

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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Wednesday, February 17, 2021
3:30 PM

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 666
RELATING TO GREEN FEES

Senate Bill 666 proposes to establish a green fee surcharge on transient accommodations for the purposes of funding workforce and services that promote certain environmental goals. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure and offers the following comments.**

Hawaii's natural resources are huge economic assets, an essential piece of our tourism industry, and support the well-being of our communities. A University of Hawai'i study examined the various services provided by Oahu's Ko'olau forests - including drinking water recharge, flood prevention, water quality, carbon storage, biodiversity, and cultural, aesthetic, recreational, and commercial values. These services were calculated to have a net present value of between \$7.4 and \$14 billion.¹ Coral reefs annually protect \$836 million in averted damages to property and economic activity in Hawai'i.² Despite the value of our forests and oceans, Hawai'i invests less than 1% of the total state budget into maintaining these assets.

The establishment of green fees in several other tourism focused economies, has allowed places like the Republic of Palau, Galapagos Islands, New Zealand, and the Maldives, among others, to

1 Roumasset, J., J.B. Kaiser, N. Krause, D. Mecham and J. Wooley. 1997. Draft Environmental Valuation and the Hawaiian Economy. University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization, UH-Mānoa.

2 Storlazzi, C.D., Reguero, B.G., Cole, A.D., Lowe, E., Shope, J.B., Gibbs, A.E., Nickel, B.A., McCall, R.T., van Dongeren, A.R., Beck, M.W., 2019, Rigorously valuing the role of U.S. coral reefs in coastal hazard risk reduction: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2019-1027.

more substantially invest in their natural resources - reducing the overall impact of tourism on their environments, improving the quality of visitor experiences, and supporting community stewardship of these special places. In all cases, visitors and many residents do not mind paying a green fee because they know it goes back to caring for the beautiful places and resources they have come to enjoy. In 2001, the Department conducted a study to determine Hawaii's willingness to support increased funding for watershed protection. Respondents were presented with various means by which the increased funds could be raised (general funds, taxes, or fees). A majority supported the use of environment-related taxes (7.4 out of 10), or a visitor-related tax (8.0 out of 10).³

The establishment of a green fee is an important piece to closing the gap between existing and needed funding for the management of Hawaii's natural resources. This, in conjunction with innovative financing mechanisms, such as carbon offsets for reforestation and improved forest management, would move Hawai'i considerably forward in addressing climate change and Hawaii's tourism economy. A green fee program would bolster the State's existing investments in natural resource management and help fill Hawaii's conservation funding gap.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

³ Department of Land and Natural Resources. November 2011. The Rain Follows the Forest: A Plan to Replenish Hawaii's Source of Water.



Hawai'i Convention Center
1801 Kalākāua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815
kelepona tel 808 973 2255
kelepa'i fax 808 973 2253
kahua pa'a web hawaii-tourism-authority.org

David Y. Ige
Governor

John De Fries
President and Chief Executive Officer

Statement of
JOHN DE FRIES

Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

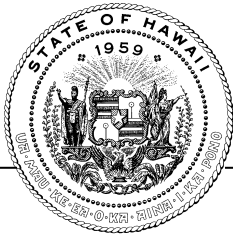
Wednesday, February 17, 2021
3:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room #224
via videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE BILL NO. 666
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha, and members of the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism: the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) would like to **offer comments** on Senate Bill 666, which establishes a green fee surcharge on transient accommodations for the purposes of finding workforce and services that promote certain environmental goals.

HTA agrees in principle with the intent of this bill because we do feel that visitors can and should contribute to helping preserve our natural resources. However, we have concerns about the mechanism for collecting this new fee. Also, as an advocate for Hawai'i's visitor industry, HTA does not support tax or fee increases that could adversely affect the relaunch of tourism.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony.



OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846
Fax: (808) 587-2824
Web: <http://planning.hawaii.gov/>

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM
Wednesday, February 17, 2021
3:30 PM
State Capitol
in consideration of
SB 666
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha, and Members of the Senate Committee:

The Office of Planning (OP) supports the intent of this measure and offers the following **comments** on SB 666. This bill establishes a \$40 green fee surcharge on transient accommodations for the purposes of funding workforce and services that promote certain environmental goals; repeals on June 30, 2031.

The Office of Planning is actively working on the sustainable development and climate adaptation of the state to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations of Hawai'i to meet their own needs.

The Office of Planning notes that the intent of this bill is to finance and increase green infrastructure throughout Hawai'i¹, and notes that "green infrastructure" is defined in Section 502 of the Clean Water Act as *"the range of measures that use plant or soil systems, permeable pavement or other permeable surfaces or substrates, stormwater harvest and reuse, or landscaping to store, infiltrate, or evapotranspire stormwater and reduce flows to sewer systems or to surface waters."*²

The proposal of a "green fee" as described in this measure is to serve as a method of "green financing," a concept launched by the U.N. Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) in 1992 to connect sustainable economic development with environmental protection. Since 1992, green financing has evolved to include a myriad of financial opportunities, such as: the [Portfolio Decarbonization Coalition](#) (2015), [G20 Energy Efficiency Investment Toolkit](#) (2017), [Connecting Finance to Natural Capital](#) (2018), [Principles for Responsible Banking](#) (2019), [Fiduciary Duty in the 21st Century](#) (2019), [Changing Course Real Estate: a Pilot Project Report and Investor Guide to Scenario-Based Climate Risk Assessment in Real Estate Portfolios](#) (2019), and [Managing Environmental, Social, and Governance Risks in Non-Life Insurance Business](#) (2020). The World Bank defines "green financing" to include *"a wide variety of financial investments flowing into*

¹ Conservation International, "[Green Passport: Innovating Financing Solutions for Conservation in Hawaii](#)," p.1, (2019).

² Section 502, Federal Water Pollution Control Act ("Clean Water Act"), 33 USC § 1362 (27).

*sustainable development projects and initiatives, environmental products, and policies that encourage the development of a more sustainable economy. Green finance includes but is not limited to climate finance. It also refers to a wider range of other environmental objectives, such as industrial pollution control, water sanitation or biodiversity protection.*³”

SB 666 establishes a conservation workforce special fund to “provide sustainable and comprehensive funding for green job growth,” however, the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics defines “green jobs” and green workforce development broader than the conservation workforce development as defined in this bill and can be “*jobs in businesses that produce goods or provide services that benefit the environment or conserve natural resources; or are jobs which workers’ duties involve making the establishment’s production process more environmentally friendly or use fewer natural resources.*”⁴”

Additionally, the “conservation advisory committee” proposed in SB 666 could likewise be expanded to include the Department of Agriculture, which works intricately with biosecurity and invasive species management. The proposed advisory committee could instead be modeled after similar environmental advisory councils such as the Natural Area Reserves Commission (HRS §195-5) or the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council (HRS §194-2), both of which follow stringent rules and provide guidance on environmental financing.

SB 666’s proposed green fee is written to begin on July 1, 2021; however, additional time may be needed to establish rules in accordance with the collection and management of the green fee. The Office of Planning also notes that there is no exemption of the \$40 green fee surcharge for Hawai‘i residents.

Like SB 666, there are many policy proposals before the State Legislature this Legislative Session proposing various forms of green or climate financing, including: carbon offsets, carbon taxes, climate change mitigation fees, green fees, surcharges on fossil fueled vehicles, and proposed increased barrel taxes. While these policy proposals are admirable to protect Hawai‘i’s vulnerable ecosystems, and scarce land and natural resources for a sustainable and climate resilient future; the Office of Planning recommends a more collaborative, inclusive, and holistic method of green financing to include all public, private, and non-governmental stakeholders.

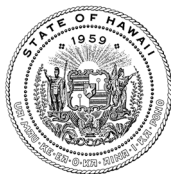
Green workforce development, green financing, and climate mitigation and adaptation, will require a multi-agency approach throughout the State of Hawai‘i, including but not limited to the hard work of the following state agencies: the Departments of Agriculture; Budget and Finance; Business and Economic Development and Tourism; Education; Health; Land and Natural Resources; Transportation; Taxation; the Public Utilities Commission; Hawai‘i Green Infrastructure Authority; Energy Office; Hawai‘i Tourism Authority; the State Office of Planning, and the University of Hawai‘i. For example, the Department of Health’s Environmental Health Administration branches work diligently enforcing Clean Air, Clean Water, and Environmental Impact regulations and standards; this department and these jobs could be considered “green jobs” and a part of the “green workforce.” Similarly, the Department of Transportation provides landscaping to manage stormwater as green infrastructure along Hawai‘i’s airports and highways.

The potential funds collected by the proposed green fee to promote green workforce development and finance increased green infrastructure statewide may likely be needed by more than one state agency to achieve our state’s many sustainability statutory targets and goals. Such funds should be collected by a centralized entity to ensure the equitable distribution to all state agencies to mutually achieve these types of green and climate financing, green workforce, green infrastructure, sustainable, and climate resilient initiatives.

³ World Bank, Global Environment Facility, “[Introduction to Green Finance](#),” (2017).

⁴ U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, “[Measuring Green Jobs](#).”

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

ROBERT YU
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
TOURISM
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 666

February 17, 2021
3:30 p.m.
Room 224 and Videoconference

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 666.

S.B. No. 666: establishes a ten-year pilot green fee surcharge to promote environmental goals; creates the Conservation Workforce Special Fund for natural resource management and conservation workforce programs that would generate revenues through a \$40 green fee surcharge for each guest of a transient accommodation, legislative appropriations, grants, and gifts; and establishes an advisory committee to develop a funding criteria and governance framework for the special fund. S.B. No. 666 does not appropriate any funds.

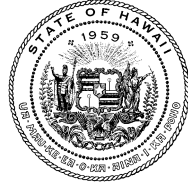
As a matter of general policy, B&F does not support the creation of any special fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and

charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. Regarding S.B. No. 666, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed special fund would be self-sustaining or demonstrates a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon users.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN M.D.
LT. GOVERNOR



ISAAC W. CHOY
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
P.O. BOX 259
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

To: The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
The Honorable Bennette E. Misalucha, Vice Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and
Tourism

From: Isaac W. Choy, Director
Department of Taxation

Date: February 17, 2021
Time: 3:30 P.M.
Place: Via Video Conference, State Capitol

Re: S.B. 666, Relating to Environmental Protection

The Department of Taxation (Department) offers the following comments regarding S.B. 666, for your consideration.

S.B. 666 creates a surcharge of \$40 per guest of a transient accommodation. The bill provides that the surcharge shall not pay the surcharge on the same guest more than once in any 365-day period. The measure is effective on July 1, 2021 and is repealed on June 30, 2031.

First, the Department notes that the application of the surcharge is not clear. Specifically, the one charge per 365-day period limitation is unclear. The limitation, as written, applies per transient accommodations broker, travel agency, tour packager, or operator. This would result in a guest that makes two separate trips to Hawaii in a 365-day period paying the fee twice in a 365-day period if the guest stays at a different transient accommodation on each trip but paying the fee only once if the guest chose to stay at the same transient accommodation during both trips. The Department strongly suggests clarifying this provision.

Next, the Department notes that before COVID-19, Hawaii enjoyed more than 20,000 visitor arrivals per day. Assuming that 20,000 visitors arrive per day and half are returning residents or others staying with friends and family, this leaves 10,000 arrivals per day as guests at transient accommodations and thus paying the \$40 surcharge. This would raise \$400,000 per day and \$146 million per year. In fiscal year 2019, the total TAT collected was \$600 million.

Thus, this surcharge represents a significant increase to the cost of transient accommodations and thus the cost of tourism in Hawaii.

Finally, the Department notes that the proposed surcharge is not a simple surcharge on the Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT), but is an entire new tax type because the base of the proposed surcharge is total guests rather than the total revenue from renting rooms. As such, the proposed surcharge will require the Department to create entirely new forms and processes to administer it. The Department requests that the bill be amended to apply no earlier than January 1, 2022.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 17, 2021

S.B. 666 – RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the purpose and intent of S.B. 666 which establishes a green fee surcharge on transient accommodations to fund services that promote environmental goals, **with a proposed amendment that the fee only impact non-resident visitors.**

Many of our local leaders across industries agree: the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic can and should be utilized as an opportunity to build back tourism in a thoughtful and sustainable way. With a record-setting 10 million visitors in 2019 but stagnant visitor spending, we are led to believe that many tourists are maximizing their stay by enjoying Hawai'i's natural – and free – attractions. Implementing a green fee for tourists will appropriately shift the funding burden from residents to visitors and will provide necessary funding to preserve our reefs, beaches, and forests.

Since it will take time and resources to establish a Conservation Workforce Special Fund and public-private advisory committee, we support the concept in H.B. 433, which similarly establishes a green fee on car rentals, that immediately deposits all funding into the General Fund until 2023. Further, we respectfully request the Committee's consideration in amending the measure to exempt local Hawai'i residents from the \$40 per person fee, as many local families enjoy staycations in transient accommodations both on their home island or on a weekend trip to a neighbor island and should not be financially deterred from continuing to do so.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of S.B. 666, with a proposed amendment to ensure local residents are not required to pay the green fee.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director



HAWAI'I LODGING & TOURISM
A S S O C I A T I O N

Mufi Hannemann
President & CEO
Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association

Committee on Energy, Economic Development, & Tourism
Senate Bill 666: Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Wakai and members of the Committee, mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, the state's largest private sector visitor industry organization.

The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association—nearly 700 members strong, representing more than 50,000 hotel rooms and nearly 40,000 lodging workers —advocates on behalf an industry that has been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and its ensuing economic downturn. The local travel industry, which has long served as our state's strongest, most consistent economic sector, is just beginning to recover and bring its people back to their jobs. More than anything, HLTA feels strongly that this is not the time to levy an additional tax burden on an industry upon which so many people depend on for their livelihoods. Current statewide occupancy rates are hovering around 20%. If government restrictions were a lot more flexible and balanced, and our industry were on an upswing, we would be more amenable to a measure of this nature.

In addition to the poor timing of SB666, our organization also has several administrative concerns stemming from the ambiguity as to who would collect these taxes, what fund the monies would be stored in, and any guarantees that these funds would not find their way into the State's general fund.

Moreover, SB666 does not clearly state how this surcharge would be applied to residents who may be traveling interisland for work, or those who may be staycationing at a local resort or for that matter several lodging properties during the course of a year. Would they also be subject to these fees? Additionally, how does this proposed measure also affect transient vacation rentals?

While HLTA supports responsible tourism and the protection of our local resources, Senate Bill 666 has major concerns that need to be addressed and clarified. For these reasons, **HLTA does not support this measure.**

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, & TOURISM
Wednesday, February 17, 2021 — 3:30 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports the intent of SB 666, Relating to Environmental Protection

Dear Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food; renewable energy and clean transportation; and better management of freshwater and waste.

Ulupono supports the intent of SB 666, which establishes a green fee surcharge on transient accommodations for the purposes of funding workforce and services that promote certain environmental goals.

