

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**

TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 2070

**February 24, 2022**  
**10:00 A.M.**  
**Via Videoconference**

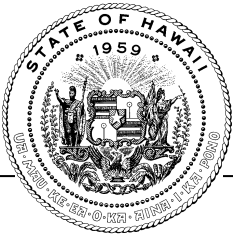
RELATING TO SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS TO ASSIST THE HAWAIIAN  
LEGACY REFORESTATION INITIATIVE TO RESTORE HAWAII'S FORESTS AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES.

The Department of Budget and Finance offers the following comments on Senate Bill No. 2070 which authorizes the issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds (SPRB) to assist the Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC, a Hawaii corporation, to generate a sustainable model of endemic reforestation, ecosystem revitalization, endangered species recovery, and carbon credit sequestering by planning, designing, constructing, and equipping private and public land owners with tools for endemic forest development, processing and distribution of forest products, including eco-assets such as tree planting, endangered species management, endemic species propagation, value-added agriculture, advanced materials, sustainable timber, carbon credits, Hawaii cultural practice, fine art, and Hawaii made products pursuant to Part IV, Chapter 39A, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The Department would like to inform the Legislature and prospective SPRB parties that should the legislation be approved, approval of the SPRB issuance and conduit loan will require further review of the financing proposal to ensure compliance with all federal, state and credit underwriting requirements. Additionally, the Department would like to note that Senate Bill No. 2812 specifies that the State's allocation of the bond ceiling cap and all returned bond ceiling cap from the counties, shall be entirely used for housing related projects. Should the legislation be approved, all SPRBs subject to the bond ceiling cap will be prohibited from issuance by the Department for the next five years. Furthermore, House Bill No. 1829, H.D. 1 specifies that the entire allocation of the state bond ceiling cap shall be used for housing related projects for the next six years provided that the allocations authorized, but not issued before July 1, 2022 shall not be affected. An authorization to issue a SPRB does not allocate the state bond ceiling. The allocation of the state bond ceiling is made at the closing of the bonds. Since the bill specifies that the entire state bond ceiling shall be used for housing related projects, all authorized and not issued SPRBs subject to the bond ceiling cap will be prohibited from issuance by the Department for the next six years regardless of the authorization received prior to July 1, 2022. For additional information, please consult our FAQ located at the following link:

<http://budget.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/SPRB-FAQ.pdf>.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF PLANNING  
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS  
DIRECTOR

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846  
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Statement of  
**MARY ALICE EVANS**  
Director, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Thursday, February 24, 2022  
10:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of  
**SB 2070**

**RELATING TO SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS TO ASSIST THE HAWAIIAN  
LEGACY REFORESTATION INITIATIVE TO RESTORE HAWAI‘I’S FORESTS AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **offers comments and concerns** on for SB 2070, which authorizes the Department of Budget and Finance to issue special purpose revenue bonds to assist Hawai‘i Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC in their mission to proliferate a sustainable model of endemic reforestation, ecosystem revitalization, endangered species recovery, and carbon credit sequestering.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development supports planting trees to sequester carbon, reduce heat stress due to climate change and restore native forests.

However, OPSD published the [\*Feasibility and Implications of Establishing a Carbon Offset Program in the State of Hawai‘i\*](#) in December 2019, strongly recommending the against the State’s establishment of a Carbon Offset Program administered by the State Government. The feasibility analysis noted that it is unlikely that the State of Hawai‘i would generate significant revenue through the production of offsets, and any trading of offset credits produced within Hawai‘i would be limited by the State’s Zero Emissions Clean Economy target (p.67).

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development understands that the carbon crediting/carbon offsetting conducted by Hawai‘i Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC, as proposed by this measure is administered privately by that business. However, the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development has concerns about the State’s consideration to provide Special Purpose Revenue Bond loan financing to assist qualifying private capital improvement projects in relation to carbon offsetting.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



# DAMIEN MEMORIAL SCHOOL

February 10, 2022

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

The Honorable Gilbert S.C Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

31th Hawaii State Legislature

Regular Session of 2022 / State of Hawai'i

RE: Senate Bill 2070; Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds  
to Assist Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative, LLC

Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, on behalf of Damien School, I submit the following testimony in support of Senate Bill 2070 regarding Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC.

Senate Bill 2070 authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC with planning, designing, constructing, and equipping facilities for the manufacturing, processing, and distribution of products such as but not limited to the production of value-added agricultural, advanced materials, sustainable, and fine art products.

This initiative is absolutely necessary for the state of Hawaii as it provides organizations and the general community a means to plant trees and make an impact towards reforestation and revitalizing the ecosystem. Organizations can engage their employees and customers/visitors in the process to understand the cultural relevance and environmental impact of planting trees and regenerating the forest and taking care of our natural resources. Through the growth of this initiative, HLRI is creating new green jobs and revenue for the State of Hawaii while establishing an economically sustainable agricultural model to support private and public land owners. As HLRI implements effective forestry management processes, they will also produce value-added products to be used in Hawaii and exported outside of Hawaii further generating revenue and jobs and providing educational opportunities of historic cultural practices.

Senate Bill 2070 authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC in the mission to generate a sustainable model of endemic reforestation, ecosystem revitalization, endangered species recovery and carbon credit sequestering with planning, designing, constructing, and equipping facilities for the manufacturing, processing, and distribution of

products such as but not limited to the production of value-added agricultural, advanced materials, sustainable, and fine art products.

This initiative is absolutely necessary for the state of Hawaii as it provides organizations and the general community a means to plant trees and make an impact towards reforestation and revitalizing the ecosystem. Organizations can engage their employees and customers/visitors in the process to understand the cultural relevance and environmental impact of planting trees and regenerating the forest and taking care of our natural resources. Through the growth of this initiative, HLRI is creating new green jobs and revenue for the State of Hawaii while establishing an economically sustainable agricultural model to support private and public land owners. As HLRI implements effective forestry management processes, they will also produce value-added products to be used in Hawaii and exported outside of Hawaii further generating revenue and jobs in Hawaii and providing educational opportunities of historic cultural practices.

Damien Memorial School is pleased to provide a Letter of Support for SB2070; Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to assist Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative.

Damien Memorial School is a private Roman Catholic preparatory school for boys and girls in grades 6 - 12 located in Honolulu, Hawai'i. Our mission is to guide students from all walks of life to become responsible, respectful, and community-minded individuals who are ready for the challenges of the future. The mission of Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative (HLRI) to restore the integrity and diversity of the native ecosystem of Hawai'i through reforestation, building a sustainable future for our state is a solid foundation to help Damien School with their mission. Damien School looks forward to our collaboration with HLRI to help prepare our students to become responsible members of our community through their programs.

Damien, its students, and members of our Damien community plan to participate in HLRI's educational and economic development programs. One example of our collaboration would be to plan and develop a "work and learn model" at the school where students would design and build an on-site nursery, propagate native Hawaiian seeds, care for the plants, then plant them through HLRI's reforestation project. HLRI field crew would train and assist students in the field. Upon successful completion of this program students gain valuable experiences and emerge with new in-demand skills and knowledge to advance their careers.

Damien School recognizes the importance of our students to prepare for their future by strengthening our State's ability to retain our local people with quality jobs and employment opportunities. That is the reason we support SB2070 and look forward to our collaboration with Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative.

Sincerely,



Brother Christopher D. Hall, C.F.C.

Assitant Head of School

SB2070 DLA Strategies

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

The Honorable Gilbert S.C Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

31th Hawaii State Legislature

Regular Session of 2022 / State of Hawai'i

RE: Senate Bill 2070; Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds  
to Assist Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative, LLC

Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, I, Denise Albano submit the following testimony in support of Senate Bill 2070 regarding Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC.

Senate Bill 2070 authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC in the mission to generate a sustainable model of endemic reforestation, ecosystem revitalization, endangered species recovery and carbon credit sequestering with planning, designing, constructing, and equipping facilities for the manufacturing, processing, and distribution of products such as but not limited to the production of value-added agricultural, advanced materials, sustainable, and fine art products.

My expertise is working with non-profit organizations (specifically in agricultural related industry) and government to promote strategic growth and leadership, program development, fund development and collaborative partnerships. I have developed initiatives for agriculture projects and water improvements in our state of Hawaii, California and Internationally. I helped plan, strategize, and organize the 5-year capital campaign for the Hawaii chapter of The Nature Conservancy. I was the co-founder and president of a microfinance organization which works on the access to entrepreneurial opportunity and capital fueling greater food equity, security and sustainability to those most in need.

I commend the growth of Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative (HLRI) with their business model of land restoration through native Hawaiian trees. They overcame obstacles and challenges with their innovative technology and development that brought communities and industries together for a common good.

