

**HB-135**

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 6:51:11 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/18/2021 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

Please support HB135.

Hawaii has been a leader in sustainability, let's keep it that way.

Thank you,

Andrea Quinn

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



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

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on  
WATER & LAND

Thursday, February 18, 2021  
8:30 AM

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 430

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 135  
RELATING TO TREES

House Bill 135 proposes to require the Department of Accounting and General Services and Department of Land and Natural Resources to require that, for all projects undertaken on state land or public land, three new trees are to be planted whenever an existing tree is cut down. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent and offers the following comments.**

State and public land encompasses a wide range of purposes, including forest protection and restoration, agriculture, rural, urban and industrial lands. Similarly, state and public land includes a wide range of trees, including native Hawaiian trees, Polynesian introduced trees, and invasive non-native trees.

The Department highly encourages protection and restoration of native Hawaiian trees in forested areas. Removal of trees that are highly invasive, such as albizzia or strawberry guava or gunpowder tree, should be encouraged rather than discouraged in all areas.

The Department notes that the urban tree canopy is declining, and with it, the benefits provided by urban green infrastructure. This measure could better reverse that trend if it were specified which type of trees are suitable replacements for trees that are cut down, and which trees must be replaced, and have a replacement calculator that would help quantify the benefits lost and subsequently being replaced. Not all trees are equal. In the urban area, a 20-year-old monkey pod tree provides substantially more ecological benefits than a newly planted seedling or even three newly planted saplings. Specifying "wood for wood" in terms of the trees' volume and canopy size may be a more equitable way to require tree replacement. Furthermore, it should be

specified that in rural and urban areas native and Polynesian introduced trees be preferred, and trees known or at risk for becoming invasive be prohibited.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CURT T. OTAGURO  
COMPTROLLER  
AUDREY HIDANO  
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES**  
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
OF  
CURT T. OTAGURO, STATE COMPTROLLER  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES  
TO THE  
COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021, 8:30 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 430 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

H.B. 135

RELATING TO TREES.

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 135.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) appreciates the intent of H.B. 135 which requires the DAGS and the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to require that, for all projects undertaken on state land or public land, three new trees are to be planted whenever an existing tree is cut down. The DAGS offers the following **comments**.

A tree may be removed for a number of reasons, and it is not always practical nor feasible to replace a tree, much less plant three more trees in its place. Project locations may not be compatible with replacing a tree or planting more trees due to limited space adjacent to buildings or other infrastructure. In the case of a new development, this requirement may also limit other types of more beneficial landscaping options available to the State. The proposed requirement could also limit planned property usage. Hence, DAGS recommends revising page 1, lines 15-17,

to read, “The department shall require that, where practical and feasible, for all projects undertaken on public land, three new trees shall be planted whenever an existing tree is cut down.”

Reference to DAGS and Chapter 107, Hawaii Revised Statutes, should also be removed as DAGS does not hold title to nor have regulatory authority over the disposition of State lands. Neither does DAGS have regulatory authority over construction implemented by other public agencies. Instead, DAGS’ compliance would be limited solely to those construction projects DAGS implements on State property on behalf of our agency and our clients should the proposed revisions to Chapter 171 be adopted. The DAGS will collaborate with DLNR to produce practical and feasible policies for the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter