

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Monday, March 21, 2022
2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325, Via Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 573, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO WILDLIFE

Senate Bill 573, Senate Draft 1 proposes to require all habitat conservation plans to include an agreement for plan participants to enter and maintain an annual service contract with a stand-by response facility available to provide emergency medical and rehabilitation services to native wildlife affected by activities undertaken within the plan area. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources supports this measure.**

Section 195D-21(2)(C), Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires that each habitat conservation plan shall identify the steps that will be taken to mitigate the impact of any incidental take to the maximum extent practicable. A service agreement with a facility capable of providing emergency medical and rehabilitation services could help to fulfill that requirement in the event of injured wildlife but should be considered with other provisions within each habitat conservation plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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



Hawai'i Wildlife Center
P.O. Box 551752 • Kapa'au, HI 96755

**TESTIMONY OF LINDA ELLIOTT,
PRESIDENT AND CENTER DIRECTOR, HAWAII WILDLIFE CENTER**

PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

DATE: Monday, Mar. 21, 2022

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

PLACE: Via Videoconference, Conference Rm 325

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 573, Relating to Wildlife: Habitat Conservation Plans

To the honorable Representative Nakashima, Chair, Representative Matayoshi, Vice Chair and members of the Committee:

I am submitting testimony in **strong support** of SB 573. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

SB 573 Requires all habitat conservation plans (HCPs) to include an agreement for plan participants to enter into and maintain an annual service contract with a stand-by and response facility available to provide emergency medical and rehabilitation services to native wildlife affected by activities undertaken within the scope of the plan. **Since the costs would be incorporated into the fees being paid by entities that are required to have a Habitat Conservation Plan, this does not raise taxes or require State funding.** The costs would be negotiated by each HCP participant and the response provider, similar to how an entity would enter into any other contract for services needed to fulfill operational needs and statutory obligations.

This amendment would require a thorough and proper response procedure for indigenous and endemic wildlife species covered by HCPs when individuals of these species are found injured, as well as a clear means of support for such response actions. At present HCPs do not require an adequate response plan that sets forth an agreement with and funding support for a permitted response organization to ensure response resources are available for injured wildlife treatment and rehabilitation expertise when needed. Instead the funding support stops at the finding of the injured wildlife and neglects the following rehabilitative care to return the injured wildlife to full health. Funding support should be provided as a basic measure to prepare for injured wildlife response and to keep resources available year-round. **This measure would help a wide range of organizations and agencies that provide critical native wildlife response services for all wildlife species, including native birds, bats, monk seals, and seaturtles.**

As our work pertains to native birds and bats, we can only speak to what we have experienced. Of the agreements we reviewed, all have failed to cover this specific response need and instead focus mainly on habitat improvements (i.e. in planting, invasive weed control) and population protection methods (i.e. predator control, re-introduction of species, captive breeding

programs). Although those conservation programs are also important, the inclusion of the process for funding the response to injured wildlife covered by HCPs provides a missing piece necessary to fully respond to protected wildlife species and creates more robust protection of native wildlife throughout the year.

From previous discussions with wildlife agencies and from our first-hand experiences, we have gathered that:

- Indigenous and endemic wildlife is under the responsibility of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. DLNR administrative rules mandate that if indigenous wildlife is injured, it must be brought to a permitted entity for care. Additionally, Hawai'i's indigenous wildlife is protected by federal Migratory Bird Act and or the Endangered Species Act. State or Federal wildlife agencies are not able to provide wildlife rehabilitative care services and therefore rely on partnerships with other organizations to fulfill this role.

- Current HCP requirements only focus on quantifying and mitigating for dead wildlife, while wildlife that are injured and still alive - wildlife that have the possibility of recovering and returning to their wild populations - are neglected because there is no statutory mandate requiring action and follow through.

- The State provides permit regulations as to what is required to care for native species, but in our experience have not been responsible for funding the care of patients impacted by HCP participants. Nor does the State's limited funding allow them to keep these services available in the case members of industry need it.

