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LAND  
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Thursday, April 14, 2022  
9:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325, Via Videoconference

In consideration of  
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 107  
URGING THE STATE AND EACH COUNTY TO ADOPT THE GLOBAL PACT  
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT TO ACHIEVE THE UNITED NATIONS PARIS  
AGREEMENT AND THE 2030 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA, AND TO SPECIFICALLY  
ADOPT THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS,  
NUMBERS 13 THROUGH 17.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 107 urges the State and each county to adopt the global pact for the environment to achieve the United Nations Paris Agreement and the 2030 development agenda, and to specifically adopt the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Numbers 13 through 17. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure as it complements ongoing Department initiatives.**

Goal 13: By reforesting grasslands under the jurisdiction of the Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife alone, the State could sequester five billion tons of carbon from the atmosphere. Native forests also mitigate climate change by keeping the islands cooler, protecting our reefs from being smothered by runoff, protecting communities from the impacts from storm events and natural disasters through storm-water mitigation and absorption, and efficiently collecting rainwater for our aquifers. Increased capacity for marine management will also help mitigate climate change through invasive species and reef restoration projects.

The work of the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) addresses equity issues. Working with the State Office of Planning's Sustainability Coordinator, the City and County of Honolulu's Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency Office, and the other county sustainability officers, as well as on a national level with the 18-Governor United States Climate Alliance, the Commission's focus is on resilience and clean energy. The

commission proposes to develop a technical assistance program for state and county agencies dealing with vulnerability to climate impacts (especially sea level rise) and provide coordination and support clean transportation options. These strategies resonate with the proposed measure's intent to help Hawaii achieve its energy, climate change, and sustainability goals.

Goal 14: A comprehensive marine plan is needed to conserve and sustain Hawaii's ocean and marine resources by implementation of statewide management actions, including:

- fisheries management to improve nearshore ecosystems, ensure responsible use, and sustainably manage key food fish species;
- development of a statewide network of priority areas for effective management of at least 30% of Hawaii's nearshore waters, working collaboratively with local stakeholders to identify management options appropriate for each place;
- encouragement of responsible behavior through voluntary compliance and enforcement of rules related to nearshore fisheries and ecosystems;
- prevention of marine pollution, and the prioritization of monitoring and data analysis to inform adaptive management.

Goal 15 is core to the Department's terrestrial mission to ensure the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, and cultural and historic resources, in partnership with others from the public and private sectors.

Goal 17: *Strengthen the means of implementation* speaks to the need to bring resources to bear for the work. The Department has been working to leverage funding for conservation actions, including building partnerships to help manage and steward Hawaii's natural resources, and is currently exploring a public-private partnership for a voluntary carbon offset/credit program that would fund improved forest management and the reforestation of grassland areas on Maui and Hawaii islands.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**SCR-107**

Submitted on: 4/13/2022 7:31:09 AM

Testimony for EEP on 4/14/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leah Laramee	DLNR	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

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

**SCR-107**

Submitted on: 4/12/2022 9:21:09 AM

Testimony for EEP on 4/14/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Climate Protectors Hawai'i **STRONGLY SUPPORTS!**

In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the historic "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (2030 Development Agenda), which is a comprehensive, compassionate, creative, and courageous plan of action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. In December 2015, parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, also known as Conference of the Parties, adopted the Paris Agreement that further limited the allowable temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius to protect our Pacific neighbors. Hawai'i continues to partner with other states, territories, and nation-states with the "We Are Still In" movement.

The Global Pact for the Environment (Global Pact) is an initiative led by the hosts of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris to address the fragmented nature and inconsistent implementation of international environmental law. The United Nations sustainable development goals, especially goals 13 through 17, are vital to protecting the State's land and people and should be adopted as local policy and governing principles for local government entities and other organizations. Goals 13 through 17 of the United Nations sustainable development goals are the following, respectively: (1) Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; (2) Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development; (3) Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss; (4) Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels; and (5) Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

As provided in this Concurrent Resolution, the State and counties should adopt the Global Pact for the environment to achieve the United Nations Paris Agreement and the 2030 Development Agenda, and specifically adopt the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Numbers 13 through 17.

As a tropical island State, Hawai'i will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, food insecurity, droughts, fires, loss of protective coral reefs, and rising sea levels destroying our shorelines. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become carbon negative as soon as possible. Hawai'i can and should be a leader in

showing the world the way forward towards a safe and sustainable climate and future. The sooner we inspire others to take action and lead by example, the better off the future will be for our keiki.

**Please adopt this Concurrent Resolution to help Hawaii lead in showing the world the way forward towards a safe and sustainable climate and future!**

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)



To: The House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection  
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org  
Date: Thursday, April 14, 2022, 9am

### **In strong support of SCR107**

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Energy and Environmental Protection Committee members,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. **350Hawaii.org strongly supports SCR107.** This resolution urges the state and each county to adopt the Global Pact for the Environment to achieve the United Nations (UN) Paris Agreement and the 2030 Development Agenda, and to specifically adopt the UN Sustainable Development Goals, numbers 13 through 17, which includes **taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.**

350Hawaii strongly supports the objectives of the Global Pact for the Environment, an ambitious treaty on the environment at the UN that aims to enshrine a new generation of fundamental rights related to the protection of the environment, and in particular, the right to a healthy environment. Healthy environments, including climate, are currently not recognized and protected as inalienable rights and given constitutional recognition and protection. As such, protecting these basic human needs becomes an afterthought in government decision making, and sometimes is not considered at all. The health of the environment and environmental impacts should be considered first, at the start of planning, decision making, and regulating. We all need clean water and air, a healthy environment and climate to live healthy, long and good quality lives.

