



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

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Testimony of
SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Tuesday, April 5, 2022
2:30 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room Number 308 & Videoconference

**SUPPORT
SB 2768, SD2
RELATING TO THE HAWAII YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS.**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports SB 2768, SD2, which authorizes the Governor to designate the Department of Land and Natural Resources to administer or enter into an agreement for the administration of a green jobs youth corps to provide temporary work and training opportunities in the fields of natural resource management, agriculture, or other sustainability-related professions to young adults ages thirty-eight and younger. Requires the Department to partner with an organization that has received accreditation from the Corps Center of Excellence Accreditation Program or has at least ten years of experience providing similar programming statewide in the State, or both. This bill also appropriates funds.

HSEO believes that DLNR is well-suited to oversee the corps, provide training and job experience for the workforce of the future, in the areas noted above. This program will help advance Hawai'i's clean energy and decarbonization goals, expand the green workforce, and launch a new generation of clean energy leaders. HSEO is in support of this and other green workforce development efforts, as we work together toward achieving 100% clean energy by or before 2045.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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 House Committee on
FINANCE

Tuesday, April 5, 2022
2:30 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 308, Via Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2768, SENATE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO THE HAWAII YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS

Senate Bill 2768, Senate Draft 2 proposes to authorize the Governor to designate the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to administer or enter into an agreement for the administration of a green jobs youth corps to provide temporary work and training opportunities in the fields of natural resource management, agriculture, or other sustainability-related professions to young adults ages twenty-six and younger. The bill also proposes to appropriate unspecified funds to the Department. **The Department supports this bill.**

The State of Hawaii's progressive move towards a zero-emissions clean economy by 2045 requires that we actively invest in the community and emerging economic sectors and provide residents with the education and training opportunities they need to make the transition. A job corps program designed specifically to address the State's climate change goals would be beneficial in helping the growing green sector scale up efforts to address climate change and provide diversified training opportunities to a displaced workforce, supporting a resilient local economy.

The Department has been long-time partners with AmeriCorps and Kupu through their mentorship programs which have been successful in getting the youth of Hawaii not only into conservation jobs but into the workforce at large. The Kupu Aina Corps Program, funded by the CARES Act and ARPA funding, demonstrated how eager the local workforce is to get back to work and provided new opportunities for many to enter emerging and growing fields of work.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SB-2768-SD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 9:50:35 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leah Laramée	DLNR	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

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

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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2768, S.D. 2

April 5, 2022
2:30 p.m.
Room 308 and Videoconference

RELATING TO THE HAWAII YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2768, S.D. 2: authorizes the Governor to designate the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to administer a green jobs youth corps to provide temporary work and training opportunities in the fields of natural resource management, agriculture, or other sustainability-related professions; requires DLNR to partner with a qualified organization; and appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for FY 23 for DLNR to administer the green jobs youth corps.

B&F notes that \$5,000,000 in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds has been appropriated and awarded for this program with a performance period of May 11, 2021 through June 30, 2023. It is uncertain whether there is a need for additional funds for FY 23.

B&F also notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds

and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



Testimony Before The
House Committee on Finance
IN SUPPORT OF SB 2768 SD 2
April 5, 2022, 2:30PM, Room 308

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. Our vision of 'āina momona includes pathways to new economic and environmental regenerative opportunities for present and future generations.

KUA generally supports SB 2768 SD 2 as an incremental step toward 'āina momona.

This bill would continue to support the Green Job Youth Corps program within the DLNR to help address the unemployment impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and support economic diversification. It would also appropriate funds for this purpose. Without passing this bill current funding for the Green Job Youth Corps will expire next year.