- Though DLNR may have a cost recovery process for their time, organizations that are not State-run yet provide services for the State are neglected and do not receive support to be ready to provide treatment to wildlife impacted by HCP participants. Providing concrete language to build the necessary avenues for wildlife response will help wildlife agencies follow through on their mandate to protect indigenous wildlife without creating additional work for the agencies.

- HCP participants follow a Downed Wildlife Protocol. The Downed Wildlife Protocol provides significant detail on injured wildlife response in the areas of capture, handling, and points of contact. What is NOT included in the protocol however, is any clear articulation on how participants will support the response work required or ensure its availability. All that is mentioned in the protocol in this area is one line: "non-governmental parties should make prior arrangements, including procedures and payments with the rehabilitation or veterinary care facilities that will be used to treat injured animals". The lack of details and absence of concrete requirements for follow-through in this area opens the door for this weakness to be taken advantage of at the expense of the rehabilitation and veterinary care facilities that are doing the work and who need to find other ways to stay open in order to be available for these purposes.

- By supporting wildlife response organizations via these agreements the benefits may also include:

- Net population benefits as the year-around operations of wildlife rehabilitation programs will treat other indigenous and endemic wildlife patients of the same species of concern adding to the number returned to the wild populations
- Preparedness for emergency response services (i.e. contaminants spill response, disease outbreaks) with the trained experienced staff and a fully operational facility from the response organizations supported in part by these agreements.

Requiring entities needing an HCP agreement to also procure a support agreement with a qualified and permitted response and rehabilitation organization would also provide for first response training for the entity's staff, a supplies and equipment list to perform a response, and create procedures to consult on injured wildlife and assist in the transport of injured wildlife to the response organization(s). This support agreement would cover the costs for readiness to respond year-round and for the treatment and medical care of wildlife species covered by the agreement.

The Hawai'i Wildlife Center provides professional, state-of-the-art treatment for native Hawaiian wildlife affected by contamination, disease and injury. HWC staff members have the experience and capability to manage wildlife-related response, including assessment, training, mobilization, supervision, facilities management, wildlife capture, handling, stabilization and transportation. At the Center, staff will perform triage, assessment, stabilization, rehabilitation, husbandry, quarantine, hydration, feeding, cleaning, monitoring, recovery and release into the wild. The Center also provides emergency response training for agency staff, interns, students and volunteers.

HWC has a Memorandum of Agreement between the Center, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the State Department of Land and Natural Resources. However, while this MOA provides a framework for effective collaboration, it does not ensure that resources are available to keep the Center open and ready to respond to injured wildlife.

We have been open for native wildlife care since September 2012, and have already received over 2,600 patients (majority are birds, with some bats) representing over 40 different native species. In order to keep our critical services available, we need a predictable and consistent source of operational funding. **SB 573 will help ensure that permitted, professionally staffed, wildlife response resources are prepared to help native wildlife adversely affected by human activities as well as help satisfy the statutory responsibility of the State.**

We are a small nonprofit that provides hospital care and rehabilitation to native birds and bats statewide. The way we operate is very similar to a fire station, where the continuity of our services depends on reliable support to keep everything open and operational. HCP participants that have impacts on native wildlife should contribute to keeping response and care available should it be needed. If a fire happens, you don't wait until you see flames to build a fire station.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.



March 20, 2022

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Chair Nakashima

Vice Chair Matayoshi

Monday, March 21, 2022 at 2:00pm

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 573 SD1 - RELATING TO WILDLIFE.

Aloha Chair Nakashima and Members of the Committees,

Please accept these comments submitted by the Center for Biological Diversity (Center) in **strong support of Senate Bill 573 SD1**, which would require all habitat conservation plans (HCP) to include an agreement for plan participants to enter into and maintain an annual service contract with a response facility available to provide emergency medical and rehabilitation services to native wildlife affected by activities undertaken within the plan area.

The Center is a non-profit 501(c)(3) membership corporation dedicated to the protection of native, threatened, and endangered species and the habitats they depend on to survive. Through science, policy, and environmental law, the Center is actively involved in endangered, threatened, and native species and habitat protection issues throughout Hawai'i. The Center has more than 88,000 members throughout the United States, including Hawai'i, with a direct interest in ensuring the conservation of our Hawaiian species.

H.R.S § 195D-21 (2)(C) requires each HCP to identify the steps necessary to minimize the impact of any incidental take to the **maximum extent practicable**. Currently HCPs do not require funding for emergency medical and rehabilitation services to indigenous and endemic wildlife species impacted by activities covered by these permits. Funding support should be provided as a basic measure to prepare for injured wildlife response and to keep resources available year-round.

By including an agreement for plan participants to enter into and maintain an annual service contract with a stand-by and response wildlife facility in all HCPs, our impacted native wildlife and endangered species will have the best chance at survival at no added cost to our state.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of Senate Bill 573 SD1**.

/s/ Maxx Phillips

Maxx Phillips, Esq.

Hawai'i Director and Staff Attorney

Center for Biological Diversity

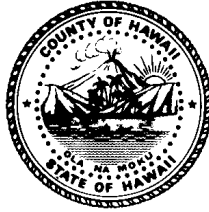
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Council District 9 -
North and South Kohala



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Chair: Committee on Regenerative
Agriculture, Water, Energy, &
Environmental Management

HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III
HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
DISTRICT 9

25 Aupuni Street, Ste. 1402, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

March 20, 2022

Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
via online transmission only

RE: SB 573 SD1
Hearing Date: March 21, 2022

Aloha Chair Nakashima and Vice Chair Matayoshi:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 573 SD1 as I fully support this bill.

SB 573 SD1 is critical for the well-being of our injured wildlife and will ensure permitted wildlife responses and rehabilitation services that are maintained at the highest level for our wildlife to receive the best achievable care.

As a veterinarian and a rancher for almost 40 years, I understand the emergency care needed for the survival of animals. Having a program to provide stellar care to our wildlife, endangered or otherwise, is the best form of action to protect their health and longevity in our ecosystem. It is imperative that this bill pass so all habitat conservation plans include an agreement for plan participants to enter into and maintain an annual service contract with a stand-by and a response facility be made available to provide the emergency care to our precious native wildlife. Our wildlife deserves this oversight and opportunity to be provided timely and professional care.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony on a topic very dear to my heart and life. If you would like to discuss my knowledge of this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Aloha,

HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 10:34:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/21/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rae Okawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. I was born and raised on O‘ahu and believe that our native wildlife are truly special and should be protected. If a project has a potential harmful impact on any of these species, that project/company should help keep resources available to respond. The company supporting these projects should also get credit for the work and wildlife returned, even if the animal did not come from their property. It should be a win-win for everyone, especially native wildlife.

This has the potential to help so many different agencies and organizations performing or relying on critical wildlife rescue work: DOFAW, FWS, NOAA, Hawaii Wildlife Center (native birds & bats), Save our Shearwaters (native birds), Ke Kai Ola (monk seals), Maui Ocean Center and UH SeaGrant (turtles), and more.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comment.

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 12:34:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/21/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barry Ruff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB 573 as it provides critical support for all marine or terrestrial native wildlife care services from all activities that have a likelihood of injury to a native wildlife species and will ensure help is available when most needed! This bill will provide the vital missing funding for all of the organizations permitted to respond to native marine or terrestrial wildlife. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 2:00:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/21/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Huntmer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please show your support for our native wildlife by supporting SB 573. It provides critical support for all marine or terrestrial native wildlife care services from activities that have a likelihood of injury to a native wildlife species and will make sure help is there when it is needed. This bill provides crucial funding for all of the organizations permitted to respond to native marine or terrestrial wildlife. Thank you.

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 2:03:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/21/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Rustad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB573.

It is important that our state provide support to facilities capable of providing emergency medical and rehabilitation services to indigenous and endemic wildlife species. This is not required at present and should include not only funding for finding injured wildlife but also for rehabilitative care. Return to the wild requires funding both aspects and applies all agencies/organizations able to provide such care for species ranging from birds, to bats, to monk seals and turtles. Thank for your thoughtful consideration of this bill.

