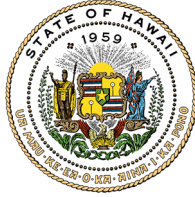


**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA**

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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 Senate Committee on  
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Monday, March 17, 2025  
1:01 PM**

**State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference**

**In consideration of  
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 183  
and  
SENATE RESOLUTION 153**

**ENDORISING AND REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED BY THE  
ALOHA+ CHALLENGE THROUGH ITS INTEGRATED APPROACH AND SIX  
AMBITIOUS TARGETS TO BE REACHED BY 2030**

**The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

The Department has made substantial progress on the Aloha+ Challenge goals to manage the State's natural resources and provide a green workforce and education. The State's Watershed Initiative is committed to protecting 30% (253,000 acres) of Hawaii's highest-priority forests by 2030. In 2010, only 10% of these forests were protected. Now, 22% are protected, in large part due to Capital Improvement Project funding provided by the Legislature. The Department also is undertaking the "Holomua Marine Initiative" which is a community-based planning approach to ensure local knowledge is guiding marine resource management planning for our State's ocean resources. The Department also tracks progress on other Aloha+ Challenge goals, such as native species protection, invasive species control, and increasing freshwater capacity. With support from the Legislature and other partners, we can continue to make progress on these initiatives that protect the precious natural resources of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



# Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

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March 15, 2025

**To:** Chair Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment

**From:** Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

**Date:** Monday, March 17, 2025 **Time:** 1:01 p.m.

**Place:** Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

**Subject: Testimony in Strong Support of SCR183/SR153 - ALOHA+ CHALLENGE**

Aloha e Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii strongly supports SCR183/SR153, which endorses and reaffirms support for the progress achieved by the Aloha+ Challenge through its integrated approach and ambitious targets to be reached by 2030.

**Key Points in Support:**

**1. Comprehensive and Integrated Approach**

- The Aloha+ Challenge's emphasis on cross-sector collaboration ensures a holistic approach to achieving sustainability goals, bringing together government, private sector, and community partners to create a unified vision for Hawaii's future.

**2. Ambitious Targets for 2030**

- The six targets, ranging from clean energy transformation to the protection of natural resources and the advancement of green jobs, reflect a bold and actionable framework designed to meet Hawaii's sustainability needs and support global climate initiatives.

**3. Tangible Progress and Momentum**

- The accomplishments of the Aloha+ Challenge to date highlight Hawaii's ability to lead by example in sustainability efforts, showcasing the effectiveness of the program's integrated approach and building trust in its continued success.

**4. Community Engagement and Equity**

- By fostering inclusive participation and prioritizing equity, the Aloha+ Challenge ensures that all residents benefit from and contribute to the transition to a sustainable and resilient economy.

#### **5. Alignment with State and Global Goals**

- The Aloha+ Challenge supports Hawaii's commitment to international agreements such as the Paris Climate Accord, positioning the state as a global leader in tackling climate change and promoting sustainability.

#### **6. Strengthening Hawaii's Resilience**

- The initiative's focus on sustainable resource management and climate resilience prepares Hawaii to address the challenges of the 21st century, ensuring the preservation of its unique cultural and natural heritage for future generations.

This resolution reaffirms Hawaii's dedication to sustainability and the vital role of the Aloha+ Challenge in achieving that vision. We commend the Legislature for its continued support of this critical initiative and urge your committee to pass SCR183/SR153 to maintain momentum and progress toward a sustainable future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.

Respectfully submitted,

Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick  
Co-Chairs Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

**SCR-183**

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 9:17:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/17/2025 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tasman Kekai Mattox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Aloha+.