

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

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND

Tuesday, February 4, 2024
9:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 411 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 316
RELATING TO THE GREEN JOBS YOUTH CORPS

House Bill 316 proposes to appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to continue the Green Jobs Youth Corps. **The Department strongly supports this measure, provided its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 193 establishes the Hawai'i Youth Conservation Corps (HYCC) and authorizes the Department to provide healthful outdoor training and employment for young persons and to advance the conservation, development, and management of natural resources and recreational areas. In 2021, HRS-193-32(4) established the Green Jobs Youth Corps as a subprogram of the HYCC to focus on sustainability across natural resource management, agriculture, or other sustainability-related professions.

The Green Jobs Youth Corps funding previously appropriated by the Legislature has allowed the Department to partner with Kupu, a Hawai'i-based non-profit, to provide roughly 150 workforce or training opportunities annually. This funding provides opportunities for emerging professionals to gain skills in natural resource management, sustainable agriculture, clean energy, and other vital industries in Hawai'i. The program is highly rated by participants during exit surveys, with a recent cohort reporting that over half of survey respondents received a job at the end of their program term.

A final report on the expenditure of \$5M appropriated for this program in 2021 describes over \$16M (\$16,719,471) in economic benefits resulting from program efforts, including roughly 500,000 invasive plants removed, 65,000 native plants planted, and 900 community volunteer events led by participants, engaging over 12,000 volunteers.

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



**STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION
COMMISSION
POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809**

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**Testimony of
Leah Laramee
Coordinator, Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission**

**Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND**

**Tuesday, February 4, 2024
9:00 AM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 411 & Videoconference

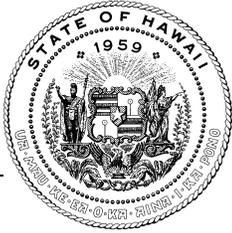
**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 316
RELATING TO THE GREEN JOBS YOUTH CORPS.**

House Bill 316 makes appropriations to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to continue the Green Jobs Youth Corps program. **The Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

The Commission consists of a multi-jurisdictional effort between 20 different departments, committees, and counties. As a member of the US Climate Alliance, a bipartisan coalition of 24 governors representing approximately 60 percent of the U.S. economy and 55 percent of the U.S. population, Hawai'i is participating in the Governors' Climate-Ready Workforce Initiative to grow career pathways in climate and clean energy fields, strengthen workforce diversity, and jointly train 1 million new registered apprentices by 2035 across the Alliance's states and territories.

This initiative will advance a series of collective goals aimed at strengthening and expanding pathways into a wide variety of climate-ready professions critical to building a clean, equitable, and resilient net-zero future. The Initiative's goals include boosting job quality and ensuring climate-ready employment pathways lead to good-paying, high-quality jobs; expanding opportunities for workers from underrepresented and underserved communities; and promoting the use of stackable and portable credentials in climate-ready fields to build transferable skills, support reskilling and upskilling, and strengthen workers' economic mobility. A full list of the Initiative's goals can be found here. This bill is in line with this initiative and will assist in meeting the set targets.

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



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

MARK B. GLICK
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Tuesday, February 4, 2025
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 411 and Videoconference

In Support of
HB 316

RELATING TO THE GREEN JOBS YOUTH CORPS.

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HB 316, which makes appropriations to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to continue the Green Jobs Youth Corps program.

The Green Jobs Youth Corps program funded the first two years of HSEO's Clean Energy Wayfinders program operated in partnership with the Kupu 'Āina Corps since February 2022. Now entering its third year, the Wayfinders expand HSEO's statewide capacity for building and maintaining robust community relationships with physical presence on five islands: Kaua'i, O'ahu, Moloka'i, Maui, and Hawai'i Island. The Wayfinders provide actionable information and support to Hawai'i residences, businesses, schools, and community organizations by supporting community-led renewable energy planning initiatives and sharing information about accessible energy programs and resources including funding opportunities (e.g., grants), energy efficiency incentives and rebates, and renewable energy programs (e.g., rooftop solar).

In Year 2 from September 2023 to September 2024 the Clean Energy Wayfinders: led or participated in over 80 events including community workshops, K-12 school presentations, and farmers markets; engaged over 2,447 community members

and business operators; and, recruited 16 small businesses and restaurants through the Hawai'i Green Business Program which recognizes and awards Hawai'i small and large businesses for their conservation and sustainable business practices.

At its core a professional development program for participants, the Wayfinders expand the green workforce by launching a new generation of clean energy and conservation leaders in Hawai'i and beyond. The eight Wayfinders who have completed their terms are now employed in positions spanning the fields of education, renewable energy, environmental consulting, and sustainable agriculture, speaking to the efficacy of the program's workforce development goals.

The Wayfinders program has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Energy as a community engagement approach that can help ensure benefits from funding opportunities flow to underserved, overburdened, and frontline communities.

As this is a conservation issue, we defer to the appropriate agency for comment.
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-316

Submitted on: 1/31/2025 8:12:13 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenny Yagodich	Malama Pupukea-Waimea	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong SUPPORT for HB316 to make appropriations to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to continue the Green Jobs Youth Corps program.



**House Committee on Water and Land
Tuesday, February 4, 2025**

Testimony in Strong Support of H.B. 316, Relating to the Green Jobs Youth Corps

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Water and Land,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of **H.B. 316, Relating to the Green Jobs Youth Corps**. If enacted, this bill would provide the funding needed to continue the Green Job Youth Corps, an innovative, critical state program that invests in Hawai‘i’s sustainability workforce while addressing pressing, current challenges facing our communities and environment. In particular, we have seen this program serve as a premier employment pipeline for the Department of Land and Natural Resources, helping the department lower its vacancy rate.

Kupu was founded in Hawai‘i in 2007. From humble beginnings, Kupu has grown into Hawai‘i’s largest youth-focused conservation nonprofit with an increasing presence in green job training broadly. Today Kupu manages over ten programs, which provide youth and young adults with opportunities to learn, serve, and work in ways that restore our environment and uplift their potential. In the last 18 years, Kupu and its participants have done substantial mālama ‘āina (care and protection of land and waters) in Hawai‘i, including the removal of over 151,000 acres of invasive species, planting of over 1.6 million native plants, and training and employment provided to over 6,200 young adults. We are honored to have partnered with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to manage the Green Jobs Youth Corps since its inception in 2022, following the passage of Act 181 (SLH 2021).

Since opening its inaugural cohort in early 2022, the Green Jobs Youth Corps has provided opportunities to over 320 participants to work in paid, professional development-oriented, one-year positions in sustainable agriculture, energy sustainability, and conservation; building their skills or starting their careers in areas that are diversifying our state's economy and improving our resiliency. Participants who complete their term are able to gain long-term employment after completing their term, often through a promotion at their host site or another Kupu partner. Statistically, nearly three in four participants report that upon exiting the Green Job Youth Corps, they are moving on directly to gainful employment.

While most of the positions made available through the Green Jobs Youth Corps are outside of conservation, we have also seen that the program is an effective career pipeline for DLNR, which has hosted over 70 Green Job Youth Corps participants. At least one in three Green Jobs Youth Corps participants placed at DLNR immediately transferred from GJYC into long-term positions at DLNR. Given that many other GJYC participants described plans to pursue employment with DLNR after their term, we expect that the actual number is even higher.

Another quality of the program is its structure as a state-community partnership, in which DLNR co-manages the Green Jobs Youth Corps with an experienced community partner, which is currently Kupu. Kupu's co-management enables the program to lower the state's cost to administer the program, through the use of non-state funds for the program's purposes.

We urge the committee to pass H.B. 316, which would provide the funding needed to continue to operate this important program.

Mahalo hou, thank you again, for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of **H.B. 316**.

E Mālama Pono,

John T. Leong

John Leong
CEO and co-founder, Kupu



Testimony Before The
House Committee on Water and Land (WAL)
IN SUPPORT OF HB316

February 4, 2025, 9:00 a.m., Room 411 & Via Videoconference

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, 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) over 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 strongly supports HB316 as an incremental step towards 'āina momona.

This bill would appropriate necessary funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to continue the successful Green Jobs Youth Corps (GJYC) programming.

A primary function of KUA includes support for the development of an 'auwai, or a system of resources, tools, bridges, relationships, and networks that cultivate and elevate our communities' efforts to greater levels of collective impact in the care of our biocultural resources. A core catalyst for the flow in this 'auwai includes increasing the percentage of our economy, both public and private, which helps manage and regenerate the condition of the 'āina that sustains us. Understanding the growth in the environmental sector has become increasingly important for KUA, which is why we worked in partnership with the University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization and a number of other partners (DLNR, Kupu, TNC, KS, OHA, etc.), in tracking natural resource workforce development as a key part of a "Green Economy."

GJYC was modeled after a partnership with our dear friends at Kupu, which has worked for over a decade to provide green workforce opportunities in Hawai'i. We know of many talented Kupu interns that got their start at various KUA network organizations, valuable experiences that helped to shape and launch their careers in community-based mālama'āina efforts. Since 2022, the GJYC has helped over 300 participants across the islands.

As evidenced by the numbers, our communities are raising the kupa'āina who increasingly want jobs focused on mālama 'āina. Young people want to be able to stay home, care for their home, and raise their keiki in the same place they have loved and cared for their whole lives. Particularly in the conservation sector, more young people are calling for opportunities with livable wages. The abundance of applications that recently inundated and exceeded the capacity of the DOCARE Academy enrollment portal is a strong indicator. **We appreciate the necessary, creative, and collaborative approaches our state supports that build the capacity and skills of the next generation with intention, and in a way that benefits ongoing community efforts to support ecosystem regeneration.**

The communities we work with are committed to ensuring the long-term health of our biocultural resources. They have depended on them for generations. **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, among other things, taking the steps toward greater self-sufficiency including development of innovative and sustainable career pathways, mindsets, relationships, and resource flows for mālama 'āina. Passing this bill out of your committee will open an essential 'auwai system toward reaching this vision.

Mahalo nui loa for considering our testimony. Please **PASS** HB316.

Aloha 'Āina Momona no nā kau ā kau.

February 1, 2025



House Committee on Water and Land

RE: Support of HB316

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao,

Re-use Hawai'i is a nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing Hawai'i's waste management challenges by keeping building materials out of landfills and fostering a circular economy.

HB316, relating to the Green Jobs Youth Corps, is a critical measure that will strengthen workforce development in the sustainability sector. Re-use Hawai'i has proudly served as a host site for participants of the Kupu 'Āina Corps (KAC) program, which provides employment and training opportunities for individuals from diverse backgrounds and abilities. This initiative thrives through well-coordinated partnerships between the State, community-based organizations, and host employers like Re-use Hawai'i.

Our training for Kupu 'Āina Corps participants includes hands-on experience in deconstruction, lumber processing, customer service, nonprofit administration, woodworking with salvaged materials, and workplace safety. Over a 12-month engagement, participants gain a comprehensive understanding of the circular economy and the role of building material reuse in creating a more resilient future for Hawai'i. Many continue working in this field beyond their program tenure; for example, our current Redistribution Center manager was a KAC member in 2021, and our Workshop Apprentice was hired after completing her KAC participation in 2020.

The continued support of a Green Jobs Youth Corps program through HB316 will enable Re-use Hawai'i and other green job providers to expand our impact, reduce unemployment, and contribute to a regenerative economy.

We strongly support HB316 and are eager to continue serving as a host site to help build a stronger, more sustainable future for Hawai'i's workforce and industries.

Mahalo nui loa,

Quinn Vittum
Executive Director



To: The House Committee on Water & Land
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2025, 9:00am

In support of HB316

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Water & Land committee,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org **supports HB316** that would continue funding for the Green Jobs Youth Corps, a program that provides employment and training opportunities for young adults in conservation, sustainable agriculture, clean energy, and other sustainability-related industries. This serves to employ our youth of Hawaii while building a resilient local economy and a sustainable future.

The Green Jobs Youth Corps is an important part of restoring our economy and environment. This program will help advance Hawaii's clean energy and decarbonization goals, expand the green workforce, and launch a new generation of clean energy leaders. The Green Jobs Youth Corps is a win-win for the environment and a more resilient economy for Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important legislation.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

FEBRUARY 4th, 2025

HB 316, RELATING TO THE GREEN JOBS YOUTH CORPS

POSITION: SUPPORT

Coalition Earth **supports** HB 316, relating to the Green Jobs Youth Corps, which makes appropriations to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to continue the Green Jobs Youth Corps program.

According to a report produced by the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, global sea levels could rise more than three feet by 2100, with more recent projections showing this occurring as early as 2060. In turn, over the next 30 to 70 years, approximately 6,500 structures and 19,800 people statewide will be exposed to chronic flooding. Additionally, an estimated \$19 billion in economic loss would result from chronic flooding of land and structures located in exposure areas. Finally, approximately 38 miles of coastal roads and 550 cultural sites would be chronically flooded, on top of the 13 miles of beaches that have already been lost on Kaua'i, O'ahu, and Maui to erosion fronting shoreline armoring.

As we work to reduce carbon emissions and stave off the worst consequences of climate change, we must begin preparing for the adverse impact of sea level rise on our shores. We are now quantifying the speed at which we must act. We cannot continue to develop the 25,800-acre statewide sea level rise exposure area—one-third of which is designated for urban use—without risking massive structural damage and, potentially, great loss of life.

Just two years ago, we witnessed the impact of the climate emergency on our shores. On August 8, 2023, wildfires swept across Maui and killed at least 100 people, making it one of the nation's deadliest natural disasters. The spread of the fires has been attributed to climate change conditions, such as unusually dry landscapes and the confluence of a strong high-pressure system to the north and Hurricane Dora to the south. The wildfires destroyed over 2,200 structures, including numerous residential buildings, historic landmarks, and school facilities. In September

2023, a report from the United States Department of Commerce estimated the total economic damage of the wildfires to be roughly \$5.5 billion. Investing in renewable energy generation could not be more urgent, given the growing threat of climate catastrophes to our island home.

Therefore, **our state should take steps to accelerate our transition to a clean energy economy and continue our fight against climate change, including by continuing to invest in green jobs training for future generations.** In 2020, the legislature passed Act 9, which used COVID-19 relief funds to establish a workforce and training program that included a short-term green jobs program in partnership with the nonprofit organization Kupu. Act 181 of 2021 designated the Department of Land and Natural Resources as the administrator of the program.

The development of green job skills is essential to diversifying our economy and preserving our environment in the era of anthropogenic climate change. Green skills include technical knowledge, expertise, and abilities that enable the effective use of green technologies, management of conservation programs, and deployment of climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. They draw on a range of knowledge, values, and attitudes to facilitate environmentally sustainable decision-making at work and in life. Although green competencies are relevant for people of all ages, they are of greater importance for younger people, who can contribute to the ecological transition over a longer period of time.

According to the International Labor Organization, 100 million jobs can be created globally through the transition to sustainable energy sources and a circular economy scenario. However, some existing jobs are expected to become obsolete, and the benefits of the transition are unlikely to be distributed geographically or demographically unless young people are provided with the necessary training and support systems.

Coalition Earth is a nongovernmental organization that works to preserve the well-being of people and our planet. We champion policies that advance climate resilience, clean energy, public health, and economic fairness for working families. Contact us at info@coalitionearth.org.



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Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the House Water & Land Committee,

The Hawai'i Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports HB316.**

The Green Jobs Youth Corps embodied by HB316 represents an invaluable initiative that not only addresses environmental and economic concerns but also paves the way for a sustainable future for Hawaii. By continuing to fund the Department of Land and Natural Resources with the necessary appropriations, this bill ensures that our youth are equipped with the skills and experiences necessary to contribute meaningfully to eco-friendly industries. This program is vital in fostering a new generation that appreciates and understands the significance of sustainable practices, thereby strengthening the resilience of our communities. Moreover, such programs play an integral role in driving Hawaii towards a diversified economy that includes environmentally conscious employment opportunities.

