

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2023
ROOM 308
2:30 P.M.

SENATE BILL NO. 419, SENATE DRAFT 1, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO CARBON SEQUESTRATION

Chairperson Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 419, SD1, HD1 that appropriates funds for the Hawaii Carbon Smart Land Management Assistance Pilot Program as described in Act 185 (SLH, 2022). The Department of Agriculture (Department) offers comments on the Program this measure seeks to fund.

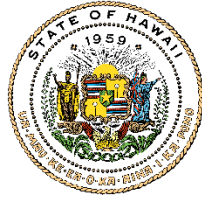
The Department notes that the Pilot Program is a very ambitious effort that seeks to increase the amount of carbon and greenhouse gas emission sequestered by forests and farmlands by establishing a voluntary program that compensates participants who engage in approved practices over the duration of a contract period. We believe that compensation rates and incentive contract terms need to be sufficiently generous and flexible for agricultural land activities and compensate farmer participants for income lost over the duration of the contract period, and not just the value of carbon sequestered. Any goals for the quantity of carbon sequestered and soil health expected from crop, livestock, and non-edible agricultural production on agricultural lands must not exceed what is reasonable or practicable to the participating farmers and ranchers.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this measure.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

Monday, April 3, 2023
2:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 419, SENATE DRAFT 1, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO CARBON SEQUESTRATION

Senate Bill 419, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds for the Hawai'i Carbon Smart Land Management Assistance Pilot Program. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

The Department applauds the proposed funding for the Hawai'i Carbon Smart Land Management Assistance Pilot Program that would allow small farmers, ranchers, foresters, and landowners/lessees to be compensated for taking measures to help Hawai'i reach its climate readiness goals. The State of Hawai'i has committed to achieving a zero emissions clean economy with carbon neutrality by 2045. To meet this commitment, the State must invest in reducing emissions of carbon dioxide and methane and mitigating the effects of past emissions. Investing in carbon-positive land management actions such as tree planting, improved native forest management, soil carbon sequestration, and/or techniques for carbon-friendly food production will reduce the state's carbon footprint.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION
COMMISSION
POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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**Testimony of
Leah Laramée
Coordinator, Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission**

**Before the House Committees on
FINANCE**

**Monday, April 3, 2023
2:30 PM
State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 325**

**In support of
Senate Bill 419 SD1 HD1
RELATING TO CARBON SEQUESTRATION**

Senate Bill 419 SD1 HD1 appropriates funds for the Hawai'i carbon smart land management assistance pilot program. **The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) supports this measure, and offers the following comments.**

The State of Hawai'i's commitment to uphold the Paris Climate Accord and progressively move towards zero emissions clean economy by 2045 requires that we actively invest in reducing our emissions and mitigate greenhouse gases (primarily carbon dioxide - CO₂). Regenerative agriculture, forests, wetlands, and our nearshore waters and reefs serve as the State's only carbon sinks, removing carbon from the atmosphere. Investing in carbon positive actions such as afforestation, reforestation, soil carbon sequestration, local organic plant food production, restoring native wetland ecosystems, and protection of threatened wetlands, forests, regenerative agricultural lands, and coastlines are effective ways to mitigate our carbon footprint.

The Commission recognizes that small land managers play a significant role in managing natural and working lands but often operate on small profit margins. Providing incentives to land managers will allow them to make changes on their lands to increase carbon sequestration and improve healthy soils to help the state meet food security and carbon emission goals. Additional funding for the State's watershed partnership program that provides landscape-level, cross-boundary forest protection and restoration is also essential to significantly accelerate carbon sequestration rates.

In collaboration with the US Climate Alliance and the Hawai'i Natural and Working Lands Research Team the Commission has been able to support efforts to bring \$40,000,000 to the state through USDA's Climate Smart Commodities grant which will work in tandem with this program

to provide to increase local food production while meeting Hawai'i's 2045 carbon emission goals. The addition of funding to this program will help to leverage federal dollars to expand climate smart practices throughout the state and support land managers in the production of climate smart commodities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Supporting SB 419 SD1 HD1, Relating to Carbon Sequestration.**

**Committee on Finance
April 3, 2023, 2:30 pm
Conference Room 308 and via Videoconference**

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

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) supports SB 419 SD1 HD1, Relating to Carbon Sequestration, which would appropriate funds for the Hawai'i carbon smart land management assistance pilot program.

