

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
LABOR, CULTURE, AND THE ARTS

Monday, February 14, 2022
3:10 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 225, Via Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2059
RELATING TO STATE SYMBOLS

Senate Bill 2059 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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 Senate Committee on
LABOR, CULTURE, AND THE ARTS**

**Monday, February 14, 2022
3:10 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 225, Via Videoconference

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2059
RELATING TO STATE SYMBOLS**

Senate Bill 2059 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.

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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
LABOR, CULTURE, AND THE ARTS

Monday, February 14, 2022
3:10 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 225, Via Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2059
RELATING TO STATE SYMBOLS

Senate Bill 2059 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 1:04:45 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nathan Dube	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara Jr., and Esteemed Committee Members-

I strongly support designating ‘Ōhi‘a as the state endemic tree. As Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death continues to ravage ‘Ōhi‘a forests across the state, recognition of this foundational species is a wonderful symbolic measure to ensure the importance of this tree in the Hawaiian landscape and its history to the people of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration!

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 1:25:17 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dustin Swan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I would like to voice support for SB 2059 in adding ‘ōhi‘a as the State of Hawaii Endemic Tree. ‘Ōhi‘a is a keystone species of the native forests in Hawaii and provide essential habitat for threatened species, including the i‘iwi. It is also significant for the Hawaiian people in cultural practices such as hula. The trees are currently under threat from Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death, and it is important for all residents and visitors to recognize how important ‘ōhi‘a is to the State of Hawaii.

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:40:24 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Logan Gunter	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara,

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

I Logan Gunter am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

The ‘Ōhi‘a tree is an amazing tree with so many uses and so many things that rely on the tree from insects to animals. Another reason is because it's endemic to Hawaii and is used in so many ways by the Hawaiians such as hula, water, home's, and fashioned into lei's by the Hawaiians. The ‘Ōhi‘a tree is also a tree that collects a lot of water and puts it into an aquifer which provides water for humans and animals which makes it a really beneficial tree.

Even the story it's given is really interesting from being the first tree to grow from the lava flow, and how beautiful it is from how it ranges in different colors. Even ‘Ōhi‘a forests are considered sacred to the native Hawaiian people showing that this tree also means a lot to them. So with all that's been said I hope that you can make this our state endemic tree.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Logan Gunter

Highlands Intermediate School



Lucky we live Hawaii! We are so blessed to live on such wonderful 'Āina. In all of Hawaii's great plant biodiversity, our noble and native, 'ŌHI'A LEHUA, is revered. 'ŌHI'A LEHUA is very special. This plant has been ohana and of kokua. Our first Kanaka Maoli recognized it's honor and worth. It is at the CORE of Hawaiian culture with it's strong interconnection to life and it's vast contribution serving many uses. Here, in our present day, 'ŌHI'A LEHUA "still" continues to be of great significance, as it embodies such cultural, historical, and ecological importance.

'ŌHI'A has GIVEN and continues to GIVE.
Now, our 'ŌHI'A needs *US*.

Together, we are committed here as supportive OHIA advocates. Our team is called OHIA - OHIA HELPERS IN ACTION. We are from Kane'ohē Elementary School, located on the Windward side of Oahu. Collectively, we come together here to help. We desire to share our voice and to express our concern. With respect and honor, we *kokua* and *mālama* 'ŌHI'A LEHUA.

It is our hope that Hawaii's own 'ŌHI'A LEHUA gets the recognition that it deserves as HAWAII'S CHOSEN STATE ENDEMIC TREE. Mālama 'Āina. Mahalo.

February 08, 2022

Aloha e Chairman Cedric Gates and Vice Chairman Adrian Tam,

Mahalo for allowing us the participation in this hearing of SB 2059 - RELATING TO STATE SYMBOLS. My name is Kathryn Ellwanger. I am a Hawaiiana teacher at Kaneohe Elementary School. I am also the club advisor for our ALOHA AMBASSADORS program. This is an afterschool service group consisting of fifteen students, ages ranging from Grade three to five. All of the participants in this club have a “**service heart.**” ALOHA AMBASSADORS is a great group of elementary school students who enjoy learning about themselves, their local community, and the role they play within their community.

Currently, it is our honor to provide support for our Hawaii’s Ōhi’a Lehua. We have all contributed to the making of our ‘ŌHI’A slideshow. We have attached all of our written and video-recorded testimony “in support” of SB 2059. We all would like to see this bill, SB 2059, be passed.

We believe that our ‘Ōhi’a Lehua is the most honorable of Hawaii tree species. This tree upholds a magnificent background. We are in favor of seeing ‘Ōhi’a Lehua win its deserved title of State of Hawaii Endemic Tree.

I have included several links to access our slideshow. I will also leave you my school email address in the case that you need to reach us or should something not go properly with the upload. We are certainly hoping that all goes well smoothly as the children would like you to see their submittals.

MAHALO for the work that you all do.
We wish you a most productive legislative session.

Be well,
Kathryn Ellwanger

kathryn.ellwanger@k12.hi.us



Link to open our slideshow:

['ŌHI'A SLIDESHOW - ALOHA AMBASSADORS -
KANEOHE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL](#)

Another link if need be::

[OHI'A SLIDESHOW OF STUDENT TESTIMONIES](#)

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 12:41:21 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kimeona Kane	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Kimeona Kane and I strongly support this bill to identify the 'Ōhi'a as the states endemic tree. I hope with such designation we can get ahead of the threats to these incredibly important trees.

Mahalo nui,

Kimeona Kane

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:06:32 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kulia Kapuala	Individual	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in support of SB 2059

Dear representative Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

My name is Kūlia Kapua‘ala, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools. I care about designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state's endemic tree because the ‘ōhi‘a is one of the most cultural trees in hawai‘i. The ‘ōhi‘a lehua tree also has a very big impact on our lāhui. They provide shelter, water, wood work, fire wood, landscaping, and cultural importance, but due to the rapid ‘ōhi‘a death the ‘ōhi‘a lehua forests are dying. For these reasons I am supporting the house bill, SB2059

The ‘ōhi‘a lehua can grow to about 500 years ago and tends to thrive in a higher altitude. Animals started using the ‘ōhi‘a as a food source, water collector, shelter, and wind conductor. That's one of the reasons why it has such a big cultural importance, and has a big impact on our lāhui. According to <https://www.hawaiimagazine.com/the-cultural-significance-of-ohia-lehua/> it states “At the 2016 Merrie Monarch Festival, for the first time in its more than half-a-century history, many hula halau (hula schools) opted to forgo

traditional lei and adornments from the ohia lehua tree” so Merrie Monarch started using ‘ohi‘a lehua as a way of saving the ‘ohi‘a lehua from the ROD.

As a legislator, you can help by supporting my say and making our idea come to life, that would have a significant impact because as a hawaiian a state tree has a lot of meaning to it, and for the tree to have a lot of meaning to it would be so important to me and everyone else. Me ke aloha pumehana. A hui hou!

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:07:10 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kahoano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in support of SB2059

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Aloha e Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

My name is Kahoano Keahi and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designing the 'ōhi'a as the state endemic tree because the trees are really good for our environment and it treats everything like ohana. It helps out both insects and birds by providing them with food and not only does it help out birds it also used to help out the hawaiians build houses, spears and more just by using its wood. Not only is it used to feed insects and birds and helped the hawaiians build important items in the past but its flowers were also super beautiful. It was used in many Hula because of the flowers' beautiful mixed colors.

And here are facts that state my topics about how the 'ōhi'a flowers are used in hula and how hawaiians use 'ōhi'a to build and how 'ōhi'a feed birds and insects are true. First i will talk about how the flowers are used in hula. in 2016 Merrie Monarch Festival for the first time in its more than half-a-century history, many hula schools went to do the traditional

lei and adornments from the 'ōhi'a lehua tree in order to stem the spread of a blight known as ROD.

(Rod means rapid 'ōhi'a death) The hardy native ohia lehua is one of the first plants to recolonize otherwise barren lands blanketed in lava. There are also different types of color variants like fiery orange, yellow, pink and red. Next I'm going to talk about how Hawaiians used the 'ōhi'a to make items that helped them using bark. They used the bark to make spear water houses and more. Now i would like to tell you about how the 'ōhi'a is used as shelter/food for birds and insects birds are able to make nests on the tree and it's also a nice place to get food because of the flowers bugs or whatever they can find at a ohia tree. and bugs used ohia trees as a food source to help them survive.

This is why I think we should design the 'ōhi'a as the state endemic tree. I am supporting the SB2059 House bill. Thank you for hearing me out.

Mahalo:

Kahoano

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:07:17 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Blaze Kahale	Individual	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in support of SB2059

Dear: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

My name is Blaze Kahale, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because when you protect the 'ōhi'a you take care of birds home. The 'ōhi'a will protect lots of animals, bugs and other native plants. The 'ōhi'a also makes a lot of habitats for animals and has a big part in the forest. The 'ōhi'a is the only plant that can break down lava and make it into soil. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill SB2059, "Relating to State Endemic Trees."

According to the article "5 Things You Need to Know About the 'Ōhi'a Lehua Tree" they state "Just because the 'ōhi'a lehua flower looks dainty and delicate, the plant itself is incredibly durable and can grow in rugged, barren environments. Nowhere is that more apparent than in areas that have been covered by recent lava flows; the 'ōhi'a tree tends to be one of the first plants to colonize these dry, obsidian lava rock habitats. This is in large

part thanks to the tree's superior capacity for extending its root system deep into lava rock crevices" This will impact everyone in Hawaii because this is the only plant that can grow through lava. It will also help birds and animals thrive because it's making habitats for the animals.

As a legislator, you can help by supporting this bill. This will have a significant impact because it will bring more attention to the importance of the 'ōhi'a trees

Sincerely,

Blaze Kahale

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:07:40 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Riley Phillips	Individual	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in support of SB2059

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair :

My name is Kanaka‘auakai Phillips, and I’m in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree because the little bugs and birds feed off the trees. The ‘Ohi‘a trees grab water for us so we can drink and it can grow thru rocks and starts a forest. A lot of animals use the ‘Ohi‘a trees for their habitats. We use the ohia lehua wood for wa‘a, hale, papahele. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, SB2059, “Relating to State Endemic Tree.”

According to <https://abcbirds.org/> “the ‘ohi‘a tree is the most important tree in the state because the pua of the tree brings the ‘ohu to the tree and then the water goes in the ‘a‘a and then it goes to the lokowai .Birds and many other species depend upon the 'ohi'a tree to survive.” Did you know that “‘ohi'a makes up approximately 80 percent of our native forests.” Another reason that we should add the ‘ohi‘a as our state Endemic Tree is that the ohia tree starts most of the forest on the Hawaiian islands. Birds and many other species depend upon the 'ohi'a tree to survive.

As a legislator, you can help by making the 'ohi'a the State Endemic Tree. That would have a significant impact because the 'ohi'a tree is more than a tree because like ohana to the Hawaiian people its used your wa'a,hale,fire wood and way more things. Me ke aloha pumehana, Kanaka'aukai

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:07:41 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lesili Bertelsen	Individual	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in Support of SB 2059

Dear Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair,

My name is Lesili Bertelsen, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because it is very important to many native Hawaiian birds as food, it prevents erosion by slowing raindrops, and it is very important to oli, mele, and hula. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, SB2059, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

According to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, "'ōhi'a trees make up the largest portion of the canopy in native wet forests?" So, if we don't stop rapid 'ōhi'a death native canopies of wet forests many native species will lose their homes and die. Another reason is that 'ōhi'a are also highly valued in commerce. According to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, "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."

As a legislator, you can help by spreading the word of putting a stop to rapid ōhi‘a death. That would have a significant impact because ‘ōhi‘a trees are very important to many native Hawaiian birds as food, they prevent erosion by slowing raindrops, and they are very important to oli, mele, and hula.

Sincerely, Lesili Bertelsen

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:07:47 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sara-Rose K. Cluney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB2059

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Dear Representative Brian T. Taniguchi,

My name is Sara-Rose Cluney, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui Kula Waena. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state endemic tree because we are already putting our best efforts into protecting the native animals whether they are going extinct or not. If we were to protect the 'Ōhia as a state endemic tree then we would also be protecting the countless animals that inhabit the 'Ōhia tree. After the last eruption on Kilauea, the first tree to grow on the lava flow grounds was the 'ohia, this happens after the seeds travel in water or wind and settle in the small cracks of rocks. So far because of the Rapid 'ōhia death, it has killed over one hundred thirty-five thousand acres of what once was a healthy 'ohia forest. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, SB2059 "Relating to State Endemic Trees."

According to an article written by Nps.Gov which is the official site for National Park Service it states that “Hawaiians utilize the hardy tree for building houses, canoes, spears, while the flowers are used in lei and sung about in chant and hula. Flowers are considered sacred to the goddess of lava and volcanic eruptions, Pele.” Another reason that you as a representative should care about our cultural wants and needs is that you can express this by supporting our movement to make ‘Ōhia the state endemic tree of Hawai‘i. Did you know that only the real name for R.O.D or rapid ‘ōhia death is Ceratocystis. According to abcbirds.gov which is a bird blog, they stated that in 2016 ‘ōhia was the most common state endemic tree but now that same tree is on the endangered list.

As a legislator, you can help by using your voice to help us support this bill by naming the ‘ōhia lehua the State Endemic Tree of Hawai‘i. If we name this the state endemic tree that would put further protection on this tree. This would have a significant impact on native Hawaiians because of the cultural significance ‘ōhia has towards us as native Hawaiians.

Me ka mahalo piha,

Sara-Rose K. Cluney

Papa Ehiku

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:08:36 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Matilda Stone	Individual	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in Support of SB 2059

Dear: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi,

My name is Matilda Stone, and I am a seventh-grade student at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree because the ohia is a water collector that brings water into our watersheds. The ‘Ōhi‘a can start whole environments that help prevent erosion. Lastly, the ‘Ōhi‘a provides a habitat for endangered animals. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, SB2059, “Relating to State Endemic Tree.”

Not only is the ‘Ōhi‘a important to endangered animals, but it also has cultural significance. According to Hawaii Magazine “The abundant plant had many uses for early Hawaiians: Ohia’s sturdy wood was used to create weapons, kapa cloth beaters, boards for pounding poi, enclosures, and statues; its leaves were used as a medicinal tea; and its flowers and its seeds fed native birds” I also found it interesting that in the article it stated, “When listening to traditional Hawaiian mo’olelo (stories), mele (songs) and oli (chants) about the land, or the Gods, it’s almost impossible to avoid some mention of ohia or its lehua flowers.”

As a legislator, you can help by supporting the bill “Relating to State Endemic Tree.”

That would have a significant impact because if the ‘Ōhi‘a is recognized as the state endemic tree, people will learn more about it and can help prevent ROD.

Ke aloha nō,

Matilda Stone

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:08:38 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nalu Haili	Individual	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in Support of SB2059

Dear Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair :

My name is Nalu Haili, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designated the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because One million 'ōhia trees have died in the past seven years and If we protect it our forest will have a balanced ecosystem. A lot of Hawaiian birds and animals use the 'ōhia tree for shelter and for water. The ōhia is one of the first plants to grow through a fresh lava flow and has a lot of cultural importance.For these reasons. I am supporting the house bill,SB2059.

“Relating to State Endemic Tree.” Did you know that “there once was a beautiful man named 'Ōhi'a. He was so good-looking he attracted the gaze of Pele, the Hawaiian goddess of fire. Unfortunately for Pele, 'Ōhi'a had his eyes set on a woman named Lehua, who also happened to fancy 'Ōhi'a. In a fit of rage, Pele transformed 'Ōhi'a 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 beautify the 'ōhi'a tree, so the lovers could stay together

forever. Some say that if you pick the flower from an 'ōhi'a tree, the two lovers cry, causing the sky to rain down their tears. According to Hawai'i Magazine the mo'olelo of how the man 'ōhia got turned into the tree and how lehua got transformed into the lehua flower. Another reason is that " The 'ōhi'a lehua can grow in rugged, barren environments. Like areas covered by recent lava flows the 'ōhi'a tree tends to be one of the first plants to colonize the obsidian lava rock habitats. 'ōhi'a helped start the forest and grow with it, also I don't know any trees besides 'Ōhia lehua that grow on a recent lava flow.

As a legislator, you can help by sharing this letter with fellow senators and legislators so we can have this bill approved. That would have a significant impact because As a legislator, you can help by making the 'ohi'a the State Endemic Tree. That would have a significant impact because the 'ohi'a tree is more than a tree because It is part of Our Ohana to us the Hawaiian people. it's usages are wa'a, hale, firewood and more things.

Sincerely, Nalu Haili

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:08:38 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Zion Ebana	Individual	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in Support of SB2059

Dear Rep. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair

My name is Zion Ebana and I'm a 7th-grade student at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I would like to bring your attention to the 'ōhi'a tree, as the state's endemic. As you know the 'ōhi'a trees have ROD (Rapid 'ōhi'a death) and it isn't the most useful thing for us, for instance, the 'ōhi'a tree provides shelter for animals. It also supplies water for the environment. Additionally, it also brings the animals food like the 'i'iwi and many other birds and animals. For these reasons, I'm supporting the house bill SB2059

As you can see, the 'ōhia tree is giving us a lot of supplies for life, so I would like to bring your attention to the ways the 'ōhia tree provides us with water. So, when the 'ōhia tree collects water for us, the pua on the 'ōhia tree will attract the mist and hold the water. Over time the water will go down the trunk, go into the roots, and drip down into the aquifer which is our water supply.

As a legislator, you can support by bringing your time and looking into the 'ōhia tree. That would have a significant impact because the 'ōhia tree is one of the numerous providing hawai'i trees out there. It is't a suitable thing for us because it helps us with even more

than this letter has cited like that for animals they sip the nectar from the red blossoms. Mahalo for taking the time and reading my statement.

Me ka mahalo nui,

Zion Ebana

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:08:47 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jayde Agustin	Individual	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in Support of SB 2059

Dear: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

My name is Jayde Agustin, and I am a 7th grader at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree because the ‘ōhi‘a tree is a habitat for animals. The ‘ōhi‘a is also a water collector and all water collected will be used in our community. Lastly, the ‘ōhi‘a is used in many cultural things, such as hula, mele, and hale. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, SB2059 , “Relating to State Endemic Trees.”

Did you know that the ‘ōhi‘a has cultural uses too? The ‘ōhi‘a can be used in various things. According to Hawaiian Magazine the ‘ōhi‘a can be used to “create weapons, kapa cloth beaters, boards for pounding poi and enclosures and statues”. The ‘ōhi‘a is very important to the Hawaiian people as they used it for many things. The ‘ōhi‘a also holds a very important mo‘olelo to the Hawaiian people. I found this intriguing because the ‘ōhi‘a has a deep meaning to us Hawaiian people. Not only for resources but was involved with Pele, one of our goddesses which is important.

As a legislator, you can help by supporting this bill, and making it the state endemic tree. That would have a significant impact because the ‘ōhi‘a is currently endangered to R.O.D,

rapid 'ōhi'a death, causing it to become an endangered plant. People will become more aware of rapid 'ōhi'a death and help stop rapid 'ōhi'a death.

Me ka mahalo nui,

Jayde Agustin

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:08:47 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kahikina Kaona	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB2059

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Dear: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

My name is Kahikina Kaona, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because it is native to Hawai'i, it is part of our culture and not only do the people of Hawai'i benefit from the trees but so do our native birds and animals. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, SB2059, Relating to State Endemic Tree because everybody needs to be aware of the Rapid Ōhi'a Death that is killing thousands of tree's here in Hawai'i and we need to come together and Kokua in saving these beautiful native trees.

Ōhi'a tree's are only in Hawai'i. They are also the main source for our 'āina and everyday uses. Their tree's are used for shelter and food, they're our main water collectors, and they are used for buildings, firewood, landscapes, and more.

Not only does this website (Save The Ōhi‘a Medium) agree about protecting Ōhi‘a, but many others as well. We should make the Ōhi‘a tree’s our state endemic tree because the Ōhi‘a makes up 80% of trees in the native forest which means many wildlife use these tree’s for cover, food, and much more. People of Hawai‘i use Ōhi‘a in their everyday lives. We use it for shelter, firewood, buildings, and our water supply. Ōhi‘a is the main support for ecosystems all through the Hawaiian islands. without them, our resources and wildlife would decrease.

Another reason is that Ōhi‘a is also used for Hawaiian culture for it has great importance to our people and our ‘aina. It is part of our culture, our ancestors used the Ōhi‘a wood to beat the Kapa cloths, they used the wood for building structures, they also made boards for pounding poi. It’s flowers are medicinal and continue to feed our native birds. It’s the first plant to sprout after a lava flow.

As a legislator, you can help by introducing this bill to the legislative branch because you can make them aware of the endangerment of the Rapid Ōhi‘a Death and the importance of Ōhi‘a tree’s. It would be a great difference to Hawai‘i for it will change peoples point of view in Ōhi‘a tree’s on how important they are, letting them know the negative impact of what Rapid Ōhi‘a death does to these tree’s, and allowing others to understand why we need Ōhi‘a tree’s to be our state endemic tree.

That would have a significant impact because it would cause awareness towards the Ōhi‘a tree’s and what’s happening to it. People would start to realize how much the Ōhi‘a provides for us and wildlife.

Ke aloha nō,

Kahikina Kaona

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:09:14 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lucas Ginoza	Individual	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in Support of SB2059

Dear: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

My name is Lucas Ginoza and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because it is a keystone species as it provides habitats for wildlife, collects water for the aquifers or the birds, and the lehua flowers can provide food to certain birds. It is a very culturally esteemed tree as it was used to build many things like hale, wa'a, lei, etc. Lastly, it would bring attention to the species as the 'Ōhi'a needs to be protected with Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD) killing over a 1,000,000 trees on Hawai'i island alone and no cure found yet. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, SB2059, "Relating to the State Endemic Tree."

According to Kumu Heno, the lehua blossoms are very important in our ecosystems because of the dew that they provide that almost all of the native birds drink. It also produces nectar which provides food for the 'I'iwi, 'Apanepane, 'Akohekohe and other

birds that are now extinct. Without the tree and the blossoms, the ecosystem would fall apart with that major blow to all of those birds. Since there would be no reliable food or water source the bird population would die out very quickly. Also the other species would start to rampage as there wouldn't be as many predators.

As a legislator, you can help by bringing awareness to this topic by telling other lawmakers about it. That would have a significant impact because people would be more aware of ROD and try to help prevent it.

Me ka mahalo piha,

Lucas

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:10:11 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Leila Kapaku-Fraser	Individual	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in Support of SB2059

Dear: Senator Brian T. Tanaguchi, Chair. My name is Leila Kapaku-Fraser, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because it is important to Hawaiian culture. It is one of our main water collectors. The 'ōhi'a provides shelter for animals, birds, and insects found in the forest. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, SB2059 "Relating to State Endemic Trees".

According to the Department of Land and Natural Resources. 'Ōhi'a was used to create weapons and everyday tools. Leaves of this tree sustained populations of native birds whose vibrant feathers were used in traditional Hawaiian clothing. Today, 'Ōhi'a blossoms continue to be used in cultural ceremonies and practices, such as lei and hula. Though many hula practitioners have begun forgoing the use of 'Ōhi'a to prevent the spread of ROD and protect this culturally significant tree species.

As a legislator, you can help by supporting the bill and making the 'Ōhi'a a state endemic tree.

That would have a significant impact because right now the 'Ōhi'a is under the spread of ROD.

Me ka mahalo nui,

Leila Kapaku-Fraser

Kamehameha Schools Maui

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:10:33 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cash Kalama	Individual	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in Support of SB2059

Dear: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

My name is Cash Kalma, and I am in the 7th grade of kamehameha maui. I care about designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree because almost one million trees have died on the Big Island alone, so that gives evidence why we should give more attention to the ‘ōhi‘a. Also the ‘ōhi‘a is referred to as the “tree of life” because of it’s aspects that can help other native animals. Our culture has relied and respected the ‘ōhi‘a. They used it for oli, mele, hale, wa‘a, hula, and warriors used it. The cultural importance to ‘ōhi‘a should be recognized thus making people more aware of Rapid ‘ōhi‘a Death (ROD). For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, SB2059, “Relating to State Endemic Tree.”

According to Hawaii Magazine they state “As such, the abundant plant had many uses for early Hawaiians: ‘ōhi‘a’s sturdy wood was used to create weapons, kapa cloth beaters, boards for pounding poi, enclosures and statues; its leaves were used as a medicinal tea; and its flowers and its seeds fed native birds like the apapane and the now-extinct mamō”. This supports my state about how the ‘ōhia tree is significantly and culturally important

for the Hawaiian people. The 'ōhia tree collects water creating the respect from the hawaiians to the tree because the more water in an area, the more life blooms in that area.

As a legislator, you can help by supporting the bill “Relating to State Endemic Tree.”. That would have a significant impact because people will be more aware of the Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD). There is so much cultural importance from the tree so we should not let the (ROD) kill all the 'ōhi'a trees. To preserve and protect the 'ōhia by giving it the respect it has got for years.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Cash Kalama.

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:10:58 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
caden mueller	Individual	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in Support of SB2059

Dear Senator Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

My name is Caden Mueller, And i'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools maui. I care about designating the ōhi'a as the state endemic tree because, The 'ōhi'a tree provides food and shelter for animals, butterflies, flies, and birds all live out of the 'ōhi'a tree, The 'ōhi'a tree collects fog and mist and are usually found in forests, The 'ohi'a tree is also used to make weapons such as, Kapa cloth beaters and poi pounding boards. For these reasons, I am supporting the bill "relating to state endemic trees".

