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GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
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LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS

Tuesday, February 25, 2020
12:40 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 3171, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE GREEN ENVIRONMENT

Senate Bill 3171, Senate Draft 1 proposes to amend Chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to protect, restore and expand the lei of green by including objectives and policies and implementation guidelines for planning for the lei of green in the Hawaii State Planning Act. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure as it complements the Department's ongoing initiatives.**

The Department recognizes the importance of greenspaces in our communities to bring social, health, and economic benefits to the public to improve the ecosystem and quality of life in or near urban areas. The department further notes the importance of urban trees in providing large shade canopy trees to mitigate climate change through reducing ambient air temperatures. The mission of the Department's Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program is to "Balance the urban and natural environment by encouraging, empowering and equipping the people of Hawai'i to mālama the trees in our 'āina" The Kaulunani program is building capacity in our communities to plan for, establish, manage and protect trees, forests, green spaces and related natural resources in areas where we live, work, and play. The Department notes the complimentary nature of the two programs and encourages collaboration between the Department and the Office of Planning on this topic.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure



Written Testimony before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Conf. Room 211 (12:40 pm)

RE: SB3171 SD 1 RELATING TO THE GREEN ENVIRONMENT.

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, Members of the Committee:

We support SB3171, SD1 which includes objectives and policies and implementation guidelines for planning for the lei of green in the Hawaii state plan. An integral part of such a lei of green are trees. We especially like the emphasis in the bill's language of "*including large shade canopy trees to mitigate climate change*". Benefits of trees extend well behind climate change to include improved: 1) Human Health; 2) Water Quality and Management; 3) Public Well-Being and Safety; 4) City Planning; 5) Economic Development; 6) Air Temperatures; 7) Air Quality and Energy Use; and 8) Transportation.

The dollars expended will pay back at tremendous multiples. Green spaces, and trees in particular, provide an excellent return on investment so encouraging such in state planning is an excellent step forward.

We ask that this bill be passed out of Committee and sent to the floor.

Mahalo,

Daniel Dinell
President

HONOLULU is HOT TREES are COOL

Visit us: www.TreesForHonolulu.org Contact us: info@TreesForHonolulu.org Voice/Fax/Text: 808-707-6353
P.O. Box 12051, Honolulu, Hawaii 96828

SB-3171-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 6:53:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Winston Welch	Testifying for The Outdoor Circle	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee,

The Outdoor Circle strongly supports SB3171 SD1 in strengthening and enhancing the Lei of Green in our state. Large canopy shade trees are vital to livability especially in our urban areas for the myriad of benefits they provide.

We fully support the passage of this bill out of Committee and on to full floor review.

Thank you for your consideration.

Winston Welch, Executive Director, The Outdoor Circle

O'AHU ISLAND PARKS CONSERVANCY

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Decision-Making Meeting
Tuesday, February 25, 2020
Senate Conference Room 211
12:40 PM

Senate Bill 3171, SD1 Relating to the Green Environment Testimony in Strong Support

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

Senate Bill 3171 is an important policy measure to ensure perpetuation and connection of Hawaii's green environmental resources.

SB 3171 is consistent with HRS 226, which sets forth priority guidelines for the protection and enhancement of Hawaii's shorelines, open spaces and scenic resources; and defines as critical environmental areas Hawaii's scenic and recreational shoreline resources, open space and natural areas, historic and cultural sites, and scenic resources.

Hawaii's Lei of Green policy has been a long-standing objective to link green tree-canopied parks, recreational open spaces and greenways mauka to makai along the shoreline, interconnected with tree-lined pedestrian paths for shade and climate protection.

This important policy was first recommended by renowned national planner Lewis Mumford to benefit the Territory of Hawaii. This policy has been further emphasized by the Hawaii Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, and incorporated as a priority guiding principle in the Kaka'ako Makai Master Plan by the Hawaii Community Development Authority.

The purpose of enacting this long-standing policy within HRS 226 is to benefit the people of Hawaii and future generations by ensuring perpetuation of the green physical environment that embodies significant natural and scenic resources, historic landscapes and other natural features; and to maintain and improve the quality of life for Hawaii's people with a green physical environment and the linkage of green historic parks, recreational open spaces, and scenic greenways in the greater public interest and as a legacy to benefit present and future generations.

To accomplish this objective, there is a need for coordination among related State and county agencies to guide this green environment policy in view of Hawai'i's fragile environment, sustainability goals and policies, and the specter of climate change.

We applaud the State Senate's consideration of this important measure, and all the Senators who have participated in the introduction of this Bill.

Mahalo nui loa,
Michelle Spalding Matson
President, O'ahu Island Parks Conservancy



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February 25, 2020

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee

SB 3171, SD1
RELATING TO THE GREEN ENVIRONMENT

Hawaii's Thousand Friends, a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring that growth is reasonable and responsible and that planning and land use decisions protect natural and cultural resources and human health and are implemented in conformity with the law, supports SB 3171, SD1 that includes objectives, policies and implementation guidelines for planning for a "lei of green" in the State Planning Act.

Hawaii's State Planning Act was passed in 1978 after the Legislature found that there was a need to 1) improve the planning process, 2) increase the effectiveness of government and private actions, 3) improve coordination among different agencies and levels of government, 4) provide for wise use of Hawaii's resources and 5) guide the future development of the State.

To accomplish the legislatures findings and purpose HRS Chapter §226-1 established the Hawaii State Plan to 1) a guide for the future long-range development of the State, 2) identify the goals, objectives, policies and priorities for the State, 3) provide a basis for determining priorities and allocating limited resources, such as public funds..., 4) improve coordination of federal, state and county plans, policies, programs, projects and regulatory activities, and 5) establish a system for plan formulation and program coordination to provide for an integration of all major state and county activities.

In these uncertain times of sea level rise the creation of a new State Plan policy defining green infrastructure *lei of green* as linking parks, open space, recreational areas along the shoreline with mauka tree-lined pedestrian paths with the objective to preserve open green space and trees that provide shade will help guide long-range planning.

Enacting a green infrastructure *lei of green* policy and objectives in the State Plan will help ensure that there is coordination between agencies and that green open spaces needed to combat climate change and sea level rise are integrated into state and county plans and activities.

We urge you to pass SB 3171 SD1 out of committee.



LATE

February 25, 2020

To: The House Committee Members on Ways and Means
The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Re: Strong Support of SB3171 SD1, Relating to the Green Environment

Hrg: February 25, 2020 at 12:40 PM at Capitol Room 211

The Hawaii Public Health Association (HPHA) is a group of over 600 community members, public health professionals and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. HPHA also serves as a voice for public health professionals and as a repository for information about public health in the Pacific.

HPHA strongly supports SB3171 SD1, which would include objectives and policies and implementation guidelines for planning for the lei of green in the Hawaii State Planning Act. This bill also appropriates funds for costs associated with researching, compiling, and submitting the status report on the Lei of Green policy. The addition of these objectives, policies, and implementation guidelines will add clarity and greater focus to the existing law.

The intent and content of SB3171 SD1 is in line with Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Section 226, which establishes guidelines for the protection of scenic resources, shorelines, and historical and cultural sites. This bill will allow for the continued benefit and maintenance of the quality of life of our residents ensuring the perpetuity of our green physical environment that supports our natural and scenic resources. The maintenance of natural resources has mental and physical health benefits. Green spaces provide places to gather with friends and relatives, exercise, play and relax. They can also contribute to improved air quality and reduction of harmful greenhouse gases. Green spaces may filter air, remove pollution, attenuate noise, cool temperatures and replenish groundwater. The World Health Organization states that having access to green spaces can reduce health inequalities, improve well-being and aid in treatment of mental illness.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on important issues affecting the health of people in Hawaii.

Respectfully submitted,

Tenaya Jackman, MPH
Climate Change Legislative Sub-Committee Chair
Legislative Committee Chair
Hawaii Public Health Association

SB-3171-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 5:56:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-3171-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2020 10:21:08 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sharlene Chun Lum	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strong support Senate Bill 3171, SD1 as it is an important policy measure to ensure perpetuation and connection of Hawaii's green environmental resources.

Hawaii's Lei of Green policy has been a long-standing objective to link green tree-canopied parks, recreational open spaces and greenways mauka to makai along the shoreline, interconnected with tree-lined pedestrian paths for shade and climate protection.

The return on investment for the protection of the lei of green resources for the immediate future and perpetuation of the lei of green to benefit the public as an environmental legacy for present and future generations is priceless.

Mahalo for supporting SB3171, SD1.

SB-3171-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2020 10:51:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bruce	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Bruce Lum
99-546 Iwaiwa St.
Aiea, Hawaii 96701

February 23, 2020

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

RE: SB3171 SD1

Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, Members of this Committee

I enthusiastically support SB3171 SD1, which includes objectives and policies and implementation guidelines for planning for the Lei of Green vision in the Hawaii state plan.

Honolulu's urban core makai is being dramatically and significantly impacted by rapid development by TODs, Ward Village, Kaka'ako HCDA and various other high density residential and commercial buildings. In response to the rapid densification of Honolulu's urban core, I am pleading with this honorable committee to adopt SB3171, SD1 today.

The implementation of this Lei of Green vision will ensure that the taxpayers of Honolulu will be assured of a future in which the health of all its citizens is placed far above monetary benefits, and by strategically doing such will guarantee Honolulu the best platform for building and sustaining a vibrant future.

I strongly support the passage of SB3171 SD 1.

Mahalo for your kind attention,

Bruce Lum

LATE

SB-3171-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 3:26:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Casey Takayama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB3171_Lei of Green_as part of Hawaii state plan_Senate Ways and Means
Committee

As a member of the Hawaii Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects for over 45 years, I strongly support the intent and the provisions of this bill. It responds to the ongoing challenge of maintaining a green landscape framework for the Hawaiian islands in the face of relentless pressure for urban development. It also has the potential of reinforcing efforts to strengthen sustainability in the face of increasing effects of climate change, including heavier rainfall events.

This bill would build on planner Lewis Mumford's inspiring vision of mauka to makai green landscape along Honolulu's streams. His vision was extended in 1999 when the Hawaii Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects proposed weaving a Lei of Green along the Honolulu shoreline. Furthermore, this vision would be beneficially extended statewide.

An important part of the bill is the proposed appropriation of \$400,000 to support the preparation of the report to the Legislature next year on the status of the green environment, its lands and their protection, including historic landscapes. The inventory should include identification of the gaps in the existing interconnected network of green landscape as well as opportunities to strategically extend the leis of green across the Hawaiian islands.

Thank you for considering my views.

Janet Thebaud Gillmar

Janet Thebaud Gillmar / ASLA
3035 La-i Road
Honolulu, Hawaii

**THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING**

DATE: Tuesday, February 25, 2020
TIME: 12:40 P.M.
PLACE: Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street



In Strong Support of SB3171 SD-1

Measure Title: RELATING TO THE GREEN ENVIRONMENT.

Report Title: Hawaii Green Environment; State Plan; Lei of Green; Appropriation (\$)

Description: Includes objectives and policies and implementation guidelines for planning for the lei of green in the Hawaii State Planning Act. Appropriates funds for costs associated with researching, compiling, and submitting the status report on the lei of green policy. (SD1)

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair;
J. Kalani English, Dru Mamo Kanuha, Maile S.L. Shimabukuro,
Breene Harimoto, Michelle N. Kidani, Brian T. Taniguchi,
Lorraine R. Inouye, Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Kurt Fevella
Kaiali'i Kahele, Gil Riviere,

**Aloha Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Glibert S. C. Keith-Agaran,
and the Committee on Ways and Means:**

Please accept this testimony by the Kaka'ako Makai Community Planning Advisory Council in strong support of SB3171 SD-1. SB3171 SD-1 that sponcers the "Lei of Green" concept is strongly supported by participating community groups, environmental groups, ocean recreational park users and the many Honolulu individuals and tourists that have enjoyed Honolulu's iconic south shore. The "Lei of Green" parks and "Shoreline Promenade" that features our iconic Diamond Head Crater profile are the two highly supported concepts throughout the Kaka'ako Makai Master Planning process. Preserving and improving the "Lei of Green" parks and "Shoreline Promenade" would defiantly be a well-supported treasure for local kamaaina, tourists and future generations.

My name is Wayne Takamine and I represent the Kaka'ako Makai Community Planning Advisory Council (CPAC). CPAC was created by the legislature HCR30 (2006) as a community working group to meaningfully participate with the HCDA and the Kaka'ako Community in the creation of the Kaka'ako Makai Master Plan. In 2011, the HCDA Board approved the Kaka'ako Makai Master Plan and its Kaka'ako Makai Vision and Guiding Principles.

Mahalo for allowing men opportunity to testify on this very important bill.

Respectfully,

Wayne Takamine
Chair
Kaka'ako Makai Community Planning Advisory Council (CPAC)