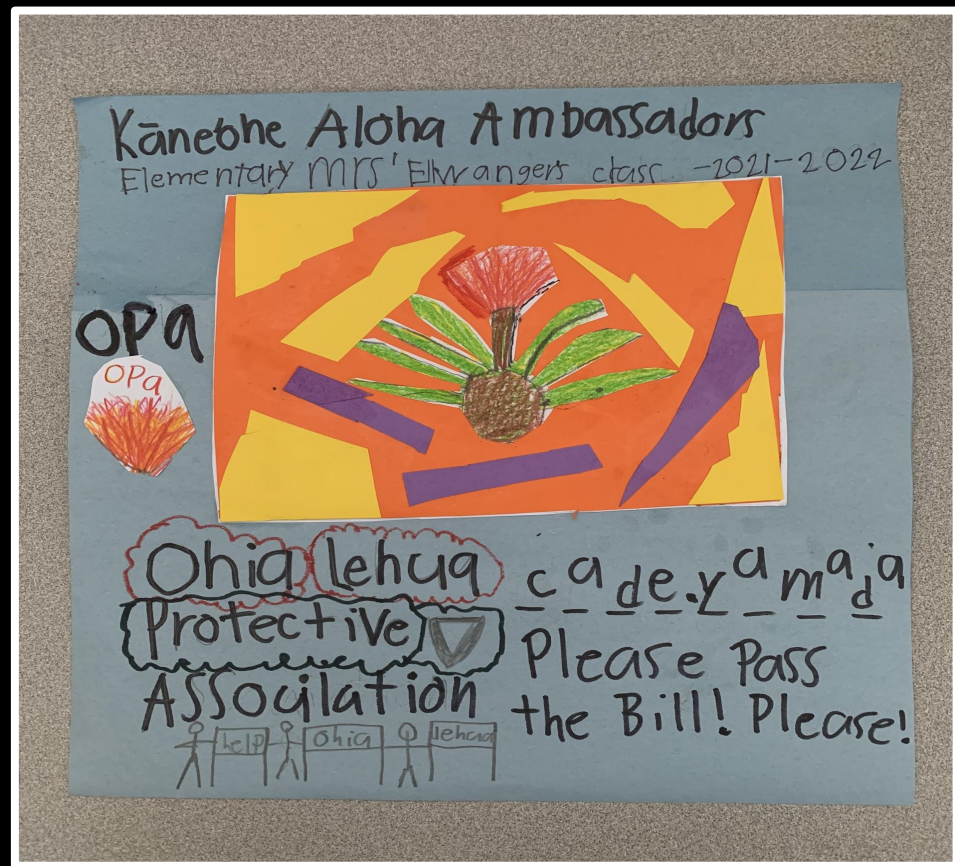














**We wear our beautiful,
club-designed, *Aloha
Ambassador* t-shirts with
great pride! Maika'i, team!**

**Mahalo, Kawika (@Strongarm
Unlimited) for your great
work! We appreciate you.**



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EDUCATION

Kaneohe Elementary kids make the case for ohia lehua

BY MICHAEL TSAI | HONOLULU

PUBLISHED 3:00 PM ET FEB. 26, 2022











SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 12:58:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dylan Erice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I Dylan Erice, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because Our Ohia trees are the backbone of the Hawaiian ecosystem and have been a part of Hawaiian history for a great amount of time. When disaster strikes on our land, the Ohia tree will be the first to grow, but with the Ohia tree being transported from other places, so will some foreign invaders. The foreign invaders such as the Ambrosia beetles could easily start making a home in the tree by eating and wooding the tree. If the tree has wounds then it would cause the Ceratocystis Fukushima and Ceratocystis Huliiohi fungi pathogen to eat and kill the Ohia tree from the inside out.

The Hawaiians used the Ohia wood to make buildings, poi pounding boards, statues, etc. The Ohia tree was the plant that rose from cooled lava and made way for the other plants to grow. With the Ohia tree dying, it is basically the same as if a part of the Hawaiian's rich culture was destroyed. The tree will slowly and surely die if we don't take a stand for it. Though some might not care about the tree nor do they see it as a good enough problem to see it in court, we can't deny the inevitable that if it dies the Hawaiian ecosystem will change drastically again. We do not want to make the same mistakes as history has already shown us what happens if we do. That is why the bill to make the Ohia tree the State Endemic Tree should be accepted for it will give a chance for many other human generations to see it in person and learn more from it.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Dylan Erice

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:00:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Evan Mizuuchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I

‘ōhia Testimony

The reason I support this bill is because the ‘ōhia lehua tree is the first tree to blossom after a lava flow. That is important because after some trees get covered, ‘ōhias will break up the lava rock and create soil. Also ‘ōhias are great water collectors, we need ‘ōhias because they put water in our aquifers. The aquifers give us drinkable water. Another reason why the ‘ōhia tree is important is because it's a strong durable tree because it can withstand lava. Lastly, the ‘ōhia tree is important because it's endemic to Hawaii.

Another reason why the 'ōhia lehua tree is important is because the tree has many uses like the bark is mashed up to help sore throats, 'ōhia was considered sacred, and was used to sculpt religious images. The 'ōhia tree is important because the different colors of the flower are used for leis. Some facts about the ohia tree is, it can grow from a shrub to a tall tree, trees are dying from something called R.O.D. (Rapid 'ōhia Death),the tree is born from legend, and if you pick the flower it will start to rain. That's why lei makers pick the flower when they exit.

Evan Mizuuchi am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Evan Mizuuchi

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:00:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dayton Calso	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I Dayton Calso am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because I support this bill because ‘ōhia was only found here. It’s even a part of Hawaiian culture and a part of legend. Back in the day the ancient Hawaiians used the ‘ōhia for many different reasons. There are 5 different species of ohia only found in Hawaii. Also it was one of the first plant species that grew from the cooled lava field.

