



OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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Statement of
LEO R. ASUNCION
Planning Program Administrator, Office of Planning
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Friday, February 22, 2019
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of
HB 588, HD 1
RELATING TO GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the House Committees on Finance:

The Office of Planning (OP) supports HB 588, HD 1, provided that its passage does not adversely impact the priorities indicated in the Executive Budget. The measure appropriates funds for the State's Sustainability Coordinator to complete a comprehensive green infrastructure study and plan.

The Office of Planning appreciates the opportunity to comprehensively identify green infrastructure opportunities, and green infrastructure planning and development best practices statewide. State green infrastructure plans, like this proposal, can identify where the State can save on water management costs, recharge water, decrease pollution, lower flooding risks, sequester greenhouse gases, and mitigate and adapt to Hawaii's changing climate.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on HB 588, HD 1.



Healthy Climate
Communities

Testimony in support of HB588

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Friday, February 22, 2019 11:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of HB588.

HB588 takes the first step towards planting trees and expanding the tree canopy in our State. Expanding the urban canopy will provide multiple benefits, including reducing the heat island effect, absorbing storm water, and beautifying the city of Honolulu. Investing in green infrastructure will save our State money in the long run and is an important adaptation to climate change.

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago, the second-best time is now. Please support this bill.

Mahalo,

Dr. Lisa Marten

Executive Director
Healthy Climate Communities
healthyclimate@hawaii.rr.com

HB-588-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 10:29:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

HB-588-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 3:09:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brijit Reis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee Members,

I strongly support HB588. By greening State lands, especially in Honolulu\'s urban core we can both slow climate change and help mitigate the effects. Trees and greenery will reduce the urban heat island effect, absorb storm water and beautify our city.

Mahalo, Dr. Brit Reis

HB-588-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 3:12:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Simmons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Committee Members,

I support and ask you to pass HB588. Mayor Caldwell has committed to increase the urban tree canopy to adapt to rising temperatures and increased storm water we are experiencing with climate change and to store carbon. This effort in key State-owned urban areas will complement County efforts and bring much needed resources to the effort.

Thank you,
Karen Simmons

HB-588-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 3:16:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
stephanie frazier	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support and ask you to pass HB588. Mayor Caldwell has committed to increase the urban tree canopy to adapt to rising temperatures and increase stormwater we are experiencing with climate change and to rescore carbon. This effort in key state owned urban areas will complement county efforts and bring much-needed resources to this effort.

Mahalo, Stephanie Frazier

Kailua