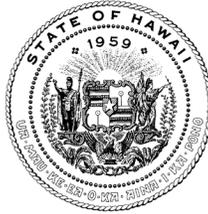


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**Wednesday, February 9, 2022
10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329, Via Videoconference**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2202
RELATING TO STATE SYMBOLS**

House Bill 2202 proposes to designate 'ōhi'a lehua (*Metrosideros polymorpha*) as the official endemic tree of the State. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

As the agency responsible for managing natural resources, including native plants and ecosystems, the Department recognizes the critical ecological and cultural roles of 'ōhi'a lehua in Hawai'i. The Department is a lead agency on the response to Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death, and supports this designation as a tool to highlight awareness of 'ōhi'a and the importance of protecting this foundational forest species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

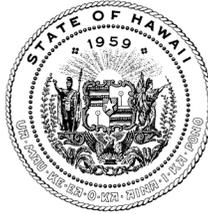
SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
Wednesday, February 9, 2022
10:20 AM VIA Videoconference

Testimony in Support for HB2202

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kailee Lefebvre and I am testifying on behalf of the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS). We **are in support of HB2202, Relating to State Symbols** which would designate ‘ōhi‘a lehua as the State Endemic Tree of Hawai‘i.

Passing this bill not only recognizes the importance of ‘ōhi‘a, but it acknowledges the efforts of the incredible people across the state and beyond who are working towards a brighter future for our native forests, and for the endemic species, those native species that evolved only in Hawai‘i. ‘Ōhi‘a lehua is uniquely Hawaiian.

As the CGAPS Planner, I work closely with the Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death (ROD) Response team. I am impressed by the coordination of operations, research, and outreach, and interwoven with Hawaiian cultural knowledge. The people who do this work are passionate, persistent, collaborative, ingenuitive, and always making progress.

Leading up to this session, I’ve had the opportunity to engage with kumu and K-12th grade haumana across the state in a hands-on lesson in civics, to help this next generation learn about ‘ōhi‘a lehua and about civics. I’ve been inspired by the hard work and dedication of these classes, especially throughout the peak of COVID cases since the pandemic began. One kumu shared with me the loss that her haumana have faced during COVID, and yet they choose to participate in this project to celebrate and protect life- the life of ‘ōhi‘a. Kumu have shared how excited and proud their haumana are to share testimony with their legislators to help save ‘ōhi‘a. Their stories of love and appreciation have inspired and motivated me.

Hawaiian cultural practitioners often remind us to bring the conversation back to the intention. The intention of this bill would be to celebrate and raise awareness about the uniqueness of ‘ōhi‘a lehua, and its importance for the watershed, as a keystone for other native species, for its importance in Hawaiian culture, and its relevance to people today. For these reasons, we ask that you pass HB2202 and designate ‘ōhi‘a lehua as Hawaii’s State Endemic Tree. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Aloha,
Kailee Lefebvre
CGAPS Planner
kailehl@hawaii.edu (808) 726-0181

Arwen Revere

Regarding Designating 'Ōhi'a lehua as the state endemic tree

February 6th, 2022

My name is Arwen Revere and I'm a high school student from Kailua and a member of the environmental organization Wild Kids, who I am representing today. I am testifying to express Wild Kids' concern for Hawaii's endemic species, particularly 'Ōhi'a lehua, which is greatly affected by ROD (Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death).

'Ōhi'a lehua is the most common endemic tree in the state of Hawaii and a habit for many native birds. It is imperative that we protect this beautiful tree for future generations and the birds that call it home. 'Ōhi'a lehua is also a large part of Hawaiian culture. This tree was used for building houses, canoes, and spears. The flowers are used in lei, sung about in chants, and the leaves were used in tea.

It's clear that 'Ōhi'a lehua is a very special part of Hawaii, and we believe that it should be recognized as such. By designating it as Hawaii's endemic state tree, more people (especially visitors) will be able to learn about the ecological and cultural significance of 'Ōhi'a lehua. Raising awareness for this incredible species will result in higher compliance with conservation strategies and help develop thriving native forests.

Thank you, Representative Gates, for hearing our testimony. We appreciate your consideration of our view on this important matter.

Arwen Revere, on behalf of Wild Kids

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:57:32 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Charles K Raco	Hawaii Tech Acedemy	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawaii State House of Representatives

Nadine K. Nakamura

February 6th

7:45 pm Conference room 442

State Capital

Dear Nadine K. Nakamura

I am a student at HTA in Lihue, I am writing to you about why making the Ohi'a tree the state tree is extremely important Ohi'a trees are slowly dying almost everywhere in Hawai'i and is having a huge impact on Hawai'i's ecosystem and land, This is not only a problem for the ecosystem but also the future.

Ohi'a trees are dying because of a type of beetle that carves their ways into Ohi'a trees to make a home, this causes wounds in the tree which causes a type of fungus that infects the tree and kills it.

I urge you to accept this testimony to make this tree our state tree to protect the future, the ecosystem of Hawai'i and our ohana.

Sincerely, Charles Raco.

The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, And International Affairs
February 9, 2022
10:30 AM, Conference Room 329
State Capitol

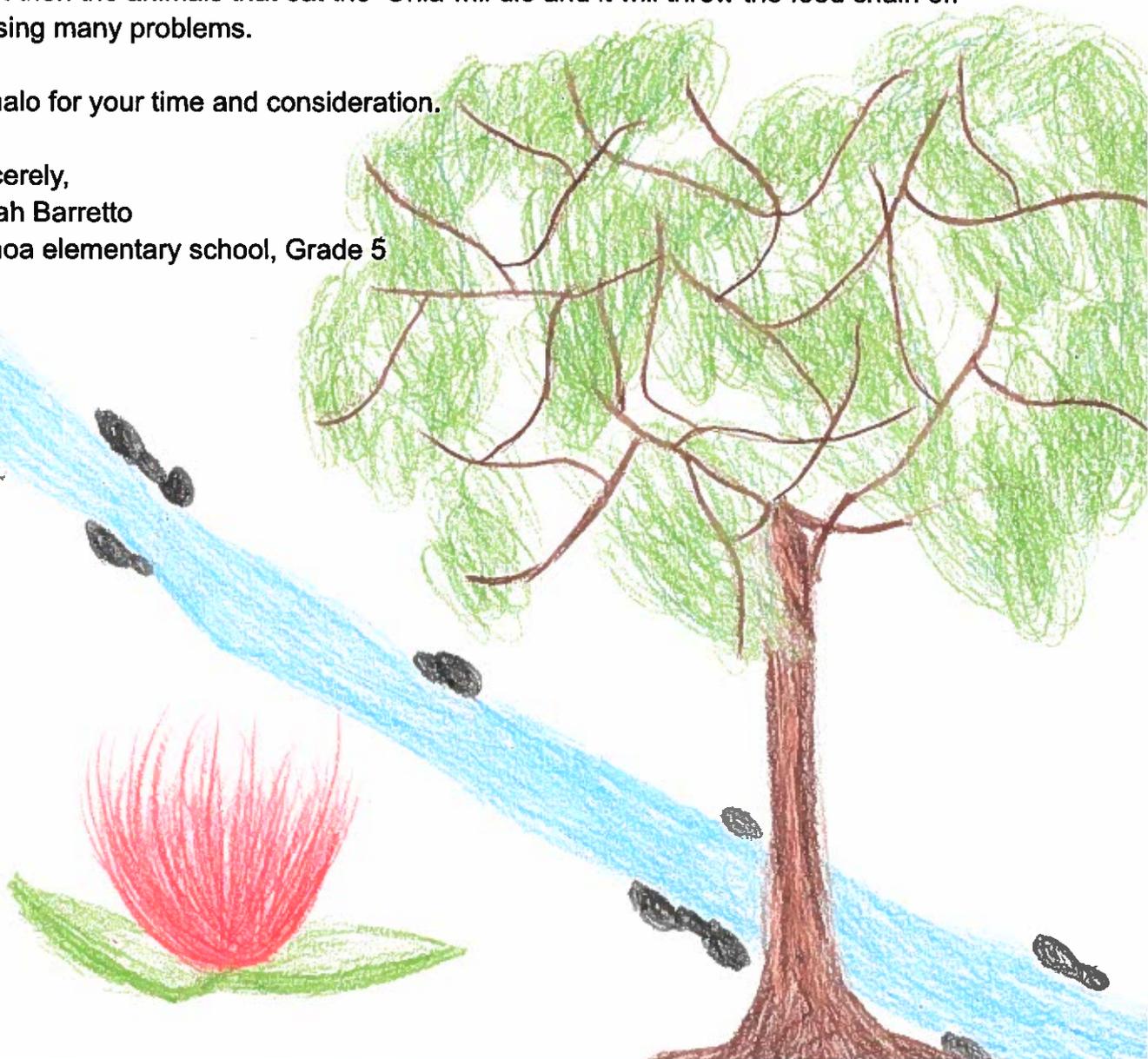
Testimony in Support of HB 2202
Aloha Chair Asuega Gates, Vice chair Tam, and Members of the of the Committee,

I, Leyah Barretto, am in support of HB 2202, Relating to state Endemic Tree, which would designate 'Ohia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

We should protect the 'Ohia because the 'Ohia is an important part of Hawaiian culture. It also provides shelter, food, firewood, landscaping and more. Sadly the trees are dying because of a fungus infecting trees and traveling around by humans, cars and more. The 'Ohia is endemic, which makes it special to Hawaii. So we have to protect it. If we don't then the animals that eat the 'Ohia will die and it will throw the food chain off causing many problems.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Leyah Barretto
Manoa elementary school, Grade 5



The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
January 9, 2022
10:30AM, Conference Room 329
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 2202

Aloha Chair Asuega Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee
I, Marnie Ushijima, am in support of HB 2202, Relating to the State Endemic Tree which
would designate Ohia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawai'i.

I believe that the Ohia Lehua should be the State Endemic Tree of Hawaii. This is because it's important to culture. I've heard many stories where the Ohia takes place. Secondly it is a major water collector which means that it collects water from the clouds for use on the land. Water is very important to it and for the life around it. The Ohia is also endemic to Hawaii and there is sadly an illness going around endangering the Ohia. It is called Rapid Ohia Death or R.O.D. Otherwise native species might not have a home and without a protective home they could go extinct too. It is important for people to know about R.O.D to stop the spread and protect Ohia. Finally I think it should be the state tree not because it's endemic but because it has cultural importance to life too as of how much it can provide. This is why I think the Ohia Lehua should be the state tree because of these reasons.

Mahalo for your time and consideration. Thank you!

Best Regards,
Marnie Ushijima
Manoa Elementary School, Grade 5



The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
February 9, 2022
10:30 AM, Conference Room 329
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 2202

Aloha Chair Asuega Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee

I, Brycen Sogawa, am in support of HB 2202. Relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate Ohia Lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

The Ohia tree is important because it is dying from Rapid Ohia Death or ROD. It is also a habitat for lots of native birds and insects. If they lose the Ohia Tree a lot of animals will not have a habitat and they will go extinct. The Ohia Tree is also a water collector that makes water clean that you can drink. It is also a part of the Hawaiiin culture. It is a huge part of Hawaiiin culture because it's used in chants and dances and if it dies it will be a huge loss for Hawaiiian culture. The last thing is that the Ohia Tree is endangered.

Mahalo for your time and consideration

Sincerely,

Brycen Sogawa

Manoa Elementary School, Grade 5



The House of representatives
Committee on culture, Arts, and international Affairs
January 9 2022
10:30 AM, Conference room 329
State capitol

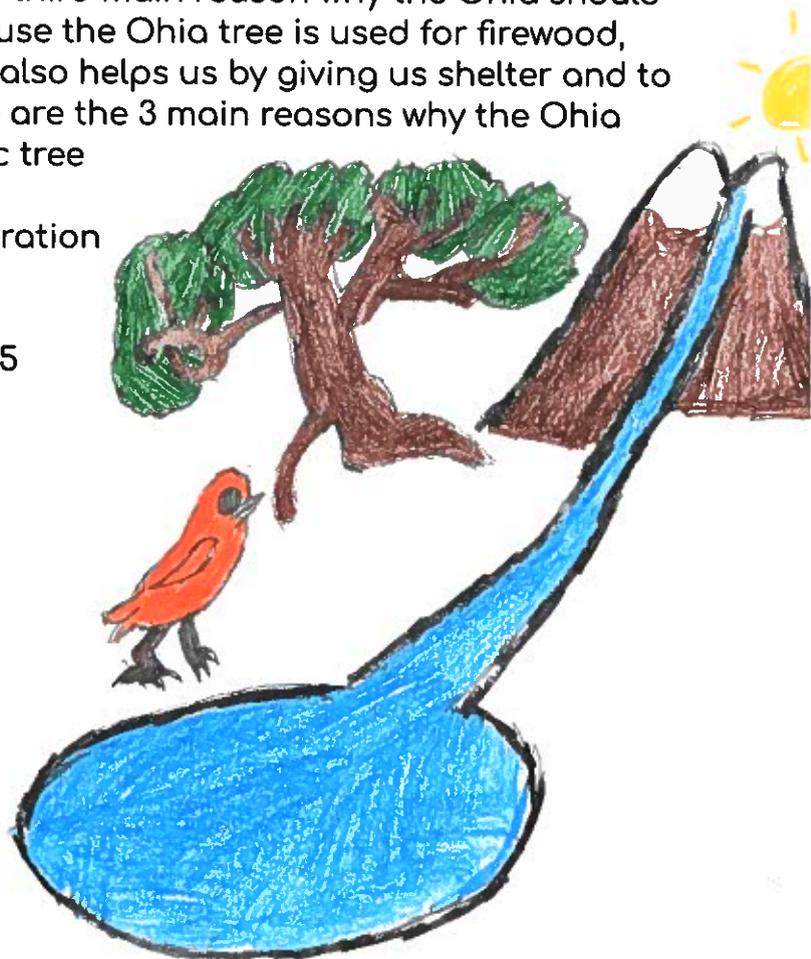
Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Chair Asuega Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and members of the committee,
I, Xavier Mals am in support of the HB 2202
Relating to State Endemic tree, which would designate Ohia lehua as the
state endemic tree of Hawaii

I think there are 3 main reasons why I think the spectacular Ohia tree should be our state's endemic tree. The first main reason why the Ohia should be our state endemic tree is because the Ohia is a cultural and sacred tree to the Native Hawaiians because it is a huge part of Hawaiian storytelling. The second reason why the Ohia should be our state's endemic tree is because native animals can use the Ohia for shelter and can also get water from it. And if the Ohia starts to die, native animals would have no shelter and die. The third main reason why the Ohia should be our state endemic tree is because the Ohia tree is used for firewood, water, wood working, etc. The tree also helps us by giving us shelter and to keep us warm. In conclusion these are the 3 main reasons why the Ohia tree should be our state's endemic tree

Mahalo for your time and consideration
Sincerely,
Xavier Mals
Manoa Elementary school, Grade 5

Xavier



The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
February 9, 2022
(10:30 AM, Conference Room 329)
State Capitol



Testimony In support of HB 2022.

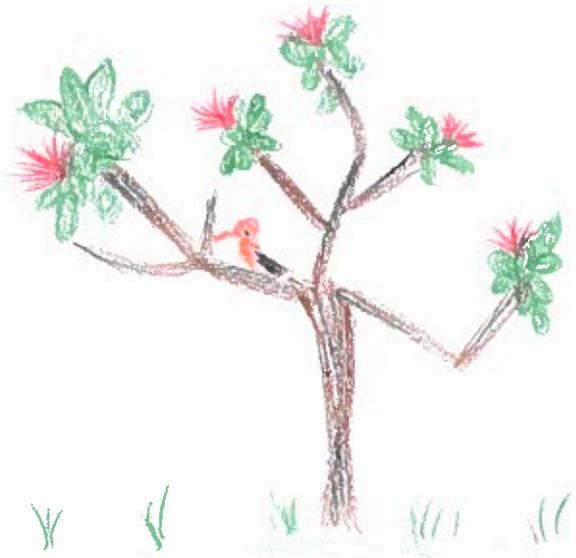
Aloha Chair Asuega Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,
I, Miriya Matsumoto, am in support of HB 2022, Relating to State Endemic tree which would designate Ōhi'a lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawai'i.

I think the 'Ōhi'a lehua should be the state tree because it provides important resources to humans and animals. It's a water collector that takes clean water and makes it drinkable for humans/animals. Ōhi'a also provides food and shelter for animals, plants, and humans! If the 'Ōhi'a dies then animals won't have shelter and might cause endangered species. Ōhi'a has cultural importance and needs to be protected. Rapid Ōhi'a death is real and is horrible. If 'Ōhi'a dies it will majorly affect the food web. This is because of fungi. Some things about Ōhi'a is that it's endemic to Hawai'i, a pioneer species, and it's a canopy tree.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Miriya Matsumoto
Manoa Elementary School Grade 5

Miriya



House of Representatives
Committee on culture,arts, and international Affairs
February 9, 2022
10:30 AM, Conferences Room 329
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB:2202

Aloha Chair Asuega Gates, Vice chair Tam, and Members of the Committee.

I, Wyatt Robinson, am in support of HB:2202, Relating to the state Endemic tree, which would designate Ohia Lehua as state Endemic tree of Hawaii.

I think we should make the Ōhi'a Lehua the State Endemic tree because it provides fresh water that flows to our watershed. It also provides food and housing for native species. The Ōhi'a nectar provides food to the native birds such as the Apapane, and Akohekohe while the Ōhi'a tree provides shelter for them as well.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Wyatt Robinson
Manoa Elementary school,
Grade 5



The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
February 9, 2022
10:30 AM, Conference Room 329
State Capitol

Aloha Chair Asuega Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

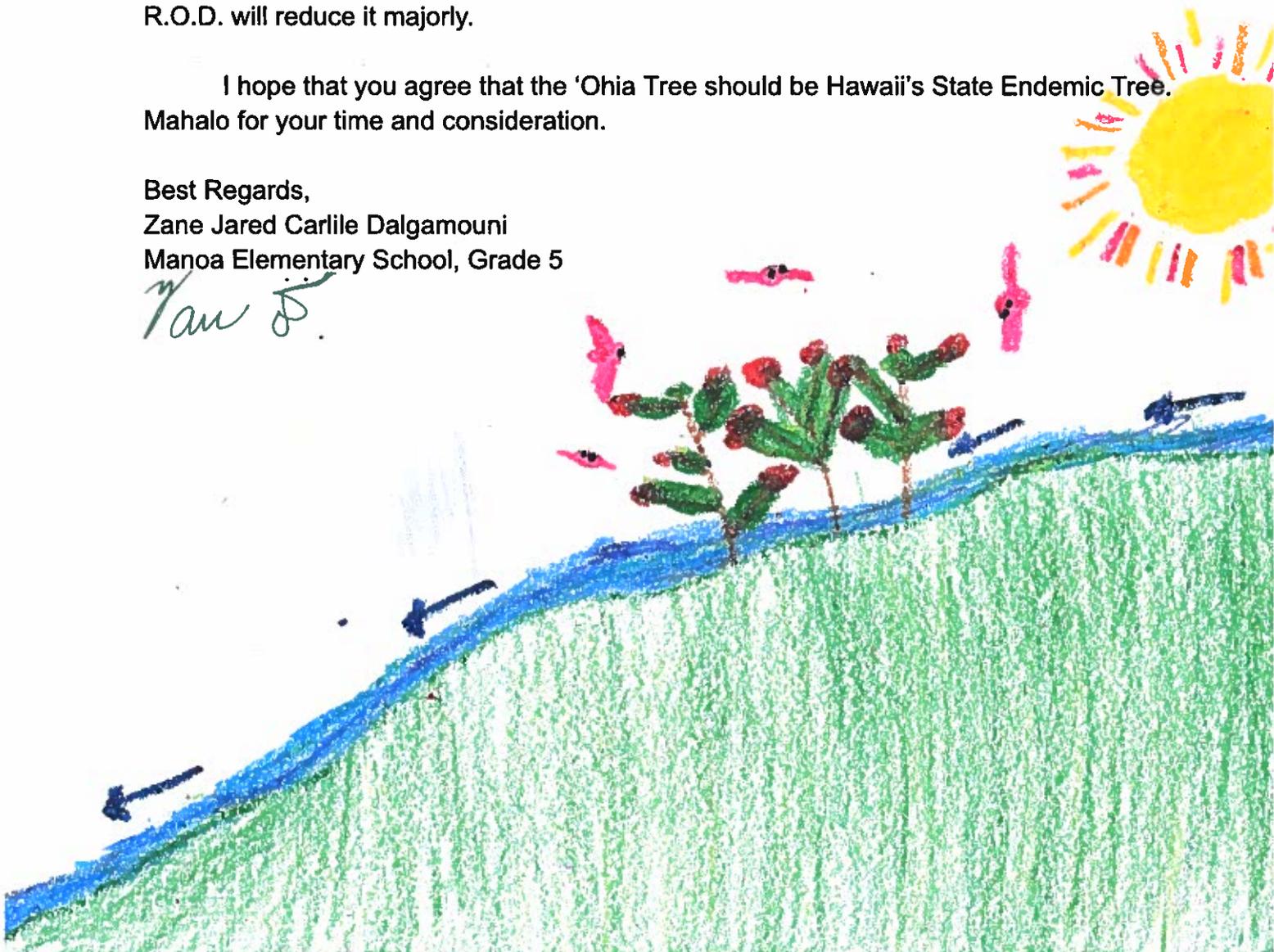
I, Zane Dalgamouni, am in support of HB 2202, Relating to State Endemic Tree, which would designate 'Ōhia Lehua as the State Endemic Tree of Hawaii.

The 'Ōhia is very important since it is endemic and making it the State Endemic Tree will raise awareness of Rapid 'Ōhia Death (R.O.D). Also, it helps a tremendous amount to help protect the watershed. Without the 'Ōhia, we would likely not have a local water supply. If ROD expands and we don't help, we will likely lose the 'Ōhia forever. Losing the 'Ōhia will negatively impact the local food chain and possibly cause other native species to go extinct. The 'Ōhia is endemic meaning that it can only be found in Hawaii. It can be found nowhere else in the world. Having more awareness of R.O.D. will reduce it majorly.

I hope that you agree that the 'Ōhia Tree should be Hawaii's State Endemic Tree. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,
Zane Jared Carlile Dalgamouni
Manoa Elementary School, Grade 5

Zane J.



The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
10:30 AM, Conference Room 329
February 9, 2022
State Capitol

Testimony in support of HB 2202,

Aloha Chair Asuega Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,
I, James Alipio-Gerry, am in support of HB 2202, *Relating to State Endemic Tree*, Which would designate Ohia
Lehua as the State Endemic Tree of Hawai'i.

We should protect the Ohia tree because it can funnel water to our aquifers and is a great contributor to
water collection, but due to Rapid Ohia death *ROD*, water collection could slow down. The Another reason Ohia
should be protected is because it is the food for almost all
Of the native indiginous HoneyCreeper call this Home and Food, and without Ohia, the forests would be no longer
green, no longer beautiful and can make Hawai'i a gray and brown, barren landscape.

Mahalo for your time and consideration

Sincerely,
James Mathew Alipio-Gerry
Manoa Elementary School, Grade 5



The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
February 9, 2022
10:30 AM, Conference Room 329
State Capitol

Testimony In Support of HB 2202

Aloha Chair Asuega Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Tuialofa, am in support of the HB 2202, relating to the State Endemic Tree, which would designate 'Ōhi'a Lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii. My thoughts for this bill to pass are....

First, the 'Ōhi'a Lehua is endemic to the state of Hawaii, so who should be the state endemic tree. Second, the 'Ōhi'a Lehua produces a lot of resources for habitats for our native birds, such as the Hawai'i 'Ākepa, 'Apapane, l'iwi, and 'Akikiki. Third, it stores and filters our water. This is important for us and our watershed. Lastly, 'Ōhi'a is important to Hawaiian culture because it's part of the story of *Metrosideros polymorpha* or Hawaiian storytelling. Hawai'i is where we live and if we don't save this tree then we're losing a significant part of our culture. If you don't protect this tree then they'll die, do you want that? That's what I thought! Caring about this tree could change a lot of stuff, such as bird habitats, helping our watershed, and helping our culture. Be a good person, save the 'Ōhi'a Lehua!

Thank you for reading and acknowledging this letter. I hope you think about this and make 'Ōhi'a Lehua the state endemic tree.



Sincerely,
Tuialofa Scanlan
Manoa Elementary
Grade 5
Juill

The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
February 9, 2022
10:30 AM, Conference Room 329
State Capitol

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Chair Asuega Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,
I, Veerin Sueblinvong, am in support of HB 2202,
Relating to the State Endemic Tree, which would designate `Ōhi`a Lehua as the State
Endemic tree of Hawai`i.

The `Ōhi`a Lehua is important because this grand tree provides shelter, food, water, wood, and oxygen. It's cultural importance is very sacred. Having this tree be extinct would affect Native Hawaiians, and us as well. It can grow upon volcanoes, and is a big part of our forests. It's endemic to our islands, making Hawai`i a special place full of beautiful trees. This tree is also a home to many other native and endemic species, having this tree abundant and incredible die off to Rapid `Ōhi`a Death (Caused by *Ceratocystis lukuohia* and *Ceratocystis huliohia*) would have a devastating chain effect on the delicate islands, people, and animals of Hawai`i. It would cause millions of native species to go extinct, which would affect all of us. If this tree was made State Endemic Tree, it would raise awareness of ROD, which could save our beautiful tree from a horrible extinction.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Veerin Venice Sueblinvong
Mānoa Elementary School, Grade 5

Venice S.