Ulupono supports the State's efforts to better manage its natural resources through dedicated funding. The Aloha + Challenge guides the State to implement sustainable change by setting goals across six priority areas – clean energy transportation, local agriculture, natural resource management, solid waste reduction, green workforce and education, and smart sustainable communities. While this measure identifies a green fee placed on visitors to support natural resource management, we believe it may be in the State's interest to expand that policy with the related efforts around clean energy transportation and local agriculture – both part of the Aloha + Challenge commitment that support Hawai'i's sustainable future and healthy environment for visitors and residents alike.

In addition to what this bill highlights, we ask this committee to consider utilizing the proposed green fee revenues to support the following additional options:

1. Allocate a certain percentage of funds from the fee toward clean ground transportation and the transition to zero-emission vehicles statewide.
 - a. Fund the Electric Vehicle Charging System (EVCS) Rebate Program established pursuant to sections 269-72, HRS, and 269-73, HRS.
 - b. Fund State and county EVCS infrastructure at airports, parks, trails, beaches, etc.
 - c. Fund the Energy Security Special Fund to support clean ground transportation.
2. Allocate a certain percentage of funds to local agricultural production, keeping lands in active production by encouraging new ag workforce development and maintaining

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

responsible conservation practices by local producers.

- a. Fund the Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Loan Program established in section 155, HRS.
- b. Fund State irrigation systems repairs and maintenance.
- c. Fund Department of Agriculture facilities that support agriculture operations such as the Honalo Marshalling Yard and the Kamuela Vacuum Cooling Plant.
- d. Fund future agricultural park infrastructure such as the Department of Agriculture's Kunia Agricultural Park.

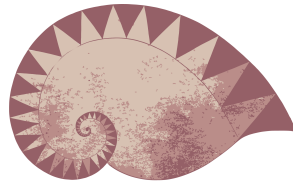
Should the committee seek to maintain this measure in its current form, we ask that the special fund include expenditures to expand clean transportation and local agriculture within the State. We also ask that the advisory committee include additional members from the State Energy Office and the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.

A green fee should support the State's efforts to maintain natural resources, including support for clean transportation and local agriculture. Expanding local access to clean, alternative fuel transportation is extremely important to our environment as ground transportation makes up a significant portion of Hawai'i's reliance on imported oil and is the largest contributor to our State's greenhouse gas emissions, affecting our carbon footprint and contributing to the devastating effects of climate change. Supporting local agriculture keeps lands fertile, productive, and well-managed through conservation practices, increasing the State's sustainability with responsible stewards of the land.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs



Pono Hawai'i Initiative

Patrick Shea - Treasurer • Lena Mochimaru - Secretary
Nelson Ho • Summer Starr

Monday, February 15, 2021

Relating to Environmental Protection
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) **supports SB666 Relating to Environmental Protection.** This measure establishes a green fee surcharge on transient accommodations for the purposes of funding workforce and services that promote certain environmental goals.

Hawaii's natural resources are some of many reasons tourists flock to our islands every year. These natural resources need to be protected and maintained if they are to be enjoyed by our local community as well as visitors from across the globe. This surcharge helps to ensure that our visitor industry has a positive effect on our natural resources.

We urge you to support SB666.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Gary Hooser
Executive Director
Pono Hawai'i Initiative

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/13/2021 8:58:51 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dyson Chee	Testifying for Hawai'i Youth Climate Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice-chair Misalucha, and members of the EET Committee,

My name is Dyson Chee, I am 18 years old, and I am submitting written testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Youth Climate Coalition (HYCC) in support of SB666.

The Green Passport offers innovative financing solutions for conservation efforts in the State of Hawai'i. Our ecosystems are inseparable from the Native Hawaiian culture and our environment is integral to our visitor experience. A public-private partnership model would be a preferred management structure to ensure that funds captured from a Visitor Green Fee are used to advance solutions to protect our environment while enhancing the visitor experience.

Hawai'i's total conservation funding gap has been estimated as high as \$360 million annually, constituting a major unfunded liability that poses a significant risk to our communities, our business climate, and our overall economic resiliency.

Natural Resource Management sectors could employ thousands in conservation work, which would provide both economic returns on investment, as well as non-market returns, such as restoring reefs, beaches, trails, and forest watersheds that our communities and visitor industry rely on.

International green fees vary from \$1/night to a \$100 set entrance fee. The fees require mandatory payments by visitors for the explicit purpose of supporting conservation and natural resource management. Should the forecast of five million visitors to Hawai'i come to fruition, a \$40 per visitor green fee could generate approximately \$200 million in conservation workforce revenue, which would fund an estimated 2,400 public and private jobs.

Now more than ever, Hawai'i faces challenges beyond the environment, such as housing, healthcare, and affordability. As the State addresses many urgent issues, we urge legislators to continue to prioritize the environment as it underpins every aspect of life and wellbeing on our islands. We hope that this committee will pass SB666, and mahalo for considering our testimony.

Sincerely,

Dyson Chee

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/13/2021 1:15:33 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
janice palma-glennie	Testifying for Surfrider's kona kai ea chapter	Support	No

Comments:

aloha,

This is an idea whose time is long overdue. The state Sierra Club did a study years back of tourists entering the state which showed their overwhelming support of paying a fee to help protect our state's natural and cultural heritage.

For decades, our investments in Hawaii's ecosystems have fallen further and further behind the returns we have demanded of them. This has serious social and environmental consequences that we are already seeing and that will decimate the future of our tourism industry.

please support this and other bills in this legislative session which would put a fee on visitors to help protect our islands' beauty and bounty.

mahalo and sincerely,

janice palma-glennie

for the Surfrider Foundation's Kona Kai Ea chapter

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 3:23:35 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maui OFR	Testifying for Surfrider	Support	No

Comments:

We need to put money back into the environment. If visitors are coming to see the beauty, they should help preserve it as well!



2/15/2021

Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism Committee
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Wakai, and Members of the Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism Committee,

The Surfrider Foundation would like to offer this testimony in support of SB666.

The Surfrider Foundation is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our ocean, waves, and beaches. Surfrider maintains a network of over 150 chapters and academic clubs nationwide, including 4 chapters in the Hawaiian Islands. The Surfrider Foundation focuses on many aspects of the environment such as coastal protection, plastic pollution, and water quality.

Being so immersed in environmental protection means that as an organization we have witnessed the lack of financial support the natural resource sector has. We are constantly being told that there is not enough money, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, where we witnessed the need to diversify our economy and jobs, and buffer the economy with income that doesn't rely on tourism alone. This is one reason that Surfrider supports any green fee legislation, to hopefully use Hawai'i's large tourist base to make money that supports a growing sustainable infrastructure.

SB666 would help achieve that desired result. The funds generated with this kind of green fee could open up jobs like *coral reef restoration, invasive species removal, native tree planting, campsite and trail maintenance, beach restoration and dune erosion recovery, ditch clearing, wildfire prevention and recovery, or fishpond restoration and monitoring*, going further to protect our natural areas.

In a poll of residents, 75% of those living in Hawai'i who took the survey supported a green fee for visitors (Conservation International, 2020). There are many conservation milestones as well here in Hawai'i that we would be in a better position to hit with better funding and support, for instance the 30 x 30 marine protection goal that has been a priority of DLNR's for a while.

These are just some of the reasons why we support a visitor green fee here in Hawai'i, and we thank you for your consideration of this testimony in support of SB666, submitted on the behalf of the Surfrider Foundation's 4 Chapters in Hawai'i and all of our members who live in the state and visit to enjoy the many coastal recreational opportunities offered by all of the islands' coastlines.