Beyond supporting a stop gap in employment for our state the Green Job Youth Corps are important pathway to meeting the greater systemic needs we as a state identified during this pandemic: new workforce training, economic diversification, caring for our environment, and supporting businesses in Hawai'i as they work to make our state more self-sufficient and resilient

A primary function of KUA includes development of an 'auwai, a stream of resources, tools, bridges, relationships, and networks that help to cultivate and take our communities' work to greater levels of collective impact. A core catalyst for the flow in this 'auwai includes increasing the percentage of our economy which helps to manage and better the conditions of the natural resource and systems that sustain us. Indeed, the University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization, with input from KUA and a number of partners (DLNR, Kupu, TNC, KS,OHA etc.) now tracks natural resource workforce development as a key part of a "Green Economy."

We are also supportive for what this opportunity could mean for increased environmental co-management, co-governance and uplifting an ethic of mālama 'āina. Our current state institutions lack in resources but also in institutional ethos and policies that could better bolster citizen stewardship of our home. Key new generation staff members -such as exist within the Division of Aquatic Resources community-based subsistence fishing area and DOCARE Makai Watch programs- that do more work in partnership with communities are the future of environmental stewardship. This program will continue to help develop these new leaders and economic pathways toward sustainability.

A state job corps that can build a conservation workforce for Hawai'i is a necessary pathway toward uplifting the environment which sustains and undergirds the "economy" for our state. It also further places our island community like others in the Pacific as a leader for environmental leadership and adaptation.

Please pass this bill out of your committee and mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Aloha 'Āina Momona.



Testimony Presented to
House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, April 5, 2022 2:30p.m. Conference Room 308
by

Ron Weidenbach, Co-owner/President, Hawaii Fish Company Inc., Waiialua, HI

Re: Support for SB2768 SD2 – Relating to the Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair, and Members of Committee on Finance:

Hawaii Fish Company Inc. (HFC) strongly supports SB 2768 SD2 which supports job training and work opportunities in Conservation, Agriculture, and other sustainability-related professions. HFC is currently a Kupu Host Site and was previously so in 2020 with the Kupu Aina program. Our family fish and aquaponics farm, the oldest land-based fish farm in the State, has found this program to be very beneficial for both participants and our company as a for-profit host site.

Many jobs in the natural resource sector, including conservation, modern agriculture, and other sustainability-related fields, require a passion for the hard outdoor work involved and, in many cases, a college degree. Nevertheless, after more than 40 years as Co-owners of HFC, my wife and I have found aquaculture and aquaponics to be a very rewarding career path and look forward to continuing to participate in this beneficial green job training program and helping to prepare our youth for such a rewarding career. With Hawaii's farmers and ranchers having an average age of 60+ and with many in their 70s and 80s, passionate Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps participants are a welcome addition to this natural resource field and green career track.

In this program, young adults have the chance to transition into jobs in conservation, sustainable ag, or clean energy and energy efficiency. In addition to helping people gain training and experience in sustainability-related professions, this program provides support for nonprofit and for-profit sustainability organizations, by giving them access to new workers at a discounted price. It is a proven and vital pathway to prepare our next generation for these essential, sustainability-related professions and deserves your strong support. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB2768 SD2.

Respectfully,

Ronald P. Weidenbach

Sustainability. Innovation. Quality.

P.O. Box 740 | Waiialua, HI 96791 USA | info@hawaiifishcompany.com | hawaiifishcompany.com

SB-2768-SD-2

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 9:19:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair, The Honorable Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing **HB SD1 HD1 RELATING TO THE HAWAII YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS .**

Hearing: Tuesday, April 5, 2022, 2:30 p.m., CR 308 and by videoconference

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i is a group focused on reversing the climate crisis and encouraging Hawai'i to lead the world towards a safe and sustainable climate and future. The Climate Protectors Hawai'i **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB2768 SD2!**

The purpose of this Act is to authorize DLNR to administer or contract for administration of a green jobs youth conservation corps in partnership with a qualified community organization to provide temporary work and training opportunities in the fields of natural resource management, agriculture, or other sustainability-related professions to young adults ages 38 and younger. This program will further the State's goal of achieving a zero-emissions clean economy as soon as practicable not later than 2045.