According to hawai'i magazine, In 2016 Merrie Monarch Festival, for the first time in its more than half-a-century history, many hula halau (hula schools) opted to forgo traditional lei and adornments from the ohia lehua tree in order to stem the spread of a blight known as [Rapid Ohia Death](#) (ROD). The disease is ravaging populations of the tree on Hawaii Island, and has resulted in a permanent ban on taking ohia lehua plants from the island. As a legislator, you can help by supporting the bill "Relating to State Endemic Tree." That

would have a significant impact because people will be more aware of the Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD). There is so much cultural importance from the tree so we should not let the (ROD) kill all the 'ōhi'a trees. To preserve and protect the 'ōhia by giving it the respect it has got for years. Me ke aloha pumehana,

Caden-kelly Mueller

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:12:57 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ryan Kama	Individual	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in support of SB2059

Dear Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

My name is Ryan Kama, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because It is an endemic tree which means it is only found here so we need to keep the 'ōhi'a trees safe so they don't end up going extinct. Also all types of wildlife use the 'ōhi'a as shelter to stay warm for the winter and other seasons. The 'ōhi'a also gives everything we use in our daily life like water, food, and shelter.I am supporting the house bill, SB2059, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

According to the PDF, "Rapid-Ohia-Death-Poster", The 'Ōhi'a lehua is a very critical part of Hawai'i. However, with the ongoing rapid 'ōhi'a death, its symptoms are causing many to die. Because of this, it is important for us to do whatever it takes to keep the trees healthy for many reasons. Not only is it important for hula, mele and Hawai'I, but it is a

state endemic tree so if we don't do our part, all of the trees could die and there would be no more for future generations".

As a legislator, you can help by keeping track of all of the 'ōhi'a lehua trees with some wildlife cameras. Also maybe take some samples of the trees from time to time so you can check if the tree is healthy or not. That would have a significant impact because the tree is a critical part of hawai'i's culture and should be kept in a safe area so that the rapid 'ōhi'a death does not spread to other environments with 'ōhi'a lehua trees.

Me ka hau'oli

Ryan

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:26:32 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jolie Contreras	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senate

Committee on Labor, Culture, and the Arts

Feb 14, 2022

3:10 pm, Conference room 225

State Capitol

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

Aloha Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Les Ihara Jr, and Members of the Committees on Labor, Culture, and the Arts.

My name is Jolie Contreras I am a 10th-grade student at Kalaheo High School. I support SB 2059 relating to the state native trees of 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 whats 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 KulKui 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

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:45:28 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Miyumi Marcoux	Individual	Support	No

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 Miyumi Marcoux m writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the ‘Ōhia Lehua tree has a lot of cultural significance to Hawaiian history, the wood was used to make many ancient Hawaiian tools, it was used to make medicinal teas to help reduce pain, and it’s a part of our natural food chain. The ‘Ōhia Lehua tree is associated with many gods, the most associated one being Pele, and many people believed that the tree was a physical manifestation of these gods. It’s a big part of Hawaiian folklore and has played a big part in ancient Hawaii. It should be honored as so.

Besides being a part of folklore, ‘Ōhia trees were also important in ancient Hawaii because they were used to make helpful tools. The wood is very strong so many people would use them to make tools to pound poi, weapons, kapa cloth beaters, etc. etc. The leaves were also used to make medicinal tea that was said to help with reducing pain. However, not only

humans relied on the tree. Many native birds feed on the seeds/flowers of the 'Ōhia tree including the Apapane and the now extinct Mamo bird. It's important for these trees to stay, for if they leave, it would be taking away a food source of many of our native birds, and the way we can help them stay is by making this bill official.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Miyumi Marcoux

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:46:38 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kalei Yoshimura	Individual	Support	No

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 Kalei Yoshimura am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because ‘ōhia is a major part of Hawaiian culture. ‘Ōhia has been used in various different ways & is a staple for most Hawaiian clothing & medicine. It has been used in many practices, one being hula dancing. It is not only important to Hawaiian culture but it plays a major role in the Native Hawaiian food chain for birds.

Some ways the trees have been used in the Hawaiian practice hula is that it was used for clothing. They would use the blossoms & buds for lei bands that would be put around the wrist & ankles of performers. ‘Ōhia branches were used for kalaau or dancing sticks. The wood was for weapons, kapa cloth beaters, boards for poi, & enclosures/statues. The leaves were used as medicinal tea while the flowers & seeds fed natives birds like the apapane.

Therefore, 'Ōhia should be Hawaii's Endemic State plant due to its important part in Hawaii as a whole.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Kalei Yoshimura

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:46:41 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Janelle Pasion	Individual	Support	No

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, Janelle Pasion, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because ‘ōhia is extremely important to Hawaii. Some of the reasons I’m gonna be talking about today are that this tree helps many species live, it has so much cultural meaning, it helps store lots of water, and it’s a pioneer tree to Hawaii.”

To start us off, the ‘ōhia tree and the flowers that grow on this tree help many species live such as birds. Some birds suck out the nectar out of these flowers and depend on them as food. Many birds used to feed on this flower before they became extinct. An example of a bird that feeds off this is one of Hawaii’s native birds, ‘Apapane. Since the ‘ōhia tree and it’s flower is dying very quickly, the birds might too since their main source of food is gone. Also, it stores huge amounts of water. This tree can grow huge roots, that means it can store lots of water. Hawaii gets some of their water from ‘ōhia. Without ‘ōhia, Hawaii might go into a drought for the second time. A time this happened was when they cut down

all their sandalwood and that wasn't good for Hawaiian's and their land since their water system was struggling. We wouldn't want that to happen again.

To add, 'ōhia has so much cultural meaning for Hawaiian's. Hawaiian's used these trees to make weapons, used their wood to make things like boards for pounding poi and cloth beaters, used the leaves as medicine, and made statues. They also used this tree for traditional Hawaiian songs, hula dancing, chants, and stories. If you read, watch, or listen to some of these traditional Hawaiian things, you can't avoid 'ōhia being mentioned. 'Ōhia dying will also mean Hawaii's culture will partly die since it takes such a huge part in it. 'Ōhia is one of the first trees to grow after the lava has cooled down and hardened. The wind helps 'ōhia seeds travel and land inside the cracks of the lava. The trees then grow and break the hardened lava making space for land. This tree has helped start life in a new area.

With all these reasons, and many more reasons that I haven't mentioned in this testimony, 'ōhia should be protected. 'Ōhia helps keep Hawaiian tradition alive, helps many animals live, and it helps us live. We shouldn't have to struggle because of something we could have avoided so we should pass the bill and make a law to protect this tree.

Sincerely,

Janelle Pasion

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Janelle Pasion

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:47:30 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kenny Tsuru	Testifying for Highlands Intermetide	Support	No

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 Kenny Tsuru am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

The reason I support this bill is because they are so sacred to this island. Things like kapa cloth beaters,boards to pound poi,building structures,statues, and even birth medicine from the leaves.These items are just several products that came from some parts of ‘Ohi‘a trees and how the older hawaiiians and possibly current hawaiiians benefited from this tree. But in today’s age we can see it used for many construction supplies. Not only is it useful but is also referenced in mele (songs),oli (chants),mo’olelo (stories) which just shows the importance of this well known tree. In addition, flowers on the tree are also extremely beautiful and can vary between a rainbow of colors. But the ‘Ohi‘a lehua also comes in a variety of shapes and sizes just like the variation of colors it comes in. This species is also

very capable of living anywhere even though the appearance may not show it. But it's incredibly durable and can grow in rugged,barren environments. Being mostly found nearby lava just like the famous legend of 'Ohi'a lehua and Pele referred to. To conclude these were my reasons on why I support this bill for the cultural and notable 'Ohi'a lehua.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Kenny Tsuru

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:48:57 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Averie AKamine	Individual	Support	No

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, Averie Akamine, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

The reason I support this bill is because the tree helps native birds and species live, it has many culturally symbolic uses and meanings, the sturdy wood is used to create many things, and it stores a lot of water.

To start off, ‘ōhia helps native birds and species live and has many meanings and uses to Hawaii. Native birds and species feed on the nectar from ‘ōhia so if it were to not exist or disappear, it would affect the food chain. ‘Ōhi‘a is also endemic to Hawaii so they have many important/cultural uses and meanings. They’re used as important adornments in hula and ceremonies, for example hula dancers wear ‘ōhia on their ankles, use it for a haku, etc. when they perform.

Secondly, 'ōhia's wood is used to make many items and stores a lot of water. Since 'ōhia has sturdy wood, it's used to create weapons, kapa cloth beaters, boards for pounding poi, enclosures and statues, etc. The last reason why it's awesome is because it stores a lot of water and without it we would have another water crisis.

These are my reasons why 'ōhia should become the state endemic tree, thank you for reading them!

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Averie Akamine

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:49:43 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Brayden Ramos	Individual	Support	No

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, Brayden Chalmers Ramos, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because ohia is an amazing tree and a reason is that Ohia is tied to many Hawaiian legends such as Pele the goddess of volcanoes and fire, and I can say that for many people. In the culture of Hawaii, the blossom from the Ohia tree is called lehua and lehua can be used in cultural purposes such as lays, lehua haku, and the wood ohia has can be carved into weapons and this helped Native Hawaiians fight through conflict, and speaking of the tree, the leaves of Ohia can be used as medicinal tea.

The Ohia tree is so abundant that many native species such as apapane which is a bird that have red feathers and have black wings and if Ohia didn't exist, our native species wouldn't have food and resources and also a home to be in and putting our native species

into extinction. In Hawaii, we have traditional mo'olelo which are stories, and oli for chants for the land of Hawaii and the Hawaiian Gods, these traditions all connect to ohia.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Brayden Chalmers Ramos

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:49:44 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nadia Delgado	Individual	Support	No

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 Nadia Delgado am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the reason I support this bill is because ‘Ohia is one of the reasons why we have houses/houses built. ‘Ohia means gathering, ‘Ohia is responsible for gathering water. Without making ‘Ohia our state endemic tree, ‘Ohia wouldn't get the recognition it needs. ‘Ohia is only found and grows here in Hawai'i which is special. The Hawaii Islands have many ‘Ohia forests and they are responsible for our wetlands. Without Ohia our forests wouldn't have started because ‘Ohia is the first plant that starts a forest. ‘Ohia is also used for medicines, weapons, and adornments.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Nadia Delgado

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:50:11 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jeric Vincent Pascua	Individual	Support	No

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 Jeric Vincent Pascua am writing to support SB2059.

Ohia Testimony

The reason I support this bill is because these flowers can be used in our culture. It can be used as lei's, Haku's, and flower accessories. It can be used as dancing sticks for men and it can be used as medicine for women in childbirth. The flower was born off of a legend which could be important to us Hawaiians, because it is something we believe in.

Another reason is, it can feed our Hawaii native bird with its nectar, and its tree branches can be used as boards to pound poi / taro. It can also be used as floor boards or statues. Ōhi'a are woven deeply into Hawaiian culture through symbology in mo'olelo (stories), mele (songs) and 'oli (chants). 'Ōhi'a wood was used for various ceremonial structures on heiau (temples). 'ōhi'a wood is used for flooring, house posts, fencing posts, decoration, framing of traditional hale, and firewood. These are the reasons why i believe that Ōhi'a should be the state endemic tree.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Jeric Vincent Pascua

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:51:14 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Anakakia Nobriga	Individual	Support	No

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.

Anakakia Hyun-Jung Shizumi Nobriga I am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because ‘ōhia is very important, and it is what started all of our forests. It’s 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, iiwi, insects, and snails. ‘ōhia trees make up the largest portion of the canopy in native wet forests. They provide many species shelter and food. ‘Ōhia are woven deeply into Hawaiian culture through symbology in mo'olelo (stories), mele (songs) and oli (chants).the wood from ‘ōhia was used for various ceremonial structures on heiau (temples). Even to this day we still use ‘ōhia for various purposes. ‘ōhia seedlings are also among the most sought after plants for native landscaping. Thus, ecologically and culturally, ‘ōhia stands as one of the most important trees of Hawaii. Thank you for reading and taking the time to read my letter for ‘ōhia .

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Anakakia Hyun-Jung Shizumi Nobriga

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:51:33 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
shylah kalilikane	Individual	Support	No

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 Shylah Kalilikane am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the ‘ōhi‘a lehua flowers are an important food source for birds, they sip the nectar from the red blossoms and glean insects in bark and leaves. This flower is also special to many Hawaiians because it is told to come off of a legend. It states Pele, the goddess of lava and fire fell in love with a man named ‘ōhia but he loved someone else so decided to reject pele the goddess, she turned him into a tree for that exact reason. Lehua sadly witnessed the whole incident and begged for pele to turn him back but she rejected, the other goddess told her they could not redo it but simply turned her into a flower that grows on the tree. Now it states if you pick the flower rain will fall because ohia and lehua got separated.

Another reason is because this tree is used for our culture in many ways, our cultural dances such as hula use these flowers for accessories. They turn these flowers into Haku’s ,

lei's , or flower bracelets when dancing. And it also states that the branches (kalaau) on these trees are used for dancing sticks for men

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Shylah Kalilikane

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:52:03 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kayli Matsuda	Individual	Support	No

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 Kayli Matsuda am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

‘Ōhia holds a deep symbolization in Hawaiian stories and is very special to Hawaiians. It serves as a physical manifestation of many Hawaiian deities and the wood of the tree is used for many ceremonial structures, The wood from the ‘Ōhia is still used today as flooring, house posts, decorations, landscaping, ect.

‘Ōhia is a pioneer endemic keystone species that grows in cooled lava and the flowers have a variety of colors, The flowers are used in leis for ceremonies or festivals. ‘Ōhia provides food and shelter for many insects and living creatures, such as birds and snails. The leaves can be used for medicinal purposes. ‘Ōhia is a very important tree in Hawaiian forests,

both ecologically and culturally. Thank you for listening to the reasons why I support 'Ōhia becoming the state endemic tree.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Kayli

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:52:35 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Eric Arellano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara,

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

I, Eric Arellano, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the ‘Ōhi‘a is not only in danger from a dangerous potential fungal infection called Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death, but also a symbol for Hawaii. Hawaiian cultures use ‘Ōhi‘a in lei’s, hula, and Hawaiian stories so it would make sense for something that is a part of our culture to be our state endemic plant.

‘Ōhi‘a can also help insects and snails by providing them food and shelter, for example, the Hawaiian nectar-feeding honeycreepers can take nutrients or water in their trunks. It can also capture the water and can provide drinking water for the community. The meaning of the name is also important to Hawaiian culture, the name comes from Hawaiian folklore and even the English name also has it’s meaning, the “Polymorpha” name in it means “many forms”.

My final reason why I think ‘Ōhi‘a should be the state plant is because it’s in danger, it means that it’s getting infected where more than 1,000,000 ‘Ōhi‘a plants have been infected, mostly on the Big Island, if the dieases takes over the Ohia, it would be a good idea to remember the ‘Ōhi‘a by making the state endemic tree.

In conclusion, these are the reasons why the ‘Ōhi‘a should be claimed as the state endemic tree because it’s culturally appropriate to Hawaii, it can help native species in Hawaii, the

meaning of the name has a big meaning to it, and the rapid 'Ōhi'a death, it would be good for Hawaii to remember the plant.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Eric Arellano

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:52:46 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kacedan K Helepololei	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara,

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

I Kacedan K Helepololei am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because Ohia is a major part of Hawaii. It is one of the most important keystones in hawaii mainly due to it providing 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 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. Not only is it just environmentally important to Hawaii, it’s culturally important too. Being involved in stories, songs and chants, Ohia are woven deeply into Hawaiian culture by using symbolism in stories. Ohia serve as the sacred physical manifestations of multiple Hawaiian deities such as Kū, Laka, Pele, Hi‘iaka, and Kāne. Ohia wood was used for various ceremonial structures on heiau (temples). The Ohia blossoms were said to be a reflection of bloodshed in wars. Today, Ohia is also highly valued in commerce, Ohia wood is used for flooring, house posts, fencing posts, decoration, framing of traditional hale, and firewood.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Kacedan K Helepololei

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:53:02 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Brandon Rodriguez	Testifying for Highlands	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara,

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

I’m Brandon Rodriguez and I am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because this tree is native to hawaii and is found usually in hawaii. This tree also has a hawaiian backstory so this tree got to be special. This tree also has nice flowers that grow on the top of the tree. This tree decorates forest and make them look nice. So this tree has the looks to look nice as our state tree.

This tree can be used as medicine as it is a pretty special tree. This tree can sprout any color flowers so it looks nice. This tree can be used for cloth beaters, boards to pound poi, fencing, fire wood, statues, medicine and more. This tree is indiginous which means it's only found in hawaii. Those are the reasons why this tree sound be the state tree

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Brandon Rodriguez

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:53:21 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jared Kusano	Testifying for Highlands intermediate	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara,

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

I’m Jared Kusano and I am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because ‘Ōhia can be used to make/create a wide variety of things. They come in a bunch of colors like red, yellow, and white. ‘Ōhia can be used/made for many things but one of them is lays, with ohia coming in many colors it's easy to make a lay look attractive. ‘Ōhia can also be used to make medicine typically for childbirth. The medicine eases the pain and calms down the patient.

But some other facts about ‘Ōhia are that they're the first to grow after lava flow. They spread nature and they're are native to hawaii. Many birds feed on ohia and it has a lot of cultural significance to hawaii. For example ‘Ōhia was told as stories and ohia has a lot of uses such as dancing sticks, musical instruments, and arduments. To sum up what was just stated, I support this bill because ‘Ōhia is native to Hawaii and has a lot of cultural significance and uses such as the things stated above.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Jared Kusano

Highlands Intermediate School

Aloha Chairman Tarnas, Vice Chairman Pihana Branco,
and members of the community.

Hi, my name is Olive. I am a 4th grader at Kaneohe
Elementary School. I am also involved in our school's Aloha
Ambassador's Club. Our club focus is to save our 'Ōhi'a
Lehua.

We are supporting the bill #SB2059 because 'Ōhi'a
Lehua is a living plant. It is also shelter for animals, it
provided many uses for the early Hawaiians, and it is in
danger from a disease called Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (R.O.D.).

The 'Ōhi'a Lehua is important to me because I love animals, and it gives animals shelter and food. The 'Ōhi'a Lehua is also important to me because I have been working very hard on this project for a long time and I want to be known as someone that helped to make a bill. If this bill passes into law, our 'Ōhi'a Lehua may be more protected. More people will know more about 'Ōhi'a and more people will try to protect it. Residents of Hawaii will know what to do if they find any infected 'Ōhi'a. 'Ōhi'a will become very popular and hopefully more people will plant more of the species.

Mahalo for your time. It is an honor for me to participate in something this big at this age.

January 25, 2022

Aloha Chairman, Vice Chairman And Members Of Our Community:

Hi! My name is Akio Hayashi and I am a student at Kaneohe Elementary School. I am in the third grade.

I am in the Aloha Ambassadors After school program where we are learning about the Ohia Lehua Plant. The Ohia Lehua is important to me because it helps our animals by providing food and keeps the tree healthy from Rapid Ohia Death. This tree is very important to our island and Hawaiian Culture. It was the only plant in Hawaii and was very important to people who lived hundreds of years ago.

I want to support this bill to save the Ohia Lehua, bring awareness to it and change the Laws to protect our native plant. I would like to be able to prevent the Ohia Lehua from becoming extinct by creating a law that would make sure that people wash their shoes / slippers as it may carry rust that endangers the Ohia Lehua from spreading Rapid Ohia Death. Small Changes like this can help save our Ohia Lehua and bring protection to it. Thank you for listening to me and letting me present my opinion.

Sincerely,

Akio Hayashi

January 2022

Aloha Chairman Tarnas, Vice Chairman Pihana Branco, and members of the community:

My name is Abby. I go to Kāneʻohe Elementary School and I am in the 3rd Grade. I am also in our school's Aloha Ambassadors Program.

In our Aloha Ambassadors program we try to help the community. The reason why I support 'ōhi'a lehua is because I think all living things deserve better. 'Ōhi'a lehua deserved better because it does so much for us like; provides food and homes for animals, helps make canoes, hale, used for hula ceremonies, and much more. The reason why 'ōhi'a lehua is important to me is because it only grows here in Hawai'i.

A special fact I know about 'ōhi'a lehua is that it grew after the lava flow. This means that it was a gift from the beginning.

We hope that you will decide to pass this bill #SB2059 to make 'ōhi'a lehua Hawai'i's endemic tree. If this bill passed, then I would feel relieved. We don't have to worry about it too much and it would be protected. My hope is for it to stay alive for a very long time. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Abigail Fong

Student, Grade 3

Kāneʻohe Elementary School

January 2022

Aloha Chairman Tarnas, Vice Chairman Pihana Branco, and members of the community:

Hi! My name is Paige. I attend Kāneʻohe Elementary School. I am in the 3rd grade. I am part of our school's Aloha Ambassadors Club. We are studying about the 'ōhi'a lehua plant and how it provides resources to live by.

I find learning about 'ōhi'a lehua interesting because it is a very helpful tree. I have learned that the 'ōhi'a lehua is very honored by the Hawaiians. This is because they used the 'ōhi'a lehua resources for their weapons, tools, building houses, and pounding boards. It's neat to know that.

I want to save the 'ōhi'a plant because my ancestors cherished it. Now it is going through endangerment. I want to do what my ancestors did by always replanting it and treating it respectfully. They did this because without it, they wouldn't have good resources.

I want other future kids to experience what their culture was in the past. I hope 'ōhi'a can be law because we had 'ōhi'a for generations. I hope the future generations take care of 'ōhi'a lehua. I hope you make 'ōhi'a a law. Thank you for listening to me.

Sincerely,

Paige Pana

Student, Grade 3

Kāneʻohe Elementary School

Aloha Chairman Tarnas and Vice Chairman Pihana Branco,
And fellow members of community,

01/26/2022

Hi. My name is Cade Yamada. I am in the third grade. I go to Kaneohe Elementary School, I am part of our school's Aloha Ambassadors, which is an after-school program that is much more than I thought. I didn't know that we were going to do this project, actually! I thought that this class was going to be about school activities. I didn't know that we were going to be making laws. I feel good about that. I am also glad that I made new friends which is the most important.

I feel that this 'Ohi'a Lehua flower is beautiful. I like how it just pops out of the lava rock. It doesn't need any soil like other plants do. Because of that, we can definitely call it endemic. Endemic means it is only found here in Hawaii. 'Ohi'a Lehua is a special plant that has a long history. I want it to live on for many years. If I don't help, 'Ohi'a Lehua may go extinct because the fungus is killing our 'Ohi'a trees. We need to help. I lost so many things in my life. Ask my soccer team. I don't want to lose this beautiful thing too.

If our early Hawaiians didn't have 'Ohi'a Lehua, their houses would fall apart. They would be cold on the floor. If we didn't have Ohia Lehua, what would Pele do if she didn't have a flower pop out of the lava rock? What would bring her happiness?

That is why this is important to me. I think if everybody passes the bill in support of Ohia Lehua, we can have a state endemic tree.

Thank you for your time. We appreciate this. My friends and I would really like to thank you for taking your time for us.

Aloha Chairman Tarnas and Vice Chairman Pihana Branco,
and members of the community,

01/22/2022

Hi. My name is Avalon. I go to Kaneohe Elementary School. I'm also in the 4th grade. I am in an afterschool club called The Aloha Ambassadors. We are focusing on trying to save 'Ōhi'a Lehua. Our Club is supporting the bill SB 2059. *This bill is trying to create a new State of Hawaii title, called Hawaii State Endemic tree - 'Ōhi'a Lehua.*

I support this bill SB 2059 a lot. I learned that 'Ōhia Lehua trees around Hawaii have been infected. It is infected with **Ceratocystis**. (Ce-ra-to-cy-stis.). This is also called **Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death disease**. This is very bad. This is bad because 'Ōhi'a Lehua is home to many living things. Things like birds, insects, and different kinds of plants. 'Ōhi'a tree roots that also keep hold of the ground.

Saving 'Ōhi'a Lehua is also important to me because it is a big part of Hawaiian history. 'Ōhi'a is part of the Hawaiian legend. This means that it is a big part of Hawaiian life. Kanaka Maoli or the First Hawaiians used 'Ōhi'a Lehua for many things - like it's wood, medicine, pounding boards, and also, it was used to make their hale or homes. Because of this, it is very useful.

As you can see, 'Ōhi'a Lehua is a very important part of Hawaii life. I hope if this bill passes, people will take more time to learn about 'Ōhi'a Lehua and why it is important to Hawaii.

Thank you.

Aloha Chairman Tarnas, Vice Chairman Pihana Branco,
and members of the lāhui,

Hi, I am Isabela Duenas. I go to Kāne‘ohe Elementary School and I am in the 5th grade. I am here to promote Ohi‘a Lehua. I support the passing of bill SB2059 because when people think of Hawai‘i, I want them to think of something endemic like our Ohi‘a Lehua. It has been a part of Hawai‘i since the beginning of Hawaii.

It is important to share my voice because Ohi‘a Lehua connects me to my roots. The Ohi‘a Lehua was a part of the ‘āina from the times before. My kūpuna used this plant for many things that helped them progress in life.

Mahalo nui loa,

Isabela Duenas

Oli Mahalo

By Kehau Camara

‘Uhola ‘ia ka makaloa lā

Pū ‘ai ke aloha lā

Kū ka’i ‘ia ka hā loa lā

Pāwehi mai nā lehua

Mai ka ho’oku’i a ka hālāwai lā

Mahalo e ke Akua

Mahalo e nā ke kupuna la ‘eā

Mahalo me ke aloha lā

Mahalo me ke aloha lā

January 2022

Aloha Chairman Tarnas, Vice Chairman Pihana Branco, and members of the community:

My name is Tatiana Pana. I go to Kāneʻohe Elementary School. I am in the 5th grade. I am speaking to you today because I want to help make ʻōhiʻa lehua a new law.

