

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 Committees on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
and
WATER AND LAND

Friday, January 28, 2022
2:00 PM

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2064
RELATING TO KOA TREES

Senate Bill 2064 proposes to require the Board of Land and Natural Resources to identify all private and public lands suitable for the planting of koa trees, and proposes to authorize the Administrator of Forestry and Wildlife to issue licenses to plant, care for, and harvest koa trees in certain circumstances. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments on this measure.**

The Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), along with several key partners, has developed a Koa Action Plan, which is a component of DOFAW's statewide Forest Action Plan. This plan describes the actions needed to achieve DOFAW's vision for koa forests: abundant, healthy koa forests that connect people to Hawaii's culture and natural resources while providing sustainable economic opportunities that promote forest conservation. This plan contains a statewide map of areas identified as watersheds most in need of restoration that overlaps the current and modeled environmental range suitable for the planting of koa.

Senate Bill 2064 includes the issuance of licenses for tree planting on private lands, but the Department cannot regulate these types of projects on privately owned lands. A tree-planting project involving state lands or funds, or in the State Conservation District is not exempt from the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA), Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). The Department is exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment for tree planting projects however, this exemption does not apply to vegetation for which harvesting is planned or is reasonably foreseeable. Applicants on state leased lands seeking a koa planting and harvesting license should be responsible for completing all required environmental compliance. Applicants

should also complete a planting and harvesting management plan specific to the licensed area as required under Section 183-16.5, HRS.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Hawai'i Forest Action Plan:

<https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/forestry/files/2013/09/Hawaii-Forest-Action-Plan-2016-FINAL.pdf>

Koa Action Plan:

<https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/forestry/files/2013/09/Appendix-H-Koa-Action-Plan.pdf>

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HALEAKALA RANCH
• EST. MAUI 1888 •

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**Testimony of Haleakalā Ranch
Commenting on Senate Bill 2064 RELATING TO KOA TREES
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
January 28, 2022**

Haleakala Ranch respectfully opposes S.B. 2064 RELATING TO KOA TREES.

S.B. 2064 proposes the issuance of licenses by BLNR or its authorized administrator for Koa tree planting on private lands, but the Department does not have the authority to regulate these types of activities on privately-owned lands, especially lands within the Agricultural District.

In addition, many private landowners possess the knowledge of forestry, silviculture, native ecosystems, and responsible land stewardship practices required to execute a successful Koa silvicultural and/or reforestation enterprise. In fact, a number of private landowners have successful Koa forestry projects that are well underway.

While we recognize the intent of the Bill to promote, facilitate and encourage similar projects on state-leased lands, this Bill would likely add a layer of prohibitive administrative complexity and oversight to existing and future projects on private lands.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Respectfully,

Jordan W. Jokiel
Haleakalā Ranch
Vice President and Land Manager

CC: J. Scott Meidell, President and CEO