

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
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LAND
STATE PARKS

**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
2:50 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 115/SENATE RESOLUTION 85
REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO PRIORITIZE THE PLANTING OF FOUR
MILLION TREES ALONG STREETS AND ROADWAYS WITHIN THE NEXT FOUR
YEARS TO HELP ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE AND MAKE COMPLETE
STREETS STATEWIDE**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 115/Senate Resolution 85 requests that the Governor prioritize the planting of four million trees along streets and roadways within the next four years to help address climate change and make complete streets statewide. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports these measures.**

The Department and partners have documented a five percent loss in urban tree canopy in a five year period on O'ahu, our most populous island. This equates to a removal of over 76,000 trees. The Department strongly supports actions, such as this one, to reverse this trend statewide. Trees in urban and rural areas encourage safer streets (by slowing traffic), reduce urban heat island effect, improve stormwater runoff and erosion, improve air quality, and sequester carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these measures.

SR-85

Submitted on: 3/16/2019 11:40:53 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2019 2:50:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mary Smart | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments:

Vote NO for the same reasons that SCR 115 should be opposed. Trees near a highway are expensive to maintain. The roots destroy the roads and sidewalks as the trees mature. Put the trees in rural areas for offsets if you really think you need them. Carbon offsets has no proven value but has great cost to the taxpayer. Don't waste our tax dollars. Complete streets is a failed concept and should not be implemented in Hawaii. The "complete street" bicycle lane on S. King Street endangers the safety of both the bicyclist and the drivers. Do not waste any funds on these concepts. We need more lanes -- not lanes taken away. Do not pass SR 85.