

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

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
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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

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Tuesday, March 14, 2023
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

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

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

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

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
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TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023
ROOM 325
9:30 A.M.

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

Chairperson Lowen and Members of the Committee:

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

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

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



Josh Green
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

Co-Chairs:
Chair, DLNR
Director, OPSD

Commissioners:
Chair, Senate AEN
Chair, Senate WTL
Chair, House EEP
Chair, House WAL
Chairperson, HTA
Chairperson, DOA
CEO, OHA
Chairperson, DHHL
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Director, DOT
Director, DOH
Chairperson, DOE
Director, C+C DPP
Director, Maui DP
Director, Hawaii DP
Director, Kauai DP
The Adjutant General
Manager, CZM

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

Before the House Committees on
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

9:30 AM

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 325

In support of
Senate Bill 419 SD1
RELATING TO CARBON SEQUESTRATION

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

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

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

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

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

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



HAWAII FOREST INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (HFIA)

P. O. Box 66 ❖ 'O'ōkala, HI
96774 Phone: 808-933-9411
Email: hfia@hawaiiiforest.org
Website: www.hawaiiiforest.org

Date: 03/10/2023

TO: EEP Chair Lowen, EEP Vice Chair Cochran, FIN Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, EEP and FIN Committee Members

FROM: the Hawaii Forest Industry Association (HFIA)

SUBJECT: In Support of SB419 Relating to Carbon Sequestration

Dear Chair Lowen and Chair Yamashita and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Directors and members of the Hawaii Forest Industry Association (HFIA), please support SB419 SD1 Relating to Carbon Sequestration.

HFIA is made up of individuals, small businesses and corporations throughout the state of Hawaii with an array of professional expertise. Twenty percent of our membership consists of landowners, land managers, conservationists, field laborers, tree planters, or others in “green” professions. These members regularly participate in restoration/conservation, and therefore carbon sequestration, efforts on their properties or as a part of their employment, on a variety of scales. Residents across the state are engaging in similar work and compensation for such work would not only be appreciated but would also help those residents to continue to do the good work they are doing as well as incentivize others to do the same.

A joint effort of managing our forest and agricultural lands, between public and private parties, is much needed and the Hawaii Carbon Smart Land Management Assistance Pilot Program is movement in the right direction. Please support SB419 SD1.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

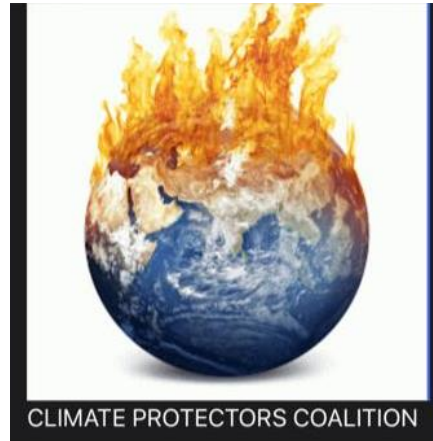
Guy Cellier, Acting President

Hawaii 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 120 members including woodworkers, landowners, sawyers, foundations, foresters, growers, educators, environmentalists, architects, millers, ranchers, and others interested in HFIA's mission and goals.

HFIA Board of Directors

Officers: Acting President/Vice-President Guy Cellier, Secretary Peter D. Simmons, Treasurer Wade Lee
Directors: Thomas Calhoun, Jeremy Campbell, Aaron Hammer, Nickolas Koch, Tai Lake, Michael Sowards, Irene Sprecher, Michael Tam, Jorma Winkler, Ron Wolfe, Aileen Yeh



To: The Honorable Chair Nicole Lowen, Vice-chair Elle Cochran, and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment

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

Re: Hearing **SB419 SD1 RELATING TO CARBON SEQUESTRATION**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 9:30 a.m. CR325

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and members of the Committee:

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawai'i STRONGLY SUPPORT SB419 SD1 with an appropriation of \$1 million.

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (HIROC) is a group of scientists, educators, filmmakers and environmental advocates who have been working since 2017 to protect Hawaii's coral reefs and ocean. HIROC supports better land stewardship to reduce runoff that harms the reefs and ocean, as well as policies to mitigate the climate crisis and resulting sea level rise.

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i seeks to educate and engage the local community in climate change action, to help Hawai'i show the world the way back to a safe and stable climate. Climate Protectors Hawai'i urges carbon smart policies to mitigate the climate crisis.

The Earth is heading toward a climate catastrophe because humans have put too much carbon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. There is 50% more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere than before the Industrial Age. According to NASA, after carbon dioxide is emitted, it stays in the atmosphere for 300 to 1,000 years. Climate change has led to an increase in the frequency of extreme weather events, which puts greater stress on the State's vulnerable food supply chain and water supplies.

Clearly, Hawaii needs to do more to mitigate the climate crisis! We need to cut emissions from burning carbon and reduce methane and other greenhouse gas releases to the atmosphere. But, we also need to sequester atmospheric greenhouse gases.