Hawaii needs to build a more sustainable future by focusing on the needs of our communities, increasing our state's self-reliance by creating more jobs to prevent the 'brain drain', and increasing our resilience to crises like our recent pandemic situation. Hawaii needs diversity in our agroforestry industries, like more permanent green jobs that can fuel much needed growth for our economy. HLRI is a multifaceted nonprofit organization that has been a leader in integrating their conservation efforts with a successful economic business model.

It is exciting to watch HLRI's continued growth in their expansion toward value-added agriculture and forest-related industries that will benefit Hawaii and its people. Please support S.B. 2070 regarding Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC.

Sincerely,

Denise Albano  
DLA Strategies  
Principal  
[denise@dlastrategies.com](mailto:denise@dlastrategies.com)

February 4, 2022

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

The Honorable Gilbert S.C Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

31th Hawaii State Legislature

Regular Session of 2022 / State of Hawai'i

RE: Senate Bill 2070; Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds  
to Assist Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative, LLC

Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, I submit the following testimony in support of Senate Bill 2070 regarding Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC.

Senate Bill 2070 authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC with planning, designing, constructing, and equipping facilities for the manufacturing, processing, and distribution of products such as but not limited to the production of value-added agricultural, advanced materials, sustainable, and fine art products.

This project addresses many critical concerns for Hawaii:

Reforestation of native and endemic Hawaiian trees which affects the air we breathe, the water we drink, the oceans we swim in, the soil we grow our food, restoring the natural ecosystem that is necessary to survive.

Community/Culture/Arts: When the forests return, the land returns, the community comes together, the culture thrives, the stories revive, and thus reflected in the arts of Hawaii's history. Bringing people together for the greater good – building communities together. Hawaii's stories, arts and culture are fundamental – it's the foundation which provides for sharing thus growth in countless meaningful ways – in the classroom, with our visitors, our writers, artisans, food producers, marketing experts, etc.

Economic Diversity and New Job Creation: As Chief Energy Officer for the State of Hawaii, Scott Glenn has stated, there is a huge untapped opportunity for carbon in Hawaii. Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative is already 10 years ahead of any other certified carbon reforestation project in



Hawaii. New job and revenue opportunities beyond carbon include new forestry jobs, milling jobs, added value product producers, la'au lapa'au health practitioners, etc.

Reimagined Tourism – Ecotourism: Hotels, airlines, rental car companies, tour companies can offer tree-planting opportunities and walks through native/endemic forests. A single tree can off-set the carbon of a (3) night stay for family of four. This not only creates new experiences for visitors but also adds an element of giving back to the islands.

I am a 4th generation kama'aina. I would like to see the next generation of my family thrive – not struggle to survive in Hawaii, not struggle to correct the mistakes we could have, should have done yesterday. I would like to know the next generation of my family can see endemic Hawaiian birds live – flying in our forests, not just look at pictures of them in books of extinct species. As an entrepreneur, I am excited to be part of the new job creation through the reforestation efforts of Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative, llc as we are only limited by imagination.

For the reasons stated above, I, Susanne Kurisu, support Senate Bill [2070](#). Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,



Susanne Kurisu

Executive Producer,

Menpachi Video Productions

**SB-2070**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 10:22:13 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                                     | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Jason Hoopai        | Testifying for Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz and Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran and honorable members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. On behalf of Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation, I submit the following testimony in support of the Senate Bill 2070 regarding the support of Hawaiian Legacy and its reforestation efforts across the State of Hawaii.

We humbly ask for your support and truly look forward to continuing our work throughout Hawaii.

Mahalo nui loa,

Jason Ho‘opai / Director

**SB-2070**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 12:08:33 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                           | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| laurel brier        | Testifying for Kauai Climate Action Coalition | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

Restore Hawaii's forests for the people and living things - in honor of the past, for mental and physical health of the present populations, and in planning for a better tomorrow and a buffer against climate change.

**SB-2070**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 8:46:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b>  | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Johnnie-Mae L. Perry | Individual          | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

SUPPORT SB 2070 RELATING TO SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS TO ASSIST THE HAWAIIAN LEGACY REFORESTATION INITIATIVE TO RESTORE HAWAII'S FORESTS AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

**SB-2070**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 2:03:18 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Janet L Pappas      | Individual          | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

Dear WAM members,

I am in strong support of SB2070.