I support bill SB 2059 because the ʻōhiʻa lehua plant is one of Hawaiʻi's most special trees. The reason for this is because it is a native tree to Hawaiʻi. That means that it was sprouted here in Pele's land from the very beginning. So we should honor that. It's Hawaiʻi's first tree.

I am honoring this tree because it did a lot for the Hawaiians when they didn't have much. Hawaiians back in past history only had nature to live their lives by. This tree did many things for them. ʻŌhiʻa lehua gave them medicine from its leaves and its bark. It also helped to make canoes and hale (homes) for them to live in. They also made statues of their gods using the wood. The wood is special because it is very strong.

I feel that to protect ʻōhiʻa lehua is important because it is a part of ʻohana. It is a part of our ʻohana because it is a gift to the Hawaiians. This bill is important. I support it because I get to learn and help our community. I want ʻōhiʻa lehua to continue living so the future can appreciate it too.

Thank you for listening to me. Thank you for your time. I hope you consider voting and making this a law.

Sincerely,

Tatiana Pana

Student, Grade 5

Kāneʻohe Elementary School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 10:23:24 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Drew Cohick	Testifying for Hawaii Tech Academy	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in support of SB2059

Dear Chair Taniguchi,

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

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 10:23:58 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Camden Hernandez	Individual	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in support of SB2059

Dear Chair Taniguchi,

I, Camden Hernandez, am in support of HB 000. Wanting to change the state endemic tree to the Ohi'a Lehua.

I learned that the Ohi'a Lehua is very important to our ecosystem. They help our native birds, water gatherers, and are important to Hawaiian culture. I have learned that there is Rapid Ohi'a Lehua death and is now causing some of our native birds to be endangered. It is also killing a lot of other plants and things all over the mountains. Please consider this bill as it will protect the native Ohi'a Lehua and all the other things that need it to survive. Mahalo for considering helping the Ohi'a Lehua.

Sincerely,

Camden Hernandez

Super Cool Chick

HTA, Grade 8th

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 10:25:31 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tyler Stokes	Testifying for HTA	Support	No

Comments:

I Tyler stokes think that we should make ohia the state endemic tree, for many reasons some of them being that is the natural habitat for native birds, another reason is that it is beautiful and make up some of our forests and it may also help the economy in a roundabout way because it is a beautiful plant that may bring in tourist and help local businesses like my dads, Kauai pasta.

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 10:25:38 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Caleb Stebbins	Individual	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in Support of SB 2059

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee,

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.

Sincerely, Caleb Stebbins

Student at Hawaii Technology Academy

on Kaua'i and very concerned citizen

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 10:25:49 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nate Schmaeling	Testifying for Hawaii Technology Academy	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Dear, Chair Taniguchi,

My Name is Nate Schmaeling, I am a supporter of SB2059, relating to State Endemic Tree which will make ‘ōhi‘a lehua the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

I have recently learned that ‘ōhi‘a is important for our clear water; it holds the soil in place so we don't get too much sediment washed out to sea. The ‘ōhi‘a tree is the foundation of our forests and without it collecting moisture, our water reservoirs would dry out. I also learned that our tree is in danger of a sickness, the Rapid ‘Ohi‘a Death, a moss that chokes the trees. We quarantine ourselves and others around us when we get sick. Why not the ‘ōhi‘a trees, one of the primary providers of our islands. I hope you will consider this bill as it will help protect our ever-giving ‘ōhi‘a. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nate Schmaeling

Student of Hawaii Tech Academy

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 10:26:26 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
hailey	Individual	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony In Support of SB2059

Dear chair Taniguchi,

I, Hailey Hernandez, am in support of SB2059, wanting the state endemic tree of Hawaii to be the Ohi'a Lehua. I learned that the Ohi'a Lehua is very important to Hawaii. For example, it is one of Hawaii's major water sources. It also is important to the native birds. It is the native birds' food and shelter, so without the tree the birds will die. With rapid Ohi'a Lehua death a lot of the land from the mountain to the sea will die. I hope you consider this bill and help protect the Ohi'a Lehua. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

Hailey Hernandez

Cool KID

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 10:26:26 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tatum Bogner	Individual	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony to support of SB2069

Dear Ronald D. Kouchi,

Aloha, I support Testimony SB2059, designating the Ohi'a tree as the Hawaiian islands state endemic tree. The Ohi'a has found to help the improvement of the Hawaiian islands environment.

When working in agriculture or environment companies, you rely on the flow of water in the environment, creating healthy crops and ecosystem. The Ohia tree assists with the flow of water throughout the islands. Without it, there would be lands that are dry and lands overflowing with water.

This bill is very important to me because people need to be more aware of their surroundings when entering an important land. Along with that, me and my dad's job rely on the flow of water in the soil when planting and growing crops. Because it rarely ever rains in that area.

For the future generations to see the native birds within the Hawaiian islands, they need to have access to materials. The birds use the Ohi'a tree as shelter, forming a sense of protection. With informing people about the Ohi'a tree's great value to the Hawaiians islands, we will have a greater chance of saving it.

Sincerely,

Tatum Bogner

Hawaii Technology Academy

8th grade

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 10:30:11 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cedric Crampton-Nabaa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Monday, February 14, 2022

3:10 PM

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in Support of SB 2059

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara Jr., and Members of the Committee

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

The 'Ohi'a tree is one of the most important trees in our ecosystem here in Hawaii. These trees provide helpful shelter and food to many native animal species, such as birds like the I'iwi. They also help prevent landslides that could be potentially harmful to people. The 'Ohi'a trees also help us get the water we need to survive. The trees also have many economic and cultural benefits. In addition, they provide beauty to the land. Please Support SB 2059 and make this important tree our state endemic tree in order to protect it from Rapid 'Ohi'a Death.

Sincerely, Cedric Crampton-Nabaa

Student at Hawaii Technology Academy

on Kaua'i and very concerned citizen

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 10:32:42 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Finn Matsuoka	Individual	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

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

Over 175,000 acres of forest contain 'ohi'a showing symptoms of rapid 'ohi'a death disease on the island of Hawaii. We want to make 'ohi'a our state endemic tree so we can protect it more.

'Ohi'a plays a big part in the environment and culture of Hawaii. It is one of the most important trees for native Hawaiian birds such as 'Apapane and 'Akohekohe, which get their food from nectar producing flowers.

Ohia's sturdy wood was used to create weapons, kapa cloth beaters, boards for pounding poi, enclosers and statues; They also used its leaves as medical tea. That is why we should make Ohia a state endemic tree.

Sincerely,

Finn Matsuoka

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 10:38:13 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kerstyn Afuso	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Subject: In full support of SB2059

Aloha e Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara Jr. and Members of the LCA Committee,

I fully support SB2059 which designates ‘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) and unique leaf structure. But, I only ever get to see ‘ōhi‘a lehua around once a year, on the off chance that it is present in the high elevations on a hike. 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

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 10:46:25 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nyjah Castillo	Individual	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in Support of SB2059

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Hello, my name is Nyjah Castillo I live on the east side of Wailua on the island Kauai. I really want to help Ohia grow and by doing that I needed to contact you and ask you to help. I really want to see the ohia plant everywhere on the Hawaii islands. I and my classmates of HTA want to help this plant out any way we can.

Sincerely,

Nyjah Castillo

Kauai resident

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 10:49:01 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Caden Conserva	Individual	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in support of SB2059

Hello COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS, my name is Caden Conserva and I live on the north shore of Kauai. My class and I have been learning about the ohia tree in Science and English this year. I have learned how important the ohia tree is to us and our aina. I believe making the ohia tree our state endemic tree is important because it is in desperate health. Many infestations on the island of Kauai are affecting this tree, and we need to save it for our future generations here on Kauai.

Sincerely,

Caden Conserva

Student, Kauai resident

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 10:54:46 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tanner Brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The companion bill on the Senate side SB2059 has been scheduled for a hearing on Monday, 2/14. Let's show our love for 'ōhi'a this Valentine's day!

Here's the hearing info (hearing notice attached):

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

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

Every year we see the news of our forests being taken or destroyed. This loss is due to introduce 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 SB2059.

Sincerely,

Tanner Brown

HTA Studen

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 12:43:46 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kamalei	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in support of SB2059

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Dear Senator: Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

My name is Kamalei Bullock, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because it serves as a food and water source for native animals. 'Ōhi'a is also put into aquifers and is crucial for emergencies. 'Ōhi'a lehua has sturdy wood and can make good tools. 'Ōhi'a also serves medicinal purposes... For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, SB2059, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

According to the article [Hawai'i's Legendary 'Ōhi'a Tree Is Important For Birds And People](#). 'ohi'a 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 'ohi'a, too. Helping 'Ōhi'a growth could save a lot of the native species that are declining.

As a legislator you can help by passing the law of the 'Ōhi'a lehua tree becoming the state tree. This will severely help the tree to be brought to awareness and to be cared for more. The tree is a big part in the Hawaiian culture. Me ka mahalo nui.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kamalei Bullock

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 12:44:12 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Aiden Symonds	Individual	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in Support of SB2059

Dear Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

My name is Aiden Symonds, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because it can change the landscape of lava flow, it also collects water for other plants and trees, and some insects use them as homes. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, SB2059 "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

According to Hawaii Magazine "Just because the 'ōhi'a lehua flower looks dainty and delicate, the plant itself is incredibly durable and can grow in rugged, barren environments. Nowhere is that more apparent than in areas that have been covered by recent lava flows; the 'ōhi'a tree tends to be one of the first plants to colonize these dry, obsidian lava rock habitats." which proves the 'ōhi'a can create new terrain and forests. This would help us by making more forests so our native animals can thrive. It would also make areas that have been covered by lava able to live in for humans and animals alike.

As a legislator, you can help by introducing the bill to the legislative branch which would show legislators the topic. That would have a significant impact because it would be pushed

into the branch and would show that people care about this topic and that people want change.

Me ka mahalo nui,

Aiden Symonds

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 12:44:20 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ikena Armitage	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB2059

COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair 15

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, February 14, 2022

TIME: 3:10 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Dear Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

My name is Ikena Armitage, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because the 'ōhi'a tree protects native species after lava flows. The 'ōhi'a lehua tree shelters food for the native birds and animals. It is a water collector for all of the trees in the forest and it's sometimes helpful to be used as a building tool because it provides wood for what you need. For these reasons, I am supporting the bill, SB2059, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

According to the Hawai'i Forest Institute & Hawai'i Forest Industry Association, it states that the 'ōhi'a "Protect watersheds for agriculture and drinking water." How it protects watersheds is that when it is raining, the 'ōhi'a tree is the water collector for the environment in which it lives. I feel the 'ōhi'a helps to keep the other trees with enough water from the rain so it can flow into the aquifer and supply people with water so we can survive. It helps the environment by collecting water for us and all the plants stay healthy

and keeps the forest greener and keeps the environment healthy(alive). It helps the people of Hawaii by taking care of us and in return we will take care of all the trees and plants in the forest.

As a legislator, you can help by understanding the situation of the 'ōhia tree and understanding the problems of the 'ōhia tree. That would have a significant impact because all the people of hawaii needs the 'ōhia lehua tree because it provides water for us and the plants so the hawaii can be healthy and earthy.

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 12:44:25 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Trever Felten	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB2059

COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Rep. Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Rep. Les Ihara, Jr. Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, February 14, 2022

TIME: 10:30AM

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Dear: Senator Brain T. Taniguchi, Chair

My name is Trever Felten, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because people live off of the 'ōhia tree, animals also live off the 'ōhia tree. If we didn't have the 'ōhia tree there would be a small chance of survival. Another reason is that it collects water for us to survive off of. Lastly, it collects water for all plants and trees. The 'ōhia tree also gives us shelter. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, SB2059, "Relating to State Endemic Trees."

According to an article titled, "'Ōhi'a Lehua in Hawai'i Forest Institute & Hawai'i Forest Industry Association" it says that "Birds and many other species depend on 'ōhia for food and nesting sites including many of Hawaii's federally endangered forest birds." I feel like this is important because if the 'ōhia tree can provide water, shelter, food, etc. for animals,

it can also provide all those materials for people. This means that people and animals have a higher chance of survival.

As a legislator, you can help by understanding the situation of the 'ōhia tree and understanding the problems of the 'ōhia tree. That would have a significant impact because people and insects can have a higher survival rate with the 'ōhia tree being used as their food source, their water source, and being able to be used as shelter.

Ke aloha nō

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in Support of SB2059

Dear Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair,

My name is Bailey Baybayan and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I hold interest in designating the 'ōhi'a lehua as the state's endemic tree because they have high cultural significance. The 'ōhi'a also provides water for our islands and makes food and shelter for us, animals, and plants. It's also important to note that the 'ōhi'a has been dying rapidly due to ROD (Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death). For these reasons, I am in support of the house bill, SB2059, "*Relating to State Endemic Tree*".

Lately a fungus named ROD is spreading swiftly across Hawai'i Island and Kaua'i and infecting our 'ōhi'a trees. According to an article on the Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death by the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources it states that, "...in 2019, more than 175,000 acres of forest contain 'ōhi'a showing symptoms of Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death disease on the Island of Hawai'i". This shows that whole communities of 'ōhi'a are dying *just* on Hawai'i island, not to say how many are dying on Kaua'i and O'ahu. With ROD rapidly killing our 'ōhi'a, our forests would deteriorate and a whole array of species across our islands would pass without the 'ōhi'a. Native birds would be left without a home and food, and the 'āina would be absent of water,

As a legislator, you can help by promoting this bill to the rest of the legislative branch and push for it to be a law. By making the 'ōhi'a the state endemic tree, it would raise awareness about ROD and help make people care about the 'ōhi'a. In doing so, the 'ōhi'a would no longer perish, but prosper. I ola 'oe, i ola mākou nei. (My life is dependent on yours, your life is dependent on mine.)

Sincerely,
Bailey Baybayan
Kamehameha Schools Maui
7th Grade

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 12:44:34 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Aene valdez	Individual	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in Support of SB2059

Dear Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair and Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

My name is Aene Valdez, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because. Out of the Ōhi'a tree you can make leis and clothing out of it. According to Hawaii Magazines "the 'ōhi'a tree tends to be one of the first plants to colonize these dry, obsidian lava rock habitats."

According to the The Ohia "the tree soaks in water and puts it in the ground to the pipes so we can drink the water it provides us." The ōhi'a can grow on rocks and the flower blooms around the lava. According to Hawaii Magazine "the plant itself is incredibly durable and can grow in rugged, barren environments."This tree can grow almost anywhere but if we don't do anything about it this tree will be extinct.

As a legislator you can show this to the legislative branch to hopefully make it the state tree. That would be a significant impact because this would mean that this tree wouldn't go extinct or be forgotten. It would be taken care of. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, SB2059, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

Ma Ka Mahalo Nui,

Aene Kapule Valdez

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 12:44:39 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Teyvon Kahalewai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony In Support Of SB2059

Teyvon Kahalewai- Letter

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

My name is Teyvon Kahalewai, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because protecting the 'ōhi'a tree means protecting other native species since its a shelter and provides food, water and wood which can help people with there daily life. The 'ōhia tree is a water collector which can help with other native plants or animals. It can also be used for weapons, clothing and could be used for medicine. 'Ōhia tree can also be a shelter for animals and food. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, SB2059, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

According to an article titled, “The cultural significance of ohia lehua and Hawai‘i Magazines” the ‘ōhia tree shelters and feeds animals like our native birds. This tree is a large food and water source which is important to our native plants and animals. It also helps with our daily life like making clothes, weapons and medicine. All these benefits help keep our culture and aina healthy and alive.

As a legislator, you can help by understanding the benefits of making the ‘ōhia tree a state endemic tree. You could also help by trying to convince people that the ‘ōhia tree is helpful and important to Hawaii and its culture. That would have a significant impact because our native species could be saved and could be staying healthy since the ‘ōhia tree makes such a big impact to our ‘āina.

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 12:44:47 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gideon Kapuaala	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB2059

Dear Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

My name is Gideon Kapuaala, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because it has more uses and more of a significant benefit on wildlife and people alike in today's society. The 'ōhi'a trees serve as shelter for plants and wildlife. 'Ōhi'a trees also collect water for other trees when they can't reach water, this occurs when it rains. For these reasons, I am supporting the bill, SB2059, "Relating to the State Endemic Tree."

According to an article titled "Rapid Ohia Death – Threat to Hawaii's Water" published by "[TIMOTHY A. SCHULER](#)" In the article it states "No other tree in Hawaii's native forests "captures water the way 'ōhi'a does," says CTAHR's Corie Yanger. Look at an 'ōhi'a – at its branch architecture, its densely clustered leaves, at the lichens and mosses that often colonize its bark. "All of that creates a sort of sponge for the water that falls," she says.". This article supports my claim of 'ōhi'a trees collecting water. It shows an explanation of how 'ōhi'a trees collect water.

As a legislator, you can help by telling others about Rapid Ohia Death (ROD) and telling others about the benefits of 'ōhi'a trees and why it would be so significant to make 'ōhi'a trees the state endemic tree. This would have a significant impact because as a senator you have the ability to influence a lot of people and draw people's attention to the topic.

Me ka mahalo nui, Gideon Kapuaala

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 12:44:53 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Emily Ching	Individual	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in Support of SB2059

Dear, Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

My name is Emily Ching, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because it is biocultural used in ōlelo, mele, and oli. Also, 'Ōhi'a's sturdy wood was to create weapons. Lastly, it is an important food source for birds. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, SB2059, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

According to the article titled " 'Ōhi'a Lehua Trees " published by Haleakala National Park it states, 'Ōhi'a lehua flowers are an important food source for the native hawaiian birds because they sip the nectar from the red blossoms and glean insects in bark and leaves. These trees are home to many native insects and even rare native tree snails. This is important because the native Hawaiian birds need a food source to live. Also this is important because it tells that the 'ōhi'a lehua flowers help our environment too.

As a legislator, you can help by making 'ōhi'a lehua trees the endemic tree of hawai'i. That would have a significant impact because the 'ōhi'a lehua flowers are very important

because they have many different impacts on the environment. For example, you can use the 'ōhi'a's sturdy wood to create many weapons. It is an important food source for birds and native animals. The 'ōhi'a lehua flowers are also used in many hawaiian mele's, ōlelo's and oli. I hope you will support this bill on making the 'ōhi'a lehua the state endemic tree.

Me ka mahalo nui,

Emily Ching

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 12:45:12 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kylah-nell Benz	Individual	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in support of Sb2059

Dear: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

My name is Kylah-Nell Benz, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhia as the state's endemic tree because it is a bio-culturally important species used in ōlelo, mele, and oli. 'Ōhia is endemic and only found in Hawai'i and is important. 'Ōhia Lehua is very important, its flowers can be used for medicinal purposes. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, SB2059, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

According to hawaii magazine, 'Ōhia Lehua is important because 'ōhia trees were used for myriad purposes by ancient Hawaiians. Its wood was used as kapa cloth beaters, as boards for pounding poi, and for building structures and statues. The 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. I think it's important because all the ways I listed are how 'Ōhia Lehua can help our people. 'Ōhia Lehua can help our people survive and stay healthy.

As a legislator, you can help by making 'Ōhia Lehua as the state endemic tree. That would have a significant impact because I recently learned that 'Ōhia Lehua are homes to many native animals. The 'ōhi'a lehua flowers are an important food source for birds, they sip the nectar from the red blossoms. 'Ōhia trees also make up the largest portion of the

canopy in native wet forests. I hope you will support this bill on making the ‘Ōhia Lehua the state endemic tree.

Ke aloha nō,

Kylah-Nell Benz

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 12:45:19 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alanna Abe	Individual	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in support of SB2059

Dear: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

My name is Alanna Abe, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about

designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because it serves as a habitat for animals, especially native insects. It also is a water collector for trees and plants. It also prevents erosion when there are floods and storms. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, SB2059, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

According to the article titled "Hawaii's water cycle" published by the board of water supply it states, "Canopy trees, like ohia, catch the majority of raindrops, plus additional fog drip. Water flows along the tree's branches to it's trunk, and the bark texture slows the rate of the flow". What this means to me is that we should start to pay more attention to the bark texture because that will tell us the flow of the water and how much there is. Also

according to the article titled “ ‘ōhi‘a lehua” published by the dlnr hawaii “The water slowly percolates down and replenishes our aquifer, our source of water”. This supports my claim because the water that comes from the ‘ōhi‘a tree is provided for other native trees and plants. This is important because if the native trees and plants die from not having enough water there won’t be a lot of native plants and trees left.

As a legislator, you can help by making this a bill. That would have a significant impact because more people would know that the ‘ōhi‘a trees provide water for the native plants and trees.

Me ke mahalo nui,

Alanna Abe

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 12:45:25 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Radyn Yap	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB2059

COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Senator Adriana K. Tam, Chair

DATE: Monday, February 14, 2022

TIME: 3:10PM

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Dear: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

My name is Radyn Yap, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because the 'Ohi'a can be used to make shelters or food and can even collect water from rain or passing clouds. All those things are essential for survival so the 'ōhi'a can be very important. The 'ōhi'a was a big part of Hawaiian culture so it should definitely be a state endemic tree. A 'ōhi'a is endemic to hawaii, meaning it can only be found in hawaii so it holds a lot of meaning for hawaii. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, SB2059, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

According to an article titled, "The Legend & Culture Significance of the 'Ōhi'a Lehua" Written by Kapina Lansdale. It says that "The 'Ōhia's sturdy wood was used to create weapons, kapa cloth beaters, boards for poi pounding and statues." This was important to Hawaiian culture because they were able to use a single tree for many things and that was

why Hawaii was so healthy and able to live off the land. 'Ōhi'a Lehua's were also used for medicinal uses and often mentioned in mele and oli's.

As a legislator, you can help by bringing this idea up to the legislative branch. That would have a significant impact because it would bring awareness to the 'Ōhi'a and would slowly solve the problem of the deadly ROD.

Thank you for your consideration,

Radyn Yap

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 12:45:28 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Bellamoon Hunkin	Individual	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in support of SB2059

Dear Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

My name is Bellamoon Hunkin, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because it provides a habitat for native birds. It helps to provide necessities such as food, water and shelter. The ohia tree can also be used for cultural resources. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill SB2059, "Relating to State Endemic Trees."

Did you know that there are only about 865,000 acres of 'ōhi'a forests left in hawaii. According to an article titled " 'Ōhi'a lehua" it states that "Birds and many other species depend on 'ohi'a for food and nesting sites including many of Hawaii's federally endangered forest birds." This supports my claim that we need to protect the 'ōhi'a because it helps to save the animals and helps to provide water. If the 'Ōhi'a trees go

extinct the watersheds will start to have less water in which we use. Another reason to protect 'Ōhi'a trees is because Native birds will have limited places to call home.

As a legislator, you can help by making this into a bill. Your help would have a significant impact because we need to protect the 'Ōhi'a trees for the sake of our culture, our necessities and our native species.

Me ka mahalo nui,

Bellamoon Hunkin

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 12:46:03 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
nevaeh	Individual	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in support of SB2059

Dear Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair :

My name is Nevaeh Howard, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because, The salvation of the forests and people depends on this tree. Also, 'Ōhia trees are only found in Hawai'i. Last but not least, 'Ōhia is used for many cultural purposes. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill SB2059, "Relating to State Endemic Trees."

According to the article, "The cultural significance of 'Ōhia lehua" published by "Hawai'i Magazine" it states that "As such, the abundant plant had many uses for early Hawaiians: 'Ōhia's sturdy wood was used to create weapons, kapa cloth beaters, boards for pounding poi, enclosures and statues; its leaves were used as a medicinal tea; and its flowers and its seeds fed native birds like the apapane and the now-extinct mamo, whose prized feathers—

in colors similar to lehua blossoms—were also important adornments in hula and other ceremonies.” This supports my claim by showing that ‘Ōhia trees are used and very important to our culture. When we Lose ‘Ōhia trees, we lose ways to show our history, mo‘oleos, and resources are lost.

As a legislator, you can help by passing this bill. That would have a significant impact because our ‘Ōhia trees are in danger and need our saving.

Me ka mahalo nui,

Nevaeh Howard

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 12:49:40 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Emma Gouveia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in support of SB2059

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Dear: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

My name is Emma Gouveia, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because the 'ōhi'a lehua tree is a pioneer species, also they are great water providers, and because of the R.O.D (Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death), we have to plant more trees and stop the virus. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, SB2059, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

Did you know that Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death is a fungus that clogs the vascular system of the tree, which poisons the water in the tree and can kill the tree quickly? The article "Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death", states this "'Ōhi'a is the keystone species in Hawaiian forests, and ROD has the potential to cause major ecosystem disturbances that will negatively impact watersheds, cultural traditions, natural resources, and quality of life." So ROD can kill the whole environment, not just the 'ōhi'a tree. To stop the disease, you can stay on established trails, clean your shoes before and after going in and out of a forest, and lastly wash your gear and clothing in hot soapy water. To me, this virus is like covid, if we don't do something to

stop it then it'll be here for a long time. To Hawaii, if these trees keep dying then there won't be any left and because this tree is endemic, the tree could die forever.

As a legislator, you can help by using my examples to convince others to agree to the 'ōhi'a tree being our state endemic tree. That would have a significant impact because you will be one more person who agrees to have the 'ōhi'ā tree our state endemic tree.

