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STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
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ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Testimony of  
DAWN N.S. CHANG  
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
and  
WATER AND LAND

Wednesday, February 7, 2024  
3:00 PM

Via Video Conference, State Capitol, Conference Room 225

In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 2162  
RELATING TO THE CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

Senate Bill 2162 proposes to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources to pursue and obtain accreditation for the Conservation and Resources Enforcement Program from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. and appropriates funding. **The Department supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request, and that sufficient additional funds are provided.**

In 2009, the Department's Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) participated in the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) formal accreditation process. The past effort was stymied by the amount of funding needed to implement the standards, and frustration encountered with consultation of new policies with the employee union. Due to these issues, continuing the accreditation effort was not feasible.

The Department is open to participating in the CALEA accreditation process. Participation will require appropriate amounts of additional funding, potentially millions of dollars, needed for equipment purchases, training and possibly for capital improvements to DOCARE facilities to meet CALEA's standards. Additional annual funding will also be needed to maintain formal participation and affiliation with CALEA.

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



Testimony Before The  
Senate Committee on Water and Land (WTL)  
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental And Military Affairs (PSM)  
**IN SUPPORT OF SB2162**  
February 7, 2024, 3:00PM, Room 225

We are Olan Leimomi Fisher and Kevin Chang, Kua'āina Advocate and Executive Director, respectively, testifying on behalf of [Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo \(or KUA\)](#). "Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo" stands for "grassroots growing through shared responsibility," and our acronym "KUA" means "backbone." **Our mission is to connect and empower communities to improve their quality of life through the collective care for their biocultural (natural and cultural) heritage, serving as a "backbone organization" that supports creative and community-driven solutions to problems stemming from environmental degradation.** Hawai'i's biocultural resources continue to be negatively impacted by political, economic, and social changes, and the increasing dangers of climate change make fostering and empowering resilient communities acutely critical.

Currently KUA supports three major networks of: (1) almost 40 mālama 'āina (caring for our 'āina or "that which feeds") community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together); (2) over 60 loko i'a (fishpond aquaculture systems unique to Hawai'i) and wai 'ōpae (anchialine pool systems) sites in varying stages of restoration and development, with numerous caretakers, stakeholders, and volunteers known as the Hui Mālama Loko I'a ("caretakers of fishponds"); and (3) the Limu Hui made up of over 50 loea (traditional experts) and practitioners in all things "limu" or locally-grown "seaweed." Our shared vision is to once again experience what our kūpuna (ancestors) referred to as **'āina momona** – abundant and healthy ecological systems that sustain our community resilience and well-being.

**KUA supports SB2162 as an incremental step towards 'āina momona.**

This bill would appropriate funds to the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR-DOCARE) "to require the department of land and natural resources to seek and obtain accreditation for the conservation and resources enforcement program from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc."

A large number of our network members partner with DOCARE officers through growing community-based co-management initiatives from mauka to makai. These DOCARE officers are often the first representation community members face from DLNR. Some wahi pana (significant places) have become well-known for their absence of almost any DOCARE presence – largely due to inadequate training resources and capacity. A bill like this, which we urge you to support, and the growing DOCARE Academy we hope you continue to support, are beginning to fill that gap. With the recent graduating class of over 40 officers, so far we have heard only praise and gratitude from our community members with DOCARE's increased presence and effectiveness throughout our state. Assuming they continue to be given all the resources they need, this

nationally recognized certification will only improve the skill and quality of the officers in our community. The expertise and skills objectively determined through certification can influence perception and recognition, as well as individual professionalism, behavior, and skills.

The communities we work with are committed to ensuring the long-term health of our biocultural resources that they have cared for and depended on for generations since time immemorial. **We believe our environment, the foundation of our very existence, is about long-term investment and a vision of 'āina momona.** To get there it requires taking the steps necessary for greater self-sufficiency, development of a pipeline of new and more innovative career pathways, mindsets, relationships, and resources for mālama 'āina efforts. Passing this bill out of your committee supports reaching our goal to once again realize the abundant and thriving ecological balance in Hawai'i. Please **PASS** SB2162.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support.

**Aloha 'Āina Momona.**

**SB-2162**

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 12:52:17 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alan Urasaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In supoort of this measure. Thank you.

**SB-2162**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:52:02 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Uilani Naipo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.

- U'ilani Naipo