The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
February 9, 2022
10:30 AM, Conference Room 329

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Chair Asuega Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,
I, Jayzen Ichiyama, am in support of HB 2202,
Relating to the State Endemic Tree, which would designate Ohia Lehua as the state endemic tree
of Hawai'i.

I have many different reasons why I think this bill should be passed. One of the first and most important reasons is that Ohia Lehua is one of the only state endemic trees. This means that Ohia Lehua can only be found in the Hawaiian Islands. Ohia Lehua also provides food and shelter to other native and endemic species that live on Hawaii. So if the Ohia Lehua goes extinct some of the native and endemic species that require Ohia Lehua as part of their habitat may go extinct as well as the Ohia Lehua. The next reason is that Ohia Lehua stores and provides us with water. It provides almost all of Hawaii's water source, so if Ohia Lehua goes extinct we might not have enough water to provide the entire island. Lastly, It has a great cultural importance to the people of Hawaii. It is used in leis, chants, hulas, and stories on Hawaii. So if it dies out a MAJOR part of Hawaiian culture will be removed because Ohia Lehua is extinct.

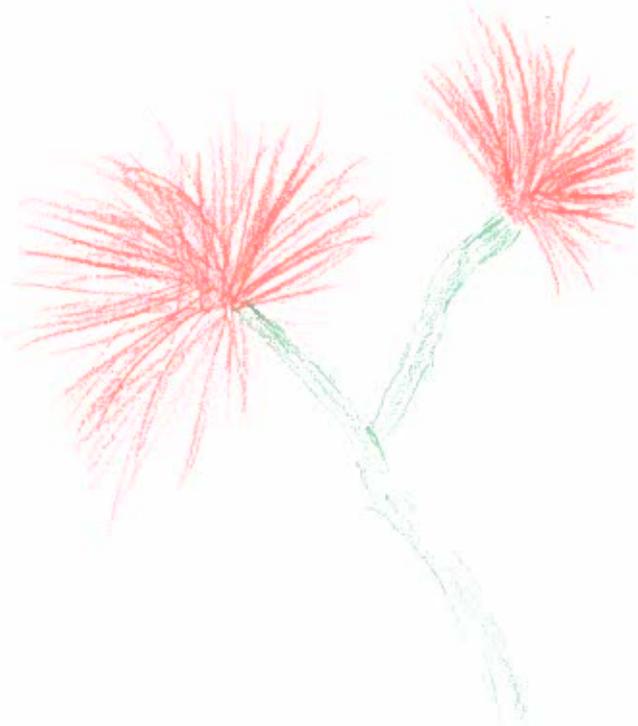
Mahalo for your time and consideration

Sincerely,

Jayzen Ichiyama

Manoa Elementary School, Grade 5

Jayzen Ichiyama



The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture Arts, and International Affairs
February 9, 2022
10:30 AM, Conference Room 329
State capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 2202

Aloha Chair Asuega Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Olivia Liu, am in support of HB 2202, Relating to the State Endemic Tree, which would designate Ohia Lehua as the State Endemic Tree of Hawaii.

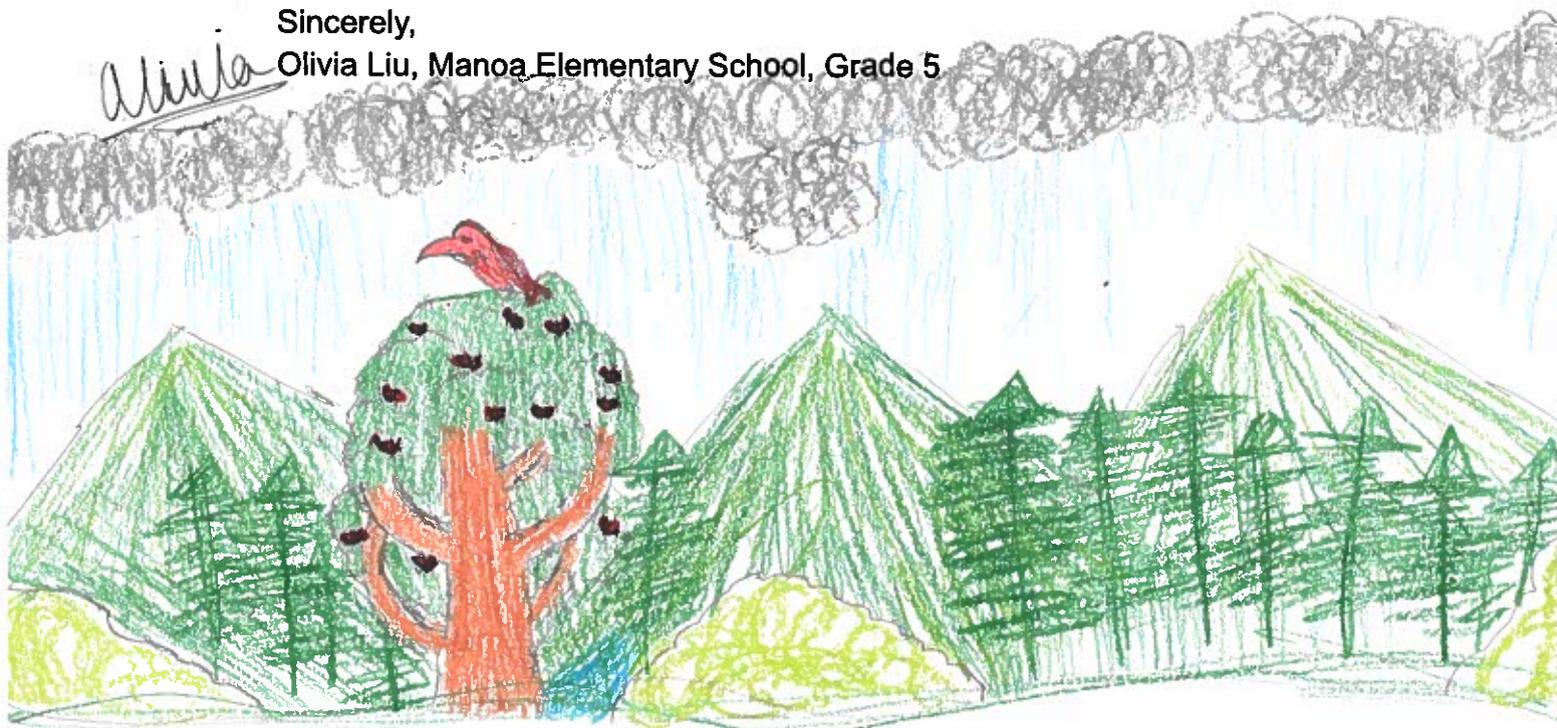
I think we should make Ohia our State Endemic Tree and here are some reasons why. First it's our main water source, it stores a ton of water. It filters our water for our watershed. Since the Ohia Tree gathers water from passing clouds that rain we would have fresh, purified water for our watershed and for to drink and use, and plus when the fungi gets to this special tree it will cut our water source and have NO FRESH WATER! And these Ohia trees can be used for building/shelter for us and other native animals and food and ohia trees create landscapes for us. It's also our Cultural Tree that represents Hawaii . We wouldn't want to destroy our culture. Also if we never had the ohia tree some animals would be extinct or not living at all and could affect the food chain.

!Mahalo for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,

Olivia Liu, Manoa Elementary School, Grade 5

Olivia



The House Of Representatives,
Committee of Water and Land
February 9, 2022
10:30 am,Conference Room 329
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB:2202

Aloha Chair Asuega Gates,Vice chair Tam, and Members of the committee,
I Abigail Alo am in support of HB:2202,
Relating to the State Endemic Tree,Which would designate Ōhi'a Lehua as
the State Endemic Tree of Hawai'i.

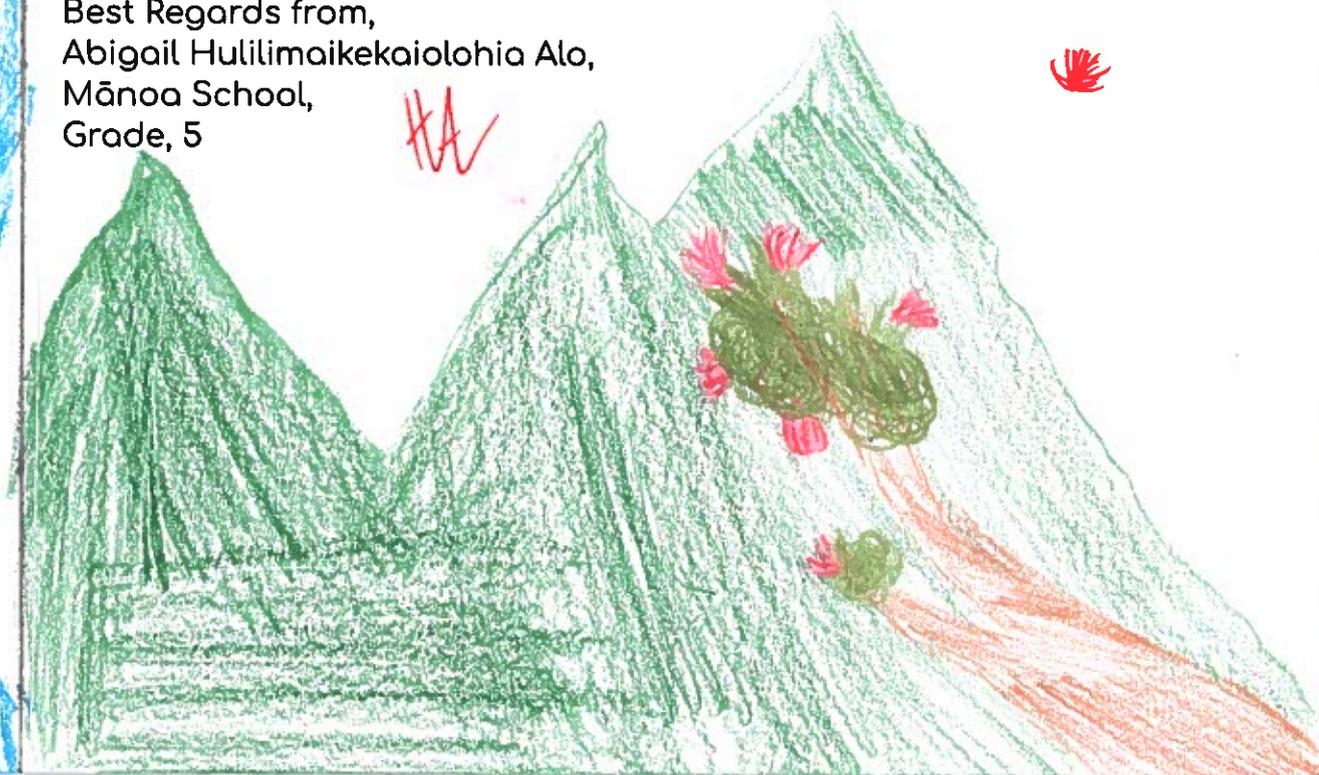
The reason I think it's important to protect Ōhi'a is because, first, it
collects a lot of fresh water that flows into our watershed,and if ROD
(Rapid Ōhia Death) Continues killing all of our Ōhi'a plants that would
mean less fresh water in our watershed.Secondly,the flower is used to make
cultural clothing or other cultural things that remind people of Hawaiian
culture,and if people forget Hawaiian culture; The islands are just going to
be tourist hotspots. Lastly it provides shelters to Native and Non-native
species (mostly birds).But if the plant is gone that would be Less native
species having homes.

In conclusion it is very important to protect the Ōhi'a Lehua.

Mahalo for your time and consideration

Best Regards from,
Abigail Hulilimaikawaiolohia Alo,
Mānoa School,
Grade, 5

HA



House of representatives
Committee on culture, Arts, and the International Affairs
February 9 , 2022
10:30 AM, Conference Room 329
State capitals

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Chairman Asugea Gates, and Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee, I Judah Althof, are in support of the house bill 2202 Relating to the state endemic tree of hawaii. Here are 3 reasons why O'hia should be the state's end tree! Reason 1, The Ohia is a very special tree because it can collect rain water and send it down to the aquifer and watershed and it also purifies because rain water is 10% acidic and that's bad. Reason 2, the Ohia is a critical habitat for native animals and plants. If we tear it down then the Ohia can be extinct along with native wildlife! Reason 3, The Ohia is under attack by an invasive fungus which can kill Ohia in weeks, and we can't even tell! There is still no cure and there won't be any Ohia left and it can ruin so many things! Culture would be ruined. Hawaii is only beautiful if we can make it beautiful and if we don't take care of it we could lose visitors and the beauty of hawaii, plus we can lose hawaiian culture and the sacred land could be lost!

Mahalo for your time and Consideration
Judah.S Althof
Manoa Elementary school grade 5

Judah.S Althof



The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
February 9, 2022
10:30 AM, Conference Room 329
State Capitol

Testimony in support of HB

Aloha Chair Asuega Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,
I, Madison, am in support of HB,
Relating to State Endemic Tree, which would designate 'Ōhi'a Lehua as the state endemic tree of
Hawai'i.