Of particular significance, nearly half of the host sites for the 2024-2025 Green Jobs Youth Corps Program focus on agriculture and food systems, encompassing farms, food hubs, and agricultural support organizations. This focus will bolster our local food security efforts and empower young individuals to engage with Hawaii's agricultural landscape. Investing in our youth through initiatives like the Green Jobs Youth Corps is crucial for the continuity and advancement of Hawaii's agricultural sector and overall environmental stewardship.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin
Advocacy Director
Hawai'i Farmers Union



holomua

COLLABORATIVE

OUR MISSION

To support and advance public policies that make Hawai'i affordable for all working families.

OUR VISION

Collaborative, sustainable, and evidence-based public policies that create a diverse and sustainable Hawai'i economy, an abundance of quality job opportunities, and a future where all working families living in Hawai'i can thrive.

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Page 1 of 1

Committee: House Committee on Water and Land
Bill Number: HB 316, Relating to the Green Jobs Youth Corps
Hearing Date and Time: February 4, 2025, 09:00am (Room 411)
Re: Testimony of Holomua Collaborative – Support

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the committee:

We write in support of HB 316, Relating to the Green Jobs Youth Corps. The purpose of HB 316 is to appropriate funds to continue the Green Jobs Youth Corps program.

Holomua Collaborative works to advocate for policies and initiatives that help make Hawai'i affordable for all working families. We are especially interested in fostering cross-sector collaboration and supporting evidence-based policies that have shown or can expect to show a positive return on any taxpayer investment that is made in them. The Green Jobs Youth Corps is a perfect example of all this.

- **Innovation:** The program was created as an innovative way to connect people with good jobs following the unemployment crisis sparked by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, the Green Jobs Youth Corps has become a meaningful part of Hawaii's attempt to diversify our economy, keep people working in their communities, and improve our environmental resilience.
- **Cross-sector collaboration:** With initial federal government funding through COVID relief money and subsequent additional funding provided by the state, the Green Jobs Youth Corps has involved over seventy different employers in both the for-profit and non-profit sectors. And all these employers are involved in sustainable energy, conservation, or sustainable agriculture.
- **Evidence-based return on investment:** The partnership between these private sector employers and the state and federal government has proved to be a wise investment of government resources. It is estimated that the first \$5 million in government funds invested in this program will produce \$18.4 million in positive socioeconomic impact. We know young adults are unemployed at higher rates than the general population, causing lifelong negative impacts. The Green Jobs Youth Corps has successfully employed and trained over 300 young people. Half of the participants hail from the neighbor islands, about two-thirds live in households making less than \$50,000 per year, and almost half are Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.

This is the type of innovative, collaborative, evidence-based and place-based program that can serve as a model for the state and we are proud to support it.

Sincerely,

Joshua Wisch
President & Executive Director

HB-316

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:56:03 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

SUPPORT!

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Supporting HB 316, Relating to the Green Jobs Youth Corps.
Committee on Water and Land
February 4, 2025, 9:00 am**

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Committee:

The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i and Palmyra (TNC) strongly supports HB316 which would makes appropriations to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to continue the Green Jobs Youth Corps program.

Hawaii's natural environment is the engine that drives our state's economy and a natural, recreational, and cultural treasure supporting our island lifestyle and livelihoods. Careful, thoughtful, and intentional conservation, management, and restoration is critical for our environment to withstand the increasing impacts of climate change while continuing to protect our islands' economic engine. TNC is proud of our decades of working in partnership with so many local organizations, agencies, and communities to care for this vital and fragile resource.

The Green Job Youth Corps, based on a 2020 displaced worker training and employment program, is making a meaningful impact on Hawaii's environment and economy. The program is an excellent example of a partnership between the state, the community, and employers. While this government program was originally established in response to the Covid-19 unemployment crisis, TNC has benefitted from the tremendous work of dozens of Kupu interns since 2011.

These interns provide much-needed capacity to help us manage our native forested watersheds and coral reefs. These enthusiastic and committed interns have created positive environmental, cultural, and community impact across the islands while also learning under the mentorship of environmental experts. Through their work, these interns are making a positive difference right now while also paving the way for the next generation of conservationists dedicated to perpetuating our unique island environment and diversifying Hawai'i's economy.