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

SB-2768-SD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 8:15:29 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KAULANA H.R. PARK	Kupu Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Honorable Members of the Finance Committee.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 2768, Relating to the Hawai'i Youth Conservation Corps. This bill is a critical part of our state's efforts to develop our green workforce, diversify our economy, and prepare for the changes to our climate that are already taking place.

This bill continues funding for the Green Job Youth Corps, a program recently established by the state legislature through Act 181 (2021). Based on a highly successful partnership between the state and Kupu in 2020, this program helps disadvantaged young adults by matching them with work and training in conservation, sustainable agriculture, and clean energy-related professions. Because the recently established program was only provided with its first year of funding in 2021, funding through SB 2768 is needed in order to keep this great program going. By funding this program, our investment goes right back into supporting our local workers, and in businesses and nonprofits working to feed our families, supply our energy, care for our environment, and diversify our economy.

As the current Kupu Board President and volunteer servant for the past 10 years, I humbly ask that you continue to support our malama aina workforce and entrepreneurs by passing SB 2768, and the Green Youth Job Corps program.

Mahalo and aloha,

Kaulana Park

Kupu, President of the Board

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Support for SB 2768 SD2, Relating to the Hawai'i Youth Conservation Corps.**

**Committee on Finance
April 5, 2022, 2:30 PM
Conference Room 308 and via Videoconference**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) supports SB 2768 SD2, Relating to the Hawai'i Youth Conservation Corps, which authorizes the Department of Land and Natural Resources to administer a green jobs youth corps program.

Hawai'i's natural environment is the engine that drives our state's economy and a natural, recreational, and cultural treasure supporting our island lifestyle and livelihoods. Careful, thoughtful, and intentional conservation, management, and restoration is required to ensure our environment can withstand the increasing impacts of climate change while continuing to fuel our islands' economic engine. TNC is proud of our decades of working in partnership with so many local organizations, agencies, and communities to care for this vital and fragile resource.

Since 2011, TNC has benefitted from the tremendous work of dozens of Kupu interns. These interns provide much needed capacity to help us manage our native forested watersheds and coral reefs. These enthusiastic and committed interns have created positive environmental, cultural, and community impact across the islands while also learning under the mentorship of environmental experts. Through their work, these interns are making a positive difference right now while also paving the way for the next generation of conservationists dedicated to perpetuating our unique island environment and diversifying Hawai'i's economy. This program would be funded and strengthened through SB 2768 SD2, which provides the platform and funding for additional Kupu internships and other green jobs across our islands. If the bill is not passed, there will be no continued funding for the program begun under Act 181 last year.

As we work together to create a diversified economy, green jobs can and must play a role. By providing opportunities for local jobs while also paving the way for long-term green jobs, environmental expertise, and local leadership, this legislation is an important step in the right direction, and we urge the committee to pass it.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2768 SD2.

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i and Palmyra is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 40,000 acres in 13 nature preserves and work in over 50 coastal communities to help protect and restore the nearshore reefs and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnerships with government, private parties, and communities to protect forests and coral reefs for their ecological values and for the many benefits they provide to people.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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**Testimony in Strong Support of S.B. 2768 S.D. 2,
Relating to the Hawai'i Youth Conservation Corps**

House Finance Committee

Submitted by Kupu CEO John Leong, hearing date April 5, 2022

Aloha e Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is John Leong, and I am the Chief Executive Officer and co-founder of Kupu, a statewide youth-focused conservation nonprofit. On behalf of Kupu, I am pleased to testify in **strong support** of **S.B. 2768 S.D. 2, Relating to the Hawai'i Youth Conservation Corps**. This bill is needed to continue the recently established Green Job Youth Corps, an innovative program helping young adults, expanding our green collar workforce, and supporting the vibrancy of Hawai'i's growing sustainability-focused economy.

As written, this measure would continue funding for the Green Job Youth Corps, a program that provides employment and training opportunities for young adults in conservation, sustainable agriculture, clean energy, and other sustainability-related industries. As the organization that managed the original green job corps program upon which the Green Job Youth Corps is based, and as the organization now partnering with the Department of Land and Natural Resources to administer this program, we have seen firsthand the benefits it is providing to individuals and to the diversification of our economy. We thank the legislature for establishing this program last year, and especially thank Senator Lorraine Inouye for introducing S.B. 2768 this year. The Green Job Youth Corps is an urgently needed addition to Hawai'i's strategy to address many of the needs of our state, including workforce development, environmental sustainability, economic diversification, and others.

Kupu was established in 2007, in the early stages of the Great Recession. Today we are a statewide organization, developing youth and young adults through hands-on service training in conservation and natural resource management professions. Since 2007 we have trained over 5,000 youth in conservation, sustainability, and environmental education. Young adults served by Kupu have provided more than 3 million service hours during this time, which included planting over 1 million native plants and removing over 100,000 acres of invasive species. This has created a cumulative \$155+ million in impact for Hawai'i with a 1:3 cost to benefit ratio. We

believe more investment in the green economy - as this bill provides - would enable similar economic benefits to our state, create jobs in related fields, and help diversify our economy.

In the early stages of the pandemic, Kupu saw the economic devastation happening in Hawai‘i and wondered what more we could do to help. We created a new program -- in concept -- that would help unemployed and underemployed people of all ages work in the green economy during the pandemic. This program, called the Kupu ‘Āina Corps, received funding and partnership from the state thanks to the foresight of the legislature and the support of Governor Ige, as provided by Act 9 (SLH 2020). With this program Kupu helped over 350 displaced workers and recent graduates connect with work, training, and the dignity of helping themselves and their communities. We are humbled that our program could serve as an example of what a longer-term program of this nature could achieve.

The ecological, economic, and human benefits of the Kupu ‘Āina Corps were clear. Over 90 percent of our participants completed the program, gaining its full benefits and helping 150 different host sites across the state. Based on a post-program evaluation survey completed by participants, one in three remained employed or were moving on to other employment at the end of the program. Logging over 89,000 work hours, these participants produced an economic benefit estimated at \$6.55 million, based on a formula developed by Columbia University. (This was more than twice the cost of the program.) Additionally, these participants collectively improved over 21,700 acres of land across our state. Community-based conservation corps around the nation have inquired about the program, which has also received national media coverage.

When the legislature passed H.B. 1176 in 2021, signed into law by Governor Ige as Act 181 (SLH 2021), we were excited to see that the progress made in the 2020 Kupu ‘Āina Corps program was going to continue in some form. Late last year, Kupu was selected by DLNR to partner on the continuation of this program. We spent the remaining months of 2021 recruiting and selecting participants, and have participants currently working and training in conservation, clean energy, and other sustainability-focused professions. In the early stages of the program, from the recruitment and onboarding alone we have seen tremendous interest from applicants, with well over two-and-a-half applicants for every position available. We also saw significant willingness from nonprofits and for-profits to host and train individuals. Without legislation to continue funding this program, the Green Job Youth Corps will not have funds to operate after this year, due to Act 181 providing funds on a one-year and not biennial basis.

We also strongly support S.B. 2768 S.D. 2's provision setting the maximum participant age at 38-years-old. In this year's program, the Green Job Youth Corps is focused on participants between the ages of 20 and 40-years-old, as was directed in H.B. 1176. Since the U.S. Census Bureau recently reported that Hawai'i's median age is 38.5 years old, the cap provided in the S.D. 2 still limits the program to individuals below the state's median age, and well below the median age for adults.

Please pass **S.B. 2768 S.D. 2**. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in strong support of this important bill.

Sincerely,

John Leong

John Leong, CEO

Kupu



April 4, 2022

Committee on Finance

RE: SB2768

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the committee,

Re-use Hawai'i is a non-profit organization working to create a long-term solution to Hawaii's waste management challenges by keeping building materials out of the landfill and cultivating the circular economy in Hawai'i.