I feel we need to protect this tree for many reasons. First, 'Ōhi'a has made shelter for us for times we needed it. Second, Ōhi'a has a lot of cultural importance, and we wouldn't want to destroy a big part of our culture. Another thing, if we never had this tree some native animals would've never had life. And if they never had life, it would affect the whole food chain, resulting to corruption to the land. Also, Ōhi'a has collected water from the clouds for us which is very important for our watershed. Our watershed is very important to our islands because it provides us water. Ōhi'a has also created landscapes for us. As you can see, Ōhi'a Lehua is very important to Hawai'i and its needs.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Madison Kilinoionole Garcia

Mānoa Elementary School, Grade 5



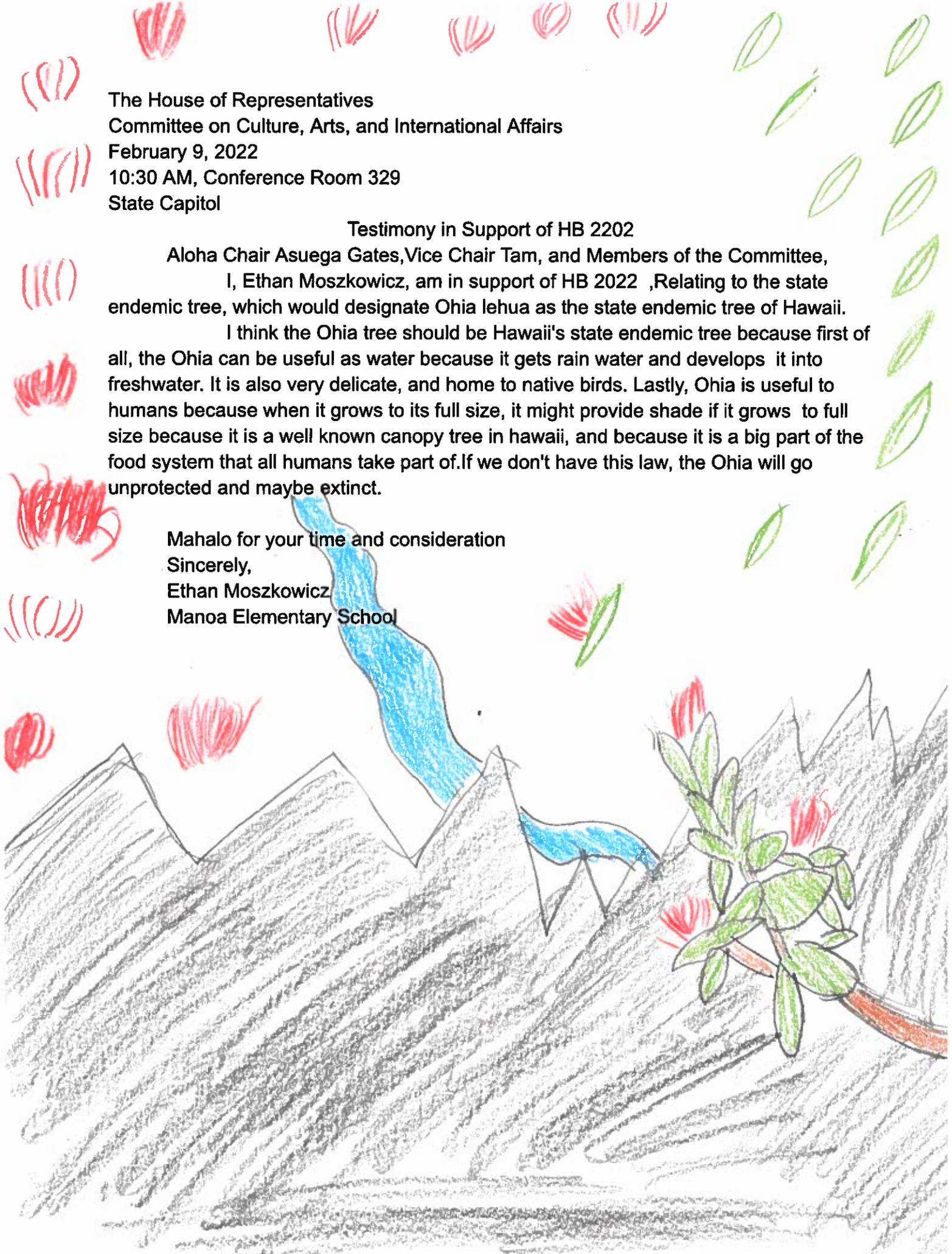
The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
February 9, 2022
10:30 AM, Conference Room 329
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 2202

Aloha Chair Asuega Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,
I, Ethan Moszkowicz, am in support of HB 2022 ,Relating to the state
endemic tree, which would designate Ohia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

I think the Ohia tree should be Hawaii's state endemic tree because first of
all, the Ohia can be useful as water because it gets rain water and develops it into
freshwater. It is also very delicate, and home to native birds. Lastly, Ohia is useful to
humans because when it grows to its full size, it might provide shade if it grows to full
size because it is a well known canopy tree in hawaii, and because it is a big part of the
food system that all humans take part of. If we don't have this law, the Ohia will go
unprotected and maybe extinct.

Mahalo for your time and consideration
Sincerely,
Ethan Moszkowicz
Manoa Elementary School



The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
February 9th, 2022
10:30 AM, Conference Room 329
State Capitol



♥ = state
Endemic!

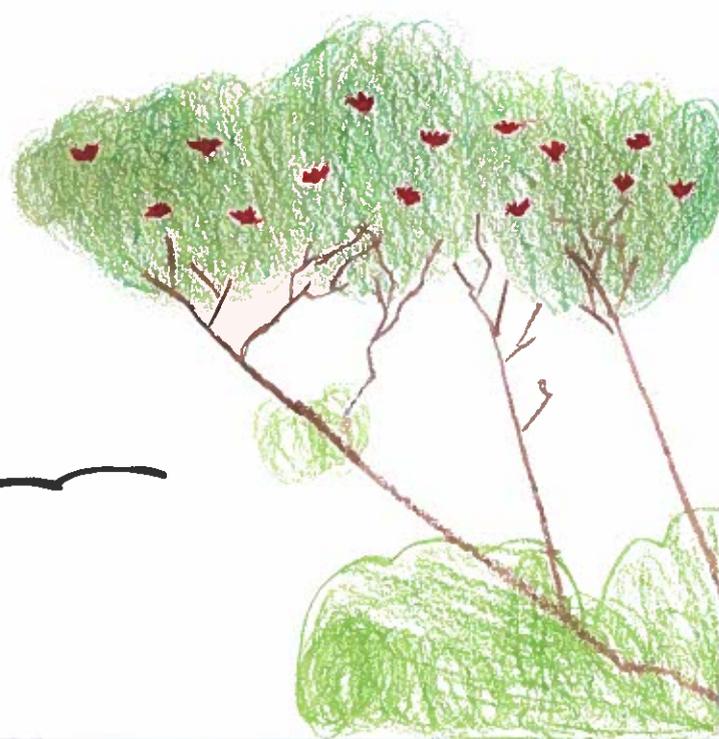
Testimony in support of HB 2102
Aloha chair Asuega Gates, Vice chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Teheiyara Pimental, am in support of HB 2102, Relating to State Endemic tree, which would designate Ohia lehua as the State Endemic tree of Hawaii.

One reason you should make Ohia the state endemic tree of Hawaii is because if it were to go extinct we would lose most of our natives animals. Native Animals live in Ohia and rely on Ohia as a place to keep them safe. That's their home. Ohia is like a warm safe place our natives can come home too. It can also affect our food chains. IF one goes down all the natives can go down. Ohia is an important part of Hawaii, so help treat it like it is. Another reason for you to make Ohia Hawaii's state endemic tree is because Ohia provides a lot and is used a lot. For example, woodworking, building, and firewood. It is very important in our nature too. Ohia provides homes, food, and water for our animals. Lastly, Ohia is important to Hawaiian culture. Ohia is used for dancing, chanting, and stories. For Dancing, Ohia has pretty flowers that are actually mostly used for dancing in our islands. Ohia is so important, maybe even our hawaiians will start a movement. Ohia is an important part of Hawaii. Let's treat it like it is.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Teheiyara Pimental
Manoa Elementary School, Grade 5



Ohia

The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
February 9, 2022
10:30 AM, Conference Room 329
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 2202

Alofa Chair Asuega Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,
I, Matisse Esparza-Queloz, am in support of HB 2202,
Related to State Endemic Tree, which would designate Ohia lehua as the state Edimic
Tree of Hawai'i.

I think that this is important because the Ohia collects the passing water and
cleans our water source which we, and others, need to survive. The Ohia provides
food, and shelter to many native animals. It also provides building wood that helps us
make houses, and fire wood.

Mahalo for your time and consideration

Best Regards
Matisse Esparza-Queloz
Manoa Elementary School, Grade 5

Matisse



HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:07:43 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kyli Lofton	Hawaii Tech Academy	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawaii State House of Representatives

Dee Morikawa

February 6th

7:45pm Conference room 442

State Capital

Testimony in support of HB2202

Dear Representative Morikawa,

I, Kyli Lofton, am in support of HB2202, relating to state symbols, which would designate Ohia Lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Each year we hear the devastating news of our native forests being lost. This loss is due to introduced invasive species overcrowding and out competing our native flora. Recently Rapid Ohia Death is claiming more and more of our critical keystone species: the Ohia Lehua tree.

By voting to designate this tree our state's endemic tree we can better advocate for its protection, secure funding for research to protect it, and more readily inform our citizens and visitors of its importance. Without Ohia there will be no forests, little water, murky coastal waters, and no tourists to want to come visit. Thank you in advance for voting in support of HB2202.

Sincerely,

Kyli Lofton

Middle School student & Kauai resident



Lucky we live Hawaii! We are so blessed to live on such wonderful 'Āina. In all of Hawaii's great plant biodiversity, our noble and native, 'ŌHI'A LEHUA, is revered. 'ŌHI'A LEHUA is very special. This plant has been ohana and of kokua. Our first Kanaka Maoli recognized it's honor and worth. It is at the CORE of Hawaiian culture with it's strong interconnection to life and it's vast contribution serving many uses. Here, in our present day, 'ŌHI'A LEHUA "still" continues to be of great significance, as it embodies such cultural, historical, and ecological importance.

'ŌHI'A has GIVEN and continues to GIVE.
Now, our 'ŌHI'A needs *US*.

Together, we are committed here as supportive OHIA advocates. Our team is called OHIA - OHIA HELPERS IN ACTION. We are from Kane'ohe Elementary School, located on the Windward side of Oahu. Collectively, we come together here to help. We desire to share our voice and to express our concern. With respect and honor, we *kokua* and *mālama* 'ŌHI'A LEHUA.

It is our hope that Hawaii's own 'ŌHI'A LEHUA gets the recognition that it deserves as HAWAII'S CHOSEN STATE ENDEMIC TREE. Mālama 'Āina. Mahalo.

February 08, 2022

Aloha e Chairman Cedric Gates and Vice Chairman Adrian Tam,

Mahalo for allowing us the participation in this hearing of HB 2202. My name is Kathryn Ellwanger and I am a Hawaiiana teacher at Kaneohe Elementary School. I am also the club advisor for our ALOHA AMBASSADORS program. This is an afterschool service group consisting of fifteen students, ages ranging from Grade three to five. All participants in this club have a “**service heart.**” ALOHA AMBASSADORS is a great group of elementary school students who enjoy learning about themselves, their local community, and the role they play within the community.

Currently, it is our honor to provide support for our Hawaii’s Ōhi’a Lehua.

We have all contributed to the making of our ‘ŌHI’A slideshow. We have attached all of our written and video-recorded testimony “in support” of HB 2202. We would all like to see this bill, HB 2202, to be passed.

We believe that our ‘Ōhi’a Lehua is the most honorable Hawaii tree species. This tree upholds a magnificent background. We are in favor of seeing ‘Ōhi’a Lehua win its deserved title of State of Hawaii Endemic Tree.

I have included our QR link to access our slideshow. I will also leave you my school email address in the case that you need to reach us or should something not go properly with the upload. We are certainly hoping that all goes well smoothly as the children would like you to see their submittals.

MAHALO for the work that you all do.
We wish you a most productive legislative session.

Be well,

Kathryn Ellwanger
kathryn.ellwanger@k12.hi.us



Link to open our slideshow:

['ŌHI'A SLIDESHOW - ALOHA AMBASSADORS -
KANEOHE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL](#)

Another link if need be::

[OHI'A SLIDESHOW OF STUDENT TESTIMONIES](#)

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:21:23 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Franny Kinslow Brewer	Big Island Invasive Species Committee	Support	No

Comments:

BIISC is proud to support this bill to make ohi'a lehua (*Metrosideros polymorpha*) our state endemic tree.

As one of the key agencies responding to the threat of Rapid Ohi'a Death and fighting other invasive species that threaten our native forests, we know very well the threats to ohi'a as well as the wonderful benefits it provides as food, forage, and habitat for the native birds, insects, and plants of our ecosystems.

We are excited to see the proposed recognition of this special native tree, found nowhere else in the world. Ohi'a is not just important for our our watersheds and forests, but also to the people of our island. Here on the Big Island, ohi'a can be found in nearly every neighborhood, and in our more rural districts, in nearly every backyard. Residents here treasure their ohi'a trees.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support.



HB2202
RELATING TO STATE SYMBOLS

Ke Kōmike Hale o ka Mo‘omeheu, nā Hana No‘eau, a me ke Kuleana o Nā ‘Āina ‘ē
(House Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs)

Pepeluali 10,2022

10:30 a.m.

Room 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS HB2202**, which would designate ‘Ohi‘a lehua as the State endemic tree in order to recognize its cultural and ecological importance and raise awareness of the critical threats to ‘Ohi‘a ¹with the hope that this awareness will result in effective conservation and healthy ‘Ohi‘a forests across the Hawaiian Islands.

Hawaiian culture is intimately tied to the land and its resources. Historically, each island, moku, and ahupua‘a supported varied and diverse plant life. Such plants were and continue to be essential to perpetuating place-based Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, as well as Native Hawaiian traditional knowledge. The connection between Hawaiian culture and Hawai‘i’s plant life is also evident in other forms: from place names based on regional flora (e.g., ‘Aiea, Hau‘ula, Kapālama), to mo‘olelo (e.g., ‘Ōhi‘a and Lehua), chants (e.g., the Kumulipo), and hula relating to and inspired by Hawaiian plants. Accordingly, the increased awareness of Hawaiian plants will ensure that our cultural heritage is reflected in our public spaces, educating both residents and visitors as to the value and significance of our islands’ flora.

Found nowhere else in the world, ‘ōhi‘a or *Metrosideros polymorpha* is a key component of Hawai‘i’s culture, ecology and environment. Native Hawaiians recognize ‘ōhi‘a as the first sign of life to emerge after a lava flow, and have developed a range of medicinal, spiritual, practical and other uses for all parts of the plant. Many aspects of our islands’ ecosystems also depend upon the unique characteristics of ‘ōhi‘a, and a number of endemic and often endangered species have evolved to form close relationships with what is still one of the most common trees in Hawai‘i. Moreover, the restoration of our once abundant ‘ōhi‘a forests is now recognized as critical to watershed protection and aquifer recharge, a growing concern given the anticipated impacts of an increasing population base, decreasing rainfall trends and climate change.

More than 365 of Hawai‘i’s plant species are now considered threatened or endangered²; native animal species have also declined due to the lack of food and habitat

¹ Ohia Decline study: https://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/psw_gtr086/psw_gtr086.pdf, LAST VIEWED 2/7/22

² Officially, **366** of the Hawaiian plant taxa are listed as Endangered or Threatened by Federal and State governments, and an additional 48 species are Proposed as Endangered. <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/ecosystems/rare-plants/>; LAST VIEWED 2/7/22

historically provided by such plants. As an advocate for Native Hawaiians, OHA recognizes that the extinction of plant species can result in the extinction of traditional and customary practices associated with them, as well as indigenous knowledge that has been passed down for centuries. Increasing the awareness of Hawaiian plants can help to reverse this trend and provide greater local knowledge of Hawaiian plants' ecological importance.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS HB2202**. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important endemic tree.

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 7:59:58 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
raiden yoza	highlands intermediate	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Raiden Yoza, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

The Reason I support this bill is as follows: The reason I support this bill is because I think the ‘Ōhi‘a is a very important tree and it is very important to the islands of Oahu and to Hawaiian culture. ‘Ōhi‘a is the first plant to pop up after a lava flow which could make ‘Ōhi‘a very rare because lava flows are not that common. Also ‘Ōhi‘a is very important to culture which could make people very mad if we don’t make the ‘Ōhi‘a tree the state endemic tree. Also ‘Ōhi‘a is very prone to diseases such as R.O.D or commonly known as Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death.

Also 'Ōhi'a helps tropical birds, which are also rare and endangered. These are some reasons why we should make 'Ōhi'a the state endemic tree so we can protect it. These are some of the reasons why I support the 'Ōhi'a bill proposal and why I think it is so important to protect the 'Ōhi'a tree and make it the state endemic tree.

Sincerely,

Raiden yoza

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:55:53 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nate Schmaeling	Hawaii Technology Academy	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawaii State House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice-Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 8, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 329 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Testimony in Support of HB2202

Dear, Chair Cedric Asuega Gates and members of the Committee,

My Name is Nate Schmaeling, I am a supporter of HB 2202, relating to State Endemic Tree which will make ‘ōhi‘a lehua the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

I have recently learned that ‘ōhi‘a is important for our clear water; it holds the soil in place so we don't get too much sediment washed out to sea. The ‘ōhi‘a tree is the foundation of our forests and without it collecting moisture, our water reservoirs would dry out. I also learned that our tree is in danger of an illness, the Rapid ‘Ohi‘a Death, a moss that chokes the trees. We quarantine ourselves and others around us when we get sick. Why not the ‘ōhi‘a trees, one of the primary providers of our islands. I hope you will consider this bill as it will help protect our ever-giving ‘ōhi‘a. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nate Schmaeling

Student of Hawaii Tech Academy

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 2:01:07 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Thomas Lockwood	HTA	Support	No

Comments:

Nadine K. Nakamura

District 17

January 28th, 2022

10:13 AM,

Room 442

State capitol

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Representative Nadine

I am in favor of HB 2202. In 2019, over 175,000 acres of forest contain ‘ōhi‘a showing symptoms of Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death disease on the Island of Hawai‘i. This will not replace the kukui nut tree. This will create another category. no protections for ‘ōhi‘a means no protections for other native and endemic species that rely on the Ohi'a to survive. If all the native plants are gone next to no one will want to come here because most of the plants are invasive. Our watersheds also rely on Ohi'a. The Ohia also has cultural importance too, we use it in hula and many other practices. So I strongly advise you to be in favor of HB 2202

Sincerely

Thomas Lockwood

Student Of HTA Charter School

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 7:48:47 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Drew Cohick	Hawaii Tech Academy	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawaii State House of Representatives

Nadine K. Nakamura

February 6th

7:45pm Conference room 442

State Capital

Testimony in support of HB2202

Dear Representative Nakamura,

I, Drew Cohick, am in support of HB2202, relating to state symbols, which would designate Ohia Lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Each year we hear the devastating news of our native forests being lost. This loss is due to introduced invasive species overcrowding and out competing our native flora. Recently Rapid Ohia Death is claiming more and more of our critical keystone species: the Ohia Lehua tree.

By voting to designate this tree our state's endemic tree we can better advocate for its protection, secure funding for research to protect it, and more readily inform our citizens and visitors of its importance. Without Ohia there will be no forests, little water, murky coastal waters, and no tourists to want to come visit. Thank you in advance for voting in support of HB2202.

Sincerely,

Drew Cohick

Science teacher & Kauai resident

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 9:44:13 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Paahana Kincaid	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I fully support adding Ohia as Hawaii's Native State tree. I believe it will benefit awareness especially with the concern of Rapid Ohia Death which could wipe out a significant amount of our upland forest. Ohia composes about 70% of our upland forests, which is majority native trees and plants.

Please consider making Ohia Hawaii's state Native endemic tree.

Mahalo,

Paahana Kincaid

Date & Time of Hearing: 2022 February 09, 10:30 a.m.
House Committee on Culture, Arts and International Affairs
Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Mrs. Addie Kim's 4th grade students at 'Iolani School, I would like to formally submit testimony in support of HB2202, Relating to State Symbols, which designates the 'ōhi'a lehua as the State Endemic Tree. Included in this document are students' written statements, poems, and artwork expressing their support for this bill and love for the 'ōhi'a lehua.

In recent months, the 4th graders have been learning and building their awareness of the 'ōhi'a lehua. Students first learned about the importance of the 'ōhi'a lehua to our watersheds, its significance in Native Hawaiian culture, and the critical threat of Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (R.O.D.).

Our haumāna have come to recognize and seek out the seven 'ōhi'a trees on 'Iolani's campus. They look forward to every opportunity to observe, admire, and understand more about our 'ōhi'a lehua - from their seed propagation through every flowering stage. While they are naturally embracing a sense of kuleana for it, their relationship with the 'ōhi'a lehua is fostering their commitment to conservation and biodiversity, and building skills for reflection, observation, questioning, and communication.

Thank you for your consideration of our students' testimony.

Sincerely,
Candice Sakuda
Director of Community & Civic Engagement
'Iolani School

Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

We, Grace and Sofia, 4th grade students at Iolani School, are in support of HB2202, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohia lehua as the state endemic tree.

We are in support of the bill because we are aware of Rapid Ohia Death. Ohia is beautiful and we want to stop Rapid Ohia Death from killing many of Ohia trees and taking homes away from many Of Hawaii's native, birds, snails and many other types of amazing native species.

The Ohia tree means a lot to us and has really changed our perspective on life. We may not be Hawaiian but it would break our heart to see the Ohia tree die. We really hope you can consider making this a bill to kokua. During the time we noticed that the Ohia was even here on our campus, we noticed that people seem to not treat our island like how they used too. The least you can do is help us care for the Ohia by making it the state's endemic tree, Spread the word to family and friends, and care for the Ohia.

Thank you for reading our testimony. We hope you can consider making the Ohia the state's endemic tree.

Sincerely,

Grace and Sofia

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

We, Reyn and Benji, 4th grade students at Iolani School, are in support of HB2202, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohia lehua as the state endemic tree. We have recently learned that the Ohia tree is in danger of extinction due to Rapid Ohia Death (R.O.D.), an infectious disease that has been terrorizing and killing Ohia trees in Hawaii. R.O.D. is a fungus that grows inside of a tree, taking all their water, and causing the tree to die.

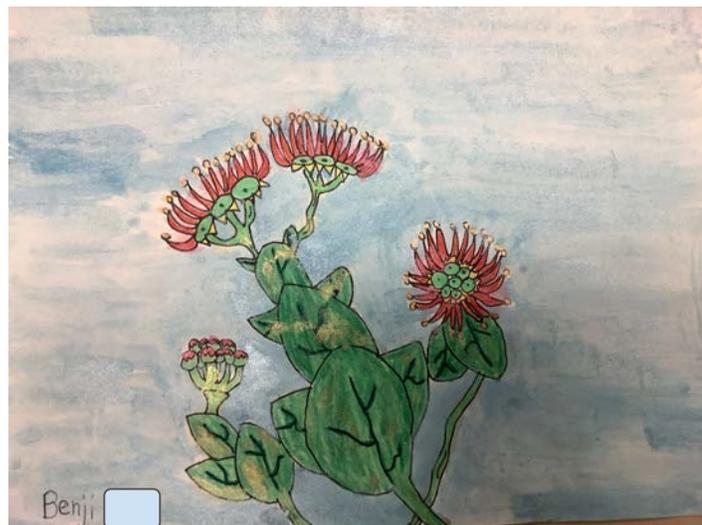
As 4th graders, we are learning that the Ohia tree is important to Hawaii in several ways. The Ohia tree is endemic, and can only be found in Hawaii. The Ohia tree is an essential water collector in the watershed. The Lehua flower captures a lot of water and allows it to slowly drip down and fill the aquifer. The aquifer is where water collects underground and supplies the Hawaiian Islands with drinking water. The Ohia tree is also important because many animals, like birds and snails, thrive in its branches. Endangered species like the honeycreeper and tree snail call the Ohia home. Without it, the animals will have no home and will therefore become extinct. The Ohia tree is also a valuable part of Hawaiian culture because it is featured in Hawaiian legends and myths. The story of Ohia and Lehua is a famous story about how the Ohia tree came to be. The Ohia tree's wood is used in making images of Hawaiian akua or gods. Ohia wood is also used for woodworking, landscaping, firewood and building.

At school, we are doing our part by planting and taking care of Ohia trees. We humbly request your support of the bill HB2202, which would bring awareness of the Ohia tree, its importance to Hawaii, and the problems it is facing. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Benji and Reyn

Iolani School 4th Graders



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

We, Claire and Hulaliwai, 4th grade students at Iolani School, are in support of HB2202, Relating to State Symbols which designates the Ohi`a Lehua as the state endemic tree.

We support this bill because the Ohi`a Lehua is an endemic tree to Hawaii and is presently being threatened by Rapid Ohia Death (a deadly fungus attacking Ohi`a). We need to raise awareness and protect the Ohi`a Lehua so we don't lose them forever. Another reason we should protect the Ohi`a Lehua is because the Ohi`a is one of the few plants that prevents erosion and mudslides in our rainforests that contributes to the water supply in the aquifer. The Hawaiians of old and today respect and honor the Ohi`a Lehua. Today, the Ohi`a are dying and we need to continue respecting and honoring the Ohi`a by making others aware of their importance to Hawaii.

We live in Hawaii, so protecting the native animals and plants in Hawaii is important to us. We need to save these native species so the invasive don't take over and so Hawaii can be like it was before. Thank you for reading this, and we hope you do consider naming the Ohi`a our endemic state tree to help raise awareness.

Aloha,
Hulaliwai and Claire
Iolani School 4th Graders



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

We, Lily and Kaelyn, 4th grade students at Iolani School, are in support of HB2202, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree.

We believe that the Ohi`a should be the state endemic tree. One reason for this is because it could weaken our watershed if it became extinct. The Ohi`a is important because its petals capture rainwater and allow it to drip into the aquifer from rainforests. Another reason is that it is part of our Hawaiian culture. If it goes extinct, we'll lose some of our culture. Hawaiians did dances about Ohia. The Hawaiians believed they were the gods, also known as Ohi`a and Lehua together, so they made a legend about the akua (gods) and worshiped them.

To us, Ohi`a Lehua is important because lots of birds depend on it. For example, if there are no Ohi`a trees left, I`iwi, Hawaiian Tree Snail, Happy-Faced Spider, and the `Akepa would go extinct as well.

Here is an acrostic poem that we wrote about the ohi`a lehua.

Only a little bit of the Ohi`a population left! We need to protect this lovely flower so it doesn't go extinct.

Helpful. Ohi`a is helpful because many animals need it for habitats and food. Animals like insects and birds. For example, the I`iwi and the Tree Snail.

Important part of nature. The Ohi`a can capture rain water on its petals and release it into the aquifer, so we need it to stay in its natural habitat in nature so it can help us!

A species threatened by ROD (Rapid Ohi`a Death) because we aren't careful, and spread it with our utilities and equipment. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,
Lily and Kaelyn
Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Ethan, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of HB2202, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree.

I recently learned that the ohi`a tree is being infected by a disease called rapid ohi`a death or R.O.D., once the tree is infected it will die in just weeks. Another thing that I learned is that lots of native Hawaiian birds live and eat the in the ohi`a tree. I also learned that Hawaiians used the ohi`a tree for many things like structures of houses and canoes. Thank you for your time to read this testimony. The last thing I will say is that the ohi`a trees' Rapid Ohi`a Death is like our COVID-19 because it spreads very fast.

Please enjoy a poem about the Ohi`a that I wrote.

Our ohi`a trees are very important to the aquifer by letting water slowly drip from its leaves.

Hawaiians once protected the ohi`a trees.

In some forest ohi`a trees make up 80% of the trees.

A ohi`a tree can grow from 2 ft to 100 ft tall.

Sincerely,

Ethan

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

We, Kylie and Emily, 4th grade students at Iolani School, are in support of HB2202, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree.

We think that Ohi`a should be named state endemic tree, we think this because a lot of animals depend on it, like the honeycreeper. If Ohi`a stopped growing, many animals like the honeycreeper would go extinct. Also the Ohi`a is also important to our watershed because water drips through its blossom slowly instead of it going down at one time and making a mudslide.

After we started to learn about and plant Ohi`a, we felt it was our Kuleana to care and look after these plants. Mahalo for reading our testimony and we hope you consider passing this bill.

Mahalo,
Emily and Kylie
Iolani School 4th Graders



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Payton, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of HB2202, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohia lehua as the state endemic tree.

I have learned that Rapid Ohia Death is killing our ohia trees. I have also learned that the ohia tree is food for the I'iwi bird and many other birds. If all the ohia trees die, the native birds might go extinct too. One last fact is that ohia was used to make poi boards, kappa beaters, and medicine.

The ohia tree made me notice how important this endemic tree is to the island's birds. At first, I didn't even know about the ohia tree. Once we started learning about the ohia tree, I started to realize how important it is to the native birds. Thank you for reading and considering this bill.

Here is an acrostic poem I wrote about the ohia lehua.

Outstanding endemic tree

Helpful to the Hawaiians

I'iwi's food

An important tree to the watershed

Sincerely,

Payton

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Kaila, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of HB2202, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree.

The ohi`a is facing a problem called Rapid Ohi`a Death. Over the past weeks I learned the importance of the ohi`a. The ohi`a provides food and shelter for native species. If the o`hia dies from this disease the native species will be extinct too. The o`hia was also very important to the Hawaiians. One way it was important to the Hawaiians was that the nectar of the o`hia was used for medicine. Also the strong wood of the o`hia was used to build their homes and canoes. The o`hia is very important.

The ohi`a really has made me realize my surroundings more too. It has made me discover more about the resources around us. I noticed that the ohi`a is important just like any other plant would be but people don't realize how important the ohi`a really is. I want to raise awareness of this wonderful plant. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kaila

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Starr, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of HB2202, Relating to state symbols which designates the ohia Lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawai'i.

The ohia was very important to the Hawaiians. It was important to them because the sweet nectar of the ohia blossoms was used for medicine by mothers when they were giving birth, and the strong wood was used for building their canoes. I've also learned that without the ohia, some of our native species, that rely on the ohia, could become extinct.

The ohia is facing a problem called Rapid Ohia Death. This particular disease could kill thousands of ohia. It would be terrible to lose the ohia. If the ohia becomes extinct, other native birds will become extinct because they will have no homes and food to survive. This is so important to me because it opened my mind to care more about other native plants and to see what they are facing. I learned that every plant has a problem including Rapid Ohia Death. I hoped you learned something about what's going on in the native forests and considering to name the ohia lehua the endemic tree of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Starr

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Jake, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of HB2202, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohia lehua as the state endemic tree.

The Ohia is important to me because over the time that I have been studying, growing, and visiting the Ohia it made me realize how special endemic trees or really anything that's endemic are and how we don't do much to save them if they are dying off just like the Ohia. Thank you for reading my testimony and hopefully you will name the ohia the state endemic tree.

Here is an acrostic poem I wrote about the ohia lehua

On top of many mountains, feeding lots of birds, such as the honeycreeper.

Hawaiians used the Ohia's hardwood to make tools, buildings, and flowers to make medicines

Important part of the watershed. It did this with its flowers which would catch the water and make it fall to the ground slowly.

And it is getting attacked by rapid Ohia death which has killed 1m+ Ohia trees on Maui.

Sincerely,

Jake

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Klinton, 4th grade student at Iolani school am in support of HB2202,
Or naming the Ohi`a tree the state endemic tree.

The Ohi`a is important in many ways. Over the past few weeks I learned that the Ohi`a tree was facing a threat. That threat is Rapid Ohia Death. I also learned that the Ohi`a Lehua was taken care by the Hawaiians because it represented two gods in love.

The Ohi`a Lehua is important to me because I was always curious on it surviving in the volcano and how much animals depended on it. I want the Ohi`a tree to live forever so I can learn more about it as I grow older. By naming the Ohi`a the state endemic tree this may make others interested in learning more about it and protecting it.

Sincerely,
Klinton
Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

We, Nixon and Ace, 4th grade students at Iolani School, are in support of HB2202, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree.

The Ohi`a is important to Hawai`i, because it is a key part of our island's watershed. The Ohi`a collects water on its pedals so the water doesn't just go rushing down and create mudslides. The Ohi`a is also being threatened by Rapid Ohi`a Death also known as R.O.D. This is bad. Because if Rapid Ohi`a death kills all of the Ohi`a, then it will be extinct, and will affect our collection of water in our aquifers. Ohi`a also reminds us about the gods that created the islands of Hawaii.

The Ohi`a has changed me. Now we realize all we have been missing. We didn't even notice the Ohi`a and we have walked by it many times. I even have one in my backyard and I didn't even notice it.

Aloha and thank you for listening to our testimony.

Sincerely,
Nixon and Ace
Iolani School 4th Graders



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

We, Craig and Juliette, 4th grade students at Iolani School, are in support of HB2202, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree.

We have learned that Ohi`a trees wood was used for kappa boards and more because the wood is so strong. The Ohi`a tree provides shelter and food to many native birds like the I`iwi. Many Ohi`a trees are being affected by Rapid Ohi`a Death/R.O.D.

Acrostic poem:

Ohi`a trees are used for shelter
Hard wood for kappa boards
Important for watershed
An important tree to the islands

Let's rainwater drip into aquifer
Early sprouting after a volcano's
Hard wood for tool
Underground aquifers are being helped
And dying to Rapid Ohi`a Death

Sincerely,
Craig and Juliette
Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

We, Kaitlyn and Madison, 4th grade students at Iolani School, are in support of HB2202, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree.

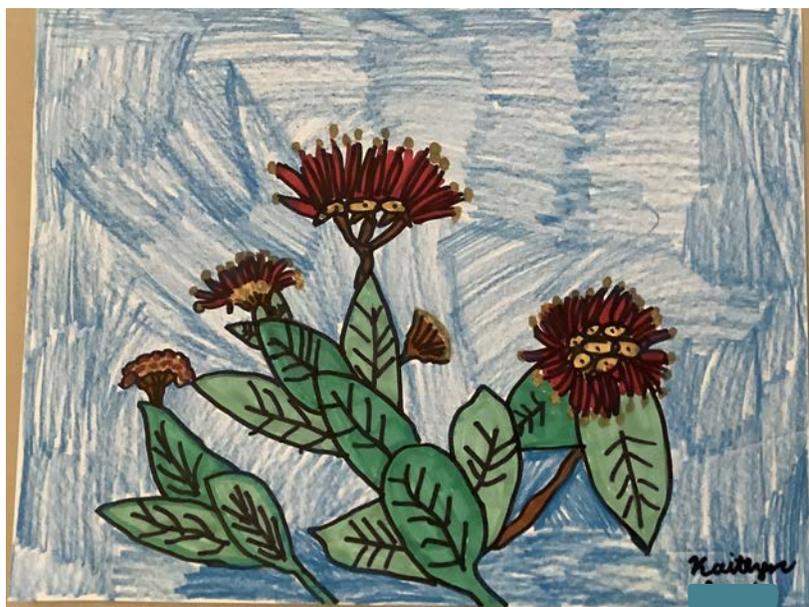
The ohi`a Lehua tree is endemic, many native animals depend on this tree. The ohi`a also collects water to send to the watershed which supplies us with the water we drink. The ohi`a is threatened because of a disease called Rapid Ohi`a Death, also known as R.O.D.

What ohi`a means to us is that it makes us feel joy in our lives. It makes us feel sad that it has this disease and we wish we could help. We are feeling this way because we planted our own ohi`a Lehua and saw our school's ohi`a which made us change our thoughts about the ohi`a. Thank you for your time and considering this bill.

Sincerely,

Kaitlyn and Madison

Iolani School 4th Graders



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Alexander, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of HB2202, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi`a Lehua as the state endemic tree.

A recent fact I learned was that Rapid ohi`a Death, or R.O.D. for short, is a new threat to the ohi`a. R.O.D. has killed about 1 million ohi`a Trees on the island of Hawai`i. The ohi`a Tree is also very important to the watershed ecosystem, by helping the water seep into O`ahu's aquifers. It also is very important in Hawaiian culture and heritage. Finally, it feeds many of our native birds, such as the `I`iwi, `Apapane, and `Akohekohe.

Here is an acrostic poem that I wrote about the ohi`a lehua.

Our Ohi`a tree feeds many native animals

Hawaii's pride and joy is the Ohi`a

Is very important in the watershed

A very big part of our forests, Hawaiian culture, and heritage

Sincerely,
Alexander
Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

We, Addyson and Chelsie, 4th grade students at Iolani School, are in support of HB2202, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree.

I learned that some native endangered animals rely on Ohi`a flower's nectar for food. I learned that Ohi`a trees are dying due to R.O.D. I also learned that Ohi`a is endemic. Endemic means that it only grows in Hawaii. Ohi`a is also really durable. It can live on hard and dry volcanic rocks. Ohi`a is also important for the culture. Ohi`a was used for medicine, tools, such as kapa beaters, poi boards and structures for homes. Ohi`a is also very important to our water supply. The tree's leaves hold the water and help refill our aquifer so we have water to drink.

On our campus, we have several Ohi`a trees. Almost everyday we walk past the Ohi`a trees and stop to look at it. The Ohi`a trees are thriving, but if no one protects them, the trees will die from R.O.D other diseases. R.O.D is a fungus, it kills the Ohi`a within 2 weeks of entering the trees. R.O.D stands for rapid Ohi`a death. Ohi`a taught me to care for nature, and to observe them. I've learned to be careful around plants. I've also learned to not spread R.O.D. If the Ohi`a is named the state endemic tree, people will be more careful about the trees. Thank you for taking time to read this testimony. I hope you consider this and turn this into a bill.

Here is an acrostic poem we wrote about the ohi`a lehua.

Ohi`a is an endemic tree.

Has been used for many different things such as medicine long ago

Important because it feeds native birds. So, if Ohi`a dies, those birds do too.

Acrees of Ohi`a are dying from R.O.D.

Sincerely,
Chelsie and Addyson
Iolani School 4th Graders



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Daniel, Iolani 4th grader, am in support of HB2202, Relating to State Symbols which designates the Ohi'a lehua as the state endemic tree.

I recently learned that the Ohi'a are dying of Rapid Ohi'a Death (ROD) and now I want to care for them. I also think this because they are home to many birds and insects such as the 'I'iwi bird. I also support this bill because the Ohi'a is an important part of the watershed because it makes the rainwater go into the aquifer so we can drink the water. The ohi'a also has cultural importance because it is a part of a few legends.

I like the ohi'a because it is unique and is endemic to Hawaii. I used to not even know about the Ohi'a but now we like to care for them and let them live to their full extent. Thank you for listening to my testimony, I hope you take this bill into consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniel

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Kana, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of HB2202, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree. I have recently learned that the Ohi`a Lehua tree is a really important part of our community. Sadly the Ohi`a Lehua tree is dying because of a fungus named Caratasis.

This is an acrostic poem I wrote representing the Ohi`a Lehua tree.

One of the endemic trees to Hawai`i. It is threatened by Rapid Ohi`a Death.
Has a mean fungi on it's trail that is trying to steal the Ohi`a Lehua's water supply,
Is super strong and tough but looks delicate,
And can grow on magma rock and can grow in forests.

The Ohi`a Lehua tree is important to nature and me because Hawai`i's native birds rely on the lehua blossom for nectar. I have changed to loving nature even more ever since my classmates and I started studying the O`hia Lehua tree. I hope that you consider this bill.

Sincerely,
Kana
Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Jonah, a 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of HB2202, Relating to State Symbols which designates the Ohi`a Lehua as the state endemic tree.

I have recently learned that the O`hia is endangered due to a sickness called Rapid Ohi`a Death (R.O.D.). I also have learned that it is home to many native Hawaiian animals which are either rare or extinct. This tree feeds the birds nectar and provides a very large and happy habitat to natives.

In my opinion, the Ohi`a should be named the state endemic tree because it is very beautiful, and it has taught me to be more mindful of it and to other trees and plants. My studies about the Ohi`a makes me want to protect it. I do not want to see a tree like the Ohi`a go extinct. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jonah

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Riley, 4th grade student at 'Iolani school, am in support of HB2202, Relating to State Symbols, which designates the ohia lehua as the state endemic tree.

The ohia tree is valuable to Hawaii's ecosystem and is part of Hawaiian culture. It is important to our watershed because it collects mist and rain water with its canopy. If the ohia tree dies, native species like the honeycreeper and the i'iwi will die too. These kinds of birds rely on the ohia tree to pollinate. Ohia is also important to Hawaii's culture too. The ohia's bark was used for structures of homes and ancient Hawaiian statues. The flowers were also used for medicine. We should remember how crucial this tree was to our ancestors and culture.

The ohia tree is like ohana to our fourth grade community because we have these trees on our 'Iolani campus, and we can visit them whenever we want to. They are located behind the Sullivan Center. We always make sure to check on the trees every week and write down some notes of our observations of how the trees are doing. When I first heard that R.O.D. was killing ohia trees, it made me feel sad because ever since my teacher introduced me to these trees, I have started to pay more attention to them and notice how they are special. Everyday, while walking back from swimming, I also make sure to check on the ohia trees to see how they are doing. Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony, and I hope you will consider this.

Sincerely,

Riley

'Iolani School 4th Grader



Ohia Lehua Haiku

A beautiful tree
A tree that means ohana
Precious lehua

Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Melody, 4th grade student at ‘Iolani school, am in support of HB2202, Relating to State Symbols, which designates the ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree.

Recently, I have learned that the Ohi`a Lehua, or the Ohi`a flower is filled with a sweet nectar, a source of food for the endangered I`iwi, or Hawaiian honeycreeper that is rapidly disappearing. Many living organisms depend on the Ohi`a tree for food and water. The Ohi`a tree is part of the watershed and collects water on its leaves and lets it drip into the aquifer. This gives humans clean and fresh water. Many birds in Hawai`i depended on the Ohi`a flower, and some are now extinct. There is also a fungus called Rapid Ohi`a Death (R.O.D.) which is wiping out many Ohi`a trees by taking the Ohi`a’s water. There is currently no cure for this fungus.

Learning about the Ohi`a tree has forged a bond between me and the tree. There is an Ohi`a tree on campus which I never really paid attention to, and now I pay more attention to the tree and its growth. I want to protect the trees from R.O.D. and save the Ohi`a trees. Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony and please consider this bill.

Ohi`a Haiku

Ohi`a’s nectar

Source of food for many birds

Some are now extinct

Sincerely,
Melody
Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Bradley, am in support of HB2202, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ōhi`a lehua the state endemic tree of Hawai`i.

I have recently learned that the ōhi`a tree is being threatened by a disease called Rapid Ōhi`a Death(R.O.D.). R.O.D. has knocked out a big chunk of the ōhi`a population. I would not like it for the ōhi`a tree to go extinct because that would have devastating effects on the native birds and snails. The ōhi`a is also important for culture. The ancient Hawaiians used the ōhi`a tree wood for building canoes. They also used the ōhi`a blossoms for medicine.

Here is a haiku I wrote for the ōhi`a tree.

Oh Great Ōhi`a

Devastate natives

From on land to shining sea

We must act quickly

The ōhi`a tree and I have this sort of connection. I know that many of the last natives of Hawai`I depend on the ōhi`a's nectar to survive, so because of that I will protect it so that the ōhi`a tree and the natives that depend on it can survive as well. Please consider this bill, and thank you for taking the time to read this message.

Sincerely,

Bradley

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Mikayla, am in support of HB2202, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ōhi`a lehua the state endemic tree of Hawai`i.

Some facts you should know about the Ohia Lehua is that it provides canopy shade. This tree is very important to our watershed because it captures mist from precipitation which we will eventually drink. The Ohia Lehua provides a habitat for native species like the I`iwi and Honeycreeper. In addition, it's beautiful colors like red, yellow, orange, salmon and white brighten our environment. Something bad is also happening to these trees. Rapid Ohia Death is happening (R.O.D.).

My personal connection is that my preschool (Unity Preschool) named their classes after certain plants. I grew up loving all the plants at my preschool and especially loved the Lehua flower. The Ohia Lehua is a big part of my childhood and I would like to know that the Lehua is thought of more now. Thank you very much for taking time to listen to my testimony.

Sincerely,

Mikayla

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Kiara, a 4th grader at ‘Iolani School, am in support of HB2202, Relating to the State Symbols which designates the ohī’a lehua as the state endemic tree.

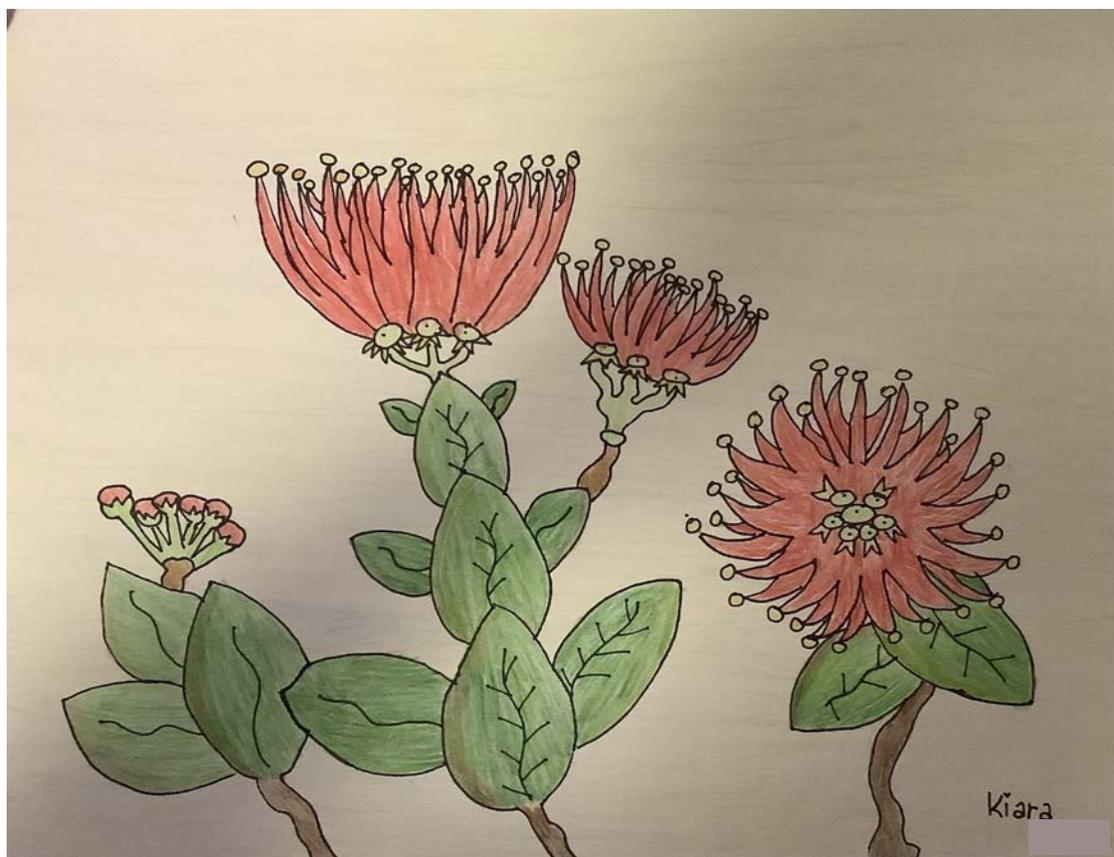
I recently discovered the ō’hi’a lehua tree and I learned the cultural importance not only to the Hawaiians but also to the native birds that drink the sweet nectar from the lehua flower. I have also learned that rapid ō’hi’a death also known as R.O.D. has taken over our ō’hi’a forest and hurt 90% of the population of trees in the past 3 years. In addition, the ō’hi’a lehua tree collects rain water and leads it into our aquifers.

The ō’hi’a lehua is important to me because it makes me more curious to learn more about the different stages of the tree and helps me be more aware of my surroundings.

Sincerely,

Kiara

Iolani 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Kameron, am in support of HB2202, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ōhi`a lehua the state endemic tree of Hawai`i.

I have learned that the Ōhi`a Lehua is getting killed by a fungus called, Rapid Ohia Death. It is a fungus that goes into the tree from any wounds or holes in the tree. The Ōhi`a helps native birds live like the I`iwi or the Apapane. The native birds drink the nectar from the flower and that's how they get their food. The Ōhi`a can also help make small canoes from the tree trunks.

The Ōhi`a taught me to notice more of the nature around me. It taught me to respect nature and I used to never notice it in nature but now I see the Ōhi`a. Thank you for taking the time for reading my testimony, and I hope you pass this bill on.

Sincerely,

Kameron

Iolani School 4th Grader



HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 8:22:21 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Caleb Stebbins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The House of Representatives

Committee on Water and Land

State Capitol

Room 210

Testimony in Support of HB 2202

Dear Chair Inouye and Members of the Committee,

I, Caleb Stebbins, Am in support of HB 2202, relating to state symbols, which would designate Ohi'a Lehua the State Endemic Tree of Hawaii.

Rapid Ohia Death is changing the way we live our lives today and it will continue to unless we stop it. The Ohia's crowns turn yellowish when the Rod fungus infects the tree. Ohia is important to the survival of our ocean reefs and watersheds. Ohia captures the rainwater runoff which helps keep the water clean. I believe that without Ohia, our coral reefs will die and the water will turn brown.

Sincerely, Caleb Stebbins

Student at Hawaii Technology Academy

on Kaua'i and very concerned citizen

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:19:42 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cedric Crampton-Nabaa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The House of Representatives

Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

10:30 AM

Conference Room 329 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Testimony in Support of HB 2202

Dear Chair Asuega Gates, Vice-Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Cedric Crampton-Nabaa, Am in support of HB 2202, relating to state symbols, which would designate Ohi'a Lehua the State Endemic Tree of Hawaii.

The 'Ohi'a tree is one of the most important trees in our ecosystem here in Hawaii. These trees provide helpful shelter and food to many native animal species, such as birds like the I'iwi. They also help prevent landslides that could be potentially harmful to people. The 'Ohi'a trees also help us get the water we need to survive. The trees also have many economic and cultural benefits. In addition, they provide beauty to the land. Please Support HB 2202 and make this important tree our state endemic tree in order to protect it from Rapid 'Ohi'a Death.

Sincerely, Cedric Crampton-Nabaa

Student at Hawaii Technology Academy

on Kaua'i and very concerned citizen

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:12:56 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Samuel Gon III	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support designating 'ōhi'a lehua as our state endemic tree. It is a vitally important tree both for our watersheds and for our cultural identity as Hawaiians. E ola loa 'ōhi'a!