Climate change is upon us. Vegetation, in particular trees, will be a big part of the solution to what ails our planet. Hawaii's forests have been depleted and changed over the centuries. They cannot currently serve the same purpose as they did in the past. The Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative can help land owners by providing the tools, resources and management skills necessary to restore endemic trees and plants and thus greatly increase carbon sequestration capabilities in the islands.

Scientists predict that we have approximately ten years to make the changes needed to save our planet from catastrophic climate change effects. We must start now.

Please support this bill.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas

Aiea, Hawaii 96701

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Gilbert S.C Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
31th Hawaii State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2022 / State of Hawai`i

RE: Senate Bill 2070; Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds  
to Assist Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative, LLC

Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, I submit the following testimony in support of Senate Bill 2070 regarding Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC.

Senate Bill 2070 authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC with planning, designing, constructing, and equipping facilities for the manufacturing, processing, and distribution of products such as but not limited to the production of value-added agricultural, advanced materials, sustainable, and fine art products.

I believe every adult living on this planet should know and understand the critical nature of climate change, deforestation and critical habitats for endemic species. Planting invasive species in urban areas is NOT addressing climate change, deforestation and the extinction of native habitats. I believe no one can question that Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC (HLRI) effectively and efficiently addresses climate change, deforestation and critical habitats for endemic species.

I write in support of this project for the aspects many may not be considering...TECHNOLOGY.

HLRI has implemented innovative technology in combined areas of their business in a means no other forestry company in Hawaii has done. With this brings the highest carbon accreditation achievement in the world – The Gold Standard. This is an accreditation no other forest project in the United State has ever achieved. HLRI's technology play brings the creation of high-income earning jobs. To put it into perspective, the average Hawaii resident makes \$54,870 a year, while the average Honolulu resident working in tech makes **over \$83,000 a year**.

As endemic/native trees are planted and added value products are produced, manufactured, distributed and exported, database, digital marketing, artificial intelligence and cyber security and other technology industry jobs will all be vital components. These types of critical jobs will help keep our skilled jobs in Hawaii – addressing Hawaii's other crisis – the brain drain.

The brain drain, which is the seemingly permanent departure of highly educated and or highly skilled residents for opportunities elsewhere, which often includes college-bound and/or job-seeking millennials, is one of the major crises that Hawaii faces today. Peter Ho, CEO of Bank

of Hawaii, stated in an interview, "Hawaii's brain drain reflects a hollowing out of the state's middle class", which he calls "an existential economic issue for the state."

My experience in the technology industry (as a developer, IT architect and cyber security officer) spans three decades traversing multiple industry sectors across the nation – California, Texas, Washington State, Canada and Hawaii. I currently work at one of Hawaii's largest private employers as its Information Security Officer. For the reasons stated above, I support Senate Bill **2070**.

Respectfully,

Maverick Fernandes

Maverick\_Fernandes@hotmail.com

Hawaii Resident

Information Security Officer

**SB-2070**

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 9:43:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Douglas Perrine     | Individual          | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

Reforestation is essential to both protecting our climate and saving our native birds and insects. I fully support this bill.





**LATE**

Feb. 22nd 2022

To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Gilbert S.C Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
31th Hawaii State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2022 / State of Hawai'i

RE: Senate Bill 2070; Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds  
to Assist Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative, LLC

On behalf of Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative (HLRI), I would like to present you with the following information to support SB2070 request regarding Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative.

HLRI is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 whose mission is to reverse two centuries of deforestation here in Hawaii through a creative collaboration of forestry, technology, tourism, and eco-science. Through these practices, we can restore 100% of our forests, and preserve thousands of years of Hawaiian cultural history, all while meeting the needs of the agricultural community of today and for generations to come.

We focus on endemic reforestation/afforestation of Hawaiian tree species such as koa, ohia, mamane, naio, milo, wili wili, lonomea, ko'oko'olau, kūkaenēnē, and 'iliahi. To date, HLRI has created two Hawaiian Legacy Forests on Oahu and Hawai'i Island, planting more than 500,000 trees covering 1,159 acres. In less than a decade, our Hawai'i Island Legacy Forest has been transformed from denuded pastureland to a thriving endemic ecosystem. It is now home to families of endangered Hawaiian hawks ('Io) and owls (Pueo), and even the Nene geese have moved back into the area. Some of our young Legacy Trees are now reaching 65 feet in height and 22 inches in diameter. In addition, this is the only certified carbon offset project in the state and the only Gold Standard Certified afforestation project in North America. This data can be verified through various independent resources who have been monitoring or auditing

the roll-out and success of our forest sustainability model over the past decade, including NRCS, DOFAW, FSA, Gold Standard, National Geographic, Forbes Magazine, Wall Street Journal, and more than 100 other publications and media outlets who have confirmed the success of this project.

HLRI provides scalable sustainability solutions for our corporate partners by generating unique green programs for every industry. We provide tree planting and carbon offset initiatives for industry leaders who want to be proactive in their mission to be green. Through eco-tourism and volunteerism, HLRI has hosted tens of thousands of people who have given their time and/or their financial support toward this mission. Our award-winning eco-tour programs provide memorable tree planting experiences for locals and visitors alike. As part of this tour experience guests learn how each of us have an impact on this planet and how small changes in their actions can make major changes in the environment.

In addition to these programs, our Legacy Partners have direct access to the certified carbon offsets created by these Legacy Forests and can use them to offset the carbon footprint of their businesses, providing tangible results for their green initiatives.

We have built reforestation and carbon neutral programs for the automobile industry, resorts, utilities, airlines, tour operators, and retailers—all centered around tree planting. Since 2014, we have developed over 75 corporate Legacy Partnerships, financially supported over 350 other non-profits, and have future tree planting commitments of almost 2,000,000 additional Legacy Trees.

The issuance of this special purpose revenue bond will assist Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC in its mission to not only plant these 2,000,000 Legacy Trees, but also expand its sustainable model of endemic reforestation, carbon neutral timber exporting, ecosystem revitalization, endangered species recovery, and internationally certified carbon offset creation.

Through the growth of this initiative, HLRI is creating new green jobs and revenue for the State of Hawai'i while establishing an economically sustainable agricultural model to support private and public landowners. With the expansion of HLRI's successful model statewide, HLRI will provide traditionally underserved rural areas with high-paying permanent green jobs in forestry, sustainable timber production, eco-asset creation, and farming through food forest development. Funds will be used for planning, designing, constructing, and equipping facilities for the growth, manufacturing, processing, and distribution of sustainable forest products, value-added agriculture, and eco-assets (such as carbon).

This initiative provides schools, businesses, NGO's and the general community a means to plant trees and make an impact in their environment, and in their community, all while supporting the rich culture and history of Hawaii.

The State has a unique opportunity to help scale up this successful reforestation model by providing Hawaiian Legacy with the tools necessary to fulfill its Legacy Partner commitments to plant 2,000,000 more Legacy Trees. Together we can restore 100% of Hawaii's forests, all while supporting and protecting the Hawaiian cultural ties to the forest for generations to come.

We are building solutions to reverse—and ultimately end—deforestation and have designed and implemented economic models which create more value for a forest as a living organism than simply as a commodity for clear-cutting.

For the reasons stated above, Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative supports SB2070, and we thank you for your consideration of support. Thank you for the opportunity to share this information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason Ho'opai".

Jason Ho'opai

Acting Executive Director / Finance Committee

415.218.3348 / [jhoopai@legacytrees.org](mailto:jhoopai@legacytrees.org)



February 9, 2022

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Gilbert S.C Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
31th Hawaii State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2022 / State of Hawai`i

RE: Senate Bill 2070; Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to Assist Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative, LLC

Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, on behalf of the Hawai'i Convention Center, I submit the following testimony in support of Senate Bill 2070 regarding Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC.

Senate Bill 2070 authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC with planning, designing, constructing, and equipping facilities for the manufacturing, processing, and distribution of products such as but not limited to the production of value-added agricultural, advanced materials, sustainable, and fine art products.

Hawaii Convention Center is pleased to provide a Letter of Support for SB2070; Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to assist the Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative.

The Hawai'i Convention Center's commitment to sustainability is visible from our LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) green building certification system to our multi-faceted approach to environmental conservation. Our Ho'omaluo program celebrates this commitment to be responsible stewards. Through our partnership with the Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative, we pledged to plant a million trees to support their mission of reforestation. These native Hawaiian trees will bring back the biodiversity of our islands while sequestering carbon.

The Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative's presence is critical to our residents and our economy. This company that promotes sustainable practices also develops opportunities for employment and creates new resources. Their efforts will build our agriculture and forestry industries as Hawai'i recognized the need for diverse economic opportunities during the pandemic. They also serve as an educational resource for our state as meeting planners, guests, and our community have the opportunity to sponsor native Hawaiian trees while learning about our rich cultural history. Trees planted help to offset the carbon footprint of a typical vacation for a family of four.