The Hawai'i carbon smart land management assistance pilot program is vital to support our local producers and reach a carbon neutral clean economy by 2045. Agriculture, forests, and other land uses (AFOLU) are currently the State's only carbon sink. Actively investing in carbon positive actions such as restoring forests through tree planting, forest protection, and improved management, soil carbon sequestration, improved pasture management, and local organic plant food production are the most effective and efficient ways to mitigate our carbon footprint. Funding this program will help small land managers employ healthy soil and carbon smart practices to sequester additional carbon on natural and working lands.

TNC supports ensuring that the Department of Land and Natural Resources has funding and personnel to support the carbon smart land management assistance pilot program.

Carbon smart practices will not only sequester carbon but improve soil health, protecting agriculture into the future; increase the amount of water that filters into our aquifers; reduce erosion, protecting our reefs from sedimentation and stress; and support our local producers and growers.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony supporting SB 419 SD1 HD1.

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.

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Citizens' Climate Lobby of Hawaii (On behalf of its 900+ members)

April 1, 2023

Position: **Support** of SB419 SD1 HD1

Aloha Chair Yamashita and Members of the FIN Committee:

I'm writing in **strong support** of SB419 SD1 HD1. Carbon sequestration is critical to both local and global efforts to bring down net greenhouse gas emissions. We need to do our part and manage our land responsibly. Doing so will require funding the Hawai'i carbon smart land management assistance pilot program.

This program was established to "help keep forests and farmlands intact and sequester additional carbon on the lands. The program would allow small farmers, ranchers, foresters, and landowners and lessees to be compensated for taking measures to help Hawaii reach its climate readiness goals." Now is the time to fund it!

The program further supports sustainable agriculture and carbon sequestration land management practices which include:

- agroforestry, cover crops, reforestation, and afforestation to support carbon sequestration;
- less chemical inputs for sustainable agriculture equates to reduced greenhouse gases for the agriculture sector (which is considerable!);
- potential to improve yields naturally -- support our local farmers productivity; and
- encourages more measurement and tracking of our carbon sequestration efforts across the state to ensure we are on a good trajectory.

Please pass this bill out of your committee so we have the resources to manage our lands responsibly.

Respectfully,
Paul Bernstein
Citizens' Climate Lobby Co-State Coordinator

SB-419-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 7:59:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/3/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Hawaii and Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A vigorous program of carbon sequestration is needed to meet the State's target of being carbon negative as soon as feasible but not later than 2045. Please pass this bill to fund the carbon smart program!

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i and Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

SB-419-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 1:06:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/3/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	350Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

350Hawaii.org **supports** this measure that would appropriate funds for the Hawaii carbon smart land management assistance pilot program.

Climate change has led to an increase in the frequency of extreme weather events which increases the risks to our already vulnerable food supply chain. Hawaii needs to reduce its contribution to climate change, increase local food production, improve soil health, and secure resilient water sources through watershed protection. Programs such as the Hawaii carbon smart land management assistance pilot program are an effective means to do that.

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



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

The Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports SB419.**

HFUU views SB419 as an essential step forward in combating the effects of climate change and creating a cleaner and healthier environment for our state.

This bill would provide much needed financial assistance for Hawaii's farmers to practice carbon smart land management. This resource will be invaluable in helping farmers implement more sustainable farming practices, growing healthier crops and reducing their environmental impact. This partnership between the state and agricultural producers is essential if we wish to improve our sustainability practices and reduce our carbon dioxide emissions. By providing the resources necessary to implement carbon smart land management, we can start to address the climate crisis our state and our planet are facing.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

SB-419-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 10:11:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/3/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

You people Have Got to Be Fooken Stupied. With out Carbon there is No Air/ Oxegen.

Trees take Carbon In and Let out Oxegen. You all Need to go Back to School , or is School the Problem. They don,t Teach any More they spend to much time on there Phones..!!!