SB2768 relating to the Green Jobs Corps Program is an important measure that will support workforce development in the sustainability sector. Re-use Hawai'i was a host site for ten participants of the Kupu 'Āina Corps program in late 2020 and recently onboarded another cohort of trainees made possible by the passage of HB1176. We're employing and training individuals with diverse backgrounds and abilities whose jobs were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Training included specific skills in deconstruction, lumber processing, customer service, and administration. Our training programs also include workshops on woodworking and safety.

SB2768 and the continued support of a Green Job Corp Program will allow Re-use Hawai'i and other green job providers to expand our impact, reduce unemployment, and contribute to a regenerative economy.

We strongly support SB2768 and Re-use Hawai'i is eager to participate again as a host site as we work toward a brighter future for Hawai'i's workforce and industries.

Mahalo nui loa,

Quinn Vittum
Executive Director
Re-use Hawai'i



To: The House Committee on Finance
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, April 5, 2022, 2:30pm

In support of SB2768 SD2

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the Finance committee,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org **supports SB2768 SD2** that would continue funding for the Green Job Youth Corps, a program that provides employment and training opportunities for young adults in conservation, sustainable agriculture, clean energy, and other sustainability-related industries. This serves to employ our youth of Hawaii while building a resilient local economy and a sustainable future.

The Green Job Youth Corps is an important part of restoring our economy and environment. This program will help advance Hawaii's clean energy and decarbonization goals, expand the green workforce, and launch a new generation of clean energy leaders. The Green Jobs Youth Corps is a win-win for the environment and a more resilient economy for Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important legislation.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
Tuesday, April 5, 2022 – 2:30 pm
Via videoconference; Room 308**

SB 2768 SD 2 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the Committee on Finance:

We are in **strong support** of SB 2768 SD 2. During the height of the pandemic, when hundreds of individuals found themselves out of work, Kupu was able to start up the Green Jobs Youth Corps program, which was modeled on a successful 2020 partnership between the State and Kupu. In this program, young adults have the chance to transition into jobs in conservation, sustainable agriculture, or clean energy/energy efficiency. The program has provided employment at a critical economic time for so many Hawaii households and introduced new people to the possibilities of a career in fields essential to the future of this State.

The program also supports nonprofits and for-profit sustainability organizations by giving them access to new workers at a reduced budget price point. This kind of support helped buoy many different organizations and businesses when everyone was struggling. We believe that the investment in our sustainability workforce is an integral part of continuing to diversify our economy, support our environment, and prepare Hawaii for the future. Without SB 2768 SD2, current Green Job Youth Corps funding, as administered by the Department of Land and Natural Resources via a Corps Center of Excellence Accreditation Program (or one with at least ten years of experience providing similar programming statewide) will expire next year.

Established in 2005, the H.T. Hayashi Foundation reflects the legacy of visionary hotelier and philanthropist Herbert Takami "H.T." Hayashi. Today, the foundation invests in arts and culture, human development, environmental conservation, and economic security, focusing on programs serving women, children, and the elderly. Supporting a diversified economy, buoying efforts to protect, preserve and restore our environment, standing alongside sustainable agricultural endeavors, and helping address the effects of climate change on these islands are all part of the foundation's vision of how it can help.

We strongly urge you to pass this legislation. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

Mahalo,
Jan M. Harada
Executive Director

Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawai'i

P.O. Box 25284 · Honolulu · Hawai'i · 96825

(808) 393 2168 · www.b-e-a-c-h.org

DATE: 4th April, 2022

TO: Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Yamashita and Members of the House Finance Committee

FROM: Suzanne Frazer, President, Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawai'i

RE: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2768 SD2**
Relating to the Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps
Committee hearing on Tuesday 5th April at 2:30PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Yamashita and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawaii (B.E.A.C.H.) in strong support of SB2768 SD2. B.E.A.C.H. had the opportunity in 2020 to have 3 people work with us through the Kupu Aina Corps program for 2 months free of charge as well as 3 people this year who are working with us for a year. This is such a beneficial program for both the participants and our organization and we hope this program can continue. Our organization gives participants a lot of knowledge and work experience in the conservation field that they wouldn't have gotten otherwise.