They used the ‘ōhia tree wood so that they could make different tools to use for whatever needs that they needed it for. Also the ‘ōhia shelters and feeds the native endemic birds like the honeycreepers. There’s even a festival for it. Also the ‘ōhia tree plays multiple important roles for us, nature, wildlife, and tools. This shows that the ‘ōhia tree is really important so we should make the ‘ōhia tree the state endemic tree.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Daytpn Calso

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:00:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
LeiAlani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee

I, Lei Alani Irons , am in support of the Hb2202, relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate “ohi’a lehua ” as the state endemic tree of Hawai’i. The reason I am in support of this bill is because the Ohia tree is important to Hawaiian culture, the Ohia tree had songs, chants, and physical manifestations made about it. It's used everyday and is common. They are used for house posts , firewood, framing, and etc.

Sincerely,

Lei Alani Irons

Highlands Intermediate School Student

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:03:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clifton N Layman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House of Representatives

Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

March 29, 2022

2:00 PM, Conference Room 325

State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB 2059, Relating to State Native Tree

Aloha Chair Mark Nakashima, Vice Chair Scott Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

I am Clifton N. Layman, a sophomore at Kalaheo High School, and I am in support of SB 2059, Relating to State Native Tree, which would designate ohia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawai'i.

This bill is important to raise awareness for the wellbeing, preservation, and protection of ohia lehua, which is currently threatened by a fungus causing rapid ohia death (ROD). Ohia lehua is an important species, as it houses native bird species and colonizes new land after lava flow, and it is used in hula and other traditional culture practices. It would mean very much to my classmates and I if this bill were approved, encouraging our involvement in local government.

Thank you all for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Clifton N. Layman

Kalaheo High, 10th Grade

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:07:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isabella Kobiljak	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 2059, Relating to State Native Tree

Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

March 29,2022,

2:00pm, Conference Room 325

State Capitol

Dear Chair Rep Mark Nakashima, Vice Chair Rep Scot Matayoshi, and other member of the committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

My name is Isabella Kobiljak, Ohia is a PROLIFIC TREE THAT GROWS I N An AMAZING VARIETY OF FORMS. I am in support of SB 2059, Relating to State Native Tree which would designate ohia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

What makes this tree really important to me is that it is one of the prettiest trees and it holds so much Hawaiian history to it that I believe that it should be the Hawaiian state tree.

Thank you very much for listening.

Sincerely,

Isabella kobiljak

Grade 10

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:09:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
scarlet olsen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 2059, Relating to State Native Tree

Aloha Chair Rep. Mark Nakashima , Vice Chair Rep. Scot Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

I am a senior currently attending Kalaheo High School. I lived in the state of Hawaii my whole life. I am writing to ask for your support regarding SB2059 which seeks the importance of the ohia tree.

I lived in Hawaii my whole life, and I see the importance of the ohia tree, & why it should be our state tree. The ohia tree is only found in Hawaii, it's a home and supports our native birds. Not only is it a home but it is an endemic tree only found in Hawai'i.

Thank the Committee for their time and consideration

Sincerely,

Scarlet Olsen

Kalaheo High School, Grade 12

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:10:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marsella Zaliyanti	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House of Representatives

Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

March 29, 2022

2:00pm, Room 325

State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB 2059, Relating to State Native Tree

Aloha Chair Rep. Mark Nakashima, Vice Chair Rep. Scot Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

My name is Marsella Zaliyanti. I am in support of SB 2059, Relating to State Native Tree which would designate ‘Ohi’ a as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

This bill is very important because it will raise awareness for people who do not really understand how important the ‘Ohi’ a tree is. ‘Ohi’ a is the most important trees for native Hawaiian birds such as ‘Apapane and ‘Akohekohe, which get their food from nectar-producing flowers. A lot of extinct species would have fed often on ‘Ohi’ a, as well. ‘Ohi’ a is important for Hawaiian culture.

Thank you Chair Rep. Mark Nakashima, Vice Chair Rep. Scot Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee for your time.

Sincerely,

Marsella Zaliyanti

Kalaheo High School, 11th Grade

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:11:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isaac Salazar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House of Representatives

Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

March 29, 2022 at 2:00pm

Rm 325

State Capitol

Aloha Chair Rep. Mark Nakashima, Vice-Chair Rep. Scot Matayoshi., and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaii Affairs

I'm Isaac Salazar a Junior in Kalaheo High and I support the bill for designating the ohia plant to be our State endemic plant, or SB 2059. I support this bill because ohia has been used in most of the Hawaiian culture, and to keep the Hawaiian culture alive we have to raise awareness. It's also very important to me because I love historical plants and their uses, and ohia is one of those.

Thank you for your time and please consider passing the bill

Sincerely,

Isaac Salazar

Grade 11

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:11:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emerie Mitchell-Butler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB2059

Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

March 29, 2022 at 2:00pm

Rm 325

State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB 2059, Relating to state symbols

Aloha Chair Rep. Mark Nakashima, Vice Chair Rep. Scot Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs ,

I am Emerie Mitchell-Butler, a sophomore at Kalaheo High School. I am in support of SB2059 regarding the Hawaii state endemic tree. If passed, this bill would make Ohia Lehua the Hawaii state endemic tree.

I support this bill because it would bring awareness to Ohia Lehua. Ohia Lehua is extremely important for Hawaii's ecosystems. It is a keystone species, so many other organisms rely on it for survival. Ohia is threatened by by Rapid Ohia Death (ROD), so the passing of this bill would increase awareness, and therefore support for Ohia Lehua.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Emerie Mitchell-Butler

Kalaheo Highschool - grade 10

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:23:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kealii Camarillo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

March 29, 2022 at 2:00pm

Rm 325

State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB 2059, Relating to State Native Tree

Aloha Chair Mark M. Nakashima and Vice Chair Scot Z. Matayoshi and Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Kealii Camarillo and I am a student at Kalaheo High School. I'm currently taking a natural resources class and we just learned about the dangers Ohia is facing. So I am in support of SB 2059, relating to state native which would designate Ohia Lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawai'i.