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 2:28:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/21/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cindy Granholm	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB573. It provides critical support for all ocean and earth-bound native wildlife care services from activities that are likely to cause injury to native wildlife species, and ensure that help is available when most needed. This bill will provide the vital missing funding for all of the permitted organizations to respond to native marine and terrestrial wildlife.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Cindy Granholm

Volcano, Hawaii

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 2:33:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/21/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caren Loebel-Fried	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in strong support of SB 573. Our marine and land-based native wildlife is in critical need of the care services from all activities that have a likelihood of injury to a native wildlife species.

And, it will ensure that help is available when most needed. This bill will provide the vital missing funding for all of the organizations permitted to respond to native marine or terrestrial wildlife.

Many thanks for your consideration.

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 3:45:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/21/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meredith Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Sample testimony:

I strongly support SB 573 as it provides critical support for all marine or terrestrial native wildlife care services from all activities that have a likelihood of injury to a native wildlife species and will ensure help is available when most needed! This bill will provide the vital missing funding for all of the organizations permitted to respond to native marine or terrestrial wildlife.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Meredith Miller, M.A.

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 4:53:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/21/2022 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill will help provide protection for our native wildlife and ensure that wildlife response facilities are ready when support is needed. Please advance SB573.

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 6:09:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/21/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
HANNAH MOON	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB 573 as it provides critical support for all marine or terrestrial native wildlife care services from all activities that have a likelihood of injury to a native wildlife species and will ensure help is available when most needed! This bill will provide the vital missing funding for all of the organizations permitted to respond to native marine or terrestrial wildlife. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 9:15:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/21/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lee Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB 573 as it provides critical support for all marine or terrestrial native wildlife care services from all activities that have a likelihood of injury to a native wildlife species and will ensure help is available when most needed! This bill will provide the vital missing funding for all of the organizations permitted to respond to native marine or terrestrial wildlife.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Lee Miller

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 7:08:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/21/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hob Osterlund	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

We stand in the strongest support of SB 573. It provides the critical support we need for our native wildlife services. Many activities in Hawaii carry a likelihood of injury to our struggling native species, and SB 573 will ensure help is available. SB 573 represents CRUCIAL missing funding for all the organizations which are permitted to assist native wildlife.

Mahalo for your wisdom and support of this vital Bill.

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 10:08:35 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/21/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jan Wizinowich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB 573 as it provides critical support for all marine or terrestrial native wildlife care services from all activities that have a likelihood of injury to a native wildlife species and will ensure help is available when most needed! This bill will provide the vital missing funding for all of the organizations permitted to respond to native marine or terrestrial wildlife. Mahalo for your

consideration.

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 10:12:01 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/21/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonnetta Peters	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi and Members of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

I am in support of SB 573 to provide support for response and care services for all native terrestrial and marine wildlife that have been subject to harm and/or injured. As a native Hawaiian who works to help preserve our native hawaiian environment and species, one of my goals is to help prevent further species from going on the endangered or extinction list. With the rising environmental and encroachment issues that put native animals at risk, it is crucial to provide such support when these species are harmed or injured. This bill will provide the missing link that is needed to help organizations give critical response and care for our native species to recover, thrive and have a better chance of survival. Please support this bill to help save native species. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Jonnetta Kaina Peters

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 11:13:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/21/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Barrett Fajardo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB 573 as it provides critical support for all marine or terrestrial native wildlife care services from all activities that have a likelihood of injury to a native wildlife species and will ensure help is available when most needed. This bill will provide the vital missing funding for all of the organizations permitted to respond to native marine or terrestrial wildlife. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 11:19:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/21/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruth Yender	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB573. This bill will address vital missing funding to support wildlife care organizations that provide critical services for injured native wildlife. The bill will ensure that all types of activities that are likely to injure native wildlife help support the permitted wildlife response organizations. It is only fair that all types of activities that can cause wildlife injury contribute to maintaining the services that help injured wildlife recover. Such support will ensure these valuable services remain available when they are most needed. As a professional oil spill responder, I have observed first-hand the value and critical importance of these wildlife response services in Hawaii.