Up until this program, B.E.A.C.H. has been an all volunteer organization so it was the first time we had the opportunity to have paid staff helping out. This really made a difference for us and we have been able to accomplish a lot. We are really grateful for the help because of the pandemic putting us behind in our work.

All of the people we work with in this program were out of work or were having a hard time getting a job. The Kupu Aina Corps experience provides a transformational learning experience which positively impacts their lives. One now has a job and another was inspired to start her own non-profit. This program was only made possible due to funding that Kupu received. We hope that you will please pass this bill and allow more people to take part in this program. In regards to the age range, please increase it to at least 40 years old as we have found that 20 year olds working with older people has additional benefits for both (older and younger) that wouldn't happen otherwise if you limit it to 38. We currently have a 40 year old working with people in their 20's.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Frazer.

B.E.A.C.H. Co-Founder & President.



Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawai'i is a non-profit organization that brings awareness and solutions to marine debris through environmental education, plastic reduction/litter prevention campaigns, and marine debris removal and research in order to protect marine life, sea birds and the ocean/coastal environment.

SB-2768-SD-2

Submitted on: 4/1/2022 2:48:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
L Basha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a great initiative to help the young people of Hawai'i.

SB-2768-SD-2

Submitted on: 4/2/2022 5:33:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carissa Cabrera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am testifying in strong support of SB2768 as it stands for the purpose of creating meaningful and impactful job opportunities for our local community. The success of the Green Job Youths program last year demonstrated a strong need and importance of this effort, as well as a demand by our residents looking for employment opportunities. Another year of funding for this program would allow Kupu the opportunity to expand, build on lessons learned, and impact many more of our community members lives. As we continue to recover economically from the pandemic, providing sustainable employment opportunities is critical. This investment would help us diversify our workforce and is an important part of reaching out environmental and sustainability goals as a State.

I urge you to pass this bill as it stands.

Mahalo for hearing my testimony,

Carissa Cabrera

SB-2768-SD-2

Submitted on: 4/2/2022 10:31:34 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Leimomi Riley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Leimomi Riley, and I am a Hawaiian mother, Tutu, musician, harpist, writer, and resident of the Big Island of Hawaii. I thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 2768, which will allow the continuation of the Green Job Youth Corps.

I was born in Hilo, Hawaii, in 1956, and I've seen many changes throughout the years. Plantations closed, and resorts opened. Tourism became a major provider of employment to many of the people of Hawaii. I raised my children on the Big Island, and I worked as a musician and harpist, and at many other jobs as a divorced, single mother in order to provide for my family, sometimes working at four different part time jobs, at one time, and I am aware that it is a struggle for many families to provide for their households in Hawaii. It is even more expensive these days. The Covid-19 pandemic has presented further complications, in so many ways.

The Green Job Youth Corps Act is making it possible to help our 'Aina. It is an important part of restoring our community and environment by helping the industries that do both of these things. Without this bill, funding for the Green Job Youth Corps will run out next year!

I appreciate your time and consideration regarding this matter. Mahalo and Aloha!

Sincerely,

Leimomi Riley

SB-2768-SD-2

Submitted on: 4/2/2022 11:12:03 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Callison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Douglas Callison, and I am writing to testify in strong support of SB2768 to keep Hawaii's Green Job Youth Corps going. I am a construction worker by trade, specializing in Plastering. I was born and raised in California, but I have lived on the Big Island of Hawaii since 1990. In my career, I've worked on many projects, homes, and resorts. The recession of 2008 closed down many projects, and there was a huge decline in construction employment. In March 2020, due to Covid-19, construction declined again. When tourism declines, construction declines. In my opinion, it would be wise to create industries in Hawaii which are NOT dependent upon construction or tourism. Thanks to KUPU 'AINA CORPS, I was able to work at the Hakalau Sanctuary under the supervision of Susan Cordell, Ph.D, Director and Research Ecologist, and Director of the Forest Service Institute of the Pacific Islands Forestry, Pacific Southwest Research Station, and Dr. Patrick Hart, Professor of the Department of Biology with the University of Hawaii in Hilo, in KUPU 'AINA CORPS.

Before the opportunity with KUPU, I had bills to pay, but no one was hiring. KUPU gave me a chance to work hard in return for a paycheck. This opportunity provided me with income, a sense of purpose, and hope for the future. I am very pleased with the renovative and restorative work that I was able to do for them. My supervisors are wonderful people who worked closely with me, and they were very supportive and appreciative of my work, and I learned a lot about conservation from them in this program, and I feel that we need to create businesses which protect the land of Hawaii. I feel strongly that green jobs and programs like KUPU are very valuable, especially in a time like this when people are still struggling.

While I am no longer participating in this program, I still think that the Green Job Youth Corps needs to continue for the next generation. Participating in the KUPU 'AINA CORPS helped me and my family, when we needed help, and it gave me training and experience I could use in any field. I know that many people learn skills from participating in Kupu's green jobs program that they will put to use in their careers. Please keep this program going so that others can have the chance that I had.

Thank you for this opportunity to be heard!

Please pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Douglas Callison

SB-2768-SD-2

Submitted on: 4/2/2022 8:36:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Micha'el Leventhal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I write you today in support of SB2768 SD2, which would authorize the creation of a Green Jobs Youth Corps to employ our youth while building a sustainable future.

As you may know, this measure would continue funding for employment and training opportunities for young adults in conservation, sustainable agriculture, clean energy, and other sustainability-related industries. By advancing the state's clean energy and decarbonization goals, expanding the green workforce, and launching a new generation of clean energy leaders, the Green Jobs Youth Corps represents a win-win for the environment and a more resilient economy for Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui for your time and support!

SB-2768-SD-2

Submitted on: 4/2/2022 10:52:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Committee on Finance,

I strongly support SB2768 SD2. Please support this bill.

The Green Job Youth Corps is an important part of restoring our economy and environment by helping the industries that do both of those things.

This program will help advance Hawaii's clean energy and decarbonization goals, expand the green workforce, and launch a new generation of clean energy leaders.

The Green Jobs Youth Corps is a win-win for the environment and a more resilient economy for Hawaii.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB2768 SD2. Thank you for taking the time to review this issue.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

SB-2768-SD-2

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 6:35:11 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Kauai women's caucus	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A win - win by providing job training and opportunities in an area that is the future for a more resilient Hawaii

SB-2768-SD-2

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 7:41:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Hansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha - Please pass this bill.

The Green Job Youth Corps is an important part of restoring our economy and environment by helping the industries that do both of those things.

-- This program will help advance Hawaii's clean energy and decarbonization goals, expand the green workforce, and launch a new generation of clean energy leaders.

-- The Green Jobs Youth Corps is a win-win for the environment and a more resilient economy for Hawaii.

Mahalo,
Elizabeth Hansen
registered voter,
Hakalau HI 96710

SB-2768-SD-2

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 8:00:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rodger Hansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

Please pass this bill.

The Green Job Youth Corps is an important part of restoring our economy and environment by helping the industries that do both of those things.

-- This program will help advance Hawaii's clean energy and decarbonization goals, expand the green workforce, and launch a new generation of clean energy leaders.

-- The Green Jobs Youth Corps is a win-win for the environment and a more resilient economy for Hawaii.

Mahalo,
Rodger Hansen
registered voter,
Hakalau HI 96710

SB-2768-SD-2

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 11:49:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support!

SB-2768-SD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 7:31:23 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Kealoha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in full support of this measure. This investment in our sustainability workforce is an important part of continuing to diversify our economy, support our environment, and prepare Hawai'i for the future.

April 4, 2022

Honorable [Sylvia Luke](#), Chair
And Members of the Committee on Finance
State Capitol, Room 308
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: SB 2768, SD2 – Relating to the Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps

DATE: Tuesday, April 5, 2022
TIME: 2:30 p.m.