I feel it would be a good thing for everyone if this bill passed because if it does the trees would be in less danger and the wildlife that lives in them would be able to flourish for all to see. I've lived here most of my life so if something like Ohia were to disappear it wouldn't be the same and I believe others think so as well, so if this bill were to pass it wouldn't only make me happy but everyone from Hawai'i as well. Ohia is family and if it were to be torn away from the people of Hawai'i it would deeply hurt us all.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely

Kealii Camarillo

Kalaheo High School Grade 10

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:27:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mia Ha-Rozewski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Mia Ha-Rozewski, support this bill because the Ohia is an extremely important tree in Hawaii, economically, culturally, and environmentally. Ohia and its wood is used for construction, design, and as a symbol in the stories, songs, and chants of Hawaiian culture. Moreover, this tree is a keystone species, meaning protecting it means protecting all the ecosystems in Hawaii.

As a kid, seeing the withering ohia trees was saddening, and I wish now to help any efforts to save it. I hope that you will consider this bill to protect the ohia, and spread awareness about what it is and its importance. Mahalo for your consideration.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Mia Ha-Rozewski

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:27:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Haylie Ideue	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara,

Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Haylie Ideue, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the ‘ōhia is very significant to Hawai’i. The ‘ōhia tree collects water for us, helps provide furniture and buildings. The ‘ōhia tree is used as a home/food source for many endangered species in Hawai’i. We do not want to replace the Kukui nut tree so the ‘ōhia tree as a state endemic tree would be fitting. Having the ‘ōhia as the state endemic tree is a very good way to help protect the endangered species of the island.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Haylie Ideue

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:30:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isabella Acosta	Highlands Intermediate School	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

DATE: March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I, Isabella Acosta, am in support of the bill SB2059, which would officially make the ‘Ohi’a tree the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

In my science class, me and my peers have been learning about the importance of the ‘Ohi’a tree. This tree is very significant, as it is a part of Hawaiian culture and supports many forms of life. While learning about the ‘Ohi’a tree, I was informed that there is Rapid ‘Ohi’a Death, a fungus which causes ‘Ohi’a trees to die very quickly. By naming the ‘Ohi’a Tree the state endemic tree to Hawaii, it would bring everyone's attention to this tree and we can all do our best to prevent ROD. My peers and I would greatly appreciate it if you put this bill into consideration, so that Hawaii’s ‘Ohi’a trees’ health is guaranteed. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Isabella Acosta

8th Grade Student

Highlands Intermediate School

1460 Ho'olaulea Street

Pearl City, HI 96782

(808) 307-5000

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:33:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kohana Mcpherson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara,

Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding 'ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I Kohana Mcpherson am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because it helps the surrounding environment. It helps the surrounding environment because it is a cornerstone for species around the world and it is also important to Hawaiian history.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Kohana Mcpherson

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:33:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ian Kawamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I Ian Kawamura am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because this endemic tree is only found in Hawaii and is the home to many of our native birds. The ohia lehua is very precious and helpful to us in many ways. Not only is the tree very beautiful, it provides us with many resources such as medicine from the leaves, nectar for numerous amount of native Hawaiian birds, and the wood is used for firewood, house posts, fencing, decoration, and many more. Culturally the ohia lehua is celebrated in chants, songs, dances, and decoration. However many of the ohia are dying due to this fungus that can travel through us from our shoes and boots. The reason I support this bill is because these trees are super helpful to not just us but to other native species but due to rapid death in ohia many of these areas are becoming barren. I believe that if there was a bill that made ohia the state endemic tree, people would be more careful and care more for this extraordinary tree.

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:33:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Romnick Pasion	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I Romnick Pasion am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because of the importance it has on native birds, insects, and other animals like the ‘i’iwi, ‘apapane, ‘akohekohe, ‘akiapola’au, The tree is important to these animals because it provides them with food and shelter. The ohi’a tree is a home for many native insects and snails and are important for landscape because they provide good sunlight, rich organic soil, and excellent drainage. The Ohi’a tree is a pioneer plant that prepares the area for future species to grow and it’s trunks act as nurse logs, supplying nutrients, water, and protection for native seedlings. The Ohi’a tree is also woven into Hawaiian culture through symbology in songs, chants, and stories. The Ohi’a tree is a very important tree to the environment and is currently being threatened by Rapid Ohi’a Death and if the tree were to die out a lot of good for our environment would be lost but if it became the state endemic tree that could save the Ohi’a tree.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Romnick Pasion

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:34:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Mills	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Hannah Mills, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because I, Hannah Mills, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the Ohi’a tree has been a very important part of Hawaii’s culture and its history. We have and still use Oh’a for many things like Kapa cloth beaters, boards for poi pounding, and homes, Hawaiians even used the leaves from the trees for medicinal teas. The trees are also very important for the environment as well, their branches provide homes for birds, and the flowers and seeds provide food for them as well. Also the Ohi’a trees help to replenish the natural aquifers. To add on, the Ohi’a tree is one of the plants to emerge from the lava fields when Hawaii was created. So this is why the Ohi’a tree should become the State Endemic Tree, in hopes that we can protect it more from Ceratocystis Frimbriata. Thank you for reading my testimony.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Hannah Mills

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:36:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelcie Matsumoto	Highlands Intermediate School	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Kelcie Matsumoto, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because of the environmental impact ohī’a has in Hawai’i. The ohī’a is a keystone & pioneer species as well as being endemic to Hawaii. As a pioneer plant it is the first to inhabit cooled lava fields. Ohī’a trunks are nurseries for saplings, providing them with nutrients, water & protection. It breaks up soil allowing other species to grow. It provides for its ecosystem, an important shelter & food source to many animals, including endemic & native birds. Various others like insects, snails, & other invertebrates make their homes in ohī’a forests. Forests made of ohī’a trees collect water, replenishing the aquifers we use.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Kelcie Matsumoto

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:36:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richelle Javar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I Richelle Javar am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because I have researched about the Ohia tree and have learned that the Ohia tree is important to the island of Hawaii. The tree takes up the largest part of the canopy in the native wet forest, which provides shelter and food for a variety of native birds and animals, like the honeycreeper. They also provide not only for animals but also humans too, they use their trunks as a nursery log to supply nutrients, water, and protection for natie seeding and epiphytes. Which also provides drinking and irrigation water for the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Richelle Javar

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:36:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rylah	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee.

I, (Rylah) , am in support of SB2059, relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate "ohi'a lehua " as the state endemic tree of Hawai'i.

