



# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

**MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.***

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Friday, March 31, 2017 9:30AM Room 211

**In SUPPORT HB1578 HD1 SD1** Relating to Climate Change

**LATE**

Aloha Chairwoman Tokuda, and members of the WAM Committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **supports HB1578**, which establishes a task force to encourage farming practices that reduce the threat of climate change. We support the amendments adding funds to administer the task force and expand the objectives of the task force.

Studies show that modern agricultural practices produce nearly one third of all carbon emissions, making it a significant contributor to the climate crisis.

However, modern agricultural practices can be improved to harness the natural power of photosynthesis in plants to actually pull carbon from the atmosphere, and thereby reduce the risks of climate change.

The Carbon Farming Task Force proposed in this bill would create incentives for farmers and ranchers to employ these climate-friendly practices and turn their farms into carbon sinks. Climate friendly farming practices, known as regenerative agriculture, not only captures carbon but also enhances crop yields, improves water quality, and increases our resilience to extreme weather events.

Climate-friendly farming is a boost for our environment and a boom for farming businesses. We strongly encourage the Legislature to establish this program.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.

Mahalo,  
Marti Townsend  
Director

**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 30, 2017 8:20 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** rachelrounds@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1578 on Mar 31, 2017 09:30AM\*

**HB1578**

Submitted on: 3/30/2017  
Testimony for WAM on Mar 31, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rachel Rounds	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**HB1578**

Submitted on: 3/30/2017  
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