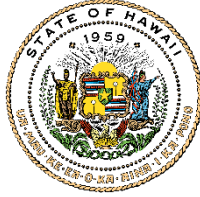


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
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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
WATER & LAND

Thursday, April 11, 2024
9:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 430 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 215 SENATE DRAFT 1
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

Senate Concurrent Resolution 215 Senate Draft 1 requests the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) collaborate with Federal, State, and County governments, landowners, and stakeholders to protect, restore, and manage the West Maui wetlands and wetlands statewide. **The Department supports this measure.**

Hawai'i's wetlands provide critical habitat for many endemic bird and plant species, support subsistence food practices, and protect coral reefs and nearshore fisheries from sediment runoff. Coastal wetlands also serve as critical first lines of defense for sea level rise and storm surge inundation and for capturing sediment and runoff pollution from rainfall flood events. While coastal wetlands were once abundant features of Hawai'i's coastlines, over 30% have been lost to development and stream diversion. Wetland protection and restoration will improve degraded ahupua'a, restore green spaces, protect against wildfires, minimize climate impacts, increase community resilience, support the cultivation of healthy traditional food crops, and provide essential habitat for the recovery of threatened and endangered species.

This measure aligns with the Department's mission to protect, manage, and restore natural and cultural resources in collaboration with the people of Hawai'i. The Department commits to assisting in this effort by collaborating with other jurisdictional entities on a statewide effort to restore wetlands.

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

SCR-215-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2024 6:09:24 PM

Testimony for WAL on 4/11/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT!