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LAND  
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STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on  
WATER & LAND  
and  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Tuesday, February 16, 2021  
11:00 AM

State Capital, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 430 & 325

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1008  
RELATING TO FOREST STEWARDSHIP

House Bill 1008 proposes to amend Chapter 195F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to clarify conditions that must be met by applicants to participate in the Forest Stewardship Program. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this Administration measure.**

The Forest Stewardship Program provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners in managing, protecting, and restoring Hawaii's forested lands. House Bill 1008 makes minor changes to the Forest Stewardship Program, modifying requirements to increase participation and effectiveness.

This measure will accomplish the following:

- allow long-term leaseholders to participate in the program (currently only landowners are eligible);
- increase cost-share support from 50% to 75% for the development of forest stewardship management plans (developing plans is frequently a barrier to entry for many landowner/managers);
- clarifies that production of non-timber forest products is allowed under the program; and
- increases lands eligible for forest management.

The Forest Stewardship Program helps landowners develop forest stewardship management plans. Management plans help program participants responsibly and sustainably manage forest resources.

Increased cost-share support will improve forest management and allow smaller or underserved landowners to participate in the program by reducing financial barriers. The Department will not incur additional expenses related to an increase in cost-share percentage.

This measure increases eligible land by removing language that only allows management of forest products if the land was cleared of native vegetation prior to January 1, 1991, a date-certain that is difficult to determine. The change will support working forests, including those found on agricultural lands. This will support both native forest protection and promote agricultural diversification through silvo-pasture, agroforestry, and active forest management.

66% of Hawaii's forested areas are privately owned and managed. Public-private partnerships are essential to the present and future health of these forests. The Forest Stewardship Program stimulates investment in forestry as an economically viable land-use alternative that supplies jobs to Hawaii's rural communities, revenue diversification, locally grown products, and energy supporting Hawaii's sustainability initiatives, and contributes environmental benefits, such as clean water and habitat for Hawaii's native wildlife.

This bill will improve forest management on private lands, expand conservation of native forest, increase reforestation of degraded lands, and stimulate investment in forestry as an economically viable, sustainable land-use alternative.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**HB-1008**

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 6:57:10 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/16/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Irene Sprecher	DLNR DOFAW	Support	No

Comments:

I would like to testify on HB 1008. Please allow me Zoom access. Thank you.

**HB-1008**

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 8:35:19 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/16/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition	Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition (HIROC)	Support	No

Comments:

To: Honorable Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair

Honorable Representative Patrick Pihana Branco, Vice Chair, and Members of the

House Committee on Water and Land,

and

The Honorable Nicole Lowen, Chair,

The Honorable Lisa Marten, Vice Chair, and Members of the

House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

From: HAWAI'I REEF AND OCEAN COALITION – HIROC (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing HB1008 RELATING TO FOREST STEWARDSHIP

**Hearing Date:** [Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 11:00 am](#), videoconference

**Position: STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB1008!**

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco, and Water and Land Committee members, and Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and members of the Energy and Environmental Protection Committee:

The HAWAI'I REEF AND OCEAN COALITION – HIROC – was formed in 2017 by coral reef scientists, educators, local Hawaii environmental organizations, elected officials, and others to address the crisis facing Hawaii's coral reefs and other marine life.

The purpose of this chapter is to establish a program to financially assist landowners in managing, protecting, and restoring important natural resources in Hawaii's forested and formerly forested lands.

Conserving, protecting and restoring forested lands is important in preserving coral reefs and oceans. Restoring forests can reduce runoff from the land, as shown by the damage to the reefs and ocean on Molokai from upland disturbances. Planting trees and restoring forests can be an important way to sequester atmospheric carbon and mitigate the climate crisis that is bleaching and killing our precious coral reefs and marine species.

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo! Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

**HB-1008**

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 10:55:02 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/16/2021 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments: