

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**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
WATER & LAND**

**Tuesday, March 15, 2022
8:30 AM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 430, 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

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 10:53:45 PM

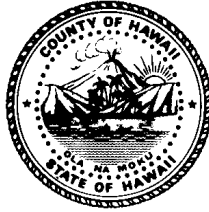
Testimony for WAL on 3/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Afsheen Siddiqi	DLNR	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

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

County of Hawai'i
Council District 9 -
North and South Kohala



Phone: (808) 961-8564
(808) 887-2069
Email: tim.richards@hawaiicounty.gov

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 13, 2022

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Patrick Pihana Branco, Vice Chair
House Committee on Water & Land
via online transmission only

RE: SB 573 SD1
Hearing Date: March 15, 2022

Aloha Chair Tarnas and Vice Chair Branco:

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



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 WATER & LAND

DATE: Tuesday, Mar. 15, 2022

TIME: 8:30 A.M.

PLACE: Via Videoconference

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

To the honorable Representative Tarnas, Chair, Representative Branco, 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 turtles.**

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 13, 2022

COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Patrick Pihana Branco, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 8:30am

Conference Room 430

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

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

Aloha Chair Tarnas 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 and 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

1188 Bishop Street, Suite 2412

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

(808) 284-0007

MPhillips@biologicaldiversity.org

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 9:25:55 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberley Greeson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear honorable Representative Tarnas, Chair, Representative Branco, Vice-Chair and members of the committee:

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

I strongly urge you to move SB573 forward.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kimberley Greeson

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 10:22:16 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support SB573 for the protection of Hawaii's wildlife.

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 5:55:08 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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 sea turtles.

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 8:03:18 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill as it provides critical support for 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!

Mahalo for your consideration.

Lee Miller

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 8:10:47 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill as it provides critical support for 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!

Mahalo for your consideration.

Meredith Miller, M.A.

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 5:38:45 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou, please know how strongly I support this bill. It gives critical support for 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!

Mahalo for your consideration.

On behalf of our native critters, please vote YES!

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 12:45:40 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill as it provides critical support for 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! Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 4:41:33 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill providing critical support for native wildlife care services from activities that have a likelihood of injury to native wildlife species, and will ensure help is available when most needed. Mahalo for your consideration.

Cindy Granholm

Volcano, Hawaii

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 4:42:27 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support passage of SB573.

This bill will help ensure support for critical native wildlife care services from all types of activities that are likely to injure them. As a professional oil spill responder, I can attest to the importance and value of these critical services for our native wildlife. It is only fair that all type of activities with potential to injure native wildlife contribute to supporting the rescuse services that treat and rehabilitate affected animals. This bill will help ensure these critical care services for injured Hawaiian native wildlife are available when they are needed.

I urge you to pass this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Ruth Yender, Kailua

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 4:48:09 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB573

It is important that, as required by SB573, habitat conservation plans include an agreement for plan participants to maintain annual service contracts with a response facility available and capable of providing emergency medical and rehabilitation services to indigenous and endemic wildlife species affected by activities in the scope of the plan. 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.

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 9:18:11 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Breeden	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Wildlife should have access to quality medical care and the people providing that care should have the resources needed to make that happen.

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 5:42:49 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Water and Land Committee Members, Please help protectour native wildlife by passing this bill which makes sure that developments that are likely to injure or kill endangered wildlife pay to look after birds and bats when they are injured. It is logical that developers pay to have these services provided as part of their mitigation efforts. Thank you.

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 6:59:54 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
REBECCA H. COLVIN	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in **strong support** of SB 573.

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. Currently, 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 necessary 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 turtles.**



Save Our Shearwaters

Testimony of MOLLY BACHE

Program Coordinator; Save Our Shearwaters

Before the Senate Committee on WATER & LAND

Tuesday, March 15th, 2022 8:30 AM State Capitol, Via Videoconference

In consideration of SENATE BILL 573 SD 1; RELATING TO WILDLIFE

Dear Senators:


Thank you for the opportunity to submit comment on SB 573 SD1. **I am in strong support of this bill.**


The passing of SB 573 SD 1 would help ensure that native species involved with a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) have permitted, professionally staffed, wildlife response resources available when needed. This amendment would help ensure the viability of permitted wildlife rehabilitation services without having to utilize the State's limited budget.


It's important that HCPs incorporate the resources necessary to support these endemic and endangered species through the stages of rehabilitative care. HCP requirements have remained grey in regard to funding the care of applicable wildlife from the point of admission. The introduction of annual service contracts would provide reassurance to both the HCP participant and wildlife response service. Funding support would help ensure that wildlife response remains operational and available year-round, benefitting both parties. This could also open the door for more collaboration on participant staff training, which has been requested in the past but was often not feasible due to limited resources.

The resources that wildlife response and rehabilitation require need to be acknowledged and allocated within Hawai'i's HCPs. This is the only way to ensure that response services are prepared to fulfill the needs of participants. Supportive funds will be necessary as development (light attraction, collisions, habitat destruction), climate change (Avian Botulism, low foraging success, loss of nesting habitats), and other factors continue to threaten native species populations statewide.

The Save Our Shearwaters (SOS) Program was initiated by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources/Division of Forestry and Wildlife in 1979 to respond to the annual grounding

 P.O Box 1725
Lihue, HI 96766

 SOS Hotline
(808) 635-5117

 molly@saveourshearwaters.org

of hundreds of light-attracted fledgling shearwaters and petrels. Since initiation, volunteers and residents have collected more than 35,000 downed birds— 90% of which recovered and were released back to the wild. SOS is a federal and state permitted entity that has evolved into a year-round rehabilitation effort for all native species.

It's important to note that the SOS Program would not exist today without the type of funding proposed in this amendment. Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) has provided the large majority of Program funding since 2005, which allows us to remain operational and responding to native wildlife in need 365 days a year. Developing annual service contracts with additional HCP participants would be more equitable, as the Program has grown to support listed and non-listed species and KIUC's current level of funding provides overhead for both. We have a contract with the State Department of Land and Natural Resources and grant funds to support birds admitted from Federal lands but diversifying our funding sources further would lower the financial impact of a service that benefits the island as a whole.

The SOS Program maintains high-quality care for the rehabilitation of Kaua'i's native birds in need, from capture to release. SB 573 SD 1 would help ensure that our indigenous, endemic, and other susceptible wildlife have timely medical support should the need arise, without raising taxes or requiring State funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Sincerely,



Molly Bache
Program Coordinator
Save Our Shearwaters

SB-573-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 7:47:07 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/15/2022 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill as it provides critical support for Hawaiian native wildlife in the form of first aid and veterinarian, and rehabilitation care services from all activities that have a likelihood to injure and harm native wildlife species (endemic, endangered, and migratory). Supporting this bill will ensure wildlife rescue and rehabilitation is available when most needed!

Mahalo for your consideration.

MH Reynolds