Me ka mahalo nui,

Emma Gouveia

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 12:51:02 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tiare-lei D	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CjJb_6ecqu7OtJCDql00isYNz4iJEzWMzn5IJDQMNVI/edit?usp=sharing

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 1:02:58 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Clifton N Layman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senate

Committee on Labor, Culture, and the Arts

February 14, 2022

3:10 PM, Conference Room 225

State Capitol

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

Aloha Chair Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair Les Ihara Jr., and Members of the Committee on Labor, Culture, and the Arts,

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

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 1:20:23 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Isaac Salazar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senate

Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

February 14, 2022

3:10 PM, Conference Room 225

State Capitol

Aloha Chair Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair Les Ihara Jr., and members of the Committee on Labor, Cultures and the Arts,

I'm Isaac Salazar a Junior in Kalaheo High and I support the bill for designating the ohia plant or SB 2059 to be our State endemic plant, 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 put up awareness, its 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 11th

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 1:23:29 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Thomas Lockwood	Testifying for HTA	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Ohi'a

Aloha Senators

I am in favor of SB 2059 In 2019, over 175,000 acres of forest contain 'ōhi'a showing symptoms of Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death disease on the Island of Hawai'i. This will not replace the kukui nut tree. This will create another category. no protections for 'ōhi'a means no protections for other native and endemic species that rely on the Ohi'a to survive. If all the native plants are gone next to no one will want to come here because most of the plants are invasive. Our watersheds also rely on Ohi'a. The Ohia also has cultural importance, we use it in hula and many other practices. So I strongly advise you to vote for SB 2059

Sincerely

Thomas Lockwood

Student Of HTA Charter School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 1:25:23 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Olivia Allen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawaii State Senate

Ronald Kouchi, District 8 Senator

February 9, 2022

Conference Room 409

State Capital

Testimony in Support of SB2059

Aloha, Ronald D. Kouchi,

I, Olivia Allen, am in support of SB2059 Relating to State Endemic Tree which would designate ‘ohi’a lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii

I know making the Ohia Lehua Tree the state tree would have many benefits for the environment and future. As in animal safety, stopping extinction, keeping culture all tied together, etc.

For example, with the Ohia Lehua tree as the state tree, there would be more efforts to help and save Ohia Lehua from their Rapid Ohia Death. This disease could and most likely will wipe out tons of this sacred tree that has and does a great positive effect on the environment.

However, without it, there would be very minimal shelter along with minimal food which could lead to possible extinction for some endangered birds along with the birds that are not endangered that rely on this tree. There could also be a serious decline in trees due to Rapid Ohia Death which could end up in almost 50-100% of these trees gone in many series of years.

Another reason why this tree is important is because they play a huge role in religion, specifically Hawaiian. The Ohia Lehua tree's flowers are obtained and used for Haku (flower crown leis) utilized in hula, wood for things such as weapons, Kapa cloth beaters, boards for pounding poi, enclosures, statues, etc., along with their leaves made into medical tea, and finally their seeds to feed native birds such as the Apapane and the now extinct Mamo birds.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Olivia Allen

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 1:27:53 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kawai Ventura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 1:30 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in Support of SB2059

Dear Chair Taniguchi,

I, Kawailele Ventura, am in support of SB 2059, Relating to the state endemic tree, which would designate Ohi'a as the state endemic tree of Hawaii. Here are some reasons: Ohi'a was one of the first trees to arrive in Hawaii, and as we all know, Ohi'a is under attack from the Rapid Ohi'a Death (ROD), and thousands of ohia trees have been dying off. If we make ohia our state endemic tree, then the Ohi'a will become protected from humans and animals that harm the Ohi'a. The Ohi'a tree is so important because it helps our coral reefs be kept clean, and the coral reefs keep our oceans clean and beautiful. Also, the Lehua flower, part of the Ohia tree, is food for our native birds, and our native birds, in Hawaii, are very important to us. Ohi'a is very important to our State, and it only grows in Hawai'i, so it's our responsibility to protect it. So please take this under consideration about making the Ohi'a Lehua tree Hawaii's state endemic tree, so it can become protected from going extinct.

Sincerely,

Kawailele Ventura

A person who wants to protect ohi'a

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 1:28:54 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kyli Lofton	Testifying for Hawaii Tech Academy	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in support of HB2059

Dear Representative Morikawa,

I, Kyli Lofton, am in support of HB2059, 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 HB2059.

Sincerely,

Kyli Lofton

Middle School student & Kauai resident

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 1:34:22 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nayah	Individual	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in support of SB2059

Dear Chair Senator Brian T. Taniguchi,

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

The Ohia Lehua is an amazing tree that grows ONLY here in Hawai'i. We need to protect this tree because if we don't it our island's water would be more polluted with dirt. We would also lose many special native birds, plants and other animals that rely on Ohia. Overall please help make the Ohia Lehua our state endemic tree because it's actually native to Hawai'i and more people should recognize it and help it survive through rapid Ohia death.

Sincerely,

Nayah Cornell

Kauai resident and HTA student.

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 1:37:15 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Koi Pope	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 1:40 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in support of SB2059

Dear Chair Taniguchi,

I, Koi Pope, am in support of SB 2059, Relating to the state endemic tree, which would designate Ohi'a as the state endemic tree of Hawaii. Here are some reasons: Ohi'a was one of the first trees to arrive in Hawaii, and as we all know, Ohi'a is under attack from the rapid ohi'a death (ROD), and thousands of ohia trees have been dying off. If we make ohia our state endemic tree, then the ohi'a will become protected from humans and animals that harm the Ohi'a. The ohi'a tree is so important because it helps our coral reefs be kept clean, and the coral reefs keep our oceans clean and beautiful. Also, the Lehua flower, part of the Ohia tree, is food for our native birds, and our native birds, in Hawaii, are very important to us. Ohi'a is very important to our State, and it only grows in Hawai'i, so it's our responsibility to protect it. So please take this under consideration about making the Ohi'a Lehua tree Hawaii's state endemic tree, so it can become protected from going extinct.

Sincerely,

Koi Pope

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 1:39:37 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ashlyn Worley	Individual	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in Support of SB2059

Dear Chair Senator Brian T. Taniguchi,

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

My name is Ashlyn Worley I was born and raised on the North Shore of Kauai. I am writing to you today on behalf of a member of our community who can not speak for themselves. The Ohia Lehua has been a part of the Hawaiian culture and ecosystem since the beginning. Her roots run deep from the ocean to the mountain tops covering over 865,000 acres on 6 Hawaiian Islands. She is home to many bird species, some of who are no longer with us today. Her species name polymorpha meaning "many forms" fits her well, she can take the form of a tiny shrub or a large tree depending on where she is situated. The Ohia Lehua is the first tree to grow in the barren lava fields, cultivating the lava for other plants to be able to germinate and grow. Although she cannot speak for herself, her roots and branches can tell the stories of the history of our beautiful islands. It is important that we speak up on her behalf and protect her so she may continue to grow and populate the islands.

Making the Ohia Lehua tree a state endemic tree would give her a layer of protection. We must protect the Ohia so that she can continue to be a home for our many native species that depend on her. Throughout history and to this day the Ohia Lehua has been threatened by outside species bringing disease and ruin to her thriving in the place she calls home. Giving her the title of an endemic species I hope will help protect this very important part of Hawaiian history.

I made this story in honor of the ohia lehua please check it out by clicking on this link: <https://flipgrid.com/b2b616e9>

Sincerely,

Ashlyn Worley

7th-grade student at HTA, Kauai

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 1:41:47 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jaron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

I have recently learned that ohia is extremely important to the perpetuation and preservation of hawaiian culture serves as a cornerstone species of our forests and is learned that there are several threats including Rapid Ohia Death and a rust that endanger the species which would be devastating to all life forms from the mountains to the sea. I hope you will consider this bill as it will help to bring protections for our beloved ohia thank you for your consideration

Jaron Fox

HTA Kauai Campus

7th grade

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 1:41:30 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cambell Donahoe	Individual	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Dear Chair Taniguchi,

I, Cambell Donahoe, **am in support of SB2059**, relating to designate Ohia Lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii. I want the Ohia tree to become the state tree for many reasons. One reason is that it's a prime source of habitat for many plants, birds, and animals. Without the tree, many of these animals and plants would become extinct like the bird mamoa. We should make the Ohia the state tree because of the cultural purposes and resources it gives us as well. In hula, we use the lehua part(flower) of the tree to make leis and hula altar adornment. Before modern medicine today the leaves of the Ohia tree could be used to make medicine and healing. They were most commonly used to numb the pain of women giving birth. Lastly, we should make the Ohia the state tree because "the lehua is the first tree that springs up from a recent lava flow. It's for that reason when we speak in Hawaiian and we speak of people who are skilled, strong, and beloved, they're often referred to as pua lehua or lehua flowers. They, like the lehua, have a kind of resilience, a strength and a grace about them." Thank you in advance for voting in support of SB2059.

Sincerely,

Cambell Donahoe

Student at HTA, Kauai

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 1:41:45 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shay Clark	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear chair Taniguchi,

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

If you have not learned yet, ohia is extremely important to the perpetuation and preservation of Hawaiian culture, serves as a cornerstone species of our forest, and is economically important as a vital water gatherer to replenish our state aquifers. But we are losing our ohia in rapid ohia death. So I hope you consider this bill to make Ohia the state tree no one wants to lose our beautiful forest. Help us save ohia.

Sincerely,

Shay Clark

Student at Hta

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 1:42:45 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Travis Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Ohia tree is a symbol of cultural and ecological identity here in Hawaii. It is one of the first trees to grow upon new lava rock, and one of the trees that can signal a mature forest. Taking measures to protect remaining ohia trees and stands, as well as propegating and caring for future ohia stands are a vital and symbological act of investing in the future of our land and loved ones. Designating Ohia lehua as the state endemic tree is a solid first step in protecting and proliferating ohia lehua trees to forever be a part of our future.

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 2:07:32 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Koda	Individual	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in Support of SB2059

Dear Senator Brian T. Taniguchi,

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I am Peyton Fontanilla, I am in 7th Grade, and I live on the island of Kauai. I attend Hawaii Technology Academy! I wanted to share some information about the Ohia Tree and why we should make it the State Epidemic Tree.

My first reason being that the Ohia Lehua Tree is a habitat or home to so many animals. Here are some of the birds that live in the Ohia Tree. Birds such as I'iwi, 'Apapane, and 'Akohekohe. Without these birds Hawaii's food chain would go crazy. Because here is what the food chain looks like now:

The sun helps the plants grow. The worms feed off the plants. The I'iwi feed off the worms. The hawks feed off the I'iwi.

Now without these “systems” the birds would go extinct and these numbers would sky rocket.

Not to mention water flows through the tree. In a lot of major rivers and streams, the water flows through Ohia Trees. It not only cleans the water but tends to unintentionally collect rubbish that has been thrown into the river/stream and so that trash doesn't end up in the ocean.

Another reason that Ohia should be the state epidemic tree is because it feeds a lot of our birds and without the nectar the food chain will get messed up, a lot of native animal species will die, and a lot of native plants will not get pollinated with the nectar. Now this is only the nectar, not even the wood or the leaves.

The wood is not as sturdy as Koa wood but it is still pretty sturdy. People used to use it for utensils and to make baskets and such. The wood would also be used for the decking of ships and the paneling of houses. It was more for the looks then the actual use. It was also commonly used to patch up holes where insects have eaten wood and stuff.

It might not be used for as much of this stuff today, but it is still used for a lot of things. It may not seem like a lot but if you were to go back in time and not use the Ohia tree for anything it would have made a big impact on society.

I hope this has given you a small glimpse of my perspective on this and has helped to persuade you to help us get the Ohia tree as the state epidemic tree.

Koda Schmauch

7th Grade, HTA

Kauai, Hawaii

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 3:16:01 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kim Rogers	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I'm writing to encourage you to support SB2059 and declare 'ōhi'a lehua as Hawaii's State Endemic Tree. There are numerous reason 'ōhi'a deserve this recognition. They are the most abundant tree in Hawaii's native forest, one of the first plants to start growing after a fresh lava flow and the backbone of the native forest. They provide food and a home to numerous flora and fauna, many endangered. They are critical to our watershed, helping ensure we have fresh water to drink. Additionally, 'ōhi'a are recognize in numerous parts of Hawaiian culture, including mele, oli, and hula. 'Ōhi'a is being threatened by an invasive pathogen. Over one million trees on Hawaii Island have died of Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death. Let's give 'ōhi'a the recognition and awareness it deserves.

Mahalo nui,

Kim

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 4:06:58 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Francesca Koethe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Ihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Labor, Culture, and the Arts,

I SUPPORT SB2059, which seeks to designate ohia lehua as the state endemic tree in order to recognize its cultural and ecological importance and raise awareness of the critical threats to ohia.

I respectfully urge you to PASS SB2059.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify,

Francesca Koethe

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 4:27:46 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Bill Stormont	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou. I write today in strong support for SB2059 and it's intent to designate our beloved `ohi`a, *Metrosideros polymorpha*, as the state endemic tree. While many of our endemic forest trees would be worthy of this designation, the `ohi`a stands head and shoulders above them spritually, biologically and physically. As the measure states, it is the keystone species in our native forests, occuring from sea level to over 8,000' in elevation, in wet forests, dry forests and everything in between. And in each it truly anchors the forest and associated ecosystems. Additionally, this designation will be more than symbolic. It sends the appropriate message far and wide, and will enable even greater focus on educational curriculum that shares the value not only of `ohi`a, but of the special nature of all of Hawai`i's endemic species and their unique qualities and remarkable natural history. With aloha

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 4:59:52 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ananiah	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Senator Ronald D Kouchi

DATE: Monday, February 14, 2022

TIME: 3:10 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in Support of SB 2059

Dear Ronald Kouchi,

I, Ananiah Ceda, am in support of SB 2059, Associating to the State Endemic tree which therefore would appoint Ohia Lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

With the help of my teachers at Hawaii Technical Academy, I could assimilate and understand the utmost importance of how Ohia Lehua is to Hawaii's economy, native species, and us, the people of Hawaii. I recently learned Ohia Lehua produces the largest portion of canopy, which prevents water from going into the ground. Instead, it goes into our trees and helps our watershed produce more water. Without Ohia Lehua, it would not protect our watershed, which supplies our native animals, plants and us to survive. I hope you will take this bill into consideration, which will help save our Ohia Lehua and benefit our watersheds, too. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely

Ananiah Ceda

Hawaii Technology Academy, Middle School Student

Arwen Revere

Regarding designating 'Ōhi'a lehua as the state endemic tree

February 6th, 2022

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 incredible species will result in higher compliance with conservation strategies and help develop thriving native forests.

Thank you committee members for hearing our testimony. We appreciate your consideration of our view on this important matter.

Arwen Revere, on behalf of Wild Kids

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, Kayah Kaheawailani Boter, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because The reason I support this bill is because this 'Ohi'a tree 'is endemic to Hawai'i & I feel that it should be one of our state trees. Why have a tree that can be grown anywhere as our state tree when you can have a tree that only grows in your state as your state tree. Two, this tree is very important to the Native Hawaiians' culture. For example, the wood was used for kapa beaters, boards for making poi, & the flowers had medicinal purposes. This plant poses as a home for many endemic species. For example, the 'apapane & 'i'wi. This plant is also a pioneer plant which means that this plant is the first plant that grows out of the cracks of the molten lava.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Kayah Kaheawailani Boter

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 9:26:51 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jarrold Orsino	Individual	Support	No

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 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

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 9:27:09 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jezhryel Gray	Individual	Support	No

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 Jezhryel Gray am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the ‘ōhia tree collects water for us which we can barely survive without. The tree is also a home to many endangered species in Hawai’i. If this tree becomes the state endemic tree, it will symbolize protection for other native plants and animals of Hawai’i. This does not mean changing the state tree (kukui), it is merely adding a state endemic tree.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Jezhryel Gray

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 9:27:18 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dylan Erice	Individual	Support	No

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 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 the snd 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

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 9:27:24 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jacob Daguay	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, February 10, 2022

TIME: 9:23 PM

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara,

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

I Jacob Daguay am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the “ohi’a tree is an important tree to provide materials for the island like kapa cloth beaters, boards for poi pounding, etc. The “ohi’a tree has tons of purposes for the island. So I think that the “ohi’a tree should be the state endemic tree.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Jacob Dagua

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 9:27:37 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shawna Rabe	Individual	Support	No

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, 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

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 9:28:52 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ellie	Individual	Support	No

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, Ellie Chan am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the ohia tree is endemic to the island and has served many uses for many years for example, it can be used as kapa beaters and as wood for building objects and houses. It also provides housing for many native animals and insects. It also supplies water for the island as it is in a moist and damp environment that takes in water.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Ellie Chan

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 9:28:54 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Izzy Manibog	Individual	Support	No

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

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee.

I, Izzy Manibog, 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 this tree and its cultural significance is very important to the Hawaiian's since they had used this tree back then to use it to create things they needed so it was part of their culture. It is the first ever plant to grow on cooled lava. The Ohia tree's roots also prepare the area for future plant species to begin growing. This specific plant also provides food and shelter for birds, insects, and many more. Their trunks supply nutrients, water and protections for natin seedlings and epiphytes. The Ohia tree are the ones that replenish our island's aquifers, which provides our clean drinking water. This tree is no ordinary tree; the ohia is an important part of Hawaiian cultures through symbology and chants. Without this tree we would lose a lot from our drinking water to Hawaiian culture.

Sincerely your's, Izzy Manibog

Highlands Intermediate Student

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 9:29:41 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Heikura N. Ramento	Individual	Support	No

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,

I, Heikura Nui Ramento , 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 ohia lehua tree is valued by many people of the hawaii island community. The ohia lehua natural wood and vibrant flower is adore by the kanaka maoli for a myriad of reasons.

To begin with, the ohia lehua tree was used and presented in the culture of hawaii. Ohia lehua flowers grow red, yellow, and orange and tell many legends including the “Ohia Lehua Mythology”. Telling the myth of pele meeting a handsome warrior named Ohia that was married to a girl that pele despised named Lehua. Pele was angered that ohia could not be her love so she separated them which leads to today. If the lehua flower is picked off the ohia lehua tree then it would start pouring rain.

Secondly, the wood and bark of the ohia lehua tree is a natural resource that is used to build many different types of buildings and/or structures and products. The wood could be used to build houses that provide shelter and a roof over kanaka’s heads, canoes that travel the oceans of the pacific and carry fish to eat, and spears that are used by mighty hawaiian warriors in the fights of all the hawaiian islands.

Lastly, ohia lehua was treasured by many humans because the ohia is one of the many indigenius plants that originated from hawaii. Hawaii companies use the ohia lehua flower

as their print to represent how indigenous it is to hawaii. Indigenous meaning only grown naturally in one specific location.

In conclusion, the ohia lehua tree is cherished by the people of hawaii in many different ways including the flower that is used in the hawaiian culture, wood being a natural resource of hawaii, and lastly the ohia lehua tree and flower being indigenous to hawaii and only hawaii.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Heikura N. Ramento

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 9:32:12 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tayten Quimoyog-Nguyen	Individual	Support	No

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 Tayten Quimoyog-Nguyen am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because if the tree keeps passing around from state to state the ROD will spread, killing more of these trees. ROD enters these trees through their wounds and grow inside of them blocking the passage of nutrition. It is hard to spot and prevent.

The Ohi'a tree is really important. It's a pioneer species and it grows first. When it grows through the rocks, it grinds it up using it's roots. This helps other plant species grow and then animals come. The Ohi'a tree helps build ecosystems. This is why the Ohi'a tree should be the state endemic tree.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Tayten Quimoyog-Nguyen

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 9:32:23 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Maka Resurrection	Individual	Support	No

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 Makamaenani Resurrection, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because Firstly, the ohia branches are used to create traditional kalaau or dancing sticks. These kalaau or dancing sticks are important because it provides a regular temporal framework within the movements and the chanters singing.

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. GIving lei's are important espically when at gradurations because it shows our support and care for the person.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Maka Resurrection

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 9:33:14 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kacey Kusuda	Individual	Support	No

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 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.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Kacey Kusuda

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 11:17:38 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Piimauna kekiwi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Brian T. Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara, Jr.:

My name is Pi'imauna Kekiwi, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because it helps collect water for humans, gives animals shelter and food, and it helps build shelter for people. For these reasons, I am supporting SB2059.

Did you know that the 'ōhi'a tree gives shelter to the 'Apapane bird? According to George Wallace, the 'ōhi'a tree provides food for the 'apapane bird from its nectar-producing flowers. Another reason is the 'ōhi'a tree also provides shelter for the 'apapane and many other native birds. We need to keep the 'apapane safe because it helps pollinate native flowers in Hawaii. This is an important role because it helps produce a high level of fruits, flowers, and more.

You can help by making this bill a law and helping Hawaii protect the 'ōhi'a lehua. Mahalo for your help.

Sincerely,

Pi'imauna Kekiwi

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 11:18:42 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Leila Martin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Brian T. Taniguchi and Les Ihara Jr.

My name is Leila Martin, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state endemic tree because of its importance to recharging our aquifers, it is used in many things that help us connect to our culture like medicine, hula, leis, oli, and more. It is very important to a lot of endangered species and they need the tree to survive. For these reasons I am supporting the bill, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

Did you know that the 'ōhi'a tree is important to water collection in the Hawaiian islands? According to the article called, "Rapid 'Ohi'a Death – Threat to Hawaii's Water" written by Timothy A. Schuler, the economic value of a healthy 'ōhi'a forest can be calculated by understanding the forest's relationship to Hawaii's water. No other tree in Hawaii's native forests captures water like the 'ōhi'a. The article says, "Water has an economic value that we can measure and quantify and monetize." The tree is important for Hawaii to have clean water. We must save it.

As a legislator, you can help by reading and considering passing this bill. That would have a significant impact because with your help we will be able to save the ohia lehua. Saving the 'ōhi'a lehua would preserve the cultural connections as well as its importance to our water storage. I thank you for considering this important bill. Please help us save the 'ōhi'a lehua.

Sincerely,

Leila K. Martin

Kamehameha Schools

Class of 2027

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 11:18:59 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Josiah Kaya-Medeiros	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senators Brian T. Taniguchi, and Les Ihara ,Jr:

My name is Josiah, and I'm in The 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state endemic tree because The 'ōhi'a is the first amongst other trees to grow out from fresh lava flows. It is the home to many endangered animals and insects. And it covers many acres of land across hawai'i. For these reasons, I am supporting the bill Relating to state endemic tree.

Did you know that The 'Ōhi'a is home to many Native Hawaiian insects and animals? And that the 'ōhi'a is one of the main habitats to not just Native Hawaiian animals and insects but also all kinds of different animals. According to J.B. Friday From Hawai'i island and Ambyr Mokiao-Lee (ROD State-Wide Outreach Coordinator) from O'ahu, say birds and many other species depend on 'ōhi'a for food and nesting sites including many of Hawai'i's federally endangered forest birds. Another reason is that with the majority of Hawai i's endemic birds at risk of extinction, losing the dominant tree from their remaining habitat makes these birds more vulnerable, particularly if the fungus spreads to other islands. Even non-threatened birds, such as the could become endangered following severe habitat loss.

As a legislator, you can help by spreading the word and making this a law. That would have a significant impact because others may start to notice the importance of the 'Ōhi'a and start to care more. Then it will bring more attention to this beloved tree and more and more people will start to care and notice.

Sincerely,

Josiah Kaya-Medeiros

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 11:19:43 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nanea Kou Maka Arquero	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator BrianT. Taniguchi and Les Ihara, Jr.:

My name is Nanea Kou Maka Arquero, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree (SB2059) because the 'ōhi'a is a water collector meaning that it collects condensation from the sky and stores it so us and other trees around it have a source of water. Pele chose this flower and it is her favorite flower giving this tree so much meaning to us Hawaiians. My last reason is because although 'ōhi'a is an endemic tree it also houses hundreds of native species of insects and is a food source for many birds. For these reasons, I am supporting the bill, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

Did you know that the 'ōhi'a houses hundreds of insects that are native to Hawaii. It is also a main food source for many endangered native hawaiian honeycreepers and other types of birds as well. According to the Ulana Museum it says that the seeds from the lehua feed the 'apapane and the nectar from the flowers feed honeycreepers and the now extinct mamoa.

Another reason is that in ancient Hawaii the 'ōhi'a would house many insects and would provide food and water for them.

As a representative, you can research the importance of 'ōhi'a so you can see why this topic is so important to us. You can also educate others so they can learn more about this tree. That would have a significant impact because our 'ōhi'a provides so much for us and that is why this topic is so important to us and why we want it to be our state's endemic tree.

Sincerely,

Nanea Kou Maka Arquero

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 11:20:00 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jave Somera	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Brian T. Taniguchi and Les Ihara Jr:

My name is Jave Somera, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the ohia as the state's endemic tree because it has cultural importance, provides resources to us like wood and collecting water, and it is a pioneer species. For these reasons, I am in support of the bill Relating to State Endemic Tree.

Did you know that 'ōhi'a has a lot of cultural aspects and importance? According to the Ulana Museum, it is believed that it's the physical embodiment of Pele the fire goddess. The wood of the 'ōhi'a was used to create religious statues of Kane or Ku. The wood was also red like meat believing that 'ōhi'a has life. The flowers were used to make leis and headbands that help enhance storytelling in hula.

As a Senator , you can help by introducing a bill, SB2059, about ohia becoming the state endemic tree to the legislative branch. This will help show the importance of 'ōhi'a to everyone. This could also provide protection to 'ōhi'a from the fungus Ceratocystis fimbriata that is causing rapid 'ōhi'a death.

