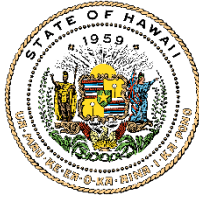


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND

Monday, February 24, 2025
2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 308 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1278, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO HAZARDOUS TREE REMOVAL

House Bill 1278, House Draft 1 proposes appropriating funding for the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (Division) to assess and remove hazardous trees on state lands across Hawai'i. **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.**

Each year the Division prunes or removes trees on the boundaries of Division-managed lands that pose safety risks to abutting or adjacent properties and roads. As a good neighbor, the Division seeks to remove these trees promptly, sometimes using its staff or hiring trained arborists to address the situation promptly. The costs associated with hazardous tree removal are unpredictable and considerable. The work is ongoing and costly, with hazardous trees requiring case-by-case assessment and management.

The Department fully supports establishing a reliable appropriation specifically addressing hazardous tree management, which will predictably sustain the work. The appropriation would remove uncertainty from the budgeting process and alleviate the need to prioritize scarce resources in emergencies. Given the increase in unpredictable weather events, establishing this allocation will allow prompt attention to hazardous trees and protect human life and property.

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

HB-1278-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 1:28:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Franny Kinslow Brewer	Big Island Invasive Species Committee	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an organization that has worked tirelessly in our County to mitigate the hazards of dangerous trees affecting our homes, roadways, water catchment, and utilities, costing our residents thousands of dollars, we support this bill! More help is needed!