As we work together to create a diversified economy, green jobs can and must play a role. We need programs like the Green Job Youth Corps to build our workforce and grow sustainability-focused industries throughout our state. By providing opportunities for local jobs while also paving the way for long-term green jobs, environmental expertise, and local leadership, this legislation is a key step in the right direction.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 316.

Guided by science, TNC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 40,000 acres in 13 nature preserves and have supported over 50 coastal communities to help protect and restore the nearshore reefs and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands.

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HB-316

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 5:34:28 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Kupu program has been highly successful, benefitting both the Hawaii environment and the youth who participate in it. I strongly urge you to pass HB316 to continue funding for this program.

HB-316

Submitted on: 1/31/2025 7:15:13 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wiencek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

The Green Jobs Youth Corps seems to have been a success and we should reward success. I urge the Committee to SUPPORT this bill!

HB-316

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 2:36:01 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Barr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Sara Barr

2245 Hana Highway

Ha'iku, HI 96708

February 2, 2025

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao and respected Members of the House Committee of Water and Land,

My name is Sara Barr, I am a farmer in Ha'iku on Maui, where I grow food for the Maui Food Bank. I am also a member of the Kula Ag Park Committee and vice-president of the Hāleakalā chapter of the Hawai'i Farmers Union United.

I am writing in support of SB 20 and HB 316 to secure funding for the Green Jobs Youth Corps. Through these funds that were distributed through KUPU, I was in the original cohort of the Clean Energy Wayfinders with the Hawai'i State Energy Office in 2022. I had the honor to work with some extremely intelligent youths who were very dedicated to learning about renewable energy policies and practices, preparing them to help our communities make the energy transition and get our islands off the fossil fuel tap.

We all know that Brain Drain is a serious problem in this state. Programs like these are the infrastructure needed to not only provide immediate jobs for youths, but also prepare them to be leaders in a field that needs to be built out, and right now. The Clean Energy Wayfinders joined with other community organizations for successful Talk Story events to get the mana'o of the people about renewable energy. We looked into ways that the community could save money on energy products, from light bulbs to solar panels and energy plans, and invested a lot of time looking at Community Based Renewable Energy (CBREs), transportation, agrivoltaics, biofuels, geothermal, hydrogen, even healthcare. The second cohort of the Clean Energy Wayfinders has just begun and I personally can't wait to see what they accomplish.

Please support SB 20 and HB 316. It is vital that funding be absolutely secured for the Green Jobs Youth Corps programs as they will be not just providing immediate jobs, but preparing this

generation to be leaders in their communities, readying them to help build those communities up for years to come.

Mahalo nui loa,

Sara Barr

HB-316

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:39:56 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tom Coffman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Quietly, through gritty hard work and sound organization, Green Job Corps in several years has become a success. As a sometimes environmentalist (Hawaii Thousand Friends) and producer of a PBS documentary on the native forest (May Earth Live), I am keenly aware of our knife's-edge position as "extinction capital of the world" and "conservation capital of the world." Through the leadership of John Young and Kawika Riley and others, GJC has taken hundreds of young people, many from lower-income families, into the field, given them experience and training, and produced numerous successful applicants to the otherwise understaffed DLNR.

CONSISTENT, INCREMENTALLY-GROWING FUNDING IS FUNDAMENTAL TO ADDRESSING OUR MULTICRISIS OF UNFETTERED DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE. Please kokua.

Tom Coffman

HB-316

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:11:23 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvonne Yoro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB316 Relating to the Green Jobs Youth Corps.

The state needs to establish permanence around this youth corps program as we build toward a more diversified economy. Our State’s climate change, economic, and self-sufficiency goals will not and cannot be met without establishing this workforce job corps as an annually funded program. This program would ensure the State focuses on fostering transitions to cleaner sources of energy, caring for and conserving our natural resources, and growing industries and sectors that help keep our local residents in Hawai‘i.

Please pass HB316.

Mahalo,

Yvonne