



The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i and Palmyra
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**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Support for House Concurrent Resolution 214; House Resolution 194
Committee on Water and Land
March 19, 2024, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 430 & Videoconference**

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) **supports** HCR 214/HR 194, requesting the Department of Land and Natural Resources to collaborate with federal, state and county governments, landowners, and stakeholders to protect, restore, and manage the West Maui wetlands and wetlands statewide.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources alone does not have the resources to adequately address the challenges created by the wildfires. Watershed restoration, invasive species management, climate change adaptation, water management, soil management, protection of biodiversity and other forms of mālama 'āina are all critical to protecting, restoring and managing West Maui wetlands and wetlands across the state. In addition, wetlands management and wildfire prevention efforts require a strong and prepared workforce to achieve our shared goals.

Hawai'i has a strong and successful history of partnership between public agencies, private sector organizations including non-profit organizations, and other stakeholders to meet the needs of our environment and community. Hawai'i needs the combined expertise and personnel found through collaborations to ensure that we can increase wildfire preparedness, mitigation, prevention and recovery to assist the department in deploying solutions.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of HCR 214/HR 194.

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