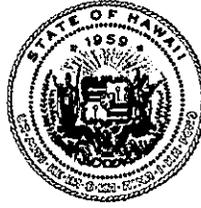


SB 1183

RELATING TO STATE LAND MAMMAL.

Designates the Ope'ape'a (aka Hawaiian hoary bat) as the state land mammal.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
CARTY S. CHANG
Interim Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

**Thursday, February 26, 2015
1:20 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 414**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1183
RELATING TO STATE LAND MAMMAL**

Senate Bill 1183 proposes to designate the Ōpeʻapeʻa, the Hawaiian hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus semotus*) as the state land mammal. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources supports this bill.**

The Ōpeʻapeʻa is an endemic subspecies of the North American hoary bat known to breed on the islands of Hawaii, Maui, Kauai, and Oahu. Hawaii's only land mammal, the Ōpeʻapeʻa is federally and state listed as endangered.

CARTY S. CHANG
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

DANIEL S. QUINN
INTERIM FIRST DEPUTY
W. ROY HARDY
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



SB1183
RELATING TO STATE LAND MAMMAL
Senate Committee on Government Operations

February 26, 2015

1:20 p.m.

Room 414

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB1183, which highlights the unique and delicate nature of our island ecosystems, through the recognition of our endemic 'ōpe'ape'a as the state land mammal.

Native and endemic fauna such as the 'ōpe'ape'a provide us with specific and memorable examples of the uniqueness and intrinsic value of our natural resources, which support the economic, cultural, recreational, and scientific foundations of our islands. The endangered 'ōpe'ape'a, as the only native land mammal in our state, is itself a particularly poignant example of the evolutionary exceptionalism of our indigenous fauna, and its current conservation status further highlights the vulnerability of our native and endemic life. Recognizing the 'ōpe'ape'a, or Hawaiian Hoary Bat, as an official animal of the state would therefore do much to remind us of our reliance upon, and our culturally-rooted responsibility to steward, our environment and its natural and cultural resources.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** SB1183. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: mallnglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [GVO Testimony](#)
Cc: lgibson@hsus.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1183 on Feb 26, 2015 13:20PM
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 12:00:31 PM

SB1183

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for GVO on Feb 26, 2015 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Inga Gibson	Humane Society of the US- Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Nishihara and Government Operations Committee members, The Humane Society of the United States-Hawaii supports SB1183 to recognize the Hawaiian Hoary bat, our only endemic land mammal, as the state mammal. The Hawaiian Hoary bat was listed as endangered in 1970 due to exploitation and habitat loss. Formally recognizing the Hawaiian Hoary Bat as our states mammal would help to educate people about the plight of this species and enhance efforts for their continued recovery and survival. Thank you, Inga Gibson, Hawaii Director The Humane Society of the United States
lgibson@humanesociety.org 808.354.3211

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting S.B. 1183 Relating to State Land Mammal
Senate Committee on Government Operations
Thursday, February 26, 2015, 1:20PM, Room 414

For more than 35 years, The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i has been working closely with government agencies, local businesses, private landowners, non-profit partners, and interested communities across the state to preserve the lands and waters upon which all life in these islands depends. The Conservancy is a private non-profit conservation organization that has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 35,000 acres in 11 nature preserves on Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i, and support 19 coastal communities seeking to co-manage marine resources in partnership with the State of Hawai'i.

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i supports the designation of the 'ōpe'ape'a, or the Hawaiian hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus semotus*), as the official land mammal of the State of Hawai'i. This often misunderstood creature inhabits Hawaii's forests and roosts primarily in trees. The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of our forests, the less taste we shall have for their destruction. Already the State of Hawai'i has lost more than half of its original forest. The loss of forest habitat throughout the bat's range continues to play a role in its endangerment.

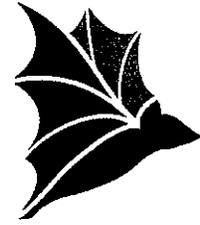
The Hawaiian hoary bat is truly a wonder. It can fly. It can echolocate. It has the ability to enter torpor (a limited hibernation) to cope with periods of food (i.e., insect) shortages or inclement weather. Its ancestors arrived from continental America crossing more the 2,500 miles of the Pacific Ocean, in an amazing feat, which D. H. Johnson (the former curator of mammals for the Smithsonian Institution) identified as "probably the most remarkable mammalian flight of all time."

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mark E. Agne Paul D. Alston Alan H. Arizumi Christopher J. Benjamin Anne S. Carter Richard A. Cooke III
Peter H. Ehrman Kenton T. Eldridge Thomas M. Gottlieb James J.C. Haynes III Mark L. Johnson
Dr. Kenneth Y. Kaneshiro Eiichi Kuwana Duncan MacNaughton Kathy M. Matsui Wayne K. Minami
A. Catherine Ngo James C. Polk Chet A. Richardson Jean E. Rolles Scott C. Rolles Crystal K. Rose
Dustin E. Sellers Dustin M. Shindo Nathan E. Smith Peter K. Tomozawa James Wei Eric K. Yeaman

Chair: Christopher J. Benjamin *Chair Emeriti:* Samuel A. Cooke (co-founder; chair 1980-1991),
Herbert C. Cornuelle (co-founder), Bill D. Mills (1991-1995), Jeffrey N. Watanabe (1995-2004),
David C. Cole (2004-2008), Duncan MacNaughton (2008-2011), Kenton T. Eldridge (2011-2014)

batcon.org
**BAT CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL**



P.O. Box 162603, Austin TX 78716
500 Cap. Of Texas Hwy Bldg. 1, Austin TX 78746
Phone (512) 327-9721 Fax (512) 327-9724

February 25, 2015

Senate Committee on Government Operations
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Support SB1183

Dear Committee on Government Operations,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments regarding §B1183. Bat Conservation International (BCI) supports the designation of the Hawaiian Hoary Bat ('Ope'ape'a) as the state land mammal. As one of the most isolated group of islands on earth, Hawaii is home to many unique and endemic species, among them the Hawaiian hoary bat. This species is Hawaii's only bat, and also the only existing native terrestrial mammal know from the Hawaiian archipelago. As such, it is the clear candidate for such designation, and already part of the ecosystems of other honored species in Hawaii.

Hawaiian hoary bats can be found roosting in the kukui tree (*Aleurites Moluccana*)—the state tree of Hawaii since 1959. The species can also be found in the native ohia trees (*Meterosideros Polymorpha*)—the blossom of which is the official island flower of the big island of Hawai'i. Hawaiian hoary bats are also beautiful bats, and the twin pups born to their mothers in May and June of each year grow into reddish-brown adults with a dusting of silver at the tips of their fur.

According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Hawaiian hoary bat populations appear to be widespread and reproducing successfully, but the precise status remains unclear and subsequently they have been retained as Federally Endangered. The 'Ope'ape'a was listed as an endangered species on October 13, 1970, making the list six years before the Hawaiian monk seal.

Hawaiian hoary bats roost in the forests of Hawaii and experts believe their populations have declined primarily due to historic deforestation, and known breeding sites are extremely limited. On the mainland continent, hoary bats are widespread and are killed regularly by wind turbines and are among the bats most impacted by wind development. Although the impact to Hawaiian hoary bats remains unclear at this time, with the proposed increased wind development in

Conserving the world's bats and their ecosystems to ensure a healthy planet.

Hawaii, raising awareness for the conservation of this species provides an opportunity to highlight proactive solutions to reduce bat fatalities.

State land mammal designation would highlight this unique and valuable creature to the public. We believe that bat conservation works best when bats are understood and appreciated by the local communities in which they live. Texas designated the Mexican free-tailed bat as official state flying mammal in 1995, and Texas Parks and Wildlife has called Mexican free-tailed bats our state's "Billion Dollar Bats" because of the economic impact that bats have—from pest control to ecotourism dollars.

Learning about the unique ecology of the Hawaiian hoary bat and conserving its habitat will require a collaborative effort, and will be more likely to occur if the residents of Hawaii feel a kinship with their unique bat species and take pride in its protection.

Bats are essential to the health of our natural world. The more than 1300 species worldwide help control pest insects and are vital pollinators and seed-dispersers for countless plants. Hawaiian hoary bats are insectivorous, feeding primarily on moths and beetles. The pest-control services of Hawaiian hoary bats to fields and forests across the islands are as natural as they are valuable—reducing the need for toxic pesticides that linger in the soil and water.

BCI's mission is conserving the world's bats and their ecosystems to ensure a healthy planet. We are a non-profit organization that conducts and supports science-based research, education, and conservation to ensure that bats will still be helping to maintain healthy environments and human economies far into the future. Based in Austin, Texas, we are a global organization with a membership over 10,000 including members from all 50 of the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mylea Bayless', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mylea Bayless
Director of Conservation Programs
Bat Conservation International

Conserving the world's bats and their ecosystems to ensure a healthy planet.

Testimony of Ben Okimoto, Senior Zoo Veterinarian, Honolulu Zoo

Re: SB 1183 RELATING TO STATE LAND MAMMAL

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Thursday, February 26, 2015, 1:20 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 414

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the committee, I would like to offer the following comments on SB 1183.

The Hawaiian Bat is truly deserving of the designation as Hawaii's State Land Mammal.

In Hawaii, as on many oceanic islands, bats are the only indigenous land mammal. The Hawaiian Hoary Bat is the only species of bat currently inhabiting the Hawaiian Islands. It is a distinct subspecies of the North American Hoary Bat.

Hoary means "frosted" and refers to the white tips of its body hair. The scientific name for the Hawaiian Hoary Bat is Lasiurus cinereus semotus, Lasiurus means "hairy tail", cinereus means "ash colored", and semotus means "distant, isolated, removed".

Bats are the only mammals capable of sustained flight. Hoary bats are the widest ranging bats in the New World and are strong migrants. The Hawaiian Islands have been described as the most isolated group of islands in the world. The fact that the Hawaiian Hoary Bat flew across the Pacific Ocean to the Hawaiian Islands and was able to survive and populate the islands is a very significant achievement.

Bats are classified in the scientific Order Chiroptera ("hand wing"). Native Hawaiians called the bat 'Ope'ape'a referring to its Taro leaf or canoe sail outline. Hoary bats are in the Suborder Microchiroptera and they feed on insects. It is estimated that they can eat 40% of their own body weight in a single meal. They are fast, direct flyers and are capable of 30 – 40 mph flight speeds, flying up to 12 miles before returning. Hawaiian Hoary bats have been found in both wet and dry areas, and from sea level to 13,000 feet elevation. They are solitary roosters, isolating themselves in the forest by hanging from vegetation, not living in protected caves or crevices. Hoary bats are capable of long distance detection of insect prey using echolocation, which is like sonar in the air. Bats create ultrasonic pulses in their throats and emit them through their mouths or noses which bounce off insect prey and are received by their ears. Hawaiian Hoary bat echolocation calls have been measured to range from 15 – 30 KHz and it has been known to feed on termites, mosquitoes, moths, beetles, flies, crickets, and stink bugs.

Hoary bats longevity is unknown, it was assumed that they had a relatively short life span of about 6 – 7 years. In 1970, the 'Ope'ape'a was placed on the endangered species list by both the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Hawaii. Obviously

the continued loss of natural habitat puts greater and greater pressure on the continued survival for the Hawaiian Bat. Recent studies by dedicated bat researchers on the Big Island have resulted in new information, but much more still needs to be learned.

In December of 1991, an injured bat was found at a nursery in Kihei, Maui. That bat eventually was brought to the Honolulu Zoo for care and we were able to keep it alive for around 3 years. And in November of 2002 we received another bat, again from Kihei, and we were able to keep it alive for just over 5 years.

Many people ask me "What is your favorite animal" and almost all are surprised when I say "bats". In my 27 years as a zoo veterinarian, I have found bats to be the most fascinating type of animal. Bats comprise nearly one quarter of all mammal species. Bats are the only mammals capable of sustained flight. Bats are divided into two suborders, the large bats or Flying Foxes who mainly eat fruit and many species are important dispersers of forest seeds, or pollinators of economically important plants. Whole tropical ecosystems may depend on some Flying Foxes. The small bats occur throughout the world, and although some eat fruit, pollen, fish, frogs, and blood, most of them eat insects and are major predators of agricultural insect pests. Large colonies of insectivorous bats can consume tons of insects during each night's feeding.

The Hoary bats are some of the largest of the small bats. Many people in Hawaii have never seen a bat, don't know we even have a native bat, or often confuse them in flight with large moths. In the eight years that I have worked with the Hawaiian Bat I have found them to be gentle, clean, and cute.

So beyond the fact that the Hawaiian Hoary Bat is the only native land mammal in Hawaii, I believe it is distinguished by its uniqueness of not only being able to truly fly but to have flown across the Pacific Ocean, and in its character of surviving and thriving throughout the Hawaiian Islands, thus deserving the designation as Hawaii's State Land Mammal.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [GVO Testimony](#)
Cc: olin.lagon@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1183 on Feb 26, 2015 13:20PM
Date: Monday, February 23, 2015 4:06:48 PM

SB1183

Submitted on: 2/23/2015

Testimony for GVO on Feb 26, 2015 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Olin Lagon	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support naming the Ope'ape'a as our state land mammal.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [GVO Testimony](#)
Cc: jeannine@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1183 on Feb 26, 2015 13:20PM
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 9:29:09 PM

SB1183

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for GVO on Feb 26, 2015 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeannine Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support designating the ope'ape'a as the official state land mammal of Hawai'i. Growing up, we'd see them at night in Miloli'i, hard at work eating pests. There are still some in East Honolulu in the forested areas and they need our help to preserve this rare and endangered species. Mahalo!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [GVO Testimony](#)
Cc: nb13lavoie@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1183 on Feb 26, 2015 13:20PM
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 12:21:55 AM

SB1183

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for GVO on Feb 26, 2015 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Frank Lavoie	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Chairperson and committee members, My family and I strongly support designating the Ope'ape'a, the Hawaiian Hoary Bat, as our state land mammal. The Hoary Bat is a very special animal that our state should recognize. It is the only land mammal that is endemic to the islands. It is a federally listed endangered species of the United States. Let's recognize our special mammal and the recognition may help the bats survive and thrive as well. Thank you for your time. Frank, Margaret, Erik and Max Lavoie

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: GVO Testimony
Cc: davidhenkin@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1183 on Feb 26, 2015 13:20PM*
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 9:38:26 AM

SB1183

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for GVO on Feb 26, 2015 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Henkin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [GVO Testimony](#)
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1183 on Feb 26, 2015 13:20PM*
Date: Friday, February 20, 2015 5:20:29 PM

SB1183

Submitted on: 2/20/2015

Testimony for GVO on Feb 26, 2015 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov