

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



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

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**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
WATER AND LAND**

**Monday, March 18, 2019  
1:15 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1171, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

House Bill 1171, House Draft 1 proposes to make appropriations for the Fiscal Biennium 2019-2021 operating budget of the Department of Land and Natural Resources' (Department) LNR402 Native Resources and Fire Protection Program for fire, natural disaster, and emergency response equipment and other expenses. **The Department strongly supports this measure.**

This funding to LNR402 will allow the Department to begin to implement the Governor's Biosecurity Plan; expand Rapid Ohia Death detection, rapid response, monitoring, and research capacity throughout the State; and better address the recovery needs of some of the State's most critically endangered species, such as the Alala, Maui Parrotbill as well as the Akikiki and Akakee on Kauai.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**ROBERT K. MASUDA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**M. KALEO MANUEL**  
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



# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

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

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

March 18, 2019

1:15 PM

Room 229

In **SUPPORT** of **HB 1171 HD1**: Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources

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Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **strongly supports HB 1171 HD1**, a DLNR-DOFAW operating budget bill that appropriates \$5 million to programs including Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) prevention, early detection-rapid response, control, and outreach projects; Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD) research and response; and wildfire response.

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i has been active in conserving our native ecosystems and species for the past 50 years. Over the decades, we've seen first hand what happens when invasive plants like clidemia, strawberry guava, and kahiki ginger take over a native ecosystem and replace the landscape in a veritable monoculture of invasive weeds. The biodiversity of the land and the habitat for many animals is lost forever, causing many of them to go extinct. We cannot continue to allow this to happen.

**Funding for the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council's are of utmost importance to prevent and eradicate invasive species throughout the state.** Due to modern transportation many invasive pests (e.g., dengue fever, zika virus, rat lung disease, coconut rhinoceros beetle, fire ants, miconia) arrive almost weekly in our islands. Not only do they wreak havoc on our native ecosystems, agricultural lands, and tourist areas, but they also have terrible consequences for human health. Some of these invasions can be eliminated if we were quicker to identify the threat and wipe them out before they have a chance to establish and spread.

The Sierra Club is also very concerned about Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death, a fungal disease that has already destroyed hundreds of thousands of trees on Hawai'i island and has recently been discovered on Kaua'i island. 'Ōhi'a are the most abundant native tree in Hawai'i and are vital to the health of our watersheds. **ROD has the potential to kill 'ōhi'a trees statewide and we strongly support funding for ROD research and response.**

The Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife protects the state's watersheds and forest resources and are responsible for responding to wildfires on 26% of our total land. According to the Pacific Fire Exchange, the average area burned per year in Hawai'i has increased over

400% within the last century.<sup>1</sup> Wildfires occur throughout the year and are fueled by fire-tolerant invasive grasses and changing climatic conditions such as warmer temperatures and periods of drought.<sup>2</sup> **We support funding for wildfire response and appreciate DLNR personnel who risk their lives to respond to forest fires.**

The DLNR has a vast mission and mandate to protect over 1.3 million acres of land, ensure the future of our groundwater supplies through watershed management, and prevent extinction of native species and the spread of invasive species islands-wide.<sup>3</sup> We urge the Committee to pass this measure, which will fund important programs including the Hawai'i Invasive Species Councils, Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death research and response; and wildfire response.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB 1171 HD1.**

Mahalo,



Jodi Malinoski, Policy Advocate

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1

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54825edae4b0426dc2c78f10/t/5696b96c0ab377d4c95fd307/1458772891261/Wildfire+in+Hawaii+fact+sheet+-+Pacific+Fire+Exchange+2014.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/forestry/fire/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/about-dlnr/>

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Supporting HB 1171 HD1 Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Monday, March 18, 2019, 1:15PM, Room 229

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*The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a non-profit conservation 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 preserves and work in over 30 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs, waters and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnership with government, private parties and communities to protect forests and coral reefs for their ecological values and the many benefits they provide to people.*

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The Nature Conservancy supports HB 1171 HD1 that would provide an additional \$5,000,000 to the Department of Land and Natural Resources' native resources, fire response and invasive species programs (LNR402).

The watershed protection and invasive species programs supported with State funds and leveraged several times over with matching funds from county, federal and private sources help to ensure healthy, managed natural resources that are critical for our isolated island chains. Healthy Hawaiian forests that are not overrun by invasive species act like a sponge, collecting rain and moisture, slowly delivering fresh water into streams and aquifers, absorbing greenhouse gases, and reducing runoff and siltation into near shore waters during storm events.

Two recent studies by The Nature Conservancy and partners found that natural climate solutions (i.e., conservation, restoration, and improved land management on natural and agricultural lands) can provide carbon storage and avoid greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 21% of current U.S. annual emissions and 37% of cost-effective mitigation needed through 2030 toward holding global warming below 2°C.<sup>1, 2</sup> And, trees have the greatest potential to reduce carbon emissions because they absorb carbon dioxide as they grow. Reforestation and improved forest management could cost-effectively remove 7 billion tons of global atmospheric carbon dioxide emissions annually by 2030, equivalent to taking 1.5 billion gasoline-burning cars off the roads.<sup>3</sup>

And, unlike many continental locations, fire is not a part of the natural life-cycle of native Hawaiian ecosystems. Often, only a few native species regenerate after a wildfire fire, if at all. The void fires leave behind is quickly filled by fire-adapted alien weeds, which increase the risk of future fires. This vicious cycle of destruction has played out especially on Moloka'i, O'ahu and Hawai'i island, which have seen major fires in recent decades. These fires allow flammable alien grasses to gain a foothold, and with each new fire they spread further. Heavily impacted are some of the last remnants of native lowland dry forest and the rare species that survive there. Having appropriate equipment and other resources is essential to immediately addressing wildfire and then undertaking proper restoration quickly and effectively following a fire.

Thank you for your support of this measure.

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<sup>1</sup> Fargione, Joseph E., Steven Basset, et al. "Natural Climate Solutions for the United States.", *Science Advances* 2018, **4**: eaat1869, November 14, 2018. <http://advances.sciencemag.org/content/4/11/eaat1869>

<sup>2</sup> Griscom, Bronson W., Justin Adams, et al. "Natural Climate Solutions." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. October 31, 2017 114 (44) 11645-11650. [www.pnas.org/content/114/44/11645](http://www.pnas.org/content/114/44/11645)

<sup>3</sup> Id.

**LATE**

**HB-1171-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 10:01:25 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lana Olson	Testifying for Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:



**LATE**

Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Monday, March 18, 2019, 1:15PM, Room 229

Testimony of the *Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species*  
Supporting Funding for the Department of Land and Natural Resources'  
in HB 1171, HD1 Relating to the DLNR

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **is in support of HB 1171 HD1, Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources.** The aim of this measure is to make appropriations to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for their operating budget. These appropriations will support the Department of Land and Natural Resources invasive species projects and the goals outlined in the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan.

The legislature recognizes the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan as the State's strategy for improving biosecurity with actions and policies outlined over the course of 10 years to mitigate the risk from invasive species introduction, establishment, and spread. This funding will increase DLNR-DOFAW's capacity to address invasive species on the ground by creating 10 new invasive species technician positions, support the construction of a coqui frog barrier fence on Maui, and direct funding to invasive species programs allocated by the HISC.

This funding will also continue the multi-agency response to Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD). We would like to call your attention to the DLNR's critical role in the response efforts to the two fungal pathogens causing ROD that continue to spread on Hawaii Island and both pathogens were confirmed on Kauai last year. Funding provided by the Legislature for ROD is critical for leveraging federal and other non-state funds for research and field work necessary to prevent, monitor, and manage the spread of the disease as well as seek means for controlling it. The ROD Strategic Response Plan (see <https://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/dl/rod/strategicresponseplanfinal.pdf>) budget reflects a need of \$3.2 million, and we believe that with \$1 million in state funds, we will be able to raise the remaining amount from federal, county and private sources.

We encourage the committee to support this measure. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,  
Chelsea Arnott  
CGAPS

**HB-1171-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2019 4:14:36 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Erica Scott	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-1171-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2019 10:49:33 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB1171 HD1 which provides \$5M for the Invasive Species Committees, Rapid 'ĀĀEhi'a Death and Wildfire Response. As recent news suggests, illegal snakes, the spread of Little Fire Ant on O'ahu, and fires in Wai'anae threaten our local economy and residential communities. Please pass HB1171 HD1.



**HB-1171-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2019 8:49:40 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ted Bohlen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-1171-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 3:15:58 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Randy Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee,

I support HB1171 HD1. DLNR is severely underfunded. This bill is a good beginning to provide funds for ROD research, invasive species programs and wildfire response.

Please pass this HB1171 HD1. Mahalo for your consideration.

Randy Ching (Honolulu)

**LATE**

**HB-1171-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 3:29:35 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this important bill.

**LATE**

**HB-1171-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 5:00:24 PM  
Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Greg Puppione	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

These tanks need to be moved. The military can afford it. They have the space, the resources, and the technology. It's foolish to take chances with our precious drinking water, our most valuable resource. The placement of the tanks isn't essential to what they do. It would just be a hassle to move them. Well, it would be a disaster if they leaked, so I'm in favor of hassle over disaster. Thank you for your careful consideration of this issue.

Greg Puppione

Honolulu, HI

**LATE**

**HB-1171-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 5:43:55 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-1171-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 5:54:55 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sandra Fujita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support **HB1171 HD1**.

**LATE**

**HB-1171-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 10:25:16 PM  
Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

**HB-1171-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 10:32:39 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

Please support adequate funding for the chronically under-funded DLNR. Degraded land ultimately means degraded people.

mahalo,

Cory Harden



**LATE**

**HB-1171-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 2:23:08 AM  
Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara L. George	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT!

**LATE**

**HB-1171-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 3:40:20 PM  
Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
janice palma-glennie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

aloha,

i strongly support this bill and all legislation that would decrease the ever-threatening invasive species which arrive by sea and air each day to our island state.

i've been in the agricultural industry in kona for over three decades. i had a wholesale plant nursery for twenty years and finally shut my "doors" when there was no way i could safely and assuredly sell my plant material invasive-free. This is a travesty for many families and farmers who are helping hawaii to be sustainable and free of excessive toxins that are often the only options for control of these destructive and, at minimum, annoying creatures.

please support this bill as strongly as i do.

mahalo and sincerely,

janice palma-glennie

owner, Keauhou Gardens and Irrigation

kailua-kona