I urge you to support this bill.

Mahalo,

Ruth Yender, Kailua Oahu

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 11:36:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/21/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Granholm	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am voicing my support of SB 573. It provides needed support to organizations that provide care when marine or terrestrial animals within an area are injured by activities that are likely to hurt our native wildlife. Funding will go to all of the organizations permitted to respond to requests for help for these injured animals

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 11:56:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/21/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynda Wallach	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB 573 as it provides critical support for all marine or terrestrial native wildlife care services from all activities that have a likelihood of injury to a native wildlife species and will ensure help is available when most needed! This bill will provide the vital missing funding for all of the organizations permitted to respond to native marine or terrestrial wildlife.

Mahalo for your consideration

Lynda Wallach

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 3:11:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/21/2022 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in support of SB 573. The State needs an adequate mechanism for responding to threats to one of our greatest natural resources-native wildlife. The Hawaii Wildlife Center performs the vital function of rescue and rehabilitation of native wildlife for the whole Hawaiian archipelago. Passage of SB 573 will insure adequate funding, without taxpayer expense, for Hawai'i Wildlife Center and other agencies to recontinue rescue and rehabilitation of our priceless native wildlife. Aloha, Pete Hendricks, Puukapu, Kamuela, Hawaii.

LATE

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 7:20:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/21/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsey Kramer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support SB 573 as it provides critical support for all marine and terrestrial native wildlife care services from all activities that have a likelihood of injury to a native wildlife species and will ensure that help is available when most needed! This bill will provide the vital missing funding for all of the organizations permitted to respond to native marine or terrestrial wildlife injuries.

Mahalo for your consideration of this important bill.

Lindsey Kramer

LATE

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 7:52:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/21/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Reynolds	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Hawaii's Legislators: I strongly support SB 573 as it provides critical support for protected marine and terrestrial native wildlife. It is vitally important that injured native and migratory wildlife have access to veterinarian and rehabilitation care services available for all activities that have a likelihood of injury to native bird and bat species. This will ensure critical care is available when needed! This bill will provide the vital missing funding for all of the organizations permitted to respond to native marine or terrestrial wildlife injuries and other wildlife health emergencies. Mahalo for your consideration of SB 573 to support professional native wildlife rehabilitation.

Michelle Reynolds, PhD

Wildlife Biologist

LATE

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 10:25:56 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/21/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candee Laine Ellsworth	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I would like to write in to support SB573 SD 1. This is a very important measure that I believe should be considered. Habitat restoration and conservation is many nuanced. Many native wildlife populations throughout Hawaii are critically imperiled and every single organism is important to preserving healthy population genetics for the future of these populations. Having worked in the field of wildlife conservation and wildlife rehabilitation for over 20 years, I know that the resources needed to care for injured animals need to be on-hand, clean, well-organized and up-to-date, and you must also have staff that is well-trained and available. Wildlife rehabilitation professionals are exactly that, professionals, and they deserve to be compensated for their time, education, and expertise. The organizations that commit to this work, Like Hawaii Wildlife Center and Ke Kai Ola, need to be able to thrive and for their work to be respected. When there is an emergency, we want them to be prepared and able to serve, in order to do so they need to be supported. Without on-going support that they can count on, they may not be able to fulfill these needs. What is a good habitat without healthy wildlife populations residing within? Wildlife rehabilitators are just as critical to conservation and habitat preservation as the other professionals and organizations working to restore and protect. I believe that having the on-going support that this bill intends to deliver will help them and in turn help the state.

Mahalo for your time and dedication to the communities you serve,

Candee Ellsworth

LATE

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 1:11:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/21/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Lamson Leatherman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in FULL SUPPORT on bill (SB573 SD1). I strongly support SB573 as it provides critical support for all marine or terrestrial native wildlife care services from all activities that have a likelihood of injury to a native wildlife species and will ensure help is available when most needed! This bill will provide the vital missing funding for all of the organizations permitted to respond to native marine or terrestrial wildlife. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Best,

Megan Lamson Leatherman, M. Sc.

Honalo, North Kona