Regenerative agriculture and forest preservation are within the realm of carbon sequestration, and funding should be provided to encourage them. Payment-for-services programs that improve soil health and are carbon-positive can help restore, maintain, and improve landscape soil health and water security. These programs would allow small farmers, ranchers, foresters, and landowners and lessees to be compensated for taking measures to help Hawaii reach its climate readiness goals. This bill incentivizes nature-based actions that improve soil health and sequester carbon resulting in a rich and diverse landscape of soil health and water security.

This bill is among many that should be passed to mitigate climate change so that the Earth can remain livable for ourselves and future generations.

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawai'i **STRONGLY SUPPORT** this bill for better land stewardship through carbon smart policies.

We ask that the Committee **restore the \$1 million appropriation** contained in the original bill and companion bill HB188.

Please pass this bill with that funding amendment! Mahalo!

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



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

EEP_03-14-23 9:00AM SB 419 Carbon

TO: THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Rep. Elle Cochran, Vice Chair

CONCERNING: SB 419 SD1 (SSCR 929) RELATING TO CARBON SEQUESTRATION

ALOHA Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and embers of the Committee

The Environmental Caucus has an enrolled membership of more than 7,000 politically active Hawaii voters and we support this bill.

The Environmental Caucus believes that we must do everything we can to remove carbon from the atmosphere and get it back into the earth. We do not yet have any technology which can do that but we must start somewhere and this bill is a step in the right direction.

Perhaps the legislature will eventually also look to increase planting fast growing trees which can absorb carbon dioxide and expel oxygen as they were always designed to do.

In addition the legislature should reexamine any bills which allow Carbon emissions to be dumped into the air as an integral part of any enterprise. The legislature should take steps to stop such enterprises until and unless they have way to capture the carbon before it gets into the air and dispose of it safely.

You can begin by passing SB 419.

Thank you

Martha E Randolph,
SCC Representative for the Environmental Caucus
And on behalf of the Environmental Caucus



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State President

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Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Ray Maki
Kauai

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and Members of the House Energy & Environmental Protection Committee,

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF



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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 14, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

TESTIMONY ON SB 419, SD1
RELATING TO CARBON SEQUESTRATION

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Cochran, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 419, SD1, which appropriates funds for the Hawaii carbon smart land management assistance pilot program to incentivize carbon sequestration activities through incentive contracts that provide compensation for eligible practices by program participants.

- Agricultural lands and operations already have a significant role in sequestering carbon. The program hopes to promote additional sequestration through the voluntary participation of landowners/lessees of agricultural land who would be compensated to undertake certain stipulated practices. It will be particularly important that these practices are science and evidence-based and that participation in the program makes agronomic and economic sense.
- The program highlights the need for State agricultural leases to be transferred from the DLNR (where they are relatively short-term, and otherwise less supportive leases or revocable permits) to the DOA where appropriate lease terms allow long-term planning, investments, and participation in forward-thinking beneficial programs such as this one.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments and thank you for your continued support of Hawai'i's agricultural community.



Citizens' Climate Lobby

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Cochran, and Members of the EEP Committee:

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

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

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

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

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

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

SB-419-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 5:49:06 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/14/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Members of the EEP Committee

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

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

Hawaii Farm land has been impacted by farming methods that depleted the soil of nutrients, organic matter and soil structure needed to promote beneficial soil microbes. Farmers want better land management but it takes time, training and money and they have little of those. This pilot program is an opportunity to help land owners be part of the future of a healthy soil environment in Hawaii - a legacy they can pass on to the next generation.

Even with the current state of much of the farm land I support Hawaii's farmers by purchasing local produce. It's still tastier, fresher and more nutritious than imported produce. With improved land management the produce and yields will improve and increase.

I urge you to pass SB419.

Mahalo,

Virginia Tincher, Oahu

SB-419-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 9:34:24 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/14/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support

SB-419-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 1:10:44 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/14/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of SD1. Thank you.

SB-419-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 8:15:10 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/14/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and committee members,

I'm in support of SB419 SD1.

Thank you,
Noel Morin
Climate, Sustainability, and Resilience Advocate
Hilo, Hawaii

SB-419-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 8:31:49 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/14/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and Members of the EEP Committee,

I am in full **support of SB419.**

The role of improved farming and agriculture methods is one key (of many) needed to reduce Hawaii's GHG emissions.

This program could have far reaching impacts including for our South Pacific cousins in Aotearoa -New Zealand, where agricultural emissions (primarily methane) constitute almost half of that countries total GHG emissions.

The program would allow Hawaii's small farmers, ranchers, foresters, and landowners and lessees to be compensated for taking measures to help Hawaii reach its climate readiness goals. Now is the time to fund it!

Thank you for your consideration, Ron Reilly

SB-419-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 9:01:47 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/14/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Geyer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for hearing SB419, and please support any measure that helps Hawaii sequester carbon in a way that is beneficial to our shared environment.

Mahalo

SB-419-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 10:32:13 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/14/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Carbon sequestration is one of those current green washing schemes that does nothing. Please do not waste our money and resources on it. Please oppose this bill. Mahalo.