Sincerely,

Kaitlyn Jacobs
Volunteer Policy Coordinator
Surfrider Foundation, O'ahu Chapter

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 6:57:17 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charlie Quesnel	Testifying for Surfrider Maui Chapter	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support this bill.



February 15, 2021

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism
Hawaii State Legislature

Opposition to SB666

Dear Senator Wakai and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB666.

We truly appreciate the unique natural environment of Hawaii, and agree that our natural resources should be better protected, managed and maintained, as that they are one of the largest draws for visitation to our state.

However, we are staunchly opposed to creating a separate greens fee for visitors.

Visitors to the state already pay substantial transient accommodations taxes (TAT), and the legislature can use those resources for any purpose they determine, including allocating a larger investment to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) for protection, management and maintenance of our natural resources. We've supported HB369 which proposes an increase in the amount of TAT provided to DLNR from \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000.

The vast majority of TAT collected by the state during the last 10 years has gone into the state's general fund. In 2009, the percentage of TAT remaining in the general fund after all other allocations was 3.7% of overall collections, or \$7,793,000. In 2019, the percentage of TAT remaining in the general fund was 59.1% or **\$376,975,000**. Therefore, the Hawaii State Legislature can already cover any additional investments in our natural resources with taxes it already collects from visitors; there is no need to create a separate tax.

KCRA is a collection of master-planned resorts and hotels, situated north of the Kona International Airport which represents more than 3,500 hotel and timeshare accommodations and an equal number of resort residential units. This is approximately 35 percent of the visitor accommodations available on the Island of Hawai'i. KCRA member properties annually pay more than \$25 million in TAT, \$25 million in GET and \$11 million in property taxes. KCRA members employ more than 5,000 Hawaii Island residents.

Mahalo for the opportunity to oppose this proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie P. Donoho". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephanie Donoho
Administrative Director



SB 666, RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

FEBRUARY 17, 2021 · SENATE ENERGY,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM
COMMITTEE · CHAIR SEN. GLENN WAKAI

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: Imua Alliance supports SB 666, relating to environmental protection, which establishes a green fee surcharge on transient accommodations for the purposes of funding workforce and services that promote certain environmental goals.

According to a report produced by the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, global sea levels could rise more than three feet by 2100, with more recent projections showing this occurring as early as 2060. In turn, over the next 30 to 70 years, approximately 6,500 structures and 19,800 people statewide will be exposed to chronic flooding.

Additionally, an estimated \$19 billion in economic loss would result from chronic flooding of land and structures located in exposure areas. Finally, approximately 38 miles of coastal roads and 550 cultural sites would be chronically flooded, on top of the 13 miles of beaches that have already been lost on Kaua'i, O'ahu, and Maui to erosion fronting shoreline armoring, like seawalls.

Furthermore, according to research conducted by Michael B. Gerrard from Columbia Law School, modern-day slavery tends to increase after natural disasters or conflicts where large numbers of people are displaced from their homes. In the decades to come, says Gerrard, **climate change will very likely lead to a significant increase in the number of people who are displaced**

and, thus vulnerable, to human trafficking. While the Paris Climate Agreement of 2015 established objectives to limit global temperature increases and several international agreements are aimed at combating modern-day slavery, it is highly uncertain whether they will be adequate to cope with the scale of the problem that is likely to occur as a result of climate change.

As we work to reduce carbon emissions and stave off the worst consequences of climate change, we must begin preparing for the adverse impact of sea level rise on our shores. We are now quantifying the speed at which we must act. We cannot continue to develop the 25,800-acre statewide sea level rise exposure area—one-third of which is designated for urban use—without risking massive structural damage and, potentially, great loss of life.

Therefore, we should take steps to accelerate Hawai'i's efforts to address climate change and develop a clean economy, including by implementing "green fees" that ensure our state's visitors pay their fair share to sustain our 'āina. New Zealand, the Maldives, Cancun, and Venice, and numerous other countries have green fee programs for visitors, which vary from \$1 per night to a \$100 entrance fee for the purpose of environmental conservation. **Palau's per-tourist investment in its natural environment is \$92, New Zealand's is \$188, and the Galapagos Islands' is \$373. Hawai'i's is just \$9 per tourist,** according to a report from Conservation International's Green Passport initiative. We need to catch up. For the sake of our keiki, we cannot afford to wait to solidify strategies to preserve our island home for generations to come.

Kris Coffield · Executive Director, Imua Alliance · (808) 679-7454 · kris@imuaalliance.org



**Testimony to the Senate Committee Energy, Economic Development,
and Tourism**

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 3:30 P.M.

Via Videoconference

RE: SB 666, RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Chair Wakai, Vice-Chair Misalucha, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **offers comments and raises concerns** on SB 666 which establishes a green fee surcharge on transient accommodations for the purposes of funding workforce and services that promote certain environmental goals, with a repeal date of June 30, 2031.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

We appreciate and recognize the threat of environmental sustainability and the ability to stem the effects of climate change. This measure proposes a huge endeavor but lacks details and holistic plans on potential short-term and long-term impacts and benchmarks on Hawaii's tourism industry and overall economic outlook, including but not limited to possible market impacts, economic and workforce considerations.

Rather, The Chamber believes a study would be the first step in helping to establish critical investments towards our natural resources and continue to make Hawaii an ideal destination to visit. A collaborative working group, like Senate Bill 2696 proposed in 2020, would help set the stage to justify, plan and align with Hawaii's short and long term goals of sustainability and climate change.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS, Green Fee Surcharge

BILL NUMBER: SB 666

INTRODUCED BY: DELA CRUZ

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Establishes a green fee surcharge on transient accommodations for the purposes of funding workforce and services that promote certain environmental goals. Repeals on June 30, 2031.

SYNOPSIS: Adds two new sections to chapter 171, HRS, establishing a conservation workforce special fund and the conservation advisory committee.

Adds a new section to chapter 237D, HRS, imposing a green fee surcharge of \$40 for each guest of a transient accommodation beginning on July 1, 2021. A transient accommodations broker, travel agency, and tour packager who arranges transient accommodations at noncommissioned negotiated contract rates and every operator shall not pay the surcharge on the same guest more than once in any 365 day period and, in such cases, shall not charge the guest for the amount of the surcharge. All surcharge monies will be diverted to the conservation workforce special fund.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021; provided that this Act shall be repealed on June 30, 2031.

STAFF COMMENTS: A tax increase of any magnitude in Hawaii's fragile economy will, no doubt, have a negative impact as costs soar due to higher taxes. As costs and overhead increase, employers must find ways to stay in business by either increasing prices to their customers or cut back on costs. This may take the form of reducing inventory, shortening business hours, reducing employee hours, or even laying off workers. A tax increase of any magnitude would send many companies, especially smaller ones, out of business taking with them the jobs the community so desperately needs at this time.

A tax increase on the hospitality industry, furthermore, would be kicking that industry when it is already down. According to the Department of Taxation's Preliminary Comparative Statement of General Fund Tax Revenues for January 2021, TAT collections for the fiscal year to date (7/1/2020 – 1/31/2021) are \$56.4 million, compared to \$391.3 million for the same period in the prior fiscal year. That's a drop of more than 85%.

Digested 2/13/2021

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/12/2021 1:19:53 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/12/2021 6:09:13 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sheadon Freitas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I believe that these types of bills are good for preservation and protection for Hawai'i as well as raise profits for the state. This is a pono way to raise funds for our state.

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/13/2021 4:03:32 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rylee Brooke Kamahele	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha, Senator Lee, Senator Fevella, and Senator Giviere,

My name is Rylee Brooke Kamahele and I am testifying in support of SB666, Relating to Environmental Protection.