SB-419-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2023 4:56:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/3/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tula roderick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear FIN committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 419, which would establish the Hawaii Carbon Smart Land Management Assistance Pilot Program. This program is a critical step towards mitigating the impacts of climate change in Hawaii by promoting land management practices that sequester carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

It is crucial that Hawai'i take the steps that are necessary in reaching our climate readiness goals. The Hawaii Carbon Smart Land Management Assistance Pilot Program would allow small farmers, ranchers, foresters, landowners, and lessees to be compensated for taking measures. This is particularly important as these individuals often face financial barriers to implementing sustainable land management practices. As a government, we must support farmers and encourage their practice with any means available.

By providing funding for this program, we can support the development and implementation of innovative land management strategies that not only benefit the environment but also help to sustain local economies and communities. This program can help to keep our forests and farmlands intact and sequester additional carbon on the lands.

As a concerned citizen who cares deeply about the health of our planet and our local communities, I urge you to support SB 419 and prioritize the well-being of our environment and our future generations. The appropriation of funds for the Hawaii Carbon Smart Land Management Assistance Pilot Program is a crucial step in mitigating the impacts of climate change and ensuring a sustainable future for Hawaii.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Tulabelle Roderick

SB-419-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 12:42:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/3/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Geyer	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Thank you for hearing SB419, and please support any measure that helps Hawai'i sequester carbon in a way that is beneficial to our shared environment. The effects of too much carbon in our atmosphere has been recently been shown to be much more dangerous than was previously thought. This is an urgent problem that needs as much attention as possible.

Mahalo

Matthew Geyer

SB-419-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 2:13:13 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/3/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Helen Cox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

Please pass SB419 SD1 HD1 which appropriates funds for the Hawaii carbon smart land management assistance pilot program. It is imperative that we become better stewards of our lands, and this pilot program is an important step in this direction.

Mahalo,

Helen Cox, Kalaheo, Kauai

SB-419-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 2:22:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/3/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Latkiewicz	Kauai Climate Action Coalition - Capture the Carbon	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB 419 appropriates funds for the Hawai'i carbon smart land management assistance pilot program. Please support this bill along with climate Crisis focused legislation. The crisis is not going anywhere. Although a limited scope bill SB419 is a step in the right direction.

SB 429 appropriates funds for the Hawai'i carbon smart land management assistance pilot program. Please support this bill along with climate Crisis focused legislation. The crisis is not going anywhere. Although a limited scope bill SB419 is a step in the right direction.

SB-419-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 9:16:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/3/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The more trees we retain and add the better to sequester carbon. Please support!

SB-419-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 5:02:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/3/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Virginia Tincher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Members of the Finance Committee,

I am in strong support of SB419 SD1 HD1

SB419 SD1 HD1 supports a win-win opportunity for Hawaii. It's a win for farmers who, according to studies, will benefit from improved land management. A win for the climate through greater and longer lasting absorption of carbon.

At this point in the history of land over and inappropriate use and climate change we are at a point where change is necessary. Farmers want better land management but it takes time, training and money and they have little of those. This pilot program is an opportunity to help farmers be part of the future of a healthy environment in Hawaii - a legacy they can pass on to the next generation.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Virginia Tincher, Oahu

SB-419-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 5:17:39 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/3/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Morin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee members,

I SUPPORT SB419 SD1 HD1.

SB419 SD1 HD1 will help to enable practices that will allow for the sequestration and drawdown of legacy carbon from the atmosphere. This is akin to pulling the plug in an overflowing tub.

Importantly, this will enhance the economic opportunities for landowners, farmers, and our ag business sector and encourage the establishment of new products and services (locally produced building materials that leverage hemp and bamboo are examples).

Please pass SB419 SD1 HD1.

Respectfully,
Noel Morin
Climate, Sustainability, and Resilience Advocate
Hilo, Hawai'i

SB-419-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 8:40:53 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/3/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronald "Ron" Reilly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Re: Strong Support for HB188 and companion SB419

We must encourage atmospheric carbon removal to begin to flatten the curve and draw down atmospheric CO2 concentrations currently at over 420 ppm per the Mauna Loa Atmospheric Observatory. Carbon sequestration will work in tandem with our efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

Providing incentives to land managers will allow them to make changes on their lands to increase carbon sequestration and improve healthy soils to help the state meet food security and net carbon emission goals.

Thank you for your consideration, Ron Reilly, Volcano Village

SB-419-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 1:11:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/3/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We must do what we can to use less carbon based fuel