The Hawai'i Convention Center is committed to our continued support of the Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative. Their mission has been instrumental in the expansion of our visitor industry's engagement in environmental sustainability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Teri Orton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Teri Orton, General Manager  
Hawaii Convention Center

SB2070 Hapuna Beach Resort

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Gilbert S.C Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
31th Hawaii State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2022 / State of Hawai`i



RE: Senate Bill 2070; Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds  
to Assist Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative, LLC

Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, Westin Hapuna Beach Resort submit the following testimony in support of Senate Bill 2070 regarding Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC.

Senate Bill 2070 authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC in the mission to generate a sustainable model of endemic reforestation, ecosystem revitalization, endangered species recovery and carbon credit sequestering with planning, designing, constructing, and equipping facilities for the manufacturing, processing, and distribution of products such as but not limited to the production of value-added agricultural, advanced materials, sustainable, and fine art products.

The Westin Hapuna Beach Resort and Mauna Kea Resort on the Kohala Coast on Hawaii island has partnered with Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative to create the state's first native and endemic reforestation project on resort property. When completed, this forest will be home to more than 100,000 native and endemic trees. Our guests can join in our efforts to offset climate change and rejuvenate native forests with indigenous species in Hawaii. We partnered with HLRI because they are an established Hawaiian nonprofit that has made an impact on our local community, businesses, and visitor industry to accomplish their conservation mission while supporting the Hawaiian culture and the local economy.

HLRI was actively involved with "regenerative tourism" before it became a buzz term for the visitor industry. They worked with hotel partners and the visitor industry to make them aware of their impact on the environment and initiated ways to offset their visit. Their tree planting program and reforestation initiatives fostered awareness and respect for our islands and our guests are able to immerse themselves in our Hawaiian culture and history while making a difference.

Our partnership with Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative to create a sustainable, carbon-neutral event through the planting of trees on property at The Westin continues to grow and our guests appreciate the experience. We have seen the positive impact on our employees and guests. Their efforts encourage more permanent jobs in the agricultural, technical, and forestry industries, which Hawaii needs.

The Westin Hapuna Beach Resort urges you to support S.B. 2070 regarding Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Cross", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Tom Cross  
Hotel Manager  
The Westin Hapuna Beach Resort  
62-100 Kauna'oa Drive  
Kamuela, Hawaii 96743



**LATE**

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Gilbert S.C Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
31th Hawaii State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2022 / State of Hawai'i

RE: Senate Bill 2070; Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds  
to Assist Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative, LLC

Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, I, Pili Valderrama submit the following testimony in support of Senate Bill 2070 regarding Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC.

Senate Bill 2070 authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC in the mission to generate a sustainable model of endemic reforestation, ecosystem revitalization, endangered species recovery and carbon credit sequestering with planning, designing, constructing, and equipping facilities for the manufacturing, processing, and distribution of products such as but not limited to the production of value-added agricultural, advanced materials, sustainable, and fine art products.

During my presidency with Eco Rotary Club of Kaka'ako, I planned a large event to have 8,000 trees planted in commemoration of Hawaii's Rotary Gives Thanks Day. Planning started in April 2020. Four thousand seeds were gathered, propagated, and planted in pots at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa by the support team of Dr. Camilo Mora. His daughter, Asryelle inspired him to form the Carbon Neutrality Challenge initiative, a race for carbon neutrality by planting trees. Other support came from The Garden Club of Honolulu, The Outdoor Circle, State DLNR, and other environmental groups. This was truly a coming together of many facets of our community to make this event happen in the middle of the pandemic.

I appreciated the infrastructure and support from Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative and was proud to help add to the over 500,000 endemic trees that HLRI and their community of businesses and partnerships have planted. Their successful forest management practices and expertise can be seen in the thriving Hawaiian forests on Oahu and the island of Hawai'i. The need for agriculture-based companies to provide green jobs and economic opportunity for our state is imperative for the success of Hawai'i in maintaining its workforce. HLRI is an example of how their sustainable model leads to ecosystem recovery and economic development.

For the reasons stated above, I, Pili Valderrama support SB2070. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this

matter. Sincerely,



Pili Valderrama



# THE KAHALA

HOTEL & RESORT

Honolulu, Hawaii

February 10, 2022

**LATE**

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Gilbert S.C Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
31th Hawaii State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2022 / State of Hawai'i

RE: Senate Bill 2070; Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds  
to Assist Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative, LLC

Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, on behalf of The Kahala Hotel & Resort, I submit the following testimony in support of Senate Bill 2070 regarding Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC.