Thanks to the efforts and vision of the Hawai'i State Legislature, Hawai'i has been a national and global leader in the fight against climate change and the battle to protect our natural resources. In 2017, we were the first state in the nation to enact legislation that implements portions of the Paris agreement. In 2018, Hawai'i took strong action to protect our ocean resources and fragile marine ecosystems by banning sunscreens with oxybenzone and octinoxate.

Hawai'i took these strides because we recognized one essential truth: we cannot disentangle our environment from our economy. If our natural resources degrade and decline, so does our overall quality of life and the strength of our economy. Nature is our Taj Mahal. Visitors rank nature and the ocean as the top two details that make their trip to Hawaii excellent (Hawaii Tourism Authority, 2017). It is our shared responsibility, both resident and visitor, to ensure the protection and survival of our greatest asset, so that our natural resources continues to protect and sustain future generations.

Unfortunately, the current funding for our reefs, forests, beaches, and watersheds has not kept pace with the stresses and impacts on our environment, such that Hawai'i is running an estimated 40% deficit on its investment in nature (Conservation International, 2018). Each year that we delay adequately funding these efforts, the interest on that debt to nature grows. At the same time, the COVID-19 pandemic has

revealed the critical need to diversify our economy to withstand future shocks, rebuild a more sustainable tourism sector, and put people back to work in resilient careers. The visitor green fee proposed in SB666 offers a balanced and focused approach that engages all stakeholders in creating a solution that closes this conservation budget gap, while increasing community resiliency by diversifying our economy and creating green jobs.

The public and private conservation jobs that could be funded by the visitor green fee support a wide array of critical efforts necessary to ensure healthy and vibrant ecosystems, including: coral reef restoration, invasive species removal, native tree planting, campsite and trail maintenance, beach restoration and dune erosion recovery, ditch clearing, wildfire prevention and recovery, fishpond restoration and monitoring – to name a few examples.

Positions range from entry-level to senior project management level jobs, providing opportunities for local residents at multiple levels. Growth opportunities in conservation careers create a future workforce that is equipped to handle natural disasters, support local food systems, and preserve the environment that sustains our communities and our visitor sector. These conservation careers not only supply jobs, but achieve critical work protecting invaluable natural capital while progressing us towards the State's 2030 Aloha+ Targets and 30x30 marine goals. We have less than a decade left to achieve these targets related to critical terrestrial, marine, and freshwater thresholds, yet there is no clear financing path to achieve these globally recognized ambitions.

With 75% of polled residents supporting a "visitor green fee" (The Nature Conservancy, 2020), this revenue generating mechanism to fund a resilient and green transition forward is a win-win for the community.

Now more than ever, Hawai'i faces challenges beyond the environment, such as housing, healthcare, and affordability. As the State addresses many urgent issues, we urge legislators to continue to prioritize the environment as it underpins every aspect of life and wellbeing on our islands.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Rylee Brooke Kamahele

Testimony in **SUPPORT** of:
SB666 Relating to Environmental Protection

Submitted by:
Gordon E. Hammond
4300 Waiialae Ave B-1301
Honolulu, HI 96813

EET Hearing Held
February 17th, 2021

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha, Senator Lee, Senator Fevella, and Senator Giviere,

My name is Gordon Hammond; *an Oahu resident and businessman*, and I am testifying in **support of SB666, Relating to Environmental Protection.**

Thanks to the efforts and vision of the Hawai‘i State Legislature, Hawai‘i has been a national and global leader in the fight against climate change and the battle to protect our natural resources. In 2017, we were the first state in the nation to enact legislation that implements portions of the Paris agreement. In 2018, Hawai‘i took strong action to protect our ocean resources and fragile marine ecosystems by banning sunscreens with oxybenzone and octinoxate.

Hawai‘i took these strides because we recognized one essential truth: we cannot disentangle our environment from our economy. If our natural resources degrade and decline, so does our overall quality of life and the strength of our economy. ***Nature is our Taj Mahal.*** Visitors rank nature and the ocean as the top two details that make their trip to Hawaii excellent (Hawaii Tourism Authority, 2017). It is our shared responsibility, both resident and visitor, to ensure the protection and survival of our greatest asset, so that our natural resources continues to protect and sustain future generations.

Unfortunately, the current funding for our reefs, forests, beaches, and watersheds has not kept pace with the stresses and impacts on our environment, such that Hawai‘i is running an estimated 40% deficit on its investment in nature (Conservation International, 2018). Each year that we delay adequately funding these efforts, the interest on that debt to nature grows. At the same time, ***the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the critical need to diversify our economy to withstand future shocks, rebuild a more sustainable tourism sector, and put people back to work in resilient careers.*** The visitor green fee proposed in SB666 offers a balanced and focused approach that engages all stakeholders in ***creating a solution that closes this conservation budget gap, while increasing community resiliency by diversifying our economy and creating green jobs.***

The public and private conservation jobs that could be funded by the visitor green fee support a wide array of critical efforts necessary to ensure healthy and vibrant ecosystems, including: *coral reef restoration, invasive species removal, native tree planting, campsite and trail maintenance, beach restoration and dune erosion recovery, ditch clearing, wildfire prevention and recovery, fishpond restoration and monitoring – to name a few examples.*

Positions range from entry-level to senior project management level jobs, providing opportunities for local residents at multiple levels. Growth opportunities in conservation careers create a future workforce that is equipped to handle natural disasters, support local

food systems, and preserve the environment that sustains our communities and our visitor sector. These conservation careers not only supply jobs, but achieve critical work protecting invaluable natural capital while progressing us towards the State's 2030 Aloha+ Targets and 30x30 marine goals. ***We have less than a decade left to achieve these targets related to critical terrestrial, marine, and freshwater thresholds, yet there is no clear financing path to achieve these globally recognized ambitions.***

With 75% of polled residents supporting a "visitor green fee" (The Nature Conservancy, 2020), this revenue generating mechanism to fund a resilient and green transition forward is a win-win for the community.

Now more than ever, Hawai'i faces challenges beyond the environment, such as housing, healthcare, and affordability. As the State addresses many urgent issues, ***we urge legislators to continue to prioritize the environment as it underpins every aspect of life and wellbeing on our islands.***

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Gordon E. Hammond

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/13/2021 10:06:43 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is especially useful because of its explicit link to creating jobs.

You may want to create a similar fee on construction projects.

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/13/2021 10:59:10 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julia Parish	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is the best investment in Hawaii's future. It is a win-win for the State and visitors alike.

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/12/2021 7:04:14 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicholas A Kida-Rodrigues	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a citizen of Hawaii, I agree with SB666. This fund could be an untapped resource to preserve and flourish the natural environments of Hawaii into the future.

Thank you,

Nicholas Kida-Rodrigues

Testimony in **SUPPORT** of:
SB666 Relating to Environmental Protection

Submitted by:
Emelia von Saltza
67-419 Kukea Circle, Waialua HI 96791

EET Hearing Held
February 17th, 2021

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha, Senator Lee, Senator Fevella, and Senator Giviere,

My name is Emelia von Saltza. I am an environmental economist from the north shore, and I am testifying in **support of SB666, Relating to Environmental Protection.**

Thanks to the efforts and vision of the Hawai‘i State Legislature, Hawai‘i has been a national and global leader in the fight against climate change and the battle to protect our natural resources. In 2017, we were the first state in the nation to enact legislation that implements portions of the Paris agreement. In 2018, Hawai‘i took strong action to protect our ocean resources and fragile marine ecosystems by banning sunscreens with oxybenzone and octinoxate.

Hawai‘i took these strides because we recognized one essential truth: we cannot disentangle our environment from our economy. If our natural resources degrade and decline, so does our overall quality of life and the strength of our economy. ***Nature is our Taj Mahal.*** Visitors rank nature and the ocean as the top two details that make their trip to Hawaii excellent (Hawaii Tourism Authority, 2017). It is our shared responsibility, both resident and visitor, to ensure the protection and survival of our greatest asset, so that our natural resources continues to protect and sustain future generations.

Unfortunately, the current funding for our reefs, forests, beaches, and watersheds has not kept pace with the stresses and impacts on our environment, such that Hawai‘i is running an estimated 40% deficit on its investment in nature (Conservation International, 2018). Each year that we delay adequately funding these efforts, the interest on that debt to nature grows. At the same time, ***the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the critical need to diversify our economy to withstand future shocks, rebuild a more sustainable tourism sector, and put people back to work in resilient careers.*** The visitor green fee proposed in SB666 offers a balanced and focused approach that engages all stakeholders in ***creating a solution that closes this conservation budget gap, while increasing community resiliency by diversifying our economy and creating green jobs.***

The public and private conservation jobs that could be funded by the visitor green fee support a wide array of critical efforts necessary to ensure healthy and vibrant ecosystems, including: *coral reef restoration, invasive species removal, native tree planting, campsite and trail maintenance, beach restoration and dune erosion recovery, ditch clearing, wildfire prevention and recovery, fishpond restoration and monitoring – to name a few examples.*

Positions range from entry-level to senior project management level jobs, providing opportunities for local residents at multiple levels. Growth opportunities in conservation careers create a future workforce that is equipped to handle natural disasters, support local food systems, and preserve the environment that sustains our communities and our visitor

sector. These conservation careers not only supply jobs, but achieve critical work protecting invaluable natural capital while progressing us towards the State's 2030 Aloha+ Targets and 30x30 marine goals. ***We have less than a decade left to achieve these targets related to critical terrestrial, marine, and freshwater thresholds, yet there is no clear financing path to achieve these globally recognized ambitions.***

With 75% of polled residents supporting a "visitor green fee" (The Nature Conservancy, 2020), this revenue generating mechanism to fund a resilient and green transition forward is a win-win for the community.

Now more than ever, Hawai'i faces challenges beyond the environment, such as housing, healthcare, and affordability. As the State addresses many urgent issues, ***we urge legislators to continue to prioritize the environment as it underpins every aspect of life and wellbeing on our islands.***

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Emelia von Saltza

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Emelia".

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 11:30:17 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sunny Savage	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

in support

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 12:02:54 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judith Perino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support passage of this bill.

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 12:03:28 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please vote YES on this bill to help our environment by taxing the transient accommodations that contribute to the wear and tear and pollution of our island. Tourism may be profitable, but if we don't take care of Nature, we will kill the goose that lays the golden egg!

Mahalo, Sherry Pollock, Anahola, Kauai

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 1:41:35 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Greg Puppione	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Whatever we can do to lessen our environmental footprint, we should. This is a great way to do it, and a smart way to generate more revenue for the state.

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/13/2021 6:55:06 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Will Caron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Please support SB666. We cannot separate our environment from our economy. If our natural resources degrade and decline, so does our overall quality of life and the strength of our economy. The beauty of Hawai'i is what brings visitors to these islands. Maintaining the natural environment is all of our shared responsibility, both resident and visitor. We must ensure the protection and survival of our greatest asset so that future generations will be able to thrive here in Hawai'i.

Unfortunately, the current funding to preserve and maintain our precious coral reefs, forests, beaches, and watersheds has not kept pace with the stresses and impacts on our environment placed on it by an increasingly exploitative tourist industry. Hawai'i is running an estimated 40% deficit on its investment in nature (Conservation International, 2018). Each year that we delay adequately funding these efforts, the interest on that debt to nature grows. The climate chaos we are beginning to feel is intertwined with this failure to upkeep the environment.

At the same time, the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the critical need to diversify our economy to withstand future shocks, rebuild a more sustainable tourism sector, and put people back to work in green careers. The visitor green fee proposed in SB666 offers a balanced and focused approach that engages all stakeholders in creating a solution that closes this conservation budget gap, while increasing community resiliency by diversifying our economy and creating green jobs.

The public and private conservation jobs that could be funded by the visitor green fee support a wide array of critical efforts necessary to ensure healthy and vibrant ecosystems, including: coral reef restoration, invasive species removal, native tree planting, campsite and trail maintenance, beach restoration and dune erosion recovery, ditch clearing, wildfire prevention and recovery, fishpond restoration and monitoring, to name a few examples.

Positions range from entry-level to senior project management level jobs, providing opportunities for local residents at multiple levels. Growth opportunities in conservation careers create a future workforce that is equipped to handle natural disasters, support local food systems, and preserve the environment that sustains our communities and

our visitor sector. These conservation careers not only supply jobs, but achieve critical work protecting invaluable natural capital while progressing us towards the State's 2030 Aloha+ Targets and 30x30 marine goals. We have less than a decade left to achieve these targets related to critical terrestrial, marine, and freshwater thresholds, yet there is no clear financing path to achieve these globally recognized ambitions.

With 75% of polled residents supporting a "visitor green fee" (The Nature Conservancy, 2020), this revenue generating mechanism to fund a resilient and green transition forward is a win-win for the community.

Now more than ever, Hawai'i faces challenges beyond the environment, such as housing, healthcare, and affordability. As the State addresses many urgent issues, we urge legislators to continue to prioritize the environment as it underpins every aspect of life and wellbeing on our islands.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 4:35:09 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support!

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 7:29:53 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michal Fentin Stover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB666. Tourists should be charged a "green fee" to protect our environment. Thank you.

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 9:15:14 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this Bill.

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 9:57:05 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Forest Frizzell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee,

I stand in full support of this bill.

Mahalo,

Forest

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 10:34:15 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support this bill and all efforts that would responsibly channel visitor-generated revenue into sustainable solutions to take care of the 'Ä• ina. That said, I do have one main reservation. My lingering concern about this measure and any legislation creating special funds is the proper use of said funds for the purposes that justified their creation. And while I admit to not knowing the exact rules and regulations regarding such funds, if it would be helpful, I offer the following suggestion: amend the bill to include a new subsection in the proposed §171-A that specifically prohibits the use of the new conservation funds for any non-related purposes. There is already a provision allowing related uses, but its wording appears to leave open other options. Adding lines that would preclude misappropriation and guarantee spending on conservation and environmental sustainability would make the bill clearer and more trustworthy.

Thank you,

Dylan Ramos

96816

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 10:53:00 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

STRONG support!

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 11:12:52 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara L. George	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT!

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 11:35:44 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael deYcaza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 11:41:40 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maki Morinoue	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

I strongly support Bill SB666!

As a local full time resident. I know first hand what our shorelines looked like before and after mass development and loss of integrity in our sewage pipes. We witnessed when our island was on lock down with NO TOURISM how our ocean shoreline THRIVED. We huamns are the cause. Tourist should pay a tax toward ensuring enviornmental restoration for enjoying this place.

We went to the ocean for healing as a kid. Now when you go to the ocean you might lose your leg, become very ill due to extreme bacteria levels on our beaches and in our waters. We have so many wealthy multiple home owners and transient partial residents we refer to as snow birds that do not financially participate enough in local charities, our community hospitals or local businesses. They own multi million dollar homes and some have purchased more than 1 multi million dollar homes here in Kona.

Our shorelines, coral health and waters become stressed and nowadays contaminated. These transient visitors and residents should be taxed to ensure every visitor is participating in making this place safe for ALL.

Thank you

Maki

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 12:01:17 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Meredith Buck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Meredith Buck, I live in Kailua Kona, Hawai'i Island, and I support SB666. I would like to see a green fee applied to transient accommodations for the futurity of my community. Mahalo nui loa.

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 12:53:21 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tawn Keeney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am author of a 'white paper' entitled 'Reexamination: Air Travel of Visitors to Hawaii as Contributor to Global Warming' which was presented to the Honolulu Climate Change Commission in November and was published in the e-periodical Climate Emergency Digest. At the commission, it was described as a very important paper and was recommended to be presented to the Hawaii State Climate Commission. That paper can be accessed here:

<http://air-travel-CO2.hawaii.red>

Documentation for the following statements is found in that paper.

Tourists to Hawaii are lured by State sponsored advertising (through the Hawaii Tourism Authority) to travel to 'the worlds most distant inhabited archipelago from any continental land mass' for a week of fun and frolic in the sand and surf. In 2019 Hawaii had 10 million visitors with a population of 1.4 million. From HTA's determination of number of visitors from each of 8 regions of origin, the average visitor traveled roundtrip 7,000 miles for this sun and surf. The carbon offset websites calculate the CO2(equivalent) emissions for a given flight itinerary. Using a calculator that most closely approximates the average or 'mid-range' calculations of the 8 most prominent carbon offset sites, the CO2(equivalent) emissions for the average round trip traveler to Hawaii is 1.8 tons CO2(e). With 10 million visitors the emissions from air travel in 2019 was 18 million tons CO2(e). All electricity generation and oil refining in Hawaii in 2019 emitted 8 million tons CO2(e) and all ground transportation emitted 4 million tons CO2(e). The IPCC has determined that in order to keep global warming below 2C beyond preindustrial level, each world citizen has a yearly equitable 'carbon budget' of 2.3 tons CO2(e). As the State sponsors promotion of Hawaii as a tourist destination through the HTA, each of Hawaii's 1.4 million residents have responsibility for this 18 million tons flight emissions, or each citizen appropriates 13 tons of emissions, or the carbon budget of 6 world citizens, by air travel of visitors here.

I have introduced my comments on Bill 433 in this way in order to stress that there is no such thing as 'sustainable tourism' to Hawaii. The number of visitors to Hawaii must be very substantially reduced. Hawaii Tourism Authority has proposed that a reduction in the overall numbers of visitors may be desirable alongside of encouragement of the

higher spending visitors. The State does not have legal access to directly placing a 'green fee' on visitation here. The fees that are available to be collected are fees on rented vehicles and visitor accommodations. I propose that it would be desirable to place this fee on accommodations at a rate which would be effective in achieving HTA's proposal to discourage the 'budget' traveler into a vacation closer to home. I therefore would propose a fee of \$20 per day, as opposed to a single one time fee of \$40. The daily accommodations fee would certainly be easier to administer. I believe that I have seen figures that the average visitor spends \$1800 on their 'trip to Hawaii'. To add \$200 to this figure may discourage some of the 'low-end' travelers, which should be, in HTA's design at least, desirable. The larger spenders will hardly take notice.

Please do whatever you can do, however, to reduce the tourism burden on these precious islands. The imposition of an environmental fee, to be used exclusively for environmental remediation, onto the already established Transient Accommodations Tax is the most expedient method for doing so.

Tawn Keeney MD

Tawn Keeney MD

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 6:49:01 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Gannon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Joan Gannon from West Hawaii here asking you to vote for SB666. Asking for Green fees on transient accommodations.

Thank you

Joan Gannon

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 2:19:53 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Setsuko Morinoue	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

I strongly support Bill SB666!

As a local full time resident. I know first hand what our shorelines looked like before and after mass development and loss of integrity in our sewage pipes. We witnessed when our island was on lock down with NO TOURISM how our ocean shoreline THRIVED. We humans are the cause. Tourists should pay a tax toward ensuring environmental restoration for enjoying this place.

We went to the ocean for healing as a kid. Now when you go to the ocean you might lose your leg, become very ill due to extreme bacteria levels on our beaches and in our waters. We have so many wealthy multiple home owners and transient partial residents we refer to as snow birds that do not financially participate enough in local charities, our community hospitals or local businesses. They own multi million dollar homes and some have purchased more than 1 multi million dollar homes here in Kona.

Our shorelines, coral health and waters become stressed and nowadays contaminated. These transient visitors and residents should be taxed to ensure every visitor is participating in making this place safe for ALL.

Thank you,

Setsuko Morinoue

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 3:04:28 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eileen K Nanni	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha nui loa,

I strongly support Bill SB666!

As a local full time resident. I know first hand what our shorelines looked like before and after mass development and loss of integrity in our sewage pipes. We witnessed when our island was on lock down with NO TOURISM how our ocean shoreline THRIVED. We, humans are the cause and effect of good or bad legislation. Tourists should pay a tax toward ensuring environmental restoration for enjoying this place. For instance, when I was on holiday in India, in 2007, and visited scenic spots such as the Taj Mahal, the Red Fort, etc, all visitors carry Other than an Indian Passport were charged higher admission fees, 720 Indian rupees as compared to 20 Indian rupees for local people. They said it was to help pay for the upkeep of historic places, which tourists come to see. I agreed with their policy! Get the drift?!

We went to the ocean for healing as a kid. Now when you go to the ocean you might lose your leg, become very ill due to extreme bacteria levels on our beaches and in our waters. We have so many wealthy multiple home owners and transient part-time residents we commonly refer to as snow birds, most of whom do not financially participate enough in local charities, our community hospitals or local businesses. They own multi million dollar homes and some have purchased more than 1 multi million dollar home, here in Kona.

Our shorelines, coral health and waters become stressed and nowadays contaminated. These transient visitors and residents should be taxed to ensure every visitor is participating in making this place safe for ALL.

Thank you

Eileen Kiyoko Nanni

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 3:57:32 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB666

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 6:11:34 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
carol lee kamekona	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB666 for adding green fees for the preservation and conservation of our Natural Resources. Hawai'i needs to step up its game and stop catering to the visitor industry and start charging comparable rates to other island nations.

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 7:48:55 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Shon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support green fees and similar efforts that ask visitors to help Hawaii care for and conserve the environment that keeps so many people coming here in the first place.

Mahalo,

Jason

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 8:04:44 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sharon Levine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

yes! This would bring in funding for environmental sustainability here in Hawaii.

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 9:34:54 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Max Castanera	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support the passing of SB 666 to ensure that our environmental resources are invested in and protected. We cannot continue to allow tourism to suck the life out of our state's natural beauty while tax payers fit the bill. Tourists should be responsible for paying for their use/degradation of our natural resources and this in turn will allow more people to enjoy all that Hawaii has to offer.

I believe that the passing of such a bill is long overdue and that \$40 may be too little for a green fee but that it is a good start. Mahalo for your time.

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 10:20:49 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fern Anuenue Holland	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Mahalo Senators for hearing this measure. My 'ohana and I are in strong support of SB666. Please support SB666 and measures that will help generate funds for important environmental funding such as these. Mahalo!

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 8:08:59 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
helen raine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I would like to submit my support for this bill. For decades, tourists have poured into the islands to enjoy its natural wonders. However, spending on environmental protection has not kept pace with the degradations that are occurring. If we don't take action soon to improve tourism infrastructure in the natural environment, and to take serious steps to stop the spread of invasive species, water quality issues, and the impacts associated with climate change, we will lose ecosystem services valued at hundreds of millions of dollars, experience further extinctions of native hawaiian species and reduce not just the quality of life for local people, but also the the quality of the visitor experience. I urge you to pass this bill. Many thanks .

Testimony in **SUPPORT** of: **SB666 Relating to Environmental Protection**

Submitted by:
John N. (Jack) Kittinger, PhD
5578 Kawaikui Street, Honolulu, HI 96821

*EET Hearing
February 17th, 2021*

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha, Senator Lee, Senator Fevella, and Senator Giviere,

My name is Dr. Jack Kittinger, and I am testifying in **support of SB666, Relating to Environmental Protection.**

Thanks to the efforts and vision of the Hawai'i State Legislature, Hawai'i has been a national and global leader in the fight against climate change and the race to protect our natural resources. In 2017, we were the first state in the nation to enact legislation that implements portions of the Paris agreement. In 2018, Hawai'i took strong action to protect our ocean resources and fragile marine ecosystems by banning sunscreens with harmful agents. The state legislature has also championed our Aloha+ sustainability targets.

Hawai'i is a leader in the conservation movement globally, which was put on display at the World Conservation Congress four years ago. We made commitments at that convening to conserve and effectively manage 30% of our lands and waters. We must make good on that promise, which is critical to our culture and to our economy.

Our visitor industry and communities alike depend on a healthy environment. To put it simply, if our natural resources degrade and decline, so does our overall quality of life and the backbone of our tourism-based economy. Visitors rank nature and the ocean as the top two factors that make their trip to Hawaii excellent (Hawaii Tourism Authority, 2017). It is our shared responsibility, among both residents and visitors, to ensure the protection and survival of our greatest asset, so that our natural resources continues to protect and sustain future generations.

Unfortunately, the current funding for our reefs, forests, beaches, and watersheds has not kept pace with the stresses and impacts on our environment, such that Hawai'i is running an estimated 40% deficit on its investment in nature (Conservation International, 2018). Each year that we delay adequately funding these efforts, the interest on that debt to nature grows. At the same time, ***the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the critical need to diversify our economy to withstand future shocks, rebuild a more sustainable tourism sector, and put people back to work in resilient careers.*** The visitor green fee proposed in SB666 offers a balanced and focused approach that engages all stakeholders in ***creating a solution that closes this conservation budget gap, while increasing community resiliency by diversifying our economy and creating green jobs.***

The public and private conservation jobs that could be funded by the visitor green fee support a wide array of critical efforts necessary to ensure healthy and vibrant ecosystems, including: *coral reef restoration, invasive species removal, native tree planting, campsite and trail maintenance, beach restoration and dune erosion recovery, ditch clearing, wildfire prevention and recovery, fishpond restoration and monitoring – to name a few examples.*

Positions range from entry-level to senior project management level jobs, providing opportunities for local residents at multiple levels. Growth opportunities in conservation careers create a future workforce that is equipped to handle natural disasters, support local food systems, and preserve the environment that sustains our communities and our visitor sector. These conservation careers not only supply jobs, but achieve critical work protecting invaluable natural capital while progressing us towards the State's 2030 Aloha+ Targets and 30x30 marine goals. ***We have less than a decade left to achieve these targets related to critical terrestrial, marine, and freshwater thresholds, yet there is no clear financing path to achieve these globally recognized ambitions.***

With 75% of polled residents supporting a “visitor green fee” (The Nature Conservancy, 2020), this revenue generating mechanism to fund a resilient and green transition forward is a win-win for the community.

Now more than ever, Hawai‘i faces challenges beyond the environment, such as housing, healthcare, and affordability. As the State addresses many urgent issues, ***we urge legislators to continue to prioritize the environment as it underpins every aspect of life and wellbeing on our islands.***

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

John N. (Jack) Kittinger, PhD

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Kittinger". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 9:32:51 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roxana Rosala	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB 666 as this is a win-win situation for everybody. Our islands need to be protected if we want them to be healthy and thriving, which in turn also attracts tourists, of course. The beauty of the Hawaiian Islands have been drawing visitors here for many years and since we are very dependent on our tourism industry, this needs to be taken into consideration. Furthermore, this will create many jobs for our locals, who love the place we all live in and want to protect it. Many residents are already volunteering and doing their best to preserve our islands, but it would be great if this bill can help turn this volunteer work into permanent jobs.

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 2:49:27 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition	Testifying for Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair,

The Honorable Bennette Misalucha, Vice Chair and members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

From: Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 3:30 pm, by videoconference

In support of SB666 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha and members of the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism.

The HAWAI'I REEF AND OCEAN COALITION – HIROC – **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB666!**

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. Coral reefs are already being severely harmed by ocean waters that are warming and becoming more acidic as a result of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide. Coral reefs are also being harmed in Hawaii by sediment and nutrient runoff from the land, by overfishing, especially of herbivores, and sunscreen petrochemicals.

Hawaii's "golden egg," is our State's beauty and natural resources, our reefs, oceans, beaches, forests, and other ecosystems. Unfortunately, **we are allowing our golden egg to be loved to death!** We have encouraged ten million tourists per year to come and enjoy those natural resources, while investing only \$9 per tourist and less than one percent of our State budget in preserving our golden egg. The total conservation funding gap has been estimated as high as \$360,000,000 annually. COVID-19 provides us with an opportunity to build back our tourist industry more sustainably, with better funding support for conserving resources such as watersheds, dune and coral reef

restoration, recreation, park, and trail maintenance, and **more "green jobs" for Hawaii residents.**

SB666 provides one such funding mechanism, a \$40 surcharge for each guest at a transient accommodation, with the revenues devoted to promoting resource conservation and restoration. This is appropriate and reasonable, given the stress placed on resources by those staying at transient accommodations. It is time to take better care of our "golden egg," while promoting green jobs for Hawaii residents.

HIROC strongly supports SB666!

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this important bill!

Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

LATE

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 4:33:52 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brooke	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As a long time resident of Hawaii I fully support SB666. I have been saying for a long time that we need this green (eco fee) to fund a revenue that is dedicated to conservation and eco public relations. Our visitors take a huge toll on our eco system here in Hawaii. I think they will appreciate the importance of this fee as well as a way of preserving the natural beauty of Hawaii.

Thank you,

LATE

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/17/2021 12:48:16 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Amato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support SB666!!!

LATE

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/17/2021 7:58:26 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo and I'm writing in support of SB666. I believe Green Fee on transient accommodations should happen.

Please support this bill.

me ke aloha 'Ä• ina,

Nanea Lo

LATE

SB-666

Submitted on: 2/17/2021 10:27:37 AM
Testimony for EET on 2/17/2021 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel Zuercher	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB666 to create a funding source that will help offset the hidden costs of tourism and promote a future for Hawaii that prioritizes ecosystem health and human well-being. I support the bill as a way to generate much-needed funds to manage, protect and restore the ecosystems of Hawaii and the services that they provide to people and communities. I am not a resident of Hawaii, but wish to express my absolute willingness to pay a \$40 visitor green fee.



MAUI
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

LATE

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 224
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2021 AT 3:30 P.M.**

To The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair;
The Honorable Bennette E. Misalucha, Vice Chair; and
Members of the Committee on Energy, Economic Development & Tourism;

OPPOSE SB666 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Aloha, my name is Pamela Tumpap and I am the President of the Maui Chamber of Commerce, in the county most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of our dependence on the visitor industry and corresponding rate of unemployment. I am writing share our opposition to SB666.

The Maui Chamber of Commerce recognizes the importance of preserving our state's environment, but we have concerns on the impacts of this bill. Increases to visitor expenses can make Hawaii less attractive when competing against other destinations and this is particularly difficult at a time when we need economic recovery on an island very dependent on the visitor industry. This bill could hurt and slow our recovery efforts.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this matter and we ask that this bill be deferred.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.