(Your reasoning below)

The reason I support this bill is because it's resourceful and it has a lot of meaning. For example, the roots of the ohia help prepare the area for the future plant species to begin growing. The ohia provided shelter/food to insects and snails. Several hawaiian native birds feed on ohia,no other native hawaiian plant is found in a greater #of variants. The ohia tree is 7000 feet of elevation. Ohia was put into songs, oili(chants), and stories. Ohia is used for purposes for ancient hawaiians. For example the wood was used as structures and statues, it was also used for poi boards. The flowers were used for medicine purposes and nectar feed Hawaiian birds. These are the reasons why the ohia should become endemic tree.

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:37:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jazmin Anjolak	Highlands Intermediate school	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Jazmin Anjolak, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because I have recently learned that the ‘Ōhi‘a tree is very important to Hawai‘i because of how much it provides. For example, it provides drinking and irrigation water for Hawai‘i. The roots of the tree help prepare new areas for future plants to grow. The trunks act as nurse logs therefore, supplying nutrients.

Not only does the ‘Ōhi‘a tree provide for its own environment, but it also provides for its culture and people. For example, it serves as a physical manifestation. The wood of the tree is used for ceremonial structures like temples. The ‘Ōhi‘a tree also goes way back into Hawaiian culture, from stories to songs to chants. It’s even used to create things like Hawaiian weapons, kapa clothes, and boards to pound poi.

By removing this tree, this would be a loss to many species and people. I hope after reading this bill, you will take it into consideration to protect our beloved 'Ōhi'a tree at any cost.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Jazmin Anjolak

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:39:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ayda soto	highlands intermediant school	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, February 14, 2022

TIME: 3:10 PM

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara,

Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I _____Ayda Soto_____ (student name) am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because we have a personal connection with that. Hula dancers wear Ohia on their Leis and what is on the Lei is important because it goes along with the mele (dance). We hold a good connection to it so takinking it aways is like taking our culture and it's a part of our cualter. SO ripping that aways is ripping a part of us away.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Ayda Soto

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:40:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marlie Oshiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Marlie Oshiro, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the ‘Ōhi’a tree is important to Hawaii. The ‘Ōhi’a tree should be the state endemic tree because the ‘Ōhi’a tree is very resourceful and helpful to the environment, the native animals, and the people of Hawaii. The ‘Ōhi’a tree is resourceful because its wood can be used for kapa cloth beaters, pounding poi board, building statues, and building structures. Now if you have a child or children, imagine what pain your wife or girlfriend would be in while giving birth. The ‘Ōhi’a lehua or flower blossoms is used mainly for medical purposes, for example easing the pain of childbirth. The nectar of the ‘Ōhi’a lehua feeds the native birds of Hawaii. This is the reason that I support the bill saying that the ‘Ōhi’a tree is to be the state endemic tree. There are also so many other reasons that the ‘Ōhi’a should become the state endemic tree. This is because not only is it very resourceful and helpful to Hawaii and it’s people but the mo’olelo, the olis, the meles. The ‘Ōhi’a tree is very important to them all.

For all these reasons I support the thought of the ‘Ōhi’a Lehua becoming the state endemic tree.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Marlie Oshiro

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:41:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Khiena Lei Rhian Talon	Highlands Intermediate School	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Khiena Talon, am writing to support SB2059, relating to the state endemic tree which would designate Ohia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii. I support this bill because when learning about the ohia tree in class, I've realized how important it is. For example, we could use the tree to create weapons, or kapa cloth beaters, or boards used for pounding poi, etc. Ohia tree's leaves can be used as medical tea, flowers, and seeds to feed native birds. There are ways for ohia trees to be resourceful and important. I was devastated to hear that ohia trees are dying from fungus. The fungus would clog the tree's vascular system, depriving the canopy of water, then it causes the tree to turn yellow to brown then die. There are several ways to carry the fungus, and kill the ohia tree. I hope this letter helps bring more attention to ohia trees so we could help it to be extinct.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Khiena Lei Rhian Talon

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:45:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Rogers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Reps Nakashima and Matayoshi and House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

I am writing to submit my strong support of SB2059, naming 'Ōhi'a as the State Endemic Tree of Hawaii. This recognition will do much to continue generating awareness and support of 'ōhi'a as critical to our watershed and as the backbone of Hawaii's native forest where it provides needed sustenance for countless endangered flora and fauna. 'Ōhi'a is a beloved member of our community. Let's give 'ōhi'a a boost of support and appreciation.

Mahalo,

Kim Rogers

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:48:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jray-Joseph Vele	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am Jray-Joseph Vele and am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the people of Hawaii know ‘Ōhi‘a Tree is really important to the People of Hawaii and the people before them. It is known well as one of the most Native Hawaiian Trees. The ‘Ōhi‘a Tree is told in stories, Sang in Songs, and is said during a chant. Today it is used for flooring, housing decorations, fencing posts, and firewood. ‘Ōhi‘a stands as one of the most vital trees of Hawaiian Forests. The ‘Ōhi‘a tree also comes in a variety of colors. They commonly bloom in blossom scarlet red, salmon, garnet, yellow, and on special occasions, white.

‘Ōhi‘a tree makes up the largest portion of the canopy in the wet native forests. They provide shelter and food for the birds that live near them and they stabilize basically all of the plants in the ecosystem that they are in. Lastly, when the plants spring up after the lava flow, the Native Hawaiians think that the ‘Ōhi‘a lehua have a kind of resilience, strength, and grace about them.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Jray-Joseph Vele

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:52:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Demmie John Namnama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I Demmie John Namnama am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

The reason I support this bill is because of the great benefits of the ‘Ōhi‘a tree as it serves as a habitat for a lot of animals and insects. The ‘Ōhi‘a also helps the environment due to it being able to soak up the water then gives water. ‘Ōhi‘a is also important to Hawaiian culture because it’s ceremonial. The Wood of the ‘Ōhi‘a can be used for building and firewood.

‘Ōhi‘a is really important because it's a pioneer species and it's been in Hawaii for so long. The ‘Ōhi‘a is also a keystone species so it holds the ecosystem together. The ‘Ōhi‘a could be used for furniture. The ‘Ōhi‘a protects endangered species as it serves as a habitat for all kinds of species

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Demmie John Namnama

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:52:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kainalu Kaohe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Kainalu Kaohe, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the Ohia trees benefit their environment in many ways. For example, They benefit birds by giving them numerous amounts of food and shelter. Their are also significant to other animals such as Insects and snails. Overall, these trees should be marked as a state and endemic tree because of their value and significance to the environment in many various ways.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Kainalu Kaohe

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:52:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Logan arakaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am Logan Arakaki and I am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because of 2 reasons the first being that its culturally important to the Hawaii islands because of it being a pioneer plant its one of the first plants that can grow threw cooled lava. Theres a long list of the things that ‘Ōhi‘a is culturally important but to show it through Stories,songs,and chants.‘Ōhi‘a wood not only the flowers are important but some examples of ‘Ōhi‘a wood being used is flooring,house posts,decoration,furniture,and etc.

The second reason being its biologically important is it gives us water. The ‘Ōhi‘a trees collect the water and then it goes through the roots then into the waterbed below so if we don't have enough ‘Ōhi‘a it affects the way we live and how we are supposed to get water.They also provide shelter and food for birds including the endemic honeycreepers also insects,snails,and other invertebrates.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Logan Arakaki

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:53:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
BraydeM	Highlands Inter School	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Brayden Paschall am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because of the fact that it provides shelter to a wide variety of animals. It is also very important to Hawaiian culture. Additionally it captures mist and rain water that replenishes the island’s aquifers. Bill 2059 is super important for many more reasons like the ohia wood is used for various ceremonial structures on temples, the trunks act as nurse logs supplying nutrients and water and protection for native birds and seedlings and epiphytes.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Brayden Paschall

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:53:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jansen Sye	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I Jansen Sye and am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the Ohia tree is very significant to the culture and the ecosystem of Hawaii. There are so many things linked to the ohia tree from the water system to the formation of forests on lava rock. The Ohia Tree is one of the only keystone species. The beautiful island we are on now most likely wouldn't be possible if the Ohia tree didn't exist.

There are hundreds of cultural uses for Ohia ranging from leis' to furniture. There have also been legends on how it was formed. Many are very significant to the culture of Hawaii and are often used in big events, most notably the Merrie Monarch Festival using the Ohia flowers. Nonetheless it deserves to be the Hawaii State endemic tree.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Jansen Sye

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:53:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lily Porrazza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I, Lily Makanaokalani Porrazza, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because I am writing to you in support of SB 2059 regarding ‘Ōhi‘a becoming the state endemic tree.

The reason I support this bill is because the ‘ōhi‘a is culturally important to us and our land. The ‘ōhi‘a tree is culturally important to us because the ‘ōhi‘a wood was used to make culturally important objects to us and the land, the ‘ōhi‘a sturdy wood was used to create weapons, kapa clothes beaters, boards for pounding poi, enclosures and statues. These objects resemble our history back then. Today ‘ōhi‘a is used for flooring, house posts and fencing posts, decoration and firewood.

Another reason to support this bill is that the ‘ōhi‘a tree is a food source and provides shelter to animals and insects. The ‘ōhi‘a tree is the largest portion of conopany in naive wet forests. Several native Hawaiian birds, such as the ‘i‘iwi and the apapane and akohekohe feed on flowers and seeds from the tree. Their tree trunks act as nurse logs, supplying nutrients,water and protection to native seedlings and plants. Their canopies capture mist and rain water that replenish our island.This provides drinking and irrigation water for Hawaii. This bill will help keep our ‘ōhi‘a to be safe and grow which in the end will benefit us and our land.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Lily Makanaokalani Porrazza

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:53:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rowen Guzman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I, Rowen Guzman, am writing to support SB2059. The reason I support this bill is because this tree can really make a difference in Hawai'i if it were to be gone. This tree provides water for our land, for our drinking and for public use etc. Although the state tree is the Kukui tree, the 'Ohi'a is something to take care of. Without this tree, Hawai'i wouldn't have such clean water. We would be just like the mainland who have not so great water quality. Hawai'i's water is from the 'Ohi'a trees to the clean streams to pipes and to our faucets. This tree isn't here because it can be, it's here because it needs to be. This tree is a super important tree in Hawai'i. 'Ohi'a is not only for people, but for endangered animals as well.

'Ohi'a trees take care of most endangered species that are a part of Hawai'i. The 'Ohi'a tree allows endangered species to get nutrients and water to survive. Otherwise, these animals would probably go extinct. Now if an 'Ohi'a tree or any tree were to be next to a volcanic eruption they would obviously die. After an eruption is done, the 'Ohi'a Lehua is the first thing to grow, creating our forests. 'Ohi'a trees are very important for our water and animals for our island. The 'Ohi'a trees are also dieing making it more of something to

take care of. The longer we take care of it, the longer it'll take care of us. Everyone just has to help keep this tree alive.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Rowen Akio Guzman

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:54:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Slattery	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, John Slattery, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the tree is very endangered and a key part of our island's culture, including agriculture and is home to many endemic insects and this bill would help this integral part of our islands survive.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

John Slattery

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:55:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsey Oamil	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I Kelsey Oamil am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because , It has a big part in Hawaiian culture. The ‘Ohi’a tree has a very big impact on the culture and on the islands of Hawai’i which is VERY important , because it was symbolized through stories , chants , and songs.Why, you may ask ? The ‘Ohi’a tree also holds a very significant biological culture with evonical value. Moving on , The ‘Ohi’a tree provides us many different things we need like clean water for us to drink , weapons , and it can be used for shelters for the insects , snails , and the ('Tiwi & 'Akiapola'au) native bird. Which is why we should take action into protecting and supporting the ‘Ohi’a Bill to not get it into extinction.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Kelsey Oamil

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:55:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaycie Shibata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I Jaycie Shibata am writing to support bill SB2059. I support this bill because

The reason I support this bill is because this tree is very important to Hawaii. It is important to Hawaii for many reasons. One reason is the fact that the 'Ōhi'a tree is a pioneer keystone species in Hawaii. Another reason is that 'Ōhi'a are woven deeply into Hawaiian culture through symbology in mo'olelo, mele, and 'oli.

A few reasons that it is important that 'Ōhi'a tree is important that it is a keystone species are because it can grow in any type of environment, it prepares the area for future plant species (it also helps an endangered species), and finally it also helps make shelter and a food source for animals. A few reasons it is important that the Ōhi'a tree is important due to the fact that it is woven deeply into Hawaiian culture through symbology are because it makes up many Hawaiian deities, it was also used for various ceremonial purposes, and it

also makes lehua which is used to describe someone who is an expert in their field, it also showed the bloodshed of war and the first warrior to fall in battle.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Jaycie Shibata

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:57:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gregory perez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I Gregory Perez is writing to support bill SB2059. I support this bill because ‘ōhia is important to life as it supplies water,shelter,and food to wild life.It is a pioneer keystone plant that starts forests and it grows 9,000 feet from sea level.‘ōhia has a very strong cultural importance to hawaiians in hula and songs.It has very colorful flowers that gather the rainfall.The wood was used for many tools like the cloth beaters and many buildings or temples.

‘Ōhia stands as one of the most important trees in the Hawaiian forests.It collects water from mist and rainfall and keeps it storage underground it supplies water to other plant living organisms in the area the ‘ōhia lives in.In the end ‘ōhia is one of the most important trees in hawaiian forests and culture it should be protected because of that.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Gregory Perez

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:58:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordyn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I Jordyn Hodson, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because ‘Ōhia is an endemic pioneer keystone species in Hawaii. As a pioneer plant, it is one of the first plants to grow on a cooled lava field. It collects our water and has the most honeycreepers. Furthermore, most forests are still healthy, it’s the main food source for our hawaiian birds. Many insects live there and they only grow here in Hawaii.

‘Ōhi‘a serve as the sacred kinolau (physical manifestations) of multiple Hawaiian deities such as Kū (god of war and manifestations), Laka (goddess of hula), Pele (goddess of the volcano), Hi‘iaka (sister of Pele), and Kāne (god of water). ‘Ōhi‘a wood was used for various ceremonial structures on heiau (temples). The red of lehua (‘ōhi‘a blossoms) was seen as a reflection of the bloodshed of war, and "lehua" was a term used for the first warrior to fall in battle. The word “lehua” still is used to describe someone who is an expert in his or her field.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Jordyn Hodson

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:59:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Laulu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The House of Representatives

Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

March 28, 2022

1:04 pm, 6 pd Class

State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB2059

Aloha Chair Mark Nakashima,

I, Malia Laulu, am in support of HB 123, relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate ohia'lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

I have learned that ohia'lehua is extremely important to Hawai'i, 'ohia'lehua is the most common native tree species in the main islands. It is also one of the most important trees for native Hawaiian birds such as 'Apapane and 'Akohekohe, which get their food from nectar-producing flowers. Dozens of extinct species would have fed frequently on 'ohia'lehua, too. Ohia'lehua are the most abundant, ecologically important, and culturally significant plants in Hawaii. They provide shelter and food for numerous native birds, including endemic Hawaiian nectar-feeding honeycreepers such as the 'apapane and 'i'iwi, as well as innumerable insects, snails and other invertebrates. I hope you can keep this possible bill in mind as it will help bring protection for the ohia'lehua. Mahalo for listening.

Sincerely,

Malia Laulu

Student at Waipahu High School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:59:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Avery Hawkins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I Avery Hawkins am writing to support SB2059.

I support this bill because the ‘Ohi’a Lehua is important to Hawaiian culture. The early Hawaiians used the sturdy wood to make weapons. They made boards for poi pounding the leaves were used as medicinal tea. The seeds fed the native bird. The tree provided shelter for the early hawaiians. It was one of the first plants to colonize new lava flows. The ‘Ohi’a Lehua is indiginous to the Hawaiian Islands and originated within Hawaii.

It is important that we keep the ‘Ohi’a Lehua alive and a part of our community. If we did anything to this tree I'm sure that it will upset our ancestors that may be looking down on us from above. It was created for a special reason. If you had created something that helped your community and that supported your community and many years later that

**same community slowey started to kill that thing, you wouldn't be too happy would you?
You wouldn't, right? So why are we doing it to the 'Ohi'a Lehua.**

This is why I support the 'Ohi'a Lehua bill. We must protect our home, Our aina.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Avery Hawkins

Highlands Intermediate School

The Government Operations
Committee of Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
March 28,2022
State Capitol
House of Representatives
March 28 ,2022

Testimony in support of SB 2059

Aloha Chair Mark Nakashima,

I, Kien Leong, am in support of SB 2059, Relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate Ohia Lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

I have recently learned that the Ohia is very important to Hawaii's aquifers, and that it is vital to native Hawaiian birds and insects. Which means it is vital to protecting native and endemic species. Also they are being killed by Rapid Ohia death and a rust that is killing the Ohia.

Overall, it would be devastating not only to Hawaiian culture and beauty but to other native species to lose the Ohia.

Sincerely,
Kien Leong
Waipahu High School student
Class of 2022

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 2:00:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Koy Manding	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House of Representatives

Committee of Water and Land

Committee of Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Mar 28, 2022

Testimony in support of HB 123

Dear Chair Mark Nakashima ,

I want to thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to read this testimony. I write this to you today because I am in support of SB 2059, relating to the state endemic tree which would designate 'Ohi'a Lehua' as the state endemic tree of Hawaii. There has been a fungus going around and harming our Ohia tree, this is a problem because this can ultimately lead to a massive decrease of the population or even worse, extinction. On top of that, the Ohia is endemic to Hawaii meaning it can only be found here only, so preserving this tree is very important, in order to do so we ask that we try and make the Ohia tree our new state endemic tree. This will help raise awareness and hopefully make Ohia our top priority. Thank you for your time and hope that we can work together to save our tree.

Mahalo,

Koy Manding

Waipahu High School

Class of 2023

The House of Representatives
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
State Capitol
March 28 ,2022

Testimony in Support of SB 2059

Aloha, Chair Mark N. Nakashima and other members of the House of Representatives, I Christian Hernaez are in **support of SB 2059**, Relating to State Endemic Tree which would designate ohia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawai'i.