Sincerely, Jave Somera

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 11:20:34 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lexi Carlos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Brian T. Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara, Jr.:

My name is Lexi Carlos, and I'm in the seventh grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because 'ōhi'a is home to many native species, it has a cultural significance, and it's endemic to Hawaii. For these reasons, I am in support of the bill SB 2059.

Did you know that 'ōhi'a is only found in Hawaii? According to Kalena Silva, University of Hawai'i Hilo Professor of Hawaiian History, it's the first plant to grow out of a fresh lava flow. This means that it is the creator of new forests and environments. 'Ōhi'a grows through the lava flow and as the roots break the ground, other plants start to grow around it. Then it will become the home of many native species like the 'apapane, the black and crimson Hawaiian honeycreeper, the 'akohekohe, and now extinct mamō, a black and yellow variety of native honeycreeper.

As a legislator, you can help by looking up how important 'ōhi'a is to Hawaii and its people. This would raise awareness for 'ōhi'a and why it is important. That would have a significant impact because you would learn more about why people want to make 'ōhi'a our state endemic tree.

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 11:20:50 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gianna Keau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear representatives Brian T. Taniguchi and Les Ihara Jr.,

My name is Gianna Keau, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui.

I care about the 'ōhi'a because a lot of animals and plants rely on the 'ōhi'a like the honeycreeper. Ect. they are only found in Hawaii nowhere else. The amount of cultural importance that this plant has is intense. When it comes to hula, oli, and chants ohia is a big part of these things. Did you know that the ohia leaves were used to make herbal tea and medicine? According to _the_U.S. Fish & Wildlife ServiceSeveral native Hawaiian birds feed on the flowers and seeds, including the 'i'iwi, 'apapane (Himatione sanguine), and 'akohekohe (Palmeria dole) which feed mostly on the flowers and insects As a legislator, you can help by using your position to bring this to people who can make the ohia our state tree. That would have a significant impact because if it gets more recognition then it will be helped more, by that I mean there would most likely be funded and people would support things that involve helping the ohia.

Sincerely,

Gianna Keau

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 11:21:10 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Maika Jonick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, and Les Ihara Jr.

My name is Maika Jonick and I'm in seventh grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about the 'Ōhi'a because of its cultural and economical importance to Hawai'i. One reason I care is that the 'Ōhi'a tree is a habitat for many native birds and animals. The 'Ōhi'a tree also is endemic to Hawai'i so many people will have connections and bonds to the tree. Another reason is that the 'Ōhi'a tree collects the water humans need to survive. For these reasons, I am supporting the bill, "SB2059"

Did you know that 'Ōhi'a trees grow on lava? Because they grow on lava they are the first trees to grow after a lava flow solidifies. According to David Benitez, an ecologist at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, he states that "It has the potential to terminally alter Hawaiian ecosystems, water resources and cultural practices." (Referring to Rapid 'Ōhi'a death) Adding on to what he stated, with the 'Ōhi'a tree dying at an alarming rate, Hawai'i's ecosystem will drastically change because the tree is a big part of our water supply. That is why we should protect the 'Ōhi'a at all costs.

Passing SB2059 would have a significant impact because if more people know the importance of the 'Ōhi'a they may be more considerate and do whatever they can to protect it. Mahalo for your time.

Sincerlely,

Maika Jonick.

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 11:23:18 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Micah Hatakeyama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Brian T. Taniguchi and Les Ihara, Jr.:

My name is Micah Hatakeyama, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about the 'ōhi'a lehua tree (SB2059) because It collects the water from the clouds, The tree homes a lot of creatures that are found only in Hawaii and because 10-20 percent of ohia got wiped out from the rapid 'ōhi'a death on the Big Island. For these reasons, I am in support of the bill relating to the 'ōhi'a as the state endemic tree.

Did you know that ROD can spread by wind, people, beetles, and cutting tools like saws? The 'Ōhi'a Lehua plant also houses bugs and birds. Some birds are only found in Hawaii and are endangered. If the 'Ōhi'a dies out the birds will too. Another reason is that the trees die from a wound or when the little beetles called ambrosia beetles burrow into the tree and the wounds get the ROD inside it. Also, you cant tell an 'ōhi'a lehua tree has ROD until it's all brown and dead unless you test it.

As a legislator, you can help by introducing this bill to the legislative branch to help all the people that care for this tree and to get recognition that it needs help. That would have a significant impact because it would bring more awareness to the indigenous tree. We're hoping that more people would bring awareness to the 'ōhi'a lehua tree because of the thing that is happening to it.

Sincerely,

Micah Hatakeyama

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 11:25:43 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Akeu Pocock-Nakaosne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Brian T. Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara, Jr:

My name is Akeu-Pocock Nakasone, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about the 'ōhi'a trees because they start forests, they can only be found in Hawai'i, and the 'ōhi'a trees give us water. For these reasons, I am supporting the SB2059.

'Ōhi'a trees can only be found in Hawai'i? That is why I think it is important for the 'ōhi'a trees to be recognized. I think making the 'ōhi'a the state endemic tree will spread awareness to people and they will take action in helping stop (ROD) rapid 'ōhi'a death.

According to an article from Hawai'i Magazine "One of Hawai'i's most iconic trees, the 'ōhi'a lehua (Metrosideros polymorpha) is endemic to the Hawaiian Islands and is steeped in the Islands' history." The 'ōhi'a is also a habitat for endangered animals and without the 'ōhi'a the endangered animals would die.

Please help by making the 'ōhi'a tree the state endemic tree. That would have a significant impact because people would be more aware of 'ōhi'a and help stop rapid 'ōhi'a death.

Sincerely,

Akeu Pocock-Nakasone

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 11:29:40 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Pono Hodges	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Brian T. Taniguchi and Senator Les ihara, Jr:

My name is Pono Hodges, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about the 'Ōhi'a because it is only found in Hawaii and it is very important to our state. The 'Ōh'ia is also a big food source and habitat for many endangered birds and bugs in Hawaii. Also the 'Ōhia starts in a forest in Hawaii and grows from lava rock. Did you know that many native birds including the 'i'iwi, 'apapane, and 'akohekohe feed mostly on the flowers and insects.

According to "U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service" the native Hawaiian birds will use the tree for camouflage in more prehistoric times when there were more predators that harmed the birds. The birds don't have to use the 'Ōhi'a as camouflage as much because there aren't nearly as many predators as there were back then. Another reason is that there are some native birds also forage among the foliage. Some of these birds are the 'akaipola'au, the 'akialoa's, and the black mamo or hoa.

As a legislator, you can help by funding programs to help 'Ōhi'a. That would have a significant impact because it's a harmless way to help the 'Ōhi'a.

Mahalo for your time,

Pono Hodges

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 11:29:43 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tyce Ringstad	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Brian T. Taniguchi and Senator Les ihara, Jr:

My name is Tyce Ringstad, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state endemic tree because first, 'ōhi'a trees are the tree of life, 'ōhi'a is a tree for medicine, and the 'ōhi'a is a culturally important species. For these reasons, I am in support of the bill, Relating to state endemic tree.

Did you know that the 'ōhi'a tree is a very important tree and flower in Hawaiian culture? It is actually used in many mo'olelo, hula's, clothing, and carvings. According to ulanamuseum website, the 'ōhi'a branches were used to create traditional kala'au or dancing sticks. Another reason is that the 'ōhi'a was used in many important mo'olelo`. Another use of the 'ōhi'a was they would use the 'ōhi'a wood to make ki'i, building houses, kapa beaters and papa ku'i 'ai. One more use of the 'ōhi'a was that hula dancers would wear lehua blossoms to help inspire the gods and enhance storytelling.

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 11:34:34 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Elai Mossman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Brian T. Taniguchi:

Dear Senator Les Ihara, Jr:

My name is Elai Mossman, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about the 'ōhi'a tree because there is a fungus growing on the trees killing them, the 'ōhi'a tree is only found in Hawaii and if they all die out the forests in Hawaii will collapse. The 'ōhi'a tree is also an important plant in Hawaiian culture.. The 'ōhi'a tree collects water and brings it to the ground, we collect the water to drink so if the 'ōhi'a tree isn't there we won't have any water. For these reasons I am supporting the bill relating to the 'ōhi'a being the state's endemic tree.

Did you know that the 'ōhi'a tree is important to Hawaiians because it can be used for things like medicine, weapons, clothes and many more. When lava flows down and dries, the 'ōhi'a tree is the first thing to grow and can make the land from rocks to a forest. The 'ōhi'a tree feeds native birds like the apapane with its seeds. The plant is also associated with Pele, Pele is a god that controls lava and is very important in Hawaiian culture. That's why it is the first plant to grow after dried lava. According to hawaiimagazine.com it is important in hula and other ceremonies. When listening to traditional Hawaiian mo'olelo, mele and oli about the land of the Gods, it's almost impossible to avoid some mention of ohia or its lehua flowers.

Another reason is that it takes water in the air and sucks it into the ground and makes the soil wet for other plants to grow, it also goes into springs for us to collect and use for drinking water.

As a legislator, you can help by reporting an 'ōhi'a tree if it looks strange, dead or the leaves are starting to turn brown. When going into the forest wash your shoes and car wheels if you're using a vehicle in the forest and doing the same thing on the way out. That

way, you don't carry the fungus in and out of the forest. Don't move 'ōhi'a wood or parts away even if you think the 'ōhi'a is R.O.D free. Clean tools when dealing with 'ōhi'a. That would have a significant impact because one the ways R.O.D. travels are from humans carrying it on them to another place. Please support this bill.

Sincerely, Elai Mossman

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:06:19 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Myles	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senate

Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

February 10, 2022

3:10 PM, Conference Room 225

State Capitol

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

Aloha Chair Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair Les Ihara Jr., and Members of the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts,

My name is Myles Degraffenreid and I am in support of SB059, Relating to State Native Tree which would designate ohia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

I believe that the State Native Tree should be the Ohia because of how important it is to the ecosystems and habitats for animals and all of the tree's many uses. The Ohia Tree is important to my family and has many histories with my bloodline.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Myles

Kalaheo Grade 12

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:20:38 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Eve Brady	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senate

Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

February 14, 2022

3:10PM, Conference Room 225

State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB2059, Relating to the State Native Tree

Aloha Chair Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair Les Ihara Jr., and Members of the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts,

I am Eve Brady, a junior at Kalaheo High School, and I am in support of SB2059, Relating to State Native Tree which would designate Ohia Lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Designating Ohia Lehua as the state endemic tree would benefit conservation efforts to protect this tree. People will be more likely to learn about Ohia Lehua's cultural significance in Hawaii. In relation to conservation, the more people learn and care about Ohia Lehua, the more money and energy can be put into combatting Rapid Ohia Death, a fungal disease that is decimating many Ohia Lehua trees.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eve Brady

Kalaheo High School Class of 2023

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:32:42 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gabriel Morris	Individual	Support	No

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 Gabriel Morris, am writing to support SB2059.

The reason I support this bill is because I feel that since this tree is endemic to Hawai’i, and it has been experiencing a rapid decline in population due to the disease known commonly as Rapid Ohia Death, the Ohia Lehua should be protected under state law. The Ohia tree also is used as a home by many different native bird species, most of which are endangered and already protected under international law, why shouldn’t their homes be protected as well?

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Gabriel Morris

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:32:57 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lauren Yoshida	Individual	Support	No

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 Lauren Yoshida, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because it has recently come to my attention how important Ohia trees are, not only to the ecosystem, but also to Hawaii’s culture. The Ohia tree is symbolic in many stories, songs, and chants, in addition to it being the manifestation of many gods like Pele and Laka. If we were to ignore the factors threatening its existence, like Rapid Ohia Death, we’d be disregarding our own culture. In addition, the Ohia tree is also a vital plant for many of our native animals, if the Ohia were to go extinct, it would wreak havoc in our natural habitat. I can only hope this bill gets passed, if you recognize how important the Ohia tree is in both our culture and ecosystem you’ll support us in the effort to protect it.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Lauren Yoshida

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:33:20 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jaiden Ivan Baptista	Individual	Support	No

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 , Jaiden Baptista am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because this bill is because it's very important for our several folk stories like “Ōhi'a-Lehua Legend.” Making this our State Endemic Tree will raise awareness about the legends and folk tales about it, as well as pleasing many of the citizens and ohia enjoyers. Another reason I support this bill to make this our state tree is because of the wood given. The wood from the ohia tree has lots of uses and they are very important. The wood can be used for flooring, posts, houses, decorations, and framing of firewood. Our wood is also plentifully used for the ceremonial structures like temples,sacred forests, and palaces. Although there aren't many reasons, making it the state endemic tree will make us citizens happy and make the ohia more popular and known to outsiders. The ohia tree should be our state endemic tree for these reasons.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Jaiden Baptista

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:33:59 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alexa Hills	Individual	Support	No

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 am Alexa Hills and am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because I believe that this tree is important to Hawaii. This tree plays an important role in multiple Hawaiian legends. For example, The Legend of the Ohia Lehua tree. In the legend, Pele is envious of this young maiden named Lehua. She is particularly envious because of the man chasing after her, Ohia. Pele went to Ohia and proposed he come with her to live in the heavens. Ohia rejects her offer and tells her he’s already betrothed to his beloved Lehua. He tries to run and eventually makes it onto dried lava and a crack comes below his feet. The lava takes over and eventually he becomes a twisted, ugly tree. Lehua wonders why he isn’t home yet and starts looking for him, finding Pele and the Ohia tree. Lehua wept by Ohia’s side for days, missing her beloved. The Gods looked down at her in pity and they knew they couldn’t undo Pele’s magic and they decided to make Lehua grow on the tree as vibrant red flowers. This way, they could be together forever.

Another reason the Ohia tree should become the state endemic tree, alongside with the Kukui nut tree, is because it plays a role in Hawaii’s water conservation. It is a Keystone species. Meaning, a species on which other species in an ecosystem largely depend, such that if it were removed the ecosystem would change drastically. The Ohia tree provides food and shelter for native birds. Since these trees are dying off, these birds are having less

and less places to live. Making the Ohia tree endemic to Hawaii could make the trees have more responsibility taken for them and it would hopefully let more trees grow. Letting native birds have shelter and food.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Alexa Hills

Highlands Intermediate School

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, Zhijie Pan, am writing to support SB2059.

I support this bill because the 'Ohi'a tree is undergoing a Rapid 'Ohi'a Death from a fungus. The 'Ohi'a tree is only found in Hawaii and many birds like the 'apapane and the 'i'iwi birds rely on the 'Ohi'a tree because the tree supplies them food and shelter. The 'Ohi'a tree also makes up the largest portion of the canopy in native wet forests and the tree captures mists and rainwater to replenish our island aquifers. Therefore, the tree is an endemic pioneer keystone plant species because without the 'Ohi'a tree, it would change the whole ecosystem drastically.

Another reason I support this bill is because the 'Ohi'a tree is also a part of Hawaiian culture like in stories, songs, and chants. The 'Ohi'a tree also appears in Hawaiian deities like in Pele (goddess of the volcano). The red blossoms from the 'Ohi'a tree symbolizes the bloodshed of war. This makes the 'Ohi'a tree important not only to the animals and ecosystem, but also to culture. I think the 'Ohi'a tree should be protected and saved from the Rapid 'Ohi'a Death

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Zhijie Pan

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:36:07 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Maria Fatima Marzan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara,

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

I, Maria Fatima Marzan, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because this tree provides shelter, nesting sites and food for native birds. If this tree goes extinct, the birds that are endemic to Hawaii will be even more vulnerable to extinction. Even birds that have a thriving population (‘I‘iwi) can be endangered due to the severe habitat loss. This tree also represents a Hawaiian legend which is still being told today. Its wood was also used for daily items such as kapa cloth beaters, boards for pounding poi, and building structures / statues in ancient Hawaii. Making this tree the state endemic tree can raise awareness for the residents of Hawaii.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Maria Fatima Marzan

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:36:10 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Brandon Cabato	Individual	Support	No

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 Brandon Cabato am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because of 2 reasons. The Ohi’a Tree provides basic needs for animals including the endemic Hawaiian nectar-feeding honeycreepers. The Ohi’a Tree is also an island aquifer which gives us drinking water. I know it must be hard to make another state tree but, this isn’t a replacement is a notice saying that this is a state endemic tree.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Brandon Cabato

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:40:07 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Calina Ryan	Individual	Support	No

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 Calina Ryan am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because I’ve become aware of how this tree is important to our culture and aquifers. I used to do hula so I understand the importance and purpose of the dance and chants. The ohi’a tree is sung about in chant and hula, having much cultural importance. Also, the ohi’a helps collect water for our aquifers, providing us with enough water. Without it, we could experience droughts, just like we did in the past when we lost our sandalwood. With Rapid Ohi’a Death spreading, this bill could help bring awareness to ROD, and hopefully protect our Ohi’a.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Calina Ryan

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:40:15 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Josiah Lovediro	Individual	Support	No

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

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 Ohia tree is nearest and dearest to us here at hawai'i. If you were to make it the state endemic plant it would raise awareness for this plant, it provides us with water and other animals with food and shelter. If not enough awareness is raised for this plant it could be tragic/devastating. I support the Ohia tree because of all the good it's done for us.

I hope that you will consider signing this bill because it will help me, everyone and everything in hawaii. Thank you for your consideration.

With Aloha,

Josiah Lovediro

8th Grade Student

Pearl City Highlands Intermediate School

1460 Ho'olaulea Street

Pearl City, HI, 96782

(808) 307 - 5000

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:40:49 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ace Yazaki	Individual	Support	No

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, Ace Yazaki, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the ‘Ohi’a tree has been a very important part of Hawaiian culture. Its usage has been around for a long time, feeding other endemic species such as the ‘Apapane and the ‘I’iwi. It also has a purpose for us humans, catching water through its bark, flowing it down branches and leaves, which can be collected and used. This tree also plays a part in Hula, which is practiced around the islands and is part of Hawaiian culture. This tree has been around for many years, yet the numbers of them are decreasing at an alarming rate from rapid ‘Ohi’a death. This new genocide of the trees should be brought to awareness so we can save it and save the species that rely on the protection the ‘Ohi’a tree.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Ace Yazaki

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:42:44 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jake Kojima	Individual	Support	No

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 Jake Kojima am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the `Ohi'a tree is a culturally significant tree to the islands Hawai'i. It serves a purpose to those who practice hula. The `Ohi'a tree is a big part of the islands' water supply. The tree catches the water in it's bark after it flows down from it's branches and leaves. The ohia tree plays a big part in helping birds thrive. It is a home for other native birds such as the apapane and akohekohe.

Though it does so many great things for the islands, it is sadly dying off rapidly from ROD (rapid ohia death). ROD endangers this species which is why people want to make the state endemic tree to help spread awareness and help others see the issues going on and the likely problems to face if this tree does go extinct.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Jake Kojima,

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:45:37 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Erick Bagay	Individual	Support	No

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, Erick, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because one Reason why the ohia tree should be the state endemic tree is because it can block volcanic fumes which can be toxic. These can be blocked by the tree's roots digging deep into lava rock crevices and closing the stomata or breathing pores. They can do this because these trees can grow in barren land. These things can be helpful because they can help start a forest and grow with it. The second reason why is because this tree's flowers have helped us a lot before, like when the followers on this tree used to feed birds with its nectorand when they were used for medical purposes like easing the pain during childbirth. This Tree has done so much for us it's time for us to repay it back by making it our State Endemic Tree

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Erick Bagay

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:45:59 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
emmalie hernandez	Individual	Support	No

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, Emmalie Hernandez , 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.

Because it’s endangered and my reasons are

One reason why the ohia tree should be the state endemic tree is because the ohia tree are a favorite to many native forest birds, one of the native trees still thriving, it is the most common native endemic tree found in the state hawaii. As such the abundant plant had many uses for early hawaiians ohia sturdy wood was used to create weapons, kapa cloth beaters, boards for pounding poi, enclosures and statue, its leaves were used as a medicinal tea and its flower and

its seeds fed native birds. The birds and many other species depend on the ohia tree for food and nesting sites including many of Hawaii's federally endangered forest birds. With the majority of Hawaii's endemic birds at risk of extinction, losing the dominant tree from their remaining habitat makes these birds more vulnerable, particularly if the fungus spreads to other islands, even no threatened birds such as the could become endangered following severe habitat loss. Even when the fallen ohia counties support and contribute to the health of a forest providing a nursery for seeds and stems sprouts to take root. As it decays it releases nutrients that nourish surrounding organisms.

Another reason is that the ohia tree is important to hawaii. It's a lifeline for native birds it is also one of the first plants to colonize new lava flows, it's also one of the most important trees for native hawaiian birds such as 'apapane and akohekohe, which get their food from the nectar-producing flowers, dozens of extinct species would have fed frequently on ohia too. The importance of ohia cannot be overstated, it is the keystone native tree species, and provides food and habitat for a myriad of species found nowhere else on earth. Their canopies capture the mist and rainwater that replenish out island aquifers, which provides drinking and irrigation water for Hawaii's communities and agricultural sector, and are also highly valued in commerce, also help get water for washing hands, using the bathroom, taking showers, and making food. The ohia trees are going endangered and we would like to make the ohia tree an endemic tree to hawaii. These are my reasons on why I think we should make this the Hawaiian endemic tree.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

emmalie hernandez

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:46:09 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Markayllah De Leon	Individual	Support	No

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 Markayllah De Leon am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because of the great legends and meaning it has to Hawaii. Like the legend of the ohia tree. There was a beautiful woman named Lehua. And a good man named Ohia. Lehua and Ohia were in love. But Ohia being that great of a man, he even attracted a goddess. The goddess in question was the great Pele. One day, Ohia was waiting for his beloved Lehua. But Pele met him before Lehua did. Pele told Ohia to leave the girl, and go with her. But Ohia rejected her. He said that being with Lehua was enough for him. Then Lehua finally showed up. This angered Pele and she surrounded the couple with a circle of lava. But by bit it got closer. Ohia thought fast and lifted Lehua up to his shoulders so she wouldn't be harmed. The lava began to devour the couple. The spirits tried their best to help, but her power was too strong. After being taken in by the lava, Ohia became an Ohia tree, and Lehua became the flowers that bloomed on the Ohia tree. The Ohia tree is also the first tree to grow back after a natural disaster in Hawaii. Like lava irruptions. The tree is also a big part in getting water in Hawaii. If this bill is passed, it can help to ensure that the Ohia tree is protected.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Markayllah De Leon

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:08:31 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Faith Hubin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senator Brian T. Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara Jr. ,

My name is Faith Hubin, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state endemic tree because the 'ōhi'a is the first tree to grow out of lava rock helping to grow other plants and trees, they can act like sponges sucking up water after it rains leaking water into caves where we take and get water out of, and because it's home to many endangered or native animals like 'apapane meaning if the 'ōhi'a die then they might too, and is very culturally important to hawaii. For these reasons, I am in support of the bill SB2059

Did you know that 'ōhi'a gives shelter to small birds called 'apapane? The 'apapane is also known as the Hawaiian honeycreeper. These small crimson birds follow the blooming pattern of the native tree. Another reason is that 'apapane are also very culturally important so if we lose 'ōhi'a we would be losing two things that are very important to our culture. According to the American Bird Conservancy, their feathers are extremely important to Hawaiian culture.

As a legislator, you can help by trying to see the point of view from people who support and don't support the bill before you decide. That would have a significant impact because if the bill gets passed then it would have a positive impact on the 'ōhi'a lehua.

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:13:07 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kaia Salvatierra	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e Senator Brian T. Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara, Jr.

My name is Kaia Salvatierra. I would like to request to make the 'Ohi'a tree the State of Hawai'i Endemic Tree. I learned how important the 'Ohi'a tree is to our 'āina. Also, the 'Ohi'a tree is one of the first plants to colonize new lava flows. It is also one of the most important trees for native birds such as 'Apapane and 'Akohekohe, which get their food from nectar-producing flowers. A lot of extinct species used to feed on the 'Ohi'a's flowers, too. Please introduce a house bill by tomorrow to recognize 'ohi'a as our state endemic tree.

Mahalo,

Kaia Salvatierra.

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:13:10 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kauanaulu Medeiros	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e Senator Brian T. Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara Jr.,

My name is Kaua Medeiros and in school we have been learning about the ‘ōhi‘a tree and it’s benefits. I would like to encourage you to introduce a new house bill. One reason is because the ‘ōhi‘a tree is a natural water storage. It can hold lots of water in itself from humidity or from watersheds. My second reason is because the ‘ōhi‘a tree creates a place for other plants to grow. It is the first plant to sprout out of dried lava. My hopes are that the ‘ōhi‘a tree will become our state's endemic tree.

Mahalo,

Kaua Medeiros

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:13:13 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hinano Cua	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator T. Taniguchi And Senator Les Ihara, Jr:

My name is Hinano Cua, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because it sucks up water into it's roots and can pump some of it into an aquafire. It also makes this soil soft enough from breaking fresh lava rocks and it is one of the main trees in the forest. It is also a place for birds to drink the tree's nectar to feed the native birds. For these reasons, I am supporting the bill, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

Did you know that the 'Ōhi'a is a main provider to our island's water and helps in the watersheds. According to the Ulana museum, the 'Ōhi'a is vital to our everyday lives because it is critical in our watersheds as it comprises 80% of Hawaii native forests and provides 50% more effectiveness of retaining moisture, and feeding streams. Another reason is that the 'Ōhi'a can help by recharging the aquifers by basically pumping the water into the water under the dirt. The 'Ōhi'a helps us get our daily drinking water for us and many people around the islands and these facts show how important it is in our daily lives and like what the old Hawaiiand used to say wai is life and it gives us and many other life forms life.

As a legislator, you can help by accepting this bill into the congress to help get it protected and acknowledged to stop the Rapid 'Ōhia Death. That would have a significant impact because then less and less trees would have to die from the disease.

Sincerely Hinano cua

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:15:09 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
kameleonapuuwai kamau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Brian T. Taniguchi & Senator Les Ihara, Jr.:

My name is Kameleonapuuwai Kamau, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because 'ōhi'a is a tree that protects our native animals. Some of the animals that it protects are endangered because the 'ōhi'a tree is safe for them and not invasive. Second, our kupuna used 'ōhi'a in so many mele, hula, oli, etc. making the importance of it high to our ancestors. Third thing about 'ōhi'a is that it gives us water, so if it takes care of us I believe we should take better care of 'ōhi'a. For these reasons, I am supporting the bill, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

Did you know that the 'ōhi'a lehua - Department of Land and Natural Resources say that birds and many other species depend on 'ōhi'a for food and nesting sites including many of Hawaii's federally endangered forest birds. According to the 'Ōhi'a lehua - Department of Land and Natural Resources, 'ōhi'a is considered a primary habitat for many plants, animals, and invertebrates like the 'apapane and the now-extinct mamoa. Another reason that 'ōhi'a - [Hakalau Forest - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) says is several native Hawaiian birds feed on the flowers and seeds, including the 'i'iwi (*Vestiaria coccinea*), 'apapane (*Himatione sanguinea*), and 'akohekohe (*Palmeria dolei*) which feed mostly on the flowers and insects.

As a Senator, you can help by helping us make the 'ōhi'a our state endemic tree. That would have a significant influence because 'ōhi'a has a large impact on our Hawaiian species and since 'ōhi'a protects all those insects/animals if we protect the 'ōhi'a we will be able to protect all of those species as well.

Sincerely,

Kameleonapuuwai Kamau

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:15:19 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tehani-Hoku Keliiliki-Lovato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senators Brian T. Taniguchi, and Les Ihara, Jr

My name is Tehani-Hoku Keliiliki-Lovato, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because the 'ōhi'a trees have been here since the island was formed. The 'ōhi'a trees not only provide water sources but they also provide and/or give good sunlight, rich organic soil, and excellent drainage. "Native Plants Hawaii." Why I need to take action is because this tree has been suffering from R.O.D. (Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death) since the summer of 2014. That year Hawai'i planted 800 'Ōhia'a trees in support of these special trees. I want to help the 'ōhi'a trees so that they flourish all over Hawai'i and STOP R.O.D. For these reasons, I am supporting the bill, "Relating to State Endemic Trees." Did you know that right after a volcanic eruption 'ōhi'a trees are the first living plant to grow back.

According to the website, [abcbirds](#), the 'ōhi'a is 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 'ōhi'a, too.

Another reason is that the 'ōhi'a trees are the most abundant, ecologically important. Without the 'ōhi'a trees a lot of birds would be relying on other trees that will give them food such as nectar, and water, but won't be as reliable as the 'ōhi'a trees.

As Senators, you can help by proceeding with the bill/law that will be going through about the 'Ōhi'a trees.. That would have a significant impact because it would bring more attention to the 'ōhi'a trees and about (R.O.D.) Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death.

Sincerely,

Tehani-Hoku Keliiliki-Lovato

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:15:54 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lehiwa Foster	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Brain T. Taniguchi And Senator Les Ihara, JR.

My name is Lehiwa Foster, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about 'Ōhi'a Tree because The 'Ōhi'a Tree provides us with water which is helpful for this community, it is the only tree that can grow where the lava flowed And it turned where the lava flowed into soil, And it provides building materials for the community. For these reasons, I am supporting the bill, "Relating to State Endemic Tree." Did you know that the 'ōhi'a tree can turn where the lava flowed Turn that place into soil. According to fws.gov and nativeplants.hawaii.edu. Another reason is that the ohia tree can grow anywhere and it can grow in rough places.

As a senator, you can help by Showing this to the community and the mayor. That would have a significant impact because it would raise awareness.

Sincerely,

Lehiwa Foster

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:17:04 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Haaleikapuuwai Biga Kauhaahaa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Brian T. Taniguchi Senator Les Ihara, Jr.

My name is Haaleikapuuwai Biga Kauhaahaa and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. Do you know about the disease killing the 'ōhi'a tree? The disease is killing thousands of trees. I care because the trees are a habitat for our native species like the 'Apapane or 'Iwi. Also, because the 'ōhia tree is very important to our Hawaiian culture which can also teach our Hawaiian keiki lessons or meanings. Lastly, the 'ōhia tree provides water which we use everyday in our lives. For these reasons, I am supporting the bill, "Relating to State Endemic Trees."

The 'ōhia tree can collect water through the roots and leaves that are connected to the tree which is where we can get water. Without the tree we lose 3,000 gallons of water which is crucial to Hawaii. According to the Washington Post, Hawaii is in a drought that is continuing to get worse, so if the 'ōhia trees go extinct another source of water will be cut off.

As a legislator you can help by spreading awareness about the 'ōhia tree and maybe get others to care about the cause. It would have a significant impact on the 'ōhia tree, because it can help others support the cause which would have a good benefit on the 'ōhia tree.

Sincerely, Haale

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:17:20 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Leiah Kaaa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senator Les Ihara, Jr. and Senator Brian T. Taniguchi,

My name is Leiah Kaaa and I would like to request that you introduce a House Bill by tomorrow recognizing the ‘Ōhi‘a tree as the state's endemic tree. I've been learning about the importance of the ‘Ōhi‘a tree this past year. This specific tree is important to Hawai‘i because it is considered sacred to the goddess of lava and volcanic eruptions, Pele. There are many versions of mo‘olelo about the ‘Ōhi‘a lehua tree. Hawaiians utilized the hardy tree for building houses, canoes, and spears. The flowers are used in lei and are included in chants and hula. Thank you for taking time to read this.

Aloha,

Leiah Kaaa

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:19:22 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
kaiwi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Brain T. Tamaguchi & Senator Les Ihara, Jr:

My name is Kaiwi, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because it provides a habitat to many other native and endemic species which is great because we want those animals to thrive. Another reason is because it paves the way for other life because when there is an eruption and lava flows the ohia tree is the first one to pop up and give soil to other living plants. The last reason is because it provides a lot of water for us. For these reasons, I am in support of the bill Relating to the state's endemic trees.

Did you know that the 'ōhi'a is home to many native animals? According to J.B. Friday and Ambyr Mokiao-lee of the rapid 'ōhi'a death (ROD) statewide outreach coordinator. Birds and many other species depend on 'ōhi'a for food and nesting sites including many of Hawaii's federally endangered forest birds. With the majority of Hawaii's endemic birds at risk of extinction, losing the dominant tree from their remaining habitat makes these birds more vulnerable, particularly if the fungus spreads to other islands. Some of the birds that depend on the tree are 'Akepa, 'I'iwi, and the Hawai'i Creeper. Another reason that I support it is because the majority of Hawaii's endemic birds are at risk of extinction, losing the dominant tree from their remaining habitat makes these birds more vulnerable, particularly if the fungus spreads to other islands. Even non-threatened birds, such as the could become endangered following severe habitat loss.

As a senator, you can help by voting on the bill so that the 'ōhi'a tree can be the state's endemic tree. You can also help by introducing the bill to congress. That would have a significant impact because we need the 'ōhi'a lehua tree to be the hawaii's state endemic tree because we need more protection for the 'ōhi'a because it is dying in very fast rates and it could get to the point where the trees are close to going extinct and it would help tremendously if you did that.

Sincerely,

Kaiwi Sonny Karlen

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:19:11 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kahiau Ting	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear senator Brian T. Taniguchi and senator Les Ihara, Jr.:

My name is Kahiau Ting, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state endemic tree because the 'ōhi'a is endemic to Hawaii, the 'ōhi'a is home to many native Hawaiian species, and the 'ōhi'a is a natural water collector. For these reasons, I am supporting the bill, Relating to the state endemic tree

One reason is that the 'ōhi'a is endemic to Hawaii. That means the only place in the world where you can find the 'ōhi'a tree is in the Hawaii islands which makes it special and unique to Hawaii. According to Ulana Museum, "'Ōhi'a is also vital to our everyday lives as it is critical to our watersheds as it comprises 80% of Hawai'i's native forests and provides 50% more effectiveness of retaining moisture, feeding streams, and recharging aquifers. This tree also prevents erosion from occurring." To me this means that the 'ōhi'a isn't only important to the Hawaiian islands, but it is important to the people living in it too. The watersheds are a key way that we get water in Hawaii and without the 'ōhi'a the watersheds could lose a lot of water that we need in order to live.

As a senator, you can help by giving 'ōhi'a the name of the state endemic tree. Which can also come with more attention towards the 'Ōhi'a tree. That would have a significant impact because the 'ōhi'a has been dying to a disease called ROD or Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death. But if the 'ōhi'a can get the name of the state endemic tree it can help make new laws that could possibly help stop the spread of the ROD across the Hawaiian islands.

Sincerely,

Kahiau Ting

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:22:28 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kawaiianu Shaw	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara, Jr.

My name is Kawaiianu Shaw , and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about the 'ōhi'a being the state endemic tree because

It makes organic soil and starts new forests all around our Hawaiian islands. Another reason is because most native animals use these trees as shelter and also as a source of food. The last reason why I think the 'ōhi'a should be our state endemic tree is because to some people the trees dying is like losing a community of people or family members.

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 2:07:44 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hylee Hueu-Clymer	Individual	Support	No

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, Hylee Hueu-Clymer, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because:

I’m writing in support of the ‘ōhia bill. 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

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 2:07:45 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ezekiel Duquez	Individual	Support	No

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, 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

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 2:08:11 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Brennan Nagamine	Individual	Support	No

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, 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

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 2:08:17 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Yanisa Nakata	Individual	Support	No

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 Yanisa Nakata am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because of the importance ‘ōhi‘a has to nature and its cultural significance. 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

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 2:09:19 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kamaile Paaluhi	Individual	Support	No

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 ‘ōhiā becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Kamaile Paaluhi am writing to support SB2059.

The reason I support this bill is because ‘ōhi‘a lehua is a very special plant because of the weight it holds on the ecosystem and Hawaiian culture.

Not only is ‘ōhi‘a endemic to Hawaii, ‘ōhi‘a plays an important niche to the ecosystem. ‘ōhi‘a is a keystone species, other native animals depend on ‘ōhi‘a for their source of food and safety. Without ‘ōhi‘a, the entire ecosystem would perish. At the bottom of the food chain are the plants (‘ōhi‘a lehua), then the primary consumers (native birds and insects), then the secondary consumers, and at the top tertiary consumers. In a food chain

everything depends on one another and balances each other out. The slightest change to one of the things in the food chain could affect the entire ecosystem. Just like in the government, nature follows the same concept that every branch of the government or every part of the ecosystem balances each other out. Taking a branch out of the government or giving one of the branches too much power could potentially ruin the government just as having too much or too little of a species could ruin the ecosystem. Therefore without 'ōhi'a, it would affect the other native species that also hold significance.

Besides the significance 'ōhi'a holds in the environment, it also holds significance in Hawaiian culture. 'ōhi'a lehua has many purposes and is an important part of Hawaiian culture. 'ōhi'a was used for weapons, tools, boards, medicine, leis, etc... 'ōhi'a is even used in songs, and a number of stories. The 'ōhi'a is a pioneer species, so it can survive in harsh conditions, making it one of the first species that grows after a lava flow. For which reason Hawaiians created the legend of 'ōhi'a, that is well known by many. As clearly shown, 'ōhi'a is significant because of the effect it has on the environment and the importance that 'ōhi'a is tied with to Hawaiian culture. Without recognizing the 'ōhi'a and its importance it could potentially affect Hawaii in more ways than one.

Thank you for consider my testimony,

Kamaile Paaluhi

Highlands Intermediate school

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 2:09:22 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jaslene Vierra	Individual	Support	No

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 am 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

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 2:10:11 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sarah Takase	Individual	Support	No

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, Sarah Takase, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because this bill includes the cultural background of ‘ōhia, such as the legend/story of how ‘ōhia came to be, why ‘ōhia is very essential to us and ways we use it to help with everyday things.

The legend of ‘ōhia isn't just about a simple tree, it represents and comes from something much more than that. It shows the true meaning and importance of the flower and cultural background of the tree. The story interprets the rebirth of strength and the power and force of love all of which the ‘ōhia gives back to us . ‘ōhia gives back to us in many different ways, we even use it to help run our everyday lives, it's a very valuable water source, leaves are used to create tea, and to create things such as lei's, weapons, the, and many more things.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Sarah Takase

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 2:11:31 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Connor Caniete	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara,

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 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

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 2:13:16 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sandy Caires	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Brian T. Taiguchi and Senator Les Ihara, Jr:

My name is Sandy Caires, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'Ōhi'a as the state endemic tree. Its cultural importance plays a big role in our practices in Hawai'i. The shelter and food it provides for native animals is crucial for certain animals to stay alive, many of them being endangered. It is also the base of most of our wet forests in Hawai'i so without them we wouldn't have a foundation for those places. For these reasons I am in support the bill, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

Did you know that the 'Ōhi'a tree provides shelter for birds such as 'apapane and 'i'iwi? According to National Wildlife Refuge Hawaii, the 'ōhi'a tree gives shelter to many of our native animals. Insects, birds, and other animals use it for food as well. I think this issue is very important because if 'ōhi'a died off, so would native animals, this would be a tragedy. Another reason is that 'ōhi'a supports our wet forests that provide a needed habitat for our animals.

As a Senator, you can help by introducing this bill to the legislative branch. That would have a significant impact because it would further the impact of saving the 'ōhi'a tree from ROD (Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death)and keeping native animals safe. This would also help with preserving our forests as well by drawing more attention to this cause to make sure we take care of our beautiful trees. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sandy Caires

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 2:13:23 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kau'i Joaquin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Brian T Taniguchi, Senator Les Ihara Jr,

My name is Kau'i Joaquin, and I'm in the seventh grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because the 'ōhi'a provides water as it is one of our major water collectors, endemic to Hawai'i, and it protects state animals. For these reasons, I am supporting the bill, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

Did you know that 'ōhi'a lehua forests protects watersheds for agricultural and drinking water? According to the 'Ōhi'a Lehua-Department of Land and Natural Resources, "the 'ōhi'a forest of Kohala is often shrouded in mist as clouds continually pass through the landscape. Mosses adorn branches and trunks and water in great amounts is collected by this pristine 'ōhi'a-dominant forest. The water slowly filters and fills up our aquifer. (our source of freshwater.) Another reason is that the 'ōhi'a tree provides for animals. For example, 'ōhi'a forests support an incredible diversity of life, from the tree snails that feed on the leaves of the 'ōhi'a to the very watersheds that give drinking water to the people of Hawai'i.

As a senator, you can help by conversing about this topic to the people around you. That would have a significant impact because possibly more people would also want to make this bill a law after hearing about how 'ōhi'a helps not just our ecosystem but also how we live.

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 2:13:25 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cyris Cagasan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senator Brian T. Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara, jr. ,

My name is Cyris Cagasan, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's tree. The first reason why I would like to support the 'ōhi'a is because it has a very big importance to Hawaiian culture. The second reason is because the 'ōhi'a is the start of a forest and it's the center of it. The third reason is that the 'ōhi'a holds water which puts nutrients for people to live on Maui. For these reasons, I am supporting the bill, "Relating to State Endemic Trees."

Did you know that the 'ōhi'a is the start of a forest and it is the first thing that pops out of the lava pele created? That is why pele wanted that flower to be hers. The 'ōhi'a is basically two trees because the 'ōhi'a is made up of lehua and 'ōhi'a. Lehua and 'ōhi'a are lovers and pele burned both because pele loved 'ōhi'a, but 'ōhi'a loved lehua. If you pick a 'ōhi'a flower then it will rain because they are separated. According to ulana museum. Another reason is that the 'ōhi'a is a water collector.

Another reason is that I found this information in a story I read in english. As a Senator, you can help by adding attention to the 'ōhi'a so that the 'ōhi'a can be a state endemic tree. That would have a significant impact because this tree is dying because of this disease called rod (rapid 'ōhi'a death) It would help bring notice to the tree and make it illegal to cut it down.

Sincerely

Cyris Cagasan

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 2:14:45 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Pe'ahi Hema-Costa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Brian T. Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara, Jr.

My name is Pe'ahi, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because without these trees, we wouldn't get water, this tree is only found in Hawaii, and it has cultural importance. For these reasons, I am supporting the bill, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

Did you know that the 'ōhi'a had a cultural importance for early Hawaiians! According to "Hawai'i Magazine", it states that the sturdy wood was used to create weapons like spears, kapa cloth beaters, boards for pounding poi, enclosures and statues. Its leaves were used as a medicinal tea. Its flowers and its seeds fed native birds like the apapane and the now-extinct mamō. When listening to traditional Hawaiian mo'olelo, mele, and oli about the land or the Gods, it's almost impossible to avoid some mention of 'ōhi'a or its lehua flowers.

As a Senator, you can help by making the 'ōhi'a a state endemic tree. That would have a significant impact because it would help stop the Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death which will help us save a major part of our Hawaiian culture.

Sincerely,

Pe'ahi Hema-Costa

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 2:15:39 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
amy simpsonkane	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e Senator Brian T. Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara, Jr.

My name is Amy Simpson-Kane and I go to Kamehameha Schools Maui. I am in middle school, grade 7, and I have been learning about the importance of the ohia tree. I would like you to help us make the ohia our state endemic tree by introducing a House Bill by tomorrow..

This tree is a very important tree to Hawai'i but is being threatened by a fungus called Rapid Ohia Death. Please help us save an important part of our ecosystem.

Mahalo,

Amy Simpson-Kane

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 2:17:12 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ihikolonahe Maxwell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Brian T. Taniguchi and Les Ihara, Jr:

My name is Ihikolonahe Maxwell, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because first 'Ōhi'a is a key stone foundation for forests in hawaii. Secondly, it is a water collector. Lastly it is a shelter/source of food for many birds. For these reasons, I am supporting the bill, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

'Ōhi'a is a keystone species in Hawaiian forests. ROD has the potential to cause major ecosystem disturbances that will negatively impact water supply, cultural traditions, natural resources and quality of life. Mosses adorn 'ōhi'a. Branches and trunks and water in great amounts are collected by this pristine 'ōhi'a-dominant forest. 'Ōhi'a is so important because they are shelter/food for our Hawaiian birds. We should all have thanks for this beautiful tree.

As a senator, you can help by making 'ōhi'a our endemic tree of hawaii. That would have a significant impact because it would make it illegal to take it out of our state. Mahalo for reading my testimony.

Sincerely

Ihikolonahe Maxwell

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 2:17:19 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jayden Perry-Waikiki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Les Ihara, Jr:

My name is Jayden Perry-Waikiki, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because of 3 reasons why. It is the tree of life. The tree is a water source for our state aquifer. It's only found in Hawaii. For these reasons, I am supporting the bill, "Relating to the state Endemic Tree.

Did you know that According to the Ulana museum the 'ōhi'a tree , forest of Pana'ewa extended to the sea, fringes of the lehua blossoms were seen floating about in the water. Another reason is that the tree is the foundation of the forest. Next, the tree can be found in mele, oli's and olelo no'eau. Then, It is believed by some that the 'ōhi'a is the kinolau, physical embodiment, of the fire goddess Pele. Last, the 'ōhi'a tree 'Iwi may become endangered if their habitat continues to disappear.

As a Senator, you can help by writing a bill for our 'ōhi'a. By writing this bill we can stop the virus from spreading in hawaii. That would have a significant impact because if the virus stops spreading then we can have more sources for things.

Sincerely,

Jayden Perry-Waikiki

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 2:18:38 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kaikea Hu?eu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear **Senator Brian T. Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara, Jr. ,**

My name is Kāikea Hū‘eu and I’m in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the ‘Ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree because the ‘Ōhi‘a is used for ceremonial purposes, it is the foundation of the forest, and it collects water. For these reasons, I am supporting the bill, “ Relating to state Endemic tree”

Did you know that the ‘Ōhi‘a is the foundation of our forests? According to Amber U. Mokiao-Lee, Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death (ROD) Statewide Outreach Coordinator, says “The ‘Ōhi‘a is the foundation of our forests.” Another reason is that the ‘Ōhia is used for lots of ceremonial purposes and has been loved by Hawaiians for 100’s of years. Without the ‘Ōhi‘a lots of stories and forests will be lost. This disease will cause lots of ‘Ōhi‘a to die and forests to vanish losing habitat for many of our native birds and animals.

As a Senator, you can help by writing a bill for our ‘ōhi‘a. By writing a bill we can protect our ‘ōhi‘a and help prevent rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death. That would have a significant impact because then we can prevent rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death and care for the trees.

Sincerely,

Kāikea Hū‘eu

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 2:18:47 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sariah Keahi-Tavares	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Brian T. Taniguchi & Les Ihara, Jr. ,

My name is Sariah Keahi-Tavares, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because it's a natural water collector, it's very important in Hawaiian culture, and it's a home to many native Hawaiian species. For these reasons, I am supporting the bill, Relating to State Endemic Tree. According to the Ulana museum, the 'ōhi'a has a very significant role in Hawaiian culture. It is used in many mele, oli, mo'olelo, and 'ōlelo no'eau. In oli, mele, etc there's stories of the history and significance of the 'ōhi'a lehua. The 'ōhi'a is also associated with the fire goddess, Pele. The 'ōhi'a is found in many mo'olelo because of it's significance to pele. The Hawaiian people use the wood to create "temple image figures", these figures are used for religious reasons. I think these 'ōhi'a plants are very important to Hawaiians, because they were very religious, and used these figures made from the 'ōhi'a lehua for their religious practices. As a Senator, you can help by considering this bill and help us make this bill a law. That would have a significant impact because the 'ōhi'a is a very important tree to Hawaiian culture and people. Not only is it good for the people and culture, it is good for the environment.

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 2:22:36 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Aaron Ikehara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Brian T. Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara, Jr.:

My name is Aaron Ikehara, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because 'ōhi'a trees are very useful for building and water, They're dying rapidly and if we spread awareness by making it our state endemic tree more people will know about the situation, and because so many animals and bugs live in/by 'ōhi'a trees and if we let them die out they'll go extinct. For these reasons, I am supporting the bill, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

'Ōhi'a trees are dying and if we spread awareness by making 'ōhi'a trees our endemic tree we might be able to get more hands on with our attempt to stop ROD [Rapid 'ōhi'a death] we might be able to make a big impact on 'ōhi'a trees if we're able to make it our endemic tree.

Another reason is that a lot of endangered animals and bugs live in 'ōhi'a trees, and with 'ōhi'a trees dying rapidly those bugs and animals will have nowhere to go, and will eventually die out unless they adapt to a new habitat somewhere. According to the 'ōhi'a Ulana Museum website it states that, "Loss of the 'ōhi'a canopy in some areas has resulted in a decrease in population of some native birds and increased numbers of some introduced birds. Endangered plant species in decline areas probably have also been affected."

As a Senator, you can help by creating a law that makes the 'ōhi'a tree our endemic state tree because of how important the 'ōhi'a tree is. That would have a significant impact because if we get the 'ōhi'a tree to be our endemic tree we might be able to restrict so many people from using it to instead focus on finding the solution for ROD. Not only making our state endemic tree the 'ōhi'a tree would benefit the health of 'ōhi'a trees but also the things that live by/in it. By making the 'ōhi'a tree endemic, the difference it'll make is more time to dedicate to saving the 'ōhi'a trees and finding a cure for ROD. These are just some of the things you'll be able to do if you create a law that makes the 'ōhi'a tree our state endemic tree and lot's of the changes you will make will be useful for us.

-Sincerely Aaron Ikehara

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 2:27:47 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
tavin kiesel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Brian T. Tanguchi, and Senator Les Ihara, JR:

My name is Tavin Kiesel, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designing the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because. The 'Ōhi'a is a water source that collects from the passing clouds so that there is another water source. The 'Ōhi'a is also a safe place for the animals so if we just left the 'Ōhi'a to die then there would be no place for the animals to keep them safe. 'Ōhi'a also can be used for clothing so we can be in warmth if something happens to our islands. For these reasons, I am supporting the bill, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

Did you know that the 'ohi'a tree actually protects animals from any danger, so if we just left the 'ohi'a to die there would be no safe place for animals. According to Ambyr Mokiao-lee is a Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD) Statewide Outreach Coordinator, she talked about the 'Ōhi'a being a safe place for animals. Another reason is that the 'Ōhi'a is a water collector so the animals do have a water resource so they can survive off the 'Ōhi'a so that's another reason the death of 'Ōhi'a needs to stop. This is why the Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death is affecting not only us but the animals too and nature around us.

As a Senator, you can bring awareness to the 'Ōhi'a and bring the attention of other representatives to think twice about making this our endemic tree. That would have a significant impact because it can change the mindset so that they will accept this change and make the 'Ōhi'a an endemic tree to Hawaii. Thank you for listening to this message

Sincerely,

Tavin Kiesel

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 2:29:51 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nixin Los Banos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Brian T. Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara, Jr. ,

My name is Nixin Los Banos, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'Ohi'a as the state endemic tree because, first, it collects water and is one of the sources for our water in hawaii. Second, it gives shelter to some native birds. Third, it is very culturally important to many people. For these reasons, I am supporting the bill, "Relating to State Endemic Tree.

"Did you know that the 'Ohi'a Lehua is the main source for our water in Hawaii. According to the article "["Ohi'a lehua - Department of Land and Natural Resources"](#) there is an 'Ohi'a forest that is often shrouded with mist which allows the 'Ohi'a trees to collect lots of water. Another reason is that even when the tree falls, it can still support the forest. As the tree decays, it releases nutrients that help surrounding organisms.

As a senator, you can help by making the tree our state endemic tree so people will know how special this tree is. Once that happens people will know not to harm the tree or not spread the disease that these trees are dying from.

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 2:49:51 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hauakapukini Dukes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Brian T. Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara, Jr.

My name is Hauakapukini Fay Catugal Dukes, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'Ōhi'a Lehua as the state endemic tree because it has a lot of cultural importance to Hawai'i. It is used for shelter and food for other animals. It's also the first thing to grow after a volcanic eruption. For these reasons, I am supporting the bill, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

According to the Ulana Museum there is a lot of cultural importance and a lot of 'Ōlelo No'eau related to 'Ōhi'a Lehua. For example, "He kai lū lehua ko Pana'ewa". This means "Pana'ewa shakes down the lehua fringes into the sea". It also says that the 'Ōhi'a Lehua can be found in countless oli, mele, 'ōlelo no'eau, and mo'olelo that describe its connection to the 'āina and akua. The 'Ōhi'a is the kinolau, the physical embodiment of the fire goddess Pele. I think the 'Ōhi'a Lehua is very important to our culture, it also has a lot of meaning to our culture.

As a legislator, you can help by talking about this to the people around you. That would have a significant impact because maybe more people after hearing about the 'Ōhi'a Lehua would also want this bill to become a law.

Sincerely, Hauakapukini Dukes.



The Senate
Committee on Labor, Culture, and the Arts
Monday, February 14, 2022
3:10 PM Conference Room 225 and Videoconference

Testimony in Support for SB2059

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, Jr, 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**, *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 about civics. I’ve been inspired by the hard work and dedication of these classes, especially throughout the peak of COVID cases since the pandemic began. 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 and appreciation 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. For these reasons, we ask that you pass SB2059 and designate ‘ōhi‘a lehua as Hawaii’s State Endemic Tree. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

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

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 8:45:09 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Serena Marsden	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 10, 2022

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Aloha,

I, Serena Marsden, and the Honu Kindergarten Class of Le Jardin Academy are in support of HB2202, Relating to State Endemic Tree, which would designate the `ohia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawai`i.

In our Sharing the Planet unit, we learned about the importance of `ohia to our forests and water supply. The `ohia lehua also has great significance to the Hawaiian culture. Please find attached letters, artwork from the kindergarten classes at Le Jardin Academy. After learning about the threats that the `ohia faces, they were inspired to take action to help protect this important tree. For this generation, and all that follows, we implore you to introduce this bill to bring about more protections for our beloved `ohia trees. Please be our voice and help us “speak for the trees!”. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Serena Marsden & The Honu Kindergarten Class

Le Jardin Academy

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oqSKUp56eyPmuDXKII7Rg5wTaCQoQr2MQLbZN3yzPsg/edit?usp=sharing>

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 5:18:18 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Bret Mossman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, please support this bill. 'Ōhi'a is the most important native species for the well-being of our watersheds and island ecology.

Mahalo

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:16:39 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Catherine Yi	Individual	Support	No

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,

I, Catherine Yi, 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.

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.

Sincerely,

Catherine Yi

Highlands Intermediate Student

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:20:04 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Marina Vowell	Individual	Support	No

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, Marina Vowell, am in support of the 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 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 akiapolaaau species, and home to many insects.

Another reason why I support this bill is because it means alot 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 tre also served as a sacred Kinolau, 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.

Sincerely,

Marina Vowell

Highlands Intermediate Student

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:20:42 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kalyn Toyama	Individual	Support	No

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, Kalyn Toyama, am writing to support SB2059. The reason I support this bill is because of what I’ve recently learned about ohia. Ecologically and culturally, ohia stands as one of the most vital important trees of Hawaiian forests. The ohia plays an important role in Hawaii's forest, providing food and shelter for all the native birds and insects. The ohia’s trunk supplies the nutrients and water which replenishes our island aquifers and which is why it provides irrigation water for Hawaii's communities. There’s also some threats to the ohia and one of them is a disease called Rapid Ohia Death which has been a threat to the ohia trees statewide, already killing hundreds of thousands of them. The loss of the ohia trees would be tragic not only to the forest but also to our Hawaiian traditions. I hope you’ll accept this bill to help bring safety to our ohia.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Kalyn Toyama

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:20:54 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Elijah Ladera	Individual	Support	No

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,

I, Elijah Ladera, 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.

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,

Elijah Ladera

Highlands Intermediate Student

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:21:59 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Micah	Individual	Support	No

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, 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,

Sincerely,

Micah Ynigues

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:21:09 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Caleb Colmenares	Individual	Support	No

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, 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

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:21:41 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Caylee Lucas	Individual	Support	No

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 Caylee Lucas,am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

the State Endemic Tree which would designate “ohi’a lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawai’i.I support it because the Ohia tree is really important to Hawaii and our environment and Hawaii is very important so me so I wanna take care of my environment.

The reason I support this bill is because the Ohia tree is an important tree for Hawaii’s environment and is used for shelter and food for other animals including the ‘apapane and the ‘i’iwi, the Ohia is also used for irrigating Hawaii’s water for our communities and agricultural center which can be used for drinking. The Ohia is also important to Hawaii since it’s important to our culture and symbology for many Hawaiiin gods and goddesses

which is why it's important to Hawaii. Lastly the Ohia is also used for houses, flooring, decoration, and traditional firewood/hale. In my reasoning, this proves that the Ohia tree is the most useful Hawaiiin tree for our island, culture, and buildings.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Student name

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:22:26 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jaymerson Ryan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara,

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

It is native to Hawaii and only Hawaii. It also is a cornerstone tree providing for other species besides itself! It is a part of Hawaiian culture and I wish for it to be our endemic tree. It is also used for everyday construction!

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Jaymerson Ryan

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:22:39 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Madelyn Begin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:22:39 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
jacob	Individual	Support	No

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, Jacob Kmabel, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

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 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.

In conclusion, this is why the 'ohi'a tree should be made the state endemic tree.

Sincerely,

Jacob Kambel

Highlands Intermediate Student

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:23:19 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Angel Mya Lorenzo	Individual	Support	No

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 Angel Mya Lorenzo am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the Ohia tree has enormous effects on several nations and toward Hawaiian culture. The Ohia tree was utilized to be woven in Hawaiian culture sings, stories, chants, and physical manifestations. It was additionally utilized for flooring, house posts, fencing, decoration, farming, and firewood. Also not only this but it was one of the first plants to grow on a cooled lava field.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Angel Mya Lorenzo

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:23:38 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alleanna Alexa Catriz	Individual	Support	No

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 Alleanna Alexa Catriz am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

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 of the reasons why the `Ohi`a tree should be an endemic state tree.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Alleanna Alexa Catriz

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:24:42 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
dreyten	Individual	Support	No

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 Dreyten Anguay am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because The reason I support this bill is 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 Student

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:24:25 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Danica Takemoto	Individual	Support	No

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.

Danica Takemoto am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill 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

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:24:40 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Aiko Josephine Lochmann	Individual	Support	No

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, Aiko Josephine Lochmann, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because it is a part of the keystone species which is an organism that helps define the entire ecosystem.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Aiko Josephine Lochmann

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:24:50 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
zjharyah kumos-kaauamo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I Zjaryah kumos-kaauamo am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate ohia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawai'i. The reason I support this bill is because the ohia tree has huge impacts on many people and towards Hawaiian culture. The 'ohia tree was used to be woven in Hawaiian culture songs,stories,chants,and physical manifestations. It was also used for flooring,house posts,fencing,decoration,farming,and firewood.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Sincerely,

Zjahryah Kumos-Kaauamo

Highlands Intermediate Student

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:24:51 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lexi Morisako	Individual	Support	No

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 Lexi Morisako am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the Ohia tree is very important to Hawaiian culture. The Ohia tree had songs, chants, and physical manifestations made about it. Also, 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.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Lexi Morisako

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:25:53 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cosette Kaminske	Individual	Support	No

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, Cosette Kaminske, am writing in support of SB2059 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.

Sincerely,

Cosette Kaminske

Highlands Intermediate Student

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:26:49 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Brandon Frattarelli	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senate

Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

February 14, 2022

15:10 , Conference Room 225

State Capitol

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

Aloha Chair Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair Les Ihara Jr., and Members of the Committee on Labor, Culture and The Arts.

My name is Brandon Frattarelli, I am a junior 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.

This bill is important because we need to make endemic trees, like Ohia, the face of our state, Hawaiian Islands are know because of there plants and beautiful colors, to preserve the history of hawaii and their people we need to make the representation of there roots in their vegetation more know to the world and their own residents. To preserve the Aloha spirit.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you about this bill and the consideration that you put into this.

Sincerely,

Brando Frattarelli

Kalaheo High School Grade 11th

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:28:09 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ikaika	Individual	Support	No

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

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Ikaika Torres, 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.

Sincerely,

Ikaika Torres

Highlands Intermediate Student

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:32:29 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Zsaleh	Individual	Support	No

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

Testimony in support of SB2059

Aloha Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair, Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

I, Zsaleh Arias, am in support of the 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 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.

Sincerely,

Zsaleh Arias

Highlands Intermediate Student

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:32:52 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lucie Jager	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senate

Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

February 14th, 2022

3:10 PM, Conference Room 225

State Capitol

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

Aloha Chair Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair Les Ihara Jr., and Members of the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts.

My name is Lucie Jager, a current student attending Kalaheo High School and I would like to share my support regarding SB 2059, about Ohia becoming our Natice State Tree.

Recently, my class and I have learned about the importance of Ohia in Hawaii as well as it's 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

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:33:24 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ethan Rieb	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senate

Committee of Labor, Culture, and the Arts

February 14,2022

3:10pm Conference Room 225

State Capitol

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

Aloha Chair Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair Les Ihara Jr., and Members of the Committee of Labor, Culture, and the Arts.

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

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:34:51 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Reece Maruyama	Testifying for Highlands Intermediate School	Support	No

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, Reece Maruyama, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the ‘ōhia lehua is an incredible tree. It is incredible for many reasons, such as its cultural significance to Hawaii, its many abilities and purposes, and its beautiful appearance and structure. The ‘ōhia lehua is endemic to Hawaii and is a keystone species. It is currently experiencing Rapid ‘Ōhia Death (ROD) that is killing the trees. So far, ROD has killed around 1 million trees, it enters through wounds and cuts off the water supply. The ‘ōhia lehua comes from a legend, a story, like Santa or the Easter bunny. This story is about a handsome man named Ōhia who was loved by the goddess Pele. Unfortunately for Pele, ‘Ōhia had his eyes on a woman named Lehua, who also had eyes for him. In fury, Pele turned ‘Ōhia into a twisted, gnarly tree, Lehua was heartbroken and she begged for Pele to reverse it, when she refused, Lehua looked to the other gods, in compromise, they turned her into a beautiful flower so ‘Ōhia and Lehua could be together forever. This story shows the significance and impact the ‘ōhia lehua has on the people of Hawaii.

The ‘ōhia lehua was used by Ancient Hawaiians to make kapa cloth beaters, poi pounding boards, and it was used to make structures and statues. The flowers were used for medicinal purposes and the flower’s nectar was used to feed native birds. It is referenced in many songs, chants, and stories. It comes in many different sizes, shapes, and colors, most commonly scarlet red, but sometimes in salmon, garnet, yellow, and even white. It can grow in extremely harsh environments and is very durable. The ‘ōhia lehua can be found from shores to mountains and it is referred to as the “Tree of Life” to birds, spiders, butterflies, and beetles. The ‘ōhia lehua has such cultural significance and it deserves more recognition.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Reece Maruyama

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:35:30 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Adriel Jonas Garrido	Testifying for Highlands Intermediate	Support	No

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, 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

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:35:46 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
aiyanna galapia	Individual	Support	No

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, Aiyanna Galapia, 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

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:36:01 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Brennan Jonick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara,

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

I am Brennan Jonick and I'm writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

The reason I support this bill is because the ‘ōhia tree has cultural meaning. It is in songs, chants and stories. It is used for poi pounding boards, the nectar feeds the birds it is also used for medicine. So far 1 million ‘ōhia trees have died from ROD. It travels by humans, samlossia beetles and wind. The ‘ōhia is a keystone species; without it there would be less water. The ‘ōhia otherwise known as the tree of life holds the ecosystem together; it supports birds, spiders, butterflies, and beetles.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Brennan Jonick

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:36:02 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Danielle Woodward	Individual	Support	No

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, 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

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:36:29 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Trevis Corpuz	Individual	Support	No

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 Trevis Corpuz am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the ‘ōhia is an incredible tree and should be our state's 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

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:36:42 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tiani Giffard-Cordeiro	Individual	Support	No

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 Tiani Giffard-Cordeiro am writing to support SB2059. Dear congressman, the reason I support this bill 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

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:37:13 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joshua Chang	Testifying for Highlands Intermediate	Support	No

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 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

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:37:23 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mia Higashionna	Individual	Support	No

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 Mia Higashionna am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because their canopies capture mists and rainwater that replenish our island's aquifer which provides drinking and irrigation for Hawaii's communities and agriculture sector. Also it provides food and shelter for animals like ‘i’iwi, ‘apapane, and more.

There are fungus that have been killing the ‘Ohia tree by cutting off their water supply. Symptoms don't show until 2 years after it's infected . The ‘Ohia trees are slowly dying out and without it we won't have clean water to drink and animals won't have a food source or shelter. I hope you will consider this bill. Mahalo for your consideration.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Mia Higashionna

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:37:26 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jemaredd Baguio	Individual	Support	No

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

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, Jemaredd Baguio, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the ‘Ōhia Lehua Tree is endemic to Hawaii, meaning that it is ONLY found here in Hawaii. No other place in the world has this special tree. The ‘Ōhia tree is deeply involved with Hawaiian culture: they were used in hula dances to evoke or inspire gods and to enhance their story telling. They made lei’s and adornments out of the lehua blossoms or buds. The ‘Ōhia branches were used to create traditional kalauu, or dancing sticks. The wood was used as a kappa cloth beater, boards for pounding poi, and for structures & statues.

Not only was the 'Ōhia tree very versatile and used for many things, but it also has a great impact on Hawaii's ecosystem: "Where lava grows, flowers grow." The 'Ōhia tree is a pioneer plant, meaning that it is one of the first plants to colonize barren habitats. Thanks to the 'Ōhia, it helps create forests, thus causing wildlife to move into these forests. 'Ōhia trees provide shelter and food for a variety of native birds, such as the endemic Hawaiian honeycreepers like the 'apapane and i'iwi. But unfortunately, there's a disease called "Rapid-'Ōhia-Death" that is quickly wiping out the 'ōhia tree population. Hundreds upon thousands of trees have been affected and killed. ROD isn't only affecting trees but it's also affecting the wildlife inhabiting those trees. The loss of this tree would have a negative impact to not only native forests and their inhabitants, but also to Hawaii's culture and storytelling.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Jemaredd Baguio

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:38:12 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Henry Vallente III	Individual	Support	No

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 Henry Vallente III am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

Ohia was the best endemic keystone species in Hawaii which helped provide food, and shelter for the wildlife like Snails, and Birds. The Ohia roots also helped the area of plants around it grow. The best thing about the Ohia since it was deep into Hawaiian culture was that it was used as songs, stories, and chants. Ohia was also used for making the best flooring, house posts, and many more. I support this bill to help the rest of Ohia trees in need.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Henry Vallente III

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:38:49 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rhianna albert	Individual	Support	No

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 Rhianna albert am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

there are a myriad of benefits to the ‘Ohi’a tree. The ‘Ohi’a tree is used for flooring, decor, firewood, and it is a common necessity for everyday life. Second, it is very important to Hawaiian culture. For example, the Ohia trees had songs and physical manifestations about it. Overall, the ‘Ohi’a tree has huge impacts on many people and towards Hawaiian culture.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Rhianna albert

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:39:13 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nisha Mhiel E. Lagua	Individual	Support	No

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

Dear Senator, 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

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:39:16 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Harley Ota	Individual	Support	No

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 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

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:41:01 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Samantha Nakamatsu	Individual	Support	No

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 Samantha Nakamatsu am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

Thank you for considering my testimony,

The reason I support this bill is because the ‘Ōhia Lehua tree is an endemic species meaning that it is only found in Hawaii and not anywhere else. It is the most common and variable out of all native species, no other plant can be found in greater variations. They are normally located from sea level all the way up to 7000ft of elevation. The ‘Ōhia Lehua tree helps start a new forest meaning that it is a keystone species. A keystone species is one that is largely depended on in an ecosystem. The ‘Ōhia Lehua tree also provides many uses for us humans and other species. The tree itself can provide food and shelter for a variety of bird species. The wood and leaves of the ‘Ōhia lehua tree can be used as material to make things such as furniture, houses, medicine, etc. The tree also plays a huge role in providing us with fresh water that we use everyday.

I just listed a few out of the many reasons for why the ‘Ōhia lehua tree should be the Hawaii state endemic tree. It has a great significance to our island, the species and us humans.

Samantha Nakamatsu

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:41:25 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
chivasco carnate-tomoichi	Individual	Support	No

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 am chivasco carnate-tomoichi. I 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

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:41:39 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Makoa Sevellino	Testifying for Highlands intermediate	Support	No

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 Makoa Sevellino, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

The ohia tree is very important to peoples culture and it is a very important food source for birds and other animals, and it can help us humans to catch rainwater so we can have something to drink and keep hydrated and another use of the ohia tree is to capture mist and rainwater to replenish our island's aquifers.

Also Hawaiians used the ohias flowers to make clothing so it is also very important to our culture, and also help grow other trees, the ohia can also help our animals for shelter. It also helps to tell stories, songs, and chants. Ohia trees are again very important to us and

**the animals we use the wood of the ohia for our houses today we use it for our flooring,
house posts, fencing posts, decorations, and fire**

Lastly, ohia is a very important tree to us people, animals, and islands so please help us.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Makoa Sevellino,

Highlands Intermediate School

Senate
Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts
February 14, 2022
3:10PM, Conference Room 225
State Capitol

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

Aloha Chair Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair Les Ihara Jr., and Members of the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts,

Hi, I am Zariah Schubert and I'm a freshman at Kalaheo 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 is important to me because it is part of the Hawaiian culture and is one of the most important native plants in Hawaii. Ōhi'a trees make up the largest portion of the canopy in native wet forests. Lastly, they provide shelter and food for numerous native birds. Ōhi'a trees are celebrated in chant, song, dance, and ceremonies by the Hawaiian people. Ohia's sturdy wood was also used to create weapons, Kapa cloth, boards for poi pounding, enclosures, and statues its leaves were used as medicinal tea. Due to rapid ohia death, lots of the Ohia trees have been dying because of this. If the Ōhi'a trees die lots of animals will also become extinct because Ōhi'a is one of their main food sources. As you can see Ohia is used in many different ways for many different things we can all come together as a community and save and protect the Ōhi'a.

Mahalo Nui Loa
Sincerely,
Zariah Schubert
Kalaheo High School - (Freshman)

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 9:32:26 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Virgilio Martinez	Individual	Support	No

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, Virgilio Martinez, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

1 reason I support this bill is because it is very beneficial to Hawaii. This is because it is one of the first plants to grow on a cooled lava field. The roots of the ‘Ōhi‘a also help prepare other plant species to grow, and it provides food and shelter for ‘apapane’ which is ‘i’i’wi, insects, and snails. This shows that the ‘Ōhi‘a benefits many things of Hawaii like shelter, helping other plants, and being one of the first plants on a lava field.

An additional reason is because the tree is important to Hawaii. For the reason that ‘Ōhi‘a is important to Hawaii is because it is endemic to Hawaii. Also the ‘Ōhi‘a tree was woven

deeply into Hawaiian culture. The ‘Ōhi‘a tree was used for flooring, housing posts, etc. and is still being used for those reasons till this day. Concluding that the ‘Ōhi‘a tree was very important to Hawaiian culture.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Virgilio Martinez

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 9:35:52 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Chase pintor	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara,

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

I Chase pintor am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

this tree is important to us. It provides us with our main source of water, soil development, and it’s also only found here. Without this tree we can’t survive. Would you want so many innocent people to die?

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Chase pintor

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 9:35:53 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Maxine Hazel Espiritu	Individual	Support	No

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, Maxine Hazel Espiritu, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

The reason I support this bill is because it’s a beautiful, amazing tree. Certain types of birds, mainly the ‘apapane, are considered to be the ‘Ōhia tree's personal god. Birds like them feed off its nectar, along with the Ōhia’s sturdy wood being used to make weapons in the early times, when listening to traditional Hawaiian stories, songs, and chants. The reason why it’s presence was a big deal in the festival, at the Puaenaena Ceremony, the multifaceted mainstay of native forests has many culturally symbolic uses and meanings in many forms, such as the Ohia tree legend about two lovers. In short, the Ohia legend is about a goddess asking a man to go into the heavens with her; as he refuses, out of anger, the male was turned into a tree. His lover, however, was devastated and cried against the tree bark for moments. The gods had thought about their decision and made the lover become the blossoms of the Ohia tree, reuniting the two lovers.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Maxine Hazel Espiritu

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 9:37:42 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
haven ganigan	Individual	Support	No

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 haven ganigan am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because of it’s many uses and resources it gives nature and the state of Hawaii. The flowers of the Ōhia can be used to make medicines and the wood of the ohia is used as a poi pounder, cloth beater and other reasons. It is also a hardy pioneer species which means it was one of the first to live in a barren part of land and can also survive and thrive by lava. ‘Ōhia is also home for different species of bird and bugs so they can live. This tree is an endemic species to Hawaii or native to Hawaii so it has meaning to the land

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Haven Ganigan

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 9:37:44 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Duke Nakayama	Individual	Support	No

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, Duke Nakayama, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

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 mamo 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.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Sincerely,

Duke Nakayama

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 9:37:55 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Paige Tiger	Individual	Support	No

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 Paige Tiger am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because ohia is an amazing tree. Ohia is an amazing tree and should become Hawaii’s State Endemic tree because it has a very cultural significance to hawaii. The ohia tree is usually always mentioned in hawaiian stories, chants, and songs which shows that ohia lehua is a very cultural to hawaii and is important. There is also a problem happening with the ohia tree which is something called ROD aka Rapid Ohia Death. Rapid Ohia Death is a disease that causes lots and lots of Ohia to die.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Paige Tiger

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 9:38:05 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Vryze Kendrick Beloy	Individual	Support	No

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 Vryze Kendrick Beloy am writing to support SB2059.

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

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Vryze Kendrick Beloy

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 9:39:06 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ayden Peralta	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara,

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

I Ayden Peralta, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

The reason I support this bill in making the ‘Ōhia the state endemic tree because ‘ōhia has a lot of cultural significance to Hawaii. According to legend, two lovers turned into the ‘ōhia tree. In the legend, a man named ‘Ōhia and a woman named Lehua were lovers, and went into the forest every night. The goddess Pele tried to get ‘Ōhia to follow her, but he refused. When Lehua arrived, Pele burned the two lovers. The spirits of the forest cherished the couple, and couldn’t stop Pele, but instead turned them from burning humans to a tree.

Another reason is that ‘ōhia is a unique tree. The ‘ōhia is a polymorpha species, meaning it has many forms. It can bloom into the colors scarlet red, salmon, garnet, yellow, and very rarely white. The nectar from the flowers fed honeycreepers, like the ‘i’iwi, ‘apapane, and the extinct Black Mamo. It’s also a material to create weapons, kapa or cloth beaters, boards to pound poi, and closures and statues. It’s leaves were also used for medicinal tea. It’s also a keystone species, meaning without it the ecosystem would struggle and collapse, and it’s a pioneer species, meaning it’s one of the first things to grow in molten rock after an eruption. These are my reasons for making the ‘Ōhia the state endemic trees.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Ayden Peralta

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 9:39:16 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shaunty Gouveia	Individual	Support	No

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 Shaunty Gouveia am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because I support the bill making Ohia the state endemic tree because not only is Ohia an classic and well known tree that has been in Hawaiian history since forever, but Ohia is a keystone species meaning that if this tree moves from an ecosystem, the ecosystem will change drastically. One look at an ohia makes your whole day brighter and better, seeing the many different colors that they come in are so beautiful. This tree looks very delicate and looks like it's not very durable but it's actually really durable, it can grow in very harsh environments.

We need to make this Hawaii's state endemic tree because Ohia is likely to become endangered if they keep disappearing. The reason why they are disappearing is because of the newly identified disease in ohia trees called Rapid Ohia Death(ROD for short). ROD mostly spreads from people. It commonly travels from our shoes, stepping on it walking from place to place spreading this disease. I believe that turning ohia into a state endemic tree will help stop the spread by showing it more attention.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Shaunty Gouveia

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 9:42:20 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Thomas Tougas	Individual	Support	No

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 Thomas Tougas, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because ‘ōhia has very important value to the hawaiians and it is suffering from rapid ohia death. It is currently being killed by two funguses with over a million infected. Making ‘ōhia the state endemic tree would bring attention to the tree so more people will offer their help in getting rid of this fungus.

The Ohia has value to Hawaiian history. It was a pioneer species, and it’s wood was used by the early hawaiians as building structures, boards for pounding poi, and tools. It is said to serve as the Kinolau to multiple Hawaiian deities and is Pele’s favorite flower. It was used in hula, chants, and many ceremonies.

It serves as an important role to the ecosystem, birds eat the nectar and insects get their nutrients from the flower. It provides shelter for insects, birds, and snails, and the leaves from the flower are used to make medical tea. Their canopies provide rainwater that replenishes the island aquifers which provide drinking water.