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Honorable Finance Committee Members,

I am proud to testify in strong support of SB 2768, Relating to the Hawai'i Youth Conservation Corps. As written, this bill will continue funding for the Green Job Youth Corps, a new, critical program that is helping young adults in our workforce transition into green collar jobs at a time of critical importance to our 'āina and our economy.

As the world economy changes, and as climate change reaches our shores, it has never been more important to support the workers and entrepreneurs who want to be part of industries focused on a healthier, more resilient Hawai'i. These organizations and individuals need to be invested in if they are to grow, and the Green Job Youth Corps is a proven, effective way to do exactly that. Based on a 2020 partnership between the state and the nonprofit Kupu, this program matches disadvantaged young adults with jobs and training in areas like natural resource management, sustainable agriculture, clean energy, and energy efficiency. By the end of their participation in this program, they have training and experience under their belt, and are prepared for new careers in the mālama 'āina economy.

The Green Job Youth Corps needs funding to continue operation beyond this year. The benefits have been clear, and I hope that you will consider continuing the state's investment in this program, and in the youth, organizations, and communities it serves.

Please support SB 2768.

Mahalo,



Lance Wilhelm

SB-2768-SD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 10:13:48 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesse Kealiinohomoku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in Support of SB2768. The more youth green jobs means more opportunities for the younger generation to experience career pathways that support the health and wellbieng of our planet.

Me ke aloha,

#Fixourfoodsystem

SB-2768-SD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 12:18:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha FIN Chair, Vice Chair & Committee,

I super support this bill because our youth are our future. **SB2768 SD2** is a great bill. I hope this bill becomes law. Its our bridge into the future. A Green Job Youth Corps (GJYC) will train our youth in sustainable enterprises, skill sets and enhance job security for the future. We've needed a GJYC for a long time, its great that its time is finally (hopefully) here. The GJYC serves to employ our youth while building a resilient local economy and giving them the skills for a sustainable future.

The Green Job Youth Corps is an important part of restoring our economy and environment by helping the industries that do both of those things while giving valuable sustainable training to our youths for our and their sustainable future.

Mahalo for your consideration

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

SB-2768-SD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 12:54:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephany Vaioleti	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! The Green Job Youth Corps program is a creative solution that makes a difference in more ways than one. Please continue to support this initiative by committing to on-going funding.

Mahalo,

Stephany Vaioleti

Kahuku resident

SB-2768-SD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 9:29:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet L Pappas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear FIN Chair and committee members,

I am in strong support of SB2768, a bill to create a Green Jobs Youth Corps akin to the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) back in the day.

In the immediate future, Hawaii is going to need young people trained in various environmental fields. Whether it be food sustainability, sea level rise, air pollution, ocean acidification or clean energy, handling these issues will require proper training if we are going to keep Hawaii Hawaii. A State-wide youth jobs corps would provide needed jobs and training, and might even encourage these young people to seek higher education.

The KUPU organization has set a stellar example of how a youth program should be run and has set the stage for a State-wide program.

Please give strong consideration to funding this program. In the end, our people and our islands will be the better for it.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas

Aiea, Hawaii

SB-2768-SD-2

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 10:50:50 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
timothy johns	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the Finance Committee,

It is my pleasure to testify in strong support of SB 2768, Relating to the Hawai'i Youth Conservation Corps.

As a former Chairman of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, I am personally familiar with the importance of growing the next generation of conservationists in Hawai'i. Along with preparing students and youth for careers in natural resource management, environmental science, and other green collar fields, it is important to also prepare our young adults to transition into emerging jobs in areas such as sustainable agriculture, clean energy, and energy efficiency. This bill, which would continue the recently established Green Job Youth Corps, does exactly that. As our economy emerges from the Covid-19 downturn, it is essential that we have strategies in place to steer our workforce towards these sustainability-focused industries, so they become a bigger and more vibrant part of our state's economy.

Please pass SB 2768 and continue funding the Green Job Youth Corps program.

Mahalo,

Tim Johns