

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA**

DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

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FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
DAWN N.S. CHANG
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Monday, March 17, 2025
1:01 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

**In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 183
and
SENATE RESOLUTION 153**

**ENDORISING AND REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED BY THE
ALOHA+ CHALLENGE THROUGH ITS INTEGRATED APPROACH AND SIX
AMBITIOUS TARGETS TO BE REACHED BY 2030**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.

The Department has made substantial progress on the Aloha+ Challenge goals to manage the State's natural resources and provide a green workforce and education. The State's Watershed Initiative is committed to protecting 30% (253,000 acres) of Hawaii's highest-priority forests by 2030. In 2010, only 10% of these forests were protected. Now, 22% are protected, in large part due to Capital Improvement Project funding provided by the Legislature. The Department also is undertaking the "Holomua Marine Initiative" which is a community-based planning approach to ensure local knowledge is guiding marine resource management planning for our State's ocean resources. The Department also tracks progress on other Aloha+ Challenge goals, such as native species protection, invasive species control, and increasing freshwater capacity. With support from the Legislature and other partners, we can continue to make progress on these initiatives that protect the precious natural resources of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



March 14, 2024

Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Chair, Senator Mike Gabbard
Vice Chair, Senator Tim Richards III

Organization Testimony in Support of SR153
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Chair, Senator Mike Gabbard
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Honorable Members of the Committee,

We support the ongoing efforts of the Aloha+ Challenge and the ability to measure, track, and report the collective progress of our State's sustainability goals. Our non-profit organization, Re-use Hawai'i, strongly resonates with four of these goals and actively works to reduce **solid waste reduction** through **green workforce development**. Our new location at Stadium Marketplace is three times the size of our previous location, allowing us to make a significant **positive impact on our natural resources**.

Through activating this circular economy, Re-use Hawai'i found new and innovative opportunities to scale up, continually driving us forward in positive growth in the demolition and construction waste recovery industry. Re-use Hawai'i has found great value in the cooperative efforts of the Aloha+ challenge. It has helped us both grow our audience base, which often translates into our customer base. The Aloha+ sustainability dashboard of voluntary public and private sectors is invaluable.

Mahalo for supporting the collective recording and reporting work that Aloha+ Challenge has provided.

Mahalo Nui,

Faith Chase
Director of Strategic Communications
Re-use Hawai'i



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

March 15, 2025

To: Chair Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment

From: Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

Date: Monday, March 17, 2025 **Time:** 1:01 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Subject: Testimony in Strong Support of SCR183/SR153 - ALOHA+ CHALLENGE

Aloha e Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii strongly supports SCR183/SR153, which endorses and reaffirms support for the progress achieved by the Aloha+ Challenge through its integrated approach and ambitious targets to be reached by 2030.

Key Points in Support:

1. Comprehensive and Integrated Approach

- The Aloha+ Challenge's emphasis on cross-sector collaboration ensures a holistic approach to achieving sustainability goals, bringing together government, private sector, and community partners to create a unified vision for Hawaii's future.

2. Ambitious Targets for 2030

- The six targets, ranging from clean energy transformation to the protection of natural resources and the advancement of green jobs, reflect a bold and actionable framework designed to meet Hawaii's sustainability needs and support global climate initiatives.

3. Tangible Progress and Momentum

- The accomplishments of the Aloha+ Challenge to date highlight Hawaii's ability to lead by example in sustainability efforts, showcasing the effectiveness of the program's integrated approach and building trust in its continued success.

4. Community Engagement and Equity

- By fostering inclusive participation and prioritizing equity, the Aloha+ Challenge ensures that all residents benefit from and contribute to the transition to a sustainable and resilient economy.

5. Alignment with State and Global Goals

- The Aloha+ Challenge supports Hawaii's commitment to international agreements such as the Paris Climate Accord, positioning the state as a global leader in tackling climate change and promoting sustainability.

6. Strengthening Hawaii's Resilience

- The initiative's focus on sustainable resource management and climate resilience prepares Hawaii to address the challenges of the 21st century, ensuring the preservation of its unique cultural and natural heritage for future generations.

This resolution reaffirms Hawaii's dedication to sustainability and the vital role of the Aloha+ Challenge in achieving that vision. We commend the Legislature for its continued support of this critical initiative and urge your committee to pass SCR183/SR153 to maintain momentum and progress toward a sustainable future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.

Respectfully submitted,

Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick
Co-Chairs Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

SR-153

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 9:17:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/17/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tasman Kekai Mattox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Aloha+.