Last month an ice shelf the size of New York City collapsed in East Antarctica, an area long thought to be stable and not hit much by climate change. The collapse marked the first time in human history that the frigid region had an ice shelf collapse. It happened during a record heat wave last week when temperatures soared more than 70 degrees (40 degrees Celsius) warmer than normal in some spots of East Antarctica. This is just one more clear sign our climate system is collapsing, and faster than we realized.

Scientists have made clear, if we are to address the climate emergency, we need to take bold and immediate action. An emergency is a serious situation that requires immediate action. Last year this legislature became the first in the nation to officially and rightfully declare a climate emergency. Yet action on climate since then has not been at the scale and speed required to match the crisis we face. We must step up our actions to fight climate breakdown, and we need to do so in earnest.

Scientists have declared that the decade we are in right now is one of the most consequential decades for our climate future. **Children living today will live to see a 1.5°C warmer world because of the**

**failure of adults to take real action when there still was time to do so.** In the words of a young climate activist who was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, Greta Thunberg:

“Blah, blah, blah. This is all we hear from our so-called leaders. Words that sound great but so far have led to no action. Our hopes and dreams drown in their empty words and promises.”

Let Hawaii show Greta, her generation, and the world what true leadership means as we forge the way forward towards a safe and sustainable climate and future. The sooner we inspire others to take action and lead by example, the better off the future will be for our children.

Sherry Pollack  
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

**SCR-107**

Submitted on: 4/13/2022 9:00:07 AM

Testimony for EEP on 4/14/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joshua L Cooper	Hawai'i Institute for Human Rights	Support	In Person

Comments:

I am honored to participate and present testimony in favor of Hawai'i serving as a leader in the field of sustainable development, human rights and climate justice.

The Global Pact for Environment adds to the ability for aloha to guide global public policy. Hawai'i should continue to participate in the campaign for human and earth rights together.

Hawai'i first recognized the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recognizing the spiritual and familial relationship between humanity and our planet. Hawai'i has continued to match the promises with policies and practices to Malama Honua.

Hawai'i recently was the first U.S. state to declare a climate emergency recognizing the fragility and fortitude of our islands. Hawai'i is experiencing multiple impacts of the climate crisis and therefore taking necessary actions to change course and remove fossil fuels from our energy diet. With the daily news of impacts on island earth, we must accelerate actions for a fossil free future.

An endorsement of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty is consistent with our previous commitment from Hawai'i to the UN 2030 Agenda and the UNFCCC Paris Agreement.

We look forward to continue partnering with fellow civil society and the state to guarantee the UN Sustainable Development Goals for the people of Hawai'i and Moananuiakea.

Maluhia Me Ka Pono

Joshua Cooper





HAWAI'I FOREST INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (HFIA)

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**Date:** 4/12/22

**TO:** EEP Chair Nicole Lowen, EEP Vice Chair Lisa Martin, EEP Representatives Mark Hashem, Scot Matayoshi, Amy Perruso, Chris Todd, James Kunane Tokioka, Lauren Matsumoto

**FROM:** Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA)

**SUBJECT:** Testimony in Support of SCR107-Urging the state and counties to adopt the global pact for the environment

Dear Hawaii Legislators,

On behalf of the Directors of the Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA), this testimony is in support of SCR107. HFIA encourages you to support SCR107 and urge the state and counties to adopt the Global Pact for the Environment, with a specific focus on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) numbers 15 through 17.

HFIA's mission and goal is to promote healthy and productive forests. The United Nations Sustainable Development goals indirectly help us do this, just as the work that we do indirectly helps to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Specifically, SDG 15 reads "Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss". HFIA's efforts primarily focus on sustainably managing forest resources, however, doing so inherently works to achieve all other components of SDG 15.

More broadly, the state and each county adopting the Global Pact for Environment to achieve the United Nations Paris Agreement and the 2030 Development Agenda will be good for Hawaii's land and resources as well as good for the people of Hawaii. The Pact consists of numerous articles and ideas that are intended to promote the intersection of human rights, environmental law, the intent to create a more coherent global environmental governance and a recognition of the need to fulfill our responsibility to future generations.

We hope that you will support this resolution and work to create a more environmentally sound and sustainable environment globally and for the people of Hawaii and Hawaii's resources moving forward.

Mahalo,

*Don Bryan*

Don Bryan, President  
Hawai'i Forest Industry Association

*Established in 1989, HFIA's is a nonprofit organization founded by people committed to sustainable forest management. HFIA's mission is to promote healthy and productive forests and a sustainable forest industry through management, education, planning, information exchange, and advocacy. HFIA has over 100 members including woodworkers, landowners, sawyers, foundations, foresters, growers, educators, environmentalists, architects, millers, ranchers, and others interested in HFIA's mission and goals.*

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