Ōhia is a very pretty flower. It can bloom in a variety of colors such as scarlet red, salmon, garnet, yellow, and on rare occasions even white. The ‘ōhia is very durable and can grow in rugged, barren environments. Their roots can bury deep in the ground making it one of the first flowers to grow.

The ‘ōhia is a beautiful flower and holds a lot of value and use to Hawaiians. We need to work together to get rid of this fungus, stop rapid ohia death, and save the ‘ōhia.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Thomas Tougas

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 10:03:01 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kalia Saffery	Individual	Support	No

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, Kalia Saffery, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because the ‘ōhia is very important for the growth of future plant species. The ‘ōhia roots help prepare the land for the future growth of different plants. It also provides shelter and food for ‘apapane, ‘i‘iwi, insects and snails. ‘Ōhi‘a trees canopies can also be useful for refilling the island aquifers and the trunks of the trees supplies nutrients and protection for native seed. The ‘ōhi‘a trees also make up most of the canopies in the forests.

The ‘ōhia isn’t only important to the environment, it is also important to the native Hawaiian culture. It serves as the sacred kinolau (physical manifestations). It also symbolizes mo’olelo (stories), mele (songs) and ‘oli (chants). The ‘ōhi‘a wood is also used for traditional hale. In conclusion, the ‘ōhia is very important to the environment and the culture of the islands.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Kalia Saffery

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 10:03:08 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Naomi Manmano	Individual	Support	No

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 Naomi Manmano am writing to support SB2059.

Remember those stories about Santa, Easter bunny, or even the tooth fairy? These are the things you believed in as a kid and were told stories about. What proof is there that these things you believed in as a kid are more important and worth saving than the ‘ōhia lehua tree? This is how the people of Hawaii see the ‘ōhia tree. Everyone was told stories about how the ‘ōhia tree was a big important part of the Hawaiian past and it is a part of the future. It is something that is a bedtime story to all the kids to teach them about the past of this place we live in. The ‘ōhia lehua tree played an important role in how Hawaii would be today. The importance of it to our past economy, and all the lessons about the economy that we learned. Like everything in life, ‘ōhia gives us stories and lessons to tell all the future generations.

‘Ōhi‘a lehua is a prime part of the rainforests of Hawaii, it is the keystone of the ecosystems here. They help all the plant and animal life here thrive and grow to eventually help us as humans live here. They help us as humans collect water to live here on this island and to just survive. Water is important to us and essential like ‘ōhia is important and essential to the rainforests and ecosystems. This tree is endemic, once it is gone. It is gone forever, and there is nowhere else you can find it. It’s almost like a person, once that one person is gone. It is irreplaceable because it was one of a kind, and it was important to everyone and everything around it. These are some of the many reasons why I am in support of this bill to make ‘ōhia lehua the endemic tree of Hawaii.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Naomi Manmano

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 10:52:10 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Julianna Muramoto	Individual	Support	No

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, 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

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 10:52:38 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Evan Mizuuchi	Individual	Support	No

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 Evan Mizuuchi am writing to support SB2059.

‘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.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Evan Mizuuchi

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 10:52:54 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Riley Leong	Individual	Support	No

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 am Riley Leong am writing to support SB2059.

The reason why 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 plants 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

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 10:53:08 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mia Garlitos	Individual	Support	No

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 Mia Garlitos am writing to support SB2059. The reason I support this bill is 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

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 10:53:11 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Daimen Chase Olipares	Individual	Support	No

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, Daimen Chase Olipares am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill 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

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 10:53:27 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Skyler Thornburg	Individual	Support	No

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 Skyler Thornburg am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

It has a lot of things that can benefit this tree in becoming the new state tree. This is due to multiple reasons as I will list as of now, First reason being the cultural background of this tree. Having a historical background to the ‘Ōhia tree, While the history of the tree may be short, It still can have a historical place as the state tree to make it important. This bill will also obviously be able to shorten the ‘Ōhia tree endangerment as the bill could make it illegal to be used for any materials. This also helps with the historical purpose of the tree as well. The last reason is simply because they are home to many creatures like birds, honeycreepers, and more.

While this may not be much information, I hope it will be enough to be used to defend the case of the 'Ōhia tree bill.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Skyler Thornburg

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 10:53:58 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gavyn Rodgers	Individual	Support	No

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 Gavyn Rodgers am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

The reason I support this bill is 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,

Gavyn Rodgers

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 10:54:01 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
highlandsms	Individual	Support	No

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 Tyler-Nam Quach am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

Ohia Testimony

The reason I support this bill is 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

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 10:54:27 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Frian Tallo	Individual	Support	No

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, Frian Tallo, am writing to support SB2059.

I support this bill 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.

Lastly, being chosen as our state endemic tree would help make others aware of the problems that's happening to the 'ōhia tree. It is said that a fungus has been killing off these trees by aiming for the part of the tree that keeps itself hydrated. We can sometimes see which trees are infected because they would turn green into yellow, and would later die. So people are warned to wash their boots or shoes when going near them to keep it from spreading. but most of the 'ōhia trees are already infected, some are unrecognizable from non infected trees. So making the 'ōhia tree the state endemic tree would help aware others, so that's why i think it should be the state endemic

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Frian Tallo

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 10:54:40 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Helena Beltran	Individual	Support	No

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 ‘ōhiā becoming the state endemic tree.

I, Helena Beltran, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

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 School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 10:54:42 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Stella Ma	Testifying for Highlands Intermediate	Support	No

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, Stella Ma, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because of the 'ōhia's cultural and ecological importance to Hawaii. The tree and its flowers, which come from a significant legend, were utilized in old Hawaii, for example the wood could be made into a board for pounding poi or used for building structures and statues. The flowers of the tree, the lehua, also had medicinal uses as well.

Additionally, this tree plays an important role within the ecosystems of Hawaii. The 'ōhia is endemic to Hawaii and is found nowhere else in the entire world. Some of Hawaii's native and endangered birds feed off the nectar from the tree and use the tree as camouflage. The 'ōhia is extremely durable because of its roots, which extend into lava rock crevices, making it the first tree to appear after a lava flow and one of the most common native trees. With these reasons, I hope that this bill is able to raise awareness and support for the conservation efforts of 'ōhi'a.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Stella Ma

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 10:54:46 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jared Antonio	Individual	Support	No

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 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, Kaua'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

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 10:55:02 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kaci Ishida	Individual	Support	No

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 Kaci Ishida am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because it’s endemic meaning it’s only from here. The flowers grows in lava fields. The pioneer species is one of the first to grow on an old lava field. The flowers helps feed native birds.The ROD (rapid ‘ōhi‘a death) is really a disease caused by these fungal and they currently have no cure. The flower comes in many different colors.

Culturally the flower was born from a Legend. There was a beautiful man named ‘Ōhi‘a he attracted pele but ‘Ōhi‘a liked a other woman named Lehua and she liked him too so pele transformed ‘Ōhi‘a into an ugly tree Lehua tried to convince Pele to change him back but pele refused so Lehua asked the other gods to intervene they transform Lehua into a beautiful flower so the lovers could stay together forever. The flower has many uses. It helped easing the pain of childbirth. Keystone species have lots of organisms depend on it.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Kaci Ishida

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 10:56:03 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Brenden Deguchi	Individual	Support	No

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 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.

Enjoy the rest of your day.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Brenden Deguchi

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 10:56:43 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Santee Standing Crow Miska	Testifying for Highlands Intermediate	Support	No

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, Santee Standing-Crow Miska, am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because

- It has been used for many purposes, from medicinal purposes to feeding native birds.**
- ‘ōhia is a keystone and endemic species**
- ‘ōhia is incredibly durable, meaning that it can last for a long time compared to other plants.**
- ‘ōhia is also culturally significant, appearing in many folk-tales and being very old.**
- This bill would provide protection to ‘ōhia, which is an important species that is dying off due to ROD.**

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Santee Standing-Crow Miska

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 10:58:33 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dayton Calso	Individual	Support	No

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 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,

Dayton Calso

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 12:34:09 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Marlie Oshiro	Individual	Support	No

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, 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

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 12:34:22 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Isabella Acosta	Individual	Support	No

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,

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

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 12:34:37 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mia Ha-Rozewski	Individual	Support	No

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, 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

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 12:36:15 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Haylie Ideue	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 11 2022

TIME: 12:35 PM

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

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 12:36:43 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Richelle Javar	Individual	Support	No

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 Richelle Javar am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill regarding ‘Ōhi‘a becoming the state endemic tree. 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 native 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

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 12:36:53 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hannah Mills	Individual	Support	No

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

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

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 12:37:27 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Romnick Pasion	Individual	Support	No

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 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 ohī’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 Ohī’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 Ohī’a tree is also woven into Hawaiian culture through symbology in songs, chants, and stories. The Ohī’a tree is a very important tree to the environment and is currently being threatened by Rapid Ohī’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 Ohī’a tree.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Romnick Pasion

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 12:39:25 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kelcie Matsumoto	Testifying for Highlands Intermediate School	Support	No

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, Kelcie Matsumoto, am in support of SB2059. I support this bill because of the environmental impact ohia has in Hawai'i. The ohia 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. Ohia 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 ohia forests. Forests made of ohia trees collect water, replenishing the aquifers we use.

Thank you for your time.

Kelcie Matsumoto

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 12:39:37 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jazmin Anjolak	Individual	Support	No

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. 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.

With Aloha,

Jazmin Anjolak

8th grade student

Highlands Intermediate School

1460 Ho'olaulea Street

Pearl City, HI 96782

(808) 307-5000

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 12:39:55 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Khiena Lei Rhian Talon	Individual	Support	No

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, Khiena Talon, am in support of SB2059, relating to the state endemic tree which would designate Ohia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii. 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

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 12:41:07 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ian Kawamura	Individual	Support	No

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

Highlands Intermediate School

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Senator Les Ihara,

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 I am writing to you in support of SB 2059 regarding ‘Ōhi‘a becoming the state endemic tree. This endemic tree is only found in Hawaii and is the home to many of our native birds.

The ohī‘a 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.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Ian Kawamura

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 12:41:52 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kohana Mcpherson	Individual	Support	No

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

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 12:42:44 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lily	Testifying for highlands intermediate school	Support	No

Comments:

I, Lily Ames, 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 ohi'a lehua is an important part of Hawaiian culture. From the ancient Hawaiian stories, the ohi'a trees symbolise rebirth and new beginnings. This is an important message that more people should know about in these times. The ohi'a lehua is also currently endangered due to Rapid Ohia Death, ROD, and many plants and animals are suffering due to this. The ohi'a plays a huge role in keeping the ecosystem of Hawaii together: by providing homes to native and endangered birds such as the i'iwi and the Akohekohe. Additionally, the ohi'a lehua collects the water for Hawaii when it rains and is important to our water supply.

The reason I support this bill is because by making the ohi'a our state tree, we are protecting it and bringing awareness to this important part of Hawaii that is struggling right now to survive. Please take this into consideration.

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 12:44:28 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rylah	Individual	Support	No

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 Rylah am writing to support SB2059. 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 an endemic tree.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Rylah

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 12:46:23 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Chavis Acol	Individual	Support	No

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 Chavis Acol am writing to support SB2059. I support this bill because 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 important when it rains because it soaks up most of the water and filters it to drinking water. It also helps us build structures and statues. This tree gives us shelter and food. Another reason is it grows when lava is cooled which means it was the first tree to pop up in Hawaii and allows other trees or grass to go. Lastly it is used for firewood and we use it for flooring in houses. We must protect the ohia tree because it only grows in Hawaii and gives shelter to snails that only live in Hawaii.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Chavis Acol

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 12:48:28 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ayda	Individual	Support	No

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

Highlands Intermediate School

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 1:03:23 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
cameron barra	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senate

Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

February 14, 2022

3:10PM, Conference Room 225

State Capitol

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

Aloha Chair Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair Les Ihara Jr., and Members of the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts,

My name is Cameron Barra. I'm from Kalaheo High School in grade 9. I am in support of SB 2059, Relating to State Native Tree which would designate ohia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii

There are many important reasons for making ohia the state native tree. Ohia lehua is a native species and is important in Hawaiian culture. Having the ohia lehua as Hawaii's state native tree will increase awareness of this exceptional tree. This awareness will help efforts to protect and rebuild the ohia lehua population. My hope is that through the passage of this bill, there can be an increase in funding for groups that are protecting the ohia lehua tree.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cameron Barra

Kalaheo High, grade 9

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 1:04:04 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Isabella Kobiljak	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senate

Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

February 14, 2022

3:10PM, Conference Room 225

State Capitol

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

Aloha Chair Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair Les Ihara Jr., and Members of the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts,

My name is Isabella Kobiljak, ohia is a prolific tree that grows in 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

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 1:08:31 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kealii Camarillo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senate

Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

February 14, 2022

3:10PM, Conference Room 225

State Capitol

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

Aloha Chair Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair Les Ihara Jr., and Members of the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts,

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, Hawaii and the native wildlife that rely on ohia would be deeply affected and would suffer. 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

Senate
Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts
February 14, 2022
3:10PM, Conference Room 225
State Capitol

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

Aloha Chair Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair Les Ihara Jr., and Members of the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts,

My name is Kanoa Makaanahale Ventura-Barreto and I am in support of SB 2059, *Relating to State Native Tree*, 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 *makaanahale* 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

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 1:10:11 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Marsella Zaliyanti	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senate

Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

February 14, 2022

3:10PM, Conference Room 225

State Capitol

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

Aloha Chair Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair Les Ihara Jr., and Members of the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts,

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.

Sincerely,

Marsella Zaliyanti

Kalaheo High School, 11th Grade

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 1:11:59 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Da'Shone Will	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senate

Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

February 14, 2022

3:10PM, Conference Room 225

State Capitol

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

Aloha Chair Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair Les Ihara Jr., and Members of the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts,

Hi my name is Da'Shone Will, I'm a sophomore and I attend 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.

Why I think that Ohia is important is because they make up the largest portion of the canopy in wet forests. They provide shelter and food for numerous native bird, including endemic Hawaiian nectar-feeding honey creepers such as the 'apapane and i'iwi, as well as innumerable insects. ohia is the most common native tree species in the main islands. It is also important such as Apapane and Akohekohe, which get their food from nectar producing flowers.

Thankyou for time and Patients

Sincerely, Da'Shone Will

Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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



Date & Time of Hearing: 2022 February 14, 3:10 p.m.
Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Les Ihara Jr., Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree. We have recently learned that the Ohi`a tree is in danger of extinction due to Rapid Ohi`a Death (R.O.D.), an infectious disease that has been terrorizing and killing Ohi`a 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.

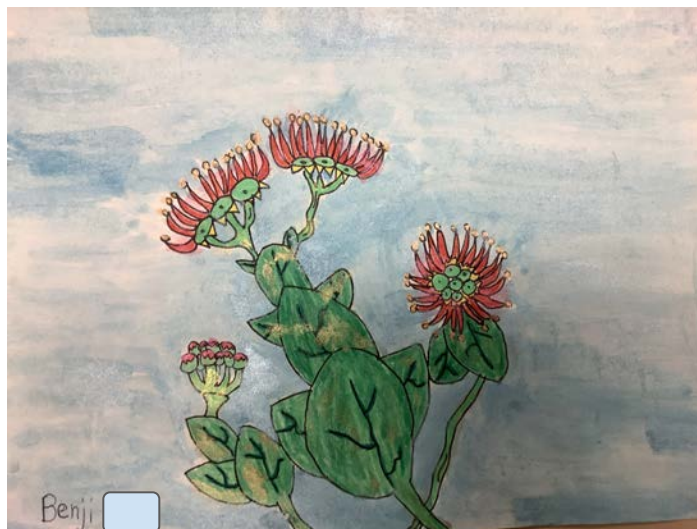
As 4th graders, we are learning that the Ohi`a tree is important to Hawaii in several ways. The Ohi`a tree is endemic, and can only be found in Hawaii. The Ohi`a tree is an essential water collector in the watershed. The Lehua flower captures a lot of water and allows it to slowly drip down and fill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

At school, we are doing our part by planting and taking care of Ohi`a 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 petals 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 ohia lehua as the state endemic tree.

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

What ohia 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 ohia Lehua and saw our school's ohia which made us change our thoughts about the ohia. 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Iiwi, 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 Hawaii 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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.

Acrees 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Ohi`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 Ohi`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 Ohi`a can also help make small canoes from the tree trunks.

The Ohi`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 Ohi`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



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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



The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
Wednesday, February 9, 2022
10:20 AM VIA Videoconference

Testimony in Support for HB2202

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, 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 HB2202, 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

Date & Time of Hearing: 2022 February 14, 3:10 p.m.
Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Les Ihara Jr., Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree.

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

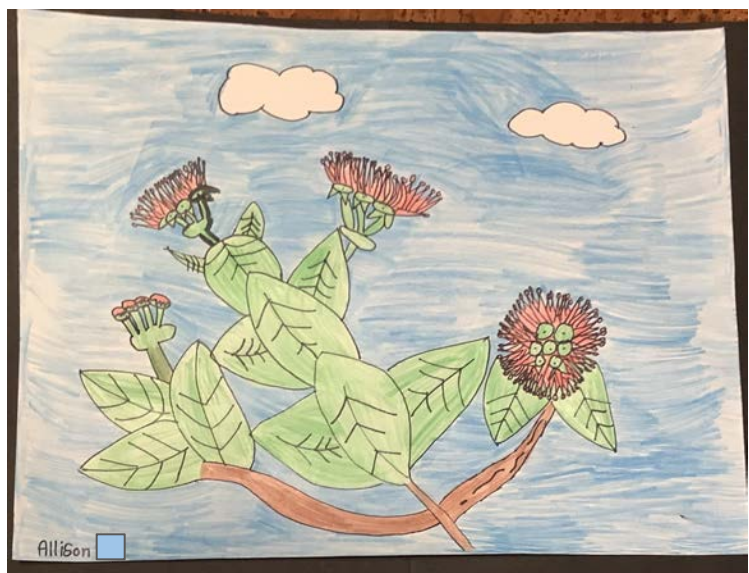
Aquifer depends on the Ōhi`a Lehua.

Since we were introduced to the ohi`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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree.

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

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

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

In the Hawaiian islands, Ohi`a 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 Ohi`a trees like the Honeycreeper or I`iwi.

I care about the Ohi`a because I recently learned Ohi`a are endemic to Hawaii because they can only be found in the Hawaiian forest or mountains. I also care about the Ohi`a because they help me understand that the Ohi`a 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 Ohi`a because I had so much care for the Ohi`a tree when I first learned about it. Please consider this bill so that the Ohi`a 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 ohia 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 'Ohi'a is extremely durable and important to our environment. It is one of the main parts of Hawai'i's water supply. The 'Ohi'a, along with the Koa tree, slows rainwater from creating run-off on the mountains. The 'Ohi'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 'Ohi'a for food and homes. With strong, hard wood, the 'Ohi'a also has many uses.

While we speak a fungus called R.O.D. (Rapid 'Ohi'a Death) is infecting our 'Ohi'a. To protect our beloved 'Ohi'a we ask you to consider our bill. These 'Ohi'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 ohia lehua.

A Beautiful Tree

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

Sincerely,
Audrey
Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of SB2059 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 an 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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. Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Pihana Branco, and Members of the Committee,

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



SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 11:01:18 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Scarlett Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing to support SB2059 and believe that a memorial for Kalaupapa is needed. It is important to honor the history there and those that are laid to rest. I also support the Ohia tree being designated the state endemic tree. It is one of many treasures that makes Hawai'i special and should be rightfully acknowledged. Thank you for your time.

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/12/2022 8:34:06 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jenifer Mantupar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

‘Ōhi‘a lehua should be the State tree. I support measure SB2059 and ask that it be passed so this unique, treasured, and important tree can be recognized and adopted as our State endemic tree. Like the ‘ōhi‘a we need to adapt to the changes in the world around us. Please make this change to protect this cherished endemic species.



Testimony Before The
Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts
IN SUPPORT OF SB 2059
February 14, 2022, 3:10PM, Room 225

Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair and Committee members

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

KUA employs a community-driven approach that currently supports a statewide network of 36 mālama 'āina community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together), 40 fishpond projects and practitioners called the Hui Mālama Loko I'a, and a growing group of over 60 Limu practitioners and supporters called the Limu Hui.

KUA supports SB 2059 as an incremental step on a pathway towards 'āina momona.

Our vision of 'āina momona includes pathways to new community, economic and environmental regenerative opportunities for present and future generations. A foundation for this is the recognition and awareness of the significance of biocultural endemic species like 'ōhi'a to the culture, environmental and ecosystem services that sustain us.

The communities we work with are committed to ensuring the long-term health of our biocultural resources. They have depended on them for generations. We believe our environment, the foundation of our very existence, is about long-term investment and a vision of 'āina momona. To get there it requires among other things taking the steps toward greater environmental awareness, self-sufficiency, development of a pipeline of new and more innovative career pathways, mindsets, relationships, and resource flows for mālama 'āina. Passing this bill out of your committee will open an eye toward reaching this vision.

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

Aloha 'Āina Momona.

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/12/2022 12:14:33 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kevin Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Good idea. Please support.

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/12/2022 2:39:40 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dalia Hembal	Testifying for Kalaheo High School	Support	No

Comments:

Senate

Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

February 14, 2022

3:10PM, Conference Room 225

State Capitol

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

Aloha Chair Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair Les Ihara Jr., and Members of the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts,

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 it’s 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

Submitted on: 2/12/2022 10:35:05 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kapulei Flores	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support SB2059 because the 'ōhia lehua tree is one of the most important endemic trees in Hawai'i, not only to our environment but to the Hawaiian culture as well. 'Ōhia lehua play key roles in the creation stories of our islands, people, and culture. Not only is it a foundation of the Hawaiian culture, it is key to the survival of many of our native birds and ecosystems. Many of our endangered native species rely on the lehua trees as their home, protection, and food supply. Hopefully with the greater recognition and honoring of the lehua tree it will lead to greater efforts to protect our native ecosystems, especially with the growing threats of ROD and the declines in native species. Please support SB2059.

Mahalo

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/13/2022 8:22:33 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Katherine E Hachmeister	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2059. *Metrosideros polymorpha*, the 'Ōhi'a Lehua should be named Hawaii's endemic state tree. It not only holds cultural and historical significance, but is a symbol of resilience and perseverance.

'Ōhi'a are life giving. Not only are they a primary species to regenerate a forest after a lava flow, but they are also home to the ferns and moss which help capture water from the mountains which replenish the aquifers. Without the 'Ōhi'a our natural resources would be decimated and the flora and fauna of the islands would struggle even more to survive.

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/13/2022 11:58:15 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ryan Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This will help raise further awareness and also can shine a light on its vital ecological and cultural significance across the archipelago.

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/13/2022 12:00:24 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dana C Avendano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Ohia tree has many uses but most of all is it feeding endangered endemic birds. It's beauty and rarity must be protected before it's completely gone. Keep Hawaii Hawaii, protect what's endemic.

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/13/2022 2:36:06 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nimai Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

The Ohi'a plays such a significant role in our forests and watersheds. It should absolutely be our state endemic tree. Not to mention it's strength, resilience, and beauty. I can think of no better.

Thank you for your consideration.

-Nimai Wong

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/13/2022 3:08:08 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mia Melamed	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We must use our voices and knowledge that has been based down to us to perpetuate the very existence of such a rare and stunning tree. It's cultural and ecological importance connect the mountains to the sea. The 'Ōhi'a serving as the face of Hawai'i's official endemic tree will promote education and awareness.

KO'OLAU  WAIALUA
A L L I A N C E

Feb 13, 2022

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

The Ko'olau Waialua Alliance would like to express support for SB2059. Yes to the Ohia Lehua being designated as our State Endemic Tree. It is important to show aloha for this iconic species and raise awareness of Rapid Ohia Death (ROD) and the threats facing all of our indigenous and endemic species of plants and animals.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify!

Angela Huntemer for the members of the Ko'olau Waialua Alliance.

808-224-3101

koolauwaialuaalliance@protonmail.com

The Ko'olau Waialua Alliance is a grassroots network of residents and community groups across Oahu's north and windward shores that believes that our health and well-being are woven together in the same cloth, that problems affecting one community in the region threaten us all, and that works to foster a just and sustainable region for current and future generations.

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 10:36:15 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Peyton Fontanilla	Individual	Support	No

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

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Testimony in Support of SB2059

Dear Senator Brian T. Taniguchi,

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 I 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 a habitat for our birds. It collects water and it filters the 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 too, "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, but we also wouldn't have the beautiful flowers for the merry monarch or most of the native birds.

Wouldn't you love for your future grandkids 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

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 10:44:26 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jack Darby	Testifying for Highlands Intermediate	Support	No

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’ā and Lehua, two lovers betrothed to each other but separated by the great goddess Pele.

Sadly, Ohia lehua is already suffering from Rapid ‘Ōhi’ā 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’ā Lehua tree can be recognized. To conclude my testimony, we ask you to make the ‘Ōhi’ā lehua tree the state endemic tree.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Jack Darby

Highlands Intermediate School

Grade 8

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 11:04:46 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Marian M. Chau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

‘Ōhi‘a lehua is the keystone tree of our beloved forests, creating our watersheds, feeding our ‘aina, and nourishing our wailua. This tree deserves recognition, as well as continued support from the government, as we fight the threat of Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death and do our best work to keep ‘ōhi‘a forests healthy.

SB-2059

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 11:10:14 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Clemens Mayer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2059 because the 'ōhi'a lehua is a beautiful endemic tree emblematic of Hawai'i Nei. It's status as the state tree will make sure it will be conserved and can thrive on the islands.

Mahalo, Clemens