I have recently learned that It is critical to restore native plant habitat in order to preserve biodiversity. Each area of habitat becomes part of a collective effort to maintain by constructing native plant gardens. In addition, I've learnt how to keep a living landscape alive for birds and other animals. I hope you will consider this bill as it will help to bring protections for our beloved ohia. Mahalo for your consideration

Sincerely,
Christian Hernaez
Waipahu High School
Class of 2023

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 2:01:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Faapaia Fualema	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House of Representatives

Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

March, 28, 2022

1:55pm, 6 period

Testimony in Support of SB 2059

Aloha Chair Mark Nakashima, and the members of the Committee,

I, Faapaia Fualema am in support of SB 2059, relating to having a state tree which should be ‘ohia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Besides Ohia Lehua having nice bright red color the reason why it should be the state endemic tree of Hawaii is because ‘Ōhi‘a trees make up the largest portion of the canopy in native wet forests. They provide shelter and food for numerous native birds, including endemic Hawaiian nectar-feeding honeycreepers such as the ‘apapane and ‘i‘iwi, as well as innumerable insects, snails and other invertebrates. Mahalo for your laulima please consider my plea to make ‘Ohia lehua the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Faapaia Fualema

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 2:01:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina Chan	Highlands Intermediate	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Aloha representative Nakashima, Representative Matayoshi and members of this committee,

I am writing in support of SB2059. This year my students had a wonderful experience learning about the ‘ōhia lehua tree. Students have learned about the biological and cultural significance of the tree. The most important thing is that they fell in love with the tree. Students go on walks, whether in their neighborhood, or out on a nature walk and always notice the ‘ohia lehua. They are so excited to report a sighting and take pictures of the blossoms. They feel honored and blessed to be in the presence of such a significant tree. My students have conducted a fair amount of research about the tree, and they will send you testimony in support of the research they have found most significant to them.

As their teacher, I am proud to see them doing their research and coming to the same conclusion that it should be elevated to the ranks of our state endemic tree. We hope you support our cause.

Thank you for reading my testimony.

E mālama pono,

Christina Chan

8th grade science teacher

Highlands Intermediate School

1460 Ho'olaulea Street

Pearl City Hawaii, 96782

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 2:03:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angel Sotelo-Mau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I am writing Testimony in support of SB2059 regarding ‘ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

I Angel Sotelo-mau am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the ohia plant is found only in Hawaii. It only grows on volcanic rock and it helps collect water for other plants and animals. It can also be used for hula adornments and the nectar is also consumed by the honeycreeper.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Angel Sotelo-mau

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 2:04:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grace Jung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I, Grace Jung, am in support of the ‘Ohi’a Bill SB2059, relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate “ohi’a lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawai’i. Since it represents the state tree of Hawai’i it is very important to keep the trees here. If people take down the ‘Ohi’a Lehua’ tree, it will go extinct and the value of it will also leave Hawai’i. People have cherished this tree for years and it is important to keep it for the future generations. The ‘Ohi’a Lehua tree also benefits us. It provides food for the birds. These birds are just any birds either, these birds are our Native birds. It is also safe to say that keeping our Native resources/ creatures is important because it can both help us and represent our state. These Native things only appear in one spot and for us it is Hawai’i. It wouldn’t be smart to take away something from our state and replace it.

Sincerely,

Grace Jung

Highlands Intermediate Student

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 2:05:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chloe-ann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Nakashima and Representative Matayoshi,

I chloe-ann am writing to you in support of bill SB 2059. I support this Ohia bill because the ohia tree provides food and shelter for insects, and snails.I also support the ohia bill because ohia is a part of Hawaiian culture through symbolism in stories,songs and chants. ‘Ōhi‘a is also highly valued in commerce.‘Ohi‘a wood is used for flooring, house posts, fencing posts, decoration, framing of traditional hale, and firewood. ‘Ōhi‘a seedlings are also among the most sought-after plants for native landscaping. Ecologically and culturally, ‘ōhi‘a stands as one of the most vitally important trees of Hawaiian forests.That is the reason why I support this ohia bill.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Chloe-ann

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 2:05:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Phoenix Torres	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Government Operations
Committee of Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
March 28, 2022
State Capitol
House of Representatives

Testimony in Support of SB 2059

Aloha Chair Mark Nakashima, I, Phoenix Torres am in support of SB 2059, Relating to State Endemic Tree which designate ohia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii. I have recently found out/learned about what the ohia lehua is and how it is important in our economy. The ohia lehua is a sturdy tree that can be used to create weapons, clothes, and a poi pounder. The leaves on the tree can be used as a medicine to help cure sicknesses. The color of the ohia lehua is a very bloodshot red, but blossom in salmon, and yellow but not often. The ohia lehua can grow to 12 feet in a span of 6-8 years. The ohia lehua is the most common native tree species in the main islands. It is also one of the most important trees for native Hawaiian birds such as 'Apapane and 'Akohekohe, which get their food from nectar-producing flowers. It would be an honor to be able to go out and experience more about this ohia lehua tree and actually get to use parts of the tree as useful items that can help people and the economy as a whole. Thank you for reading and taking the time to see what I am talking about and how it would be a great idea to find out more about this endemic tree.

Mahalo,
Phoenix Torres
Waipahu High School
Class of 2023

House of Representatives
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
March 28, 2022

Testimony in support of SB2059

Aloha Chair Mark Nakashima, I, Kayla Alviar-Costa am in support of SB2059, Relating to state endemic tree which would designate 'ohia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawai'i.

I have recently learned that ohia is a important state plant. It is a plant you can only find on Oahu, its mostly seen in the mountains like while you're hiking. The leaves on the tree could be used as a medicine for sickness, it is a very dark red leaf. Also, the 'ohia tree raise awareness and support for conservation efforts of 'ohia including the Rapid 'Ohi'a death response. I really hope you will consider this bill, thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Kayla Alviar-Costa
Waipahu High School
Class of 2023

The House of Representatives
Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
March 28, 2022

Testimony in support of SB2059

Aloha Chairman Mark Nakashima,

Recently, I learned about our endemic 'Ohi'a Lehua tree and the problem it faces. There is a fungus that harms the trees and ultimately kills them known as Rapid 'Ohi'a Death, which is a threat and can lead to a decrease in our 'Ohi'a. It is really important considering this tree is only found here in Hawaii and is special to the people. Making this tree the new state endemic tree would also help raise awareness for the issue of 'Ohi'a and the threat that it faces. I hope that you will consider this bill as it will raise awareness about Rapid 'Ohi'a Death and ultimately prevent this tree from extinction. Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to read my letter.