Senate Bill 2070 authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC with planning, designing, constructing, and equipping facilities for the manufacturing, processing, and distribution of products such as but not limited to the production of value-added agricultural, advanced materials, sustainable, and fine art products.

Kahala Hotel and Resort is pleased to provide a Letter of Support for SB2070; Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to assist Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative.


The Kahala Hotel & Resort has been an industry leader in the State of Hawaii in implementing sustainability practices in all areas of our hotel operations. We were awarded the 2020 Hawaii Green Business Award that recognizes businesses that operate in an environmentally and socially responsible manner.

Together, with Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative (HLRI), we formed the Kahala Initiative for Sustainability, Culture, and the Arts (KISCA) to help perpetuate our lands, ocean, and culture for generations to come. To date, The Kahala Resort and its guests have planted 12,758 trees to support the reforestation and environmental preservation of our island state. Consequently, our guests get a better understanding of our Hawaiian culture while making a positive impact.

This initiative is necessary for the state of Hawaii as it provides organizations and the general community a means to plant trees and make an impact towards reforestation and revitalizing the ecosystem. HLRI has made it possible for our hotel to engage their employees and guests in the process to understand the cultural relevance and environmental impact of planting trees, regenerating the forest, and taking care of our natural resources.

The Kahala Hotel & Resort supports and recommends the Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC in its ability to expand its mission in Hawai'i through SB2070. The need for awareness of the cultural relevance and environmental sustainability of our state, along with creating new green jobs and revenue, will contribute to a stable and promising future.

Malama pono,



Joe Ibarra  
General Manager  
The Kahala Hotel & Resort

February 9, 2022

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Gilbert S.C Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
31th Hawaii State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2022  
State of Hawai'i



RE: Senate Bill 2070; Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds  
to Assist Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative, LLC

Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, on behalf of Highgate, I submit the following testimony in support of Senate Bill 2070 regarding Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC.

Senate Bill 2070 authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC with planning, designing, constructing, and equipping facilities for the manufacturing, processing, and distribution of products such as but not limited to the production of value-added agricultural, advanced materials, sustainable, and fine art products.

'Alohilani Resort Waikiki Beach is pleased to provide a Letter of Support for SB2070; relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to assist Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative.

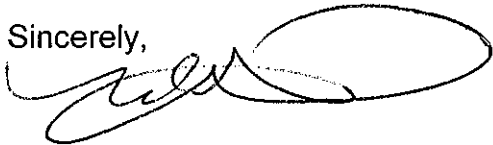
'Alohilani Resort Waikiki Beach is committed to advancing sustainability in the hospitality industry by being an active part of the solution to environmental concerns. Through our partnership with HLRI, 'Alohilani Resort Waikiki Beach has pledged to plant 100,000 native trees on 'Oahu and Hawai'i Island to help with reforestation efforts. The trees that are planted help carbon sequestration and our guests embrace the concept of sustainable travel and giving back to Hawai'i. We strive to instill the Hawaiian values of aloha (love) and mālama (to care for) with our employees and guests.

Prior to the pandemic, employees of 'Alohilani Resort Waikiki Beach spent hours weeding and caring for the trees in the 'Alohilani Legacy Forest. This team-building event is also inherent to our Highgate philosophy that supports environmental accountability and giving back to the communities that they are a part of.

'Alohilani Resort Waikiki Beach's partnership with HLRI includes researching potential carbon offset programs for a carbon neutral hotel and guest experiences. It is a benefit to our state of Hawai'i and our industry to have a resource like HLRI to assist with our environmental and sustainability initiatives.

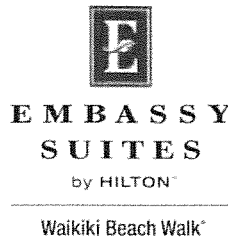
'Alohilani Resort Waikiki Beach wholeheartedly supports the Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC with SB2070 to help them expand their growth and success to assist our state with environmental and sustainable issues that, in turn, promote jobs and economic well-being.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Grauso', written over a large, light-colored oval shape.

Matt Grauso, General Manager, 'Alohilani Resort Waikiki Beach

Kelly Sanders, Executive V.P. Operations, Highgate Hotels



**LATE**

February 22, 2022

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Gilbert S.C Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
31th Hawaii State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2022 / State of Hawai`i

RE: Senate Bill 2070 – Special Purpose Revenue Bonds

Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Embassy Suites by Hilton Waikiki Beach Walk submits the following testimony in support of Senate Bill 2070 regarding Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC.

Senate Bill 2070 authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC in the mission to generate a sustainable model of endemic reforestation, ecosystem revitalization, endangered species recovery and carbon credit sequestering with planning, designing, constructing, and equipping facilities for the manufacturing, processing, and distribution of products such as but not limited to the production of value-added agricultural, advanced materials, sustainable, and fine art products.

Embassy Suites by Hilton Waikiki Beach Walk planted the rare alula plant in honor of Earth Day 2020 and in partnership with the Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative (HLRI) along with the Hui Ku Maoli Ola Native Plant Nursery.

We believe that Hawaii's endemic plants encourage appreciation and respect for Hawaiian history and culture, which should be part of every guest's lasting impression when they visit our beautiful island. It is truly remarkable what HLRI has done for our island's ecosystem. Through their reforestation of native trees, the biodiversity of the reforested areas have flourished. We are honored to be a part of this organization's mission.

When our visitor industry can participate in 'giving back' while learning about our beautiful Hawaiian culture, guests' experiences are more meaningful. The partnerships and opportunities in the visitor industry that HLRI have created through their reforestation programs contribute to the rich cultural and natural resources that make Hawaii special. Their business model has also encouraged more 'green jobs' that boost our economy.

Embassy Suites by Hilton Waikiki Beach Walk supports Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative and their achievements. Our visitor industry needs their expertise and businesses to continue their sustainable mission that generates more awareness of our state's environment, culture, and future. Please support S.B. 2070 that authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC in their mission.

Sincerely,



Simeon Miranda  
General Manager



EMBASSY SUITES®

Oahu Kapolei

**LATE**

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Gilbert S.C Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
31th Hawaii State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2022 / State of Hawai'i

RE: Senate Bill 2070; Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds  
to Assist Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative, LLC

Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, Embassy Suites Kapolei submits the following testimony in support of Senate Bill 2070 regarding Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC.

Senate Bill 2070 authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC in the mission to generate a sustainable model of endemic reforestation, ecosystem revitalization, endangered species recovery and carbon credit sequestering with planning, designing, constructing, and equipping facilities for the manufacturing, processing, and distribution of products such as but not limited to the production of value-added agricultural, advanced materials, sustainable, and fine art products.

Our Embassy Suites Kapolei *'ohana* (family) and guests are proud to be a part of the change for a better Hawaii and a sustainable earth. We are able to accomplish this by planting 50,000 native and endemic Legacy Trees through our partnership with Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative (HLRI). These native trees will not be harvested and will significantly contribute to the restoration of depleted species and preserve them for generations.

HLRI's Legacy Tree program offers a way for everyone, including our guests, to get involved in the reforestation of Hawai'i. This initiative benefits Hawaii's unique ecosystem, teaches our children about sustainable environmental stewardship, and helps us all learn about the only tropical forests that exist in the United States. This unique opportunity where guests can combine fun and stewardship of our islands was made possible through the business model that HLRI established. Hawaii needs innovative enterprises that promote sustainability while offering opportunities for our young people.

Embassy Suites Kapolei is grateful and honored for the opportunity to partner with Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative. Please pass legislation for S.B. 2070 that would help develop more socioeconomic benefits for our beloved State of Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Embassy Suites Kapolei  
Reid Yoshida, General Manager





EMBASSY SUITES®

Oahu Kapolei

**LATE**

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Gilbert S.C Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
31th Hawaii State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2022 / State of Hawai'i

RE: Senate Bill 2070; Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds  
to Assist Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative, LLC

Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, Embassy Suites Kapolei submits the following testimony in support of Senate Bill 2070 regarding Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC.

Senate Bill 2070 authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative LLC in the mission to generate a sustainable model of endemic reforestation, ecosystem revitalization, endangered species recovery and carbon credit sequestering with planning, designing, constructing, and equipping facilities for the manufacturing, processing, and distribution of products such as but not limited to the production of value-added agricultural, advanced materials, sustainable, and fine art products.

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Embassy Suites Kapolei is grateful and honored for the opportunity to partner with Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative. Please pass legislation for S.B. 2070 that would help develop more socioeconomic benefits for our beloved State of Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Embassy Suites Kapolei  
Nicole Kilantang, Director of Sales