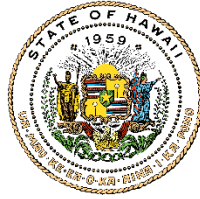


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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LAND  
STATE PARKS

Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on  
FINANCE

Tuesday, February 28, 2023  
10:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 308, Via Videoconference

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 952, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill 952, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to address the impacts of climate change in the State. **The Department strongly supports this measure.**

Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources provide our drinking water and sustain all life on our islands, are huge economic assets and prime attractions of our tourism industry, support the well-being, health, and identity of our communities and are both severely impacted by climate change and provide the State with it's only carbon sink. A University of Hawai'i study examined the various services provided by O'ahu's Ko'olau forests - including drinking water recharge, flood prevention, water quality, carbon storage, biodiversity, cultural, aesthetic, recreational, and commercial values. These services were calculated to have a net present value of between \$7.4 and \$14 billion. Coral reefs – the first line of defense to large ocean swells - annually protect \$836 million in averted damages to property and economic activity in Hawai'i. Despite the value of our forests and oceans, Hawai'i invests less than 1% of the total state budget into maintaining these assets.

The Department is severely under-funded, and therefore the Department has limited capacity to address the many challenges currently facing Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources, as problems are exacerbated by more frequent and intense storms and periods of draught and high wildfire risk. While the Department is committed to seeking funds from a variety of non-state sources, the majority of federal grants have matching requirements (typically 20% or more), which the Department cannot meet given its limited base budget. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) includes a variety of climate-specific

programs and funding opportunities. However, without adequate state funding, the Department will continue to struggle to apply for non-State and federal grants.

Additional funding provided by this bill can be used as much needed match to apply for federal grants made available by the BIL and other sources, with the goal to leverage state dollars 1:1. Providing additional funding to the Department will allow the Department to increase capacity and expand actions to protect more of the State's natural and cultural trust resources and enhance our resilience to climate change. The time is now to build Hawai'i's resilience, reduce threat and risk to the safety and health of our communities throughout the state, and protect and care for our lands and waters that protect and care for all in Hawai'i. We ask you to please support this measure.

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



# ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAI‘I

## Legislative Testimony

### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

By

Charles “Chip” Fletcher, PhD  
Dean, School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

And

Darren T. Lerner, PhD  
Director, Sea Grant College Program,  
School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

And

Michael Bruno, Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

#### HB 952 HD1 – RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) and the Climate Resilience Collaborative (CRC) **support House Bill 952 HD1.**

This measure appropriates funds to the department of land and natural resources to address the impacts of climate change in the State.

Hawai'i Sea Grant's mission is to provide integrated research, extension, and education activities that increase understanding and use of ocean and coastal resources of the Hawaiian and Pacific Islands and support the informed personal, policy, and management decisions that are integral to realizing this vision. Hawai'i Sea Grant is part of a national network of 34 university-based programs associated with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that promote better understanding, conservation, and use of coastal resources.

CRC is a multi-investigator research project at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa focused on sea level rise adaptation and climate resilience. CRC is working to update coastal models with more recent projections of sea level rise and to take account of other variables that impact Hawai'i's shorelines.

Hawai'i Sea Grant and CRC would be happy to provide updated sea level rise data and projections to the Committee or any lawmaker upon request.

**Hawai'i Sea Grant and the Climate Resilience Collaborative support the intent of House Bill 952 HD1.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy  
Supporting HB 952 HD1, Relating to Natural Resources.**

**Committee on Finance  
February 28, 2023, 10:00 am  
Conference Room 308 via Videoconference**

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

**The Nature Conservancy (TNC) supports HB 952 HD1, Relating Natural Resources**, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to address the impacts of climate change in the State.

Hawai'i's environment is the engine that drives our economy and a natural, recreational, and cultural treasure that supports our island lifestyle and livelihoods. At the same time, our native forests and nearshore reefs and fisheries are threatened by stresses including drought, overuse, sedimentation, and invasive species, all of which are exacerbated by climate change. DLNR is charged with protecting our natural environment, and climate change continues to increase the needs for funding to meet the Department's mission.

TNC works to protect and manage the natural systems that sequester carbon, provide our fresh water, and protect our coastlines; all of which reduce the impacts of climate change. However, to fully address the growing impacts of our changing climate, we need bold action. Nature can play a vital role in pulling carbon out of the atmosphere and making our islands and oceans more resilient, but we need to support nature and fund the management of our key ecosystems. This bill will help to support those efforts with complementary efforts through DLNR. The bill will also help to take advantage of Federal programs which require matching funds.

As Hawai'i and the world continues to face the impacts of climate change, support for sustained funding at a scale to meet the needs for conservation and management will be necessary for future generations to benefit from the natural resources that we and past generations have. It is our kuleana to care for the resources to pass on to the future. This bill will help to fulfill that kuleana.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 952 HD1.

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*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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**HB-952-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 8:42:02 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
laurel brier	Kauai Climate Action Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support for DLNR being able to continue its important work to help mitigate and respond to climate crisis and environmental degradation



Environmental Caucus of  
The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

## Energy & Climate Action Committee

Tuesday, February 28, 2023, 10:00 am

House Committee on Finance

HOUSE BILL 952 – RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES

Position: Strong Support

Me ke Aloha, Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

HB952 Appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to address the impacts of climate change.

The entire purpose of the Energy & Climate Action Committee and the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party is to embrace critical environmental issues facing Hawaii in search of solutions, particularly in the face of generally inadequate budgetary support for environmental issues. As is perpetually pointed out, DLNR receives about 1% of the State budget for its enormous responsibilities. The same is true for the Department of Agriculture and Department of Health.

We are now blessed with a most remarkable national initiative to augment previous initiatives on this front, with potentially billions coming our islands for remediating the challenges. These initiatives depend on matching funds from beneficiary States. Happily, many agencies have seen this possibility coming and have been preparing the most effective and most efficient applications they can.

The Committee and the Caucus, along with a clear majority in the Legislature and across the various executive agencies and non-governmental organizations, wholeheartedly support this bill, supporting the most generous contributions possible under a State budgetary surplus.

Mahalo for the opportunity to address this matter.

/s/ Charley Ice & Ted Bohlen, Co-Chairs, Energy and Climate Action Committee  
Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party

**HB-952-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 8:21:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Zhizi Xiong	CARES Community Advocacy Research Education Services	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

CARES testifies in strong support.



**HB-952-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2023 11:35:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor

**HB-952-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2023 2:33:06 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The effects of climate change, including sea level rise and coral bleaching & death, on Hawaii are accelerating. To minimize damage we need to start addressing these as soon as possible. I recommed passage of HB952 with a substantial allocation for the DLNR to address these issues.

**HB-952-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2023 11:16:30 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Matthew Geyer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT HB 952

We need to start working now to prepare Hawaii for the upcoming impacts of climate change that are already unavoidable, while at the same time doing what we can to make sure the problem doesn't end up being much worse.

**HB-952-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 9:00:48 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Franny Kinslow Brewer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our natural resources in Hawai'i are precious on every level. DLNR is already severely underfunded to care for the resources that we have, let alone take on the additional threats posed by climate change. This funding is absolutely necessary. Please show your support for our 'aina by voting for this funding!

**HB-952-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 8:47:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Wast of time and Tax payer Moneys!!!