Sincerely,
Austin Ibera

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 2:09:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kimberly ramones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House of representative Thirty - First Legislature, 2021 State of Hawaii
Testimony in Support of HB 123

Aloha Chair Mark Nakashima, American politician, and member of Hawaii state, I kim ramones am in support of SB2059, relating to The legislature finds that at least fifteen states have legislative term limits, which range from six to twelve years. Although the backing for enacting legislative term limits does have merit in certain circumstances, to promote fairness and equity between separate and co-equal branches of government any term limits for legislators should be longer than the term limit of the governor of the applicable state.

Since the governor of Hawaii is subject to a term limit of two consecutive full terms, or eight years, enacting similar legislative term limits for legislators in Hawaii would make the State legislators weaker

and the governor stronger due to the broad constitutional, statutory, and rule-making powers of the governor and the governor's administration. For example, the governor already has widespread authority and discretion through the executive branch; the governor has considerable budget powers, including restricting funds; and there is no elected state treasurer, attorney general, or secretary of state, as is the case in most states. To maintain a modicum of balance of powers in Hawaii between the legislative and executive branches of government, legislative term limits should be longer than the governor's term limit. This Act is intended to start a discussion about legislative terms limits and the number of years for these limits.

Sincerely, Kim ramones

Student at waipahu highschool

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 2:11:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hunter Hall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The House of Representatives

Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

March 28, 2022

Testimony in support of SB2059

Aloha Chair Mark Nakashima,

I, Hunter Hall, am here to support the SB2059, Regarding a state endemic tree, which would identify 'Ohi'a lehua as Hawai'i's state endemic tree. I recently learnt that 'ōhi'a lehua is critical to the perpetuation and protection of Hawaiian culture, as well as serving as a core species in our forest and a vital water gatherer to restore our state aquifers. I've also suddenly discovered that there are a number of concerns, like the Rapid 'ōhi'a Death and a rust that threatens the species and would be devastating to all life forms from the mountains to the seas. I hope you will take this bill into consideration since it will assist to protect our beloved 'ōhi'a lehua. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

Hunter Hall

Waipahu High School

Class of 2023

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 2:14:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kadence Barcenilla	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Government Operations

Committee of Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

March 28, 2022

State Capitol

House of Representatives

Testimony in Support of SB 2059

Aloha Chair Mark Nakashima, I, Kadence Barcenilla are in support of SB 2059, Relating to the State Endemic Tree which is the ‘Ohi’a Lehua. I know that the ‘Ohi’a tree is very important to Hawaii’s culture, economics and that it makes up the largest portion of our native forests. I know that this tree helps gather and store water for our state. However, this tree is rapidly decreasing because of a new fungal pathogen known as the ceratocystis fimbriata. I hope you will accept this and help save our ‘Ohi’a tree. Mahalo.

Mahalo,

Kadence Barcenilla

Waipahu High School

Class of 2023

LATE

Senate
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
March 29, 2022
2:00 PM, Room 325
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB 2059, Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Mark Nakashima, Vice Chair Scot Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Kanoa Makaanahale Ventura-Barreto and I am in support of SB 2059, *Relating to State Symbols*, which would designate ohia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Giving ohia lehua the designation of Hawaii's state endemic tree would help teach people that some species are native and that native ecosystems are important. Some people are under the impression that forests throughout Hawaii lack meaningful differences.

It is fitting that my middle name is Makaanahale; Translations of makanahale include "of the wilderness," "of the forest," and "forest person." Hiking through forests is one of my favorite things to do. Trails with ohia lehua are, to me, truly special. It is my hope that Oahu will someday have as many ohia lehua trees as the Big Island.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kanoa Makaanahale Ventura-Barreto
Kalaheo High School, grade 11

LATE

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 8:43:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Yacas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The House of Representatives

Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

March 28, 2022

Testimony in Support of SB 2059

Aloha Chair Mark Nakashima and Members of the Committee,

I, Julia Yacas from Waipahu High School (WHS) am in support of SB 2059, relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate ‘ōhi’a lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawai’i.

Recently I’ve learned about the importance of the ‘ōhi’a tree. Its main qualities are absorbing our water from the mountains, providing a home for our native species, and is said to be the main provider of past extinct birds. This is why I feel that we should take action on the Rapid ‘Ōhi’a Death that’s currently endangering all life forms from the mountains to the sea. I hope that you consider this bill as it will protect Hawaii’s helper, the ‘ōhi’a. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Julia Yacas

WHS Academy of Natural Resources Environmental Resource Management

LATE

SB-2059-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 9:57:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arwen Revere	Wild Kids	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee.

My name is Arwen Revere and I'm a high school student from Kailua and a member of the environmental organization Wild Kids, who I am representing today. I am testifying to express Wild Kids' concern for Hawaii's endemic species, particularly 'Ōhi'a lehua, which is greatly affected by ROD (Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death). 'Ōhi'a lehua is the most common endemic tree in the state of Hawaii and a habit for many native birds. It is imperative that we protect this beautiful tree for future generations and the birds that call it home. 'Ōhi'a lehua is also a large part of Hawaiian culture. This tree was used for building houses, canoes, and spears. The flowers are used in lei, sung about in chants, and the leaves were used in tea. It's clear that 'Ōhi'a lehua is a very special part of Hawaii, and we believe that it should be recognized as such. By designating it as Hawaii's endemic state tree, more people (especially visitors) will be able to learn about the ecological and cultural significance of 'Ōhi'a lehua. Raising awareness for this species will result in higher compliance with conservation strategies and help develop thriving native forests.

Thank you for hearing our testimony. We appreciate your consideration of our view on this important matter.

Arwen Revere, on behalf of Wild Kids