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:20:04 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Elai Mossman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representative Cedric Asuga Gates:

Dear Representative Adrian K Tam:

HB2202

Aloha! My name is Elai Mossman, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about the 'ōhi'a tree because there is a fungus growing on the trees, killing them. The 'ōhi'a tree is only found in Hawaii and if they all die out the forest ecosystems in Hawaii will collapse. The 'ōhi'a tree is also an important plant in Hawaiian culture. The 'ōhi'a tree collects water and brings it to the ground. We collect the water to drink so if the 'ōhi'a tree isn't there we won't have any water. For these reasons I am supporting the HB2202 relating to the 'ōhi'a being designated as the state's endemic tree.

Did you know that the 'ōhi'a tree is important to Hawaiians because it can be used for things like medicine, weapons, clothes and many more. When lava flows down and dries, the 'ōhi'a tree is the first thing to grow and can make the land from rocks to a forest. The 'ōhi'a tree feeds native birds like the apapane with its seeds. The plant is also associated with Pele, Pele is a god that controls lava and is very important in Hawaiian culture. That's why it is the first plant to grow after dried lava. According to hawaiimagazine.com it is important in hula and other ceremonies. When listening to traditional Hawaiian mo'olelo, mele and oli about the land of the Gods, it's almost impossible to avoid some mention of ohia or its lehua flowers.

Another reason is that it takes water in the air and sucks it into the ground and makes the soil wet for other plants to grow, it also goes into springs for us to collect and use for drinking water.

Report an 'ōhi'a tree if it looks strange, dead or the leaves are starting to turn brown. When going into the forest wash your shoes and car wheels if you're using a vehicle in the forest and doing the same thing on the way out. That way, you don't carry the fungus in and out of the forest. Don't move 'ōhi'a wood or parts away even if you think the 'ōhi'a is R.O.D free. Clean tools when dealing with 'ōhi'a. That would have a significant impact because one the ways R.O.D. travels are from humans carrying it on them to another place. Please support this bill.

Sincerely,

Elai Mossman

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:21:22 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Josiah Kaya-Medeiros	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representatives Cedric Asuega Gates, and adrian K. Tam:

My name is Josiah, and I'm in The 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state endemic tree because The 'ōhi'a is the first amongst other trees to grow out from fresh lava flows. It is the home to many endangered animals and insects. And it covers many acres of land across hawai'i. For these reasons, I am supporting the bill Relating to state endemic tree.

Did you know that The 'Ōhi'a is home to many Native Hawaiian insects and animals? And that the 'ōhi'a is one of the main habitats to not just Native Hawaiian animals and insects but also all kinds of different animals. According to J.B. Friday From Hawai'i island and Ambyr Mokiao-Lee (ROD State-Wide Outreach Coordinator) from O'ahu, say birds and many other species depend on 'ōhi'a for food and nesting sites including many of Hawai'i's federally endangered forest birds. Another reason is that with the majority of Hawai i's endemic birds at risk of extinction, losing the dominant tree from their remaining habitat makes these birds more vulnerable, particularly if the fungus spreads to other islands. Even non-threatened birds, such as the could become endangered following severe habitat loss.

As a legislator, you can help by spreading the word and making this a law. That would have a significant impact because others may start to notice the importance of the 'Ōhi'a and start to care more. Then it will bring more attention to this beloved tree and more and more people will start to care and notice.

Sincerely,

Josiah Kaya-Medeiros

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:22:59 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tyce Ringstad	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Rep Cedric Asuega Gates and Adrian K. Tam:

My name is Tyce Ringstad and I support HB2202. I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state endemic tree because first, 'ōhi'a trees are the tree of life, 'ōhi'a is a tree for medicine, and the 'ōhi'a is a culturally important species. For these reasons, I am in support of HB2202.

The 'ōhi'a tree is a very important tree and flower in Hawaiian culture. It is actually used in many mo'olelo, hula's, clothing, and carvings. According to ulanamuseum website, the 'ōhi'a branches were used to create traditional kala'au or dancing sticks. Another reason is that the 'ōhi'a was used in many important mo'olelo'. Another use of the 'ōhi'a was they would use the 'ōhi'a wood to make ki'i, building houses, kapa beaters and papa ku'i 'ai. One more use of the 'ōhi'a was that hula dancers would wear lehua blossoms to help inspire the gods and enhance storytelling.

By introducing this bill it could show the importance and needs of the 'ōhi'a. That would have a significant impact because it could help protect the 'ōhi'a from a fungus called Ceratocystis fimbriata which is killing 'ōhi'a, a very important tree in life and culture.

Sincerely,

Tyce Ringstad

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:24:48 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Piimauna kekiwi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representative Cedric Asuega Gates and Representative Adrian K Tam:

My name is Pi'imauna Kekiwi, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because it helps collect water for humans, gives animals shelter and food, and it helps build shelter for people. For these reasons, I am supporting HB2202.

Did you know that the 'ōhi'a tree gives shelter to the 'Apapane bird? According to George Wallace, the 'ōhi'a tree provides food for the 'apapane bird from its nectar-producing flowers. Another reason is the 'ōhi'a tree also provides shelter for the 'apapane and many other native birds. We need to keep the 'apapane safe because it helps pollinate native flowers in Hawaii. This is an important role because it helps produce a high level of fruits, flowers, and more.

You can help by making this bill a law and helping Hawaii protect the 'ōhi'a lehua. Mahalo for your help.

Sincerely,

Pi'imauna Kekiwi

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:29:27 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jave Somera	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Rep. Cedric Asuega and Adrian K. Tam:

My name is Jave Somera, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the ohia as the state's endemic tree because it has cultural importance, provides resources to us like wood and collecting water, and it is a pioneer species. For these reasons, I am in support of the bill Relating to State Endemic Tree.

The 'ōhi'a has a lot of cultural aspects and importance. According to the Ulana Museum, native Hawaiians believed that it's the physical embodiment of Pele, the fire goddess. The wood of the 'ōhi'a was used to create religious statues of Kane or Ku. The wood was also red like meat believing that 'ōhi'a has life. The flowers were used to make leis and headbands that help enhance storytelling in hula.

As a Representative , you can help by helping to pass HB2202, about ohia becoming the state endemic tree. This will help show the importance of 'ōhi'a to everyone. This could also provide protection to 'ōhi'a from the fungus Ceratocystis fimbriata that is causing rapid 'ōhi'a death.

Sincerely, Java Somera

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:31:34 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alanna Abe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Dear: Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

My name is Alanna Abe, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about

designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because it serves as a habitat for animals, especially native insects. It also is a water collector for trees and plants. It also prevents erosion when there are floods and storms. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, HB2202, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

According to the article titled "Hawaii's water cycle" published by the board of water supply it states, "Canopy trees, like ohia, catch the majority of raindrops, plus additional fog drip. Water flows along the tree's branches to it's trunk, and the bark texture slows the rate of the flow". What this means to me is that we should start to pay more attention to the bark texture because that will tell us the flow of the water and how much there is. Also according to the article titled " 'ōhi'a lehua" published by the dlnr hawaii "The water slowly percolates down and replenishes our aquifer, our source of water". This supports my claim because the water that comes from the 'ōhi'a tree is provided for other native

trees and plants. This is important because if the native trees and plants die from not having enough water there won't be a lot of native plants and trees left.

As a legislator, you can help by making this a bill. That would have a significant impact because more people would know that the 'ōhi'a trees provide water for the native plants and trees.

Me ke mahalo nui,

Alanna Abe

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:31:34 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Trever Felten	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adriana K. Tam, Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30AM

Trever Felten - Letter

Dear: Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

My name is Trever Felten, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because people live off of the 'ōhia tree, animals also live off the 'ōhia tree. If we didn't have the 'ōhia tree there would be a small chance of survival. Another reason is that it collects water for us to survive off of. Lastly, it collects water for all plants and trees. The 'ōhia tree also gives us shelter. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, HB2202, "Relating to State Endemic Trees."

According to an article titled, "'Ōhi'a Lehua in Hawai'i Forest Institute & Hawai'i Forest Industry Association" it says that "Birds and many other species depend on 'ōhia for food and nesting sites including many of Hawaii's federally endangered forest birds." I feel like this is important because if the 'ōhia tree can provide water, shelter, food, etc. for animals, it can also provide all those materials for people. This means that people and animals have a higher chance of survival.

As a legislator, you can help by understanding the situation of the 'ōhia tree and understanding the problems of the 'ōhia tree. That would have a significant impact because people and insects can have a higher survival rate with the 'ōhia tree being used as their food source, their water source, and being able to be used as shelter.

Ke aloha nō

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Dear Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair :

My name is Nevaeh Howard, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because, The salvation of the forests and people depends on this tree. Also, 'Ōhia trees are only found in Hawai'i. Last but not least, 'Ōhia is used for many cultural purposes. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill HB2202, "Relating to State Endemic Trees."

According to the article, "The cultural significance of 'Ōhia lehua" published by "Hawai'i Magazine" it states that "As such, the abundant plant had many uses for early Hawaiians: 'Ōhia's sturdy wood was used to create weapons, *kapa* cloth beaters, boards for pounding poi, enclosures and statues; its leaves were used as a medicinal tea; and its flowers and its seeds fed native birds like the *apapane* and the now-extinct *mamo*, whose prized feathers—in colors similar to lehua blossoms—were also important adornments in hula and other ceremonies." This supports my claim by showing that 'Ōhia trees are used and very important to our culture. When we Lose 'Ōhia trees, we lose ways to show our history, mo'oleos, and resources are lost.

As a legislator, you can help by passing this bill. That would have a significant impact because our 'Ōhia trees are in danger and need our saving.

Me ka mahalo nui,

Nevaeh Howard

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:31:35 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Leila Kealohapumehana Martin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representatives Cedric Asuega Gates and Adrian K. Tam

My name is Leila Martin, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state endemic tree because of its importance to recharging our aquifers, it is used in many things that help us connect to our culture like medicine, hula, leis, oli, and more. It is very important to a lot of endangered species and they need the tree to survive. For these reasons I am supporting the bill, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

The 'ōhi'a tree is important to water collection in the Hawaiian islands. According to the article called, "Rapid 'Ohi'a Death – Threat to Hawaii's Water" written by Timothy A. Schuler, the economic value of a healthy 'ōhi'a forest can be calculated by understanding the forest's relationship to Hawaii's water. No other tree in Hawaii's native forests captures water like the 'ōhi'a. The article says, "Water has an economic value that we can measure and quantify and monetize." The tree is important for Hawaii to have clean water. We must save it.

Please consider passing HB2202. That would have a significant impact because with your help we will be able to save the ohia lehua. Saving the 'ōhi'a lehua would preserve the cultural connections as well as its importance to our water storage. I thank you for considering this important bill. Please help us save the 'ōhi'a lehua.

Sincerely,

Leila K. Martin

Kamehameha Schools

Class of 2027

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:32:34 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kylah-nell Benz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Dear: Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

My name is Kylah-Nell Benz Cabacungan, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhia as the state's endemic tree because it is a bio-culturally important species used in ōlelo, mele, and oli. 'Ōhia is endemic and only found in Hawai'i and is important. 'Ōhia Lehua is very important, its flowers can be used for medicinal purposes. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, HB2202, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

According to hawaii magazine, 'Ōhia Lehua is important because 'ōhia trees were used for myriad purposes by ancient Hawaiians. Its wood was used as kapa cloth beaters, as boards for pounding poi, and for building structures and statues. The flowers were used for medicinal purposes, like easing the pain of childbirth. The nectar of its flowers helped to feed Hawai'i's menagerie of native birds, such as the 'apapane. I think it's important because all the ways I listed are how 'Ōhia Lehua can help our people. 'Ōhia Lehua can help our people survive and stay healthy.

As a legislator, you can help by making 'Ōhia Lehua as the state endemic tree. That would have a significant impact because I recently learned that 'Ōhia Lehua are homes to many

native animals. The ‘ōhi‘a lehua flowers are an important food source for birds, they sip the nectar from the red blossoms. ‘Ōhia trees also make up the largest portion of the canopy in native wet forests. I hope you will support this bill on making the ‘Ōhia Lehua the state endemic tree.

Ke aloha nō,

Kylah-Nell Benz

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:32:34 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Bellamoon Hunkin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Dear Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

My name is Bellamoon Hunkin, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because it provides a habitat for native birds. It helps to provide necessities such as food, water and shelter. The ohia tree can also be used for cultural resources. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill HB2202, "Relating to State Endemic Trees."

Did you know that there are only about 865,000 acres of 'ōhi'a forests left in hawaii. According to an article titled " 'Ōhi'a lehua" it states that "Birds and many other species depend on 'ohi'a for food and nesting sites including many of Hawaii's federally endangered forest birds." This supports my claim that we need to protect the 'ōhi'a because it helps to save the animals and helps to provide water. If the 'Ōhi'a trees go extinct the watersheds will start to have less water in which we use. Another reason to protect 'Ōhi'a trees is because Native birds will have limited places to call home.

As a legislator, you can help by making this into a bill. Your help would have a significant impact because we need to protect the 'Ōhi'a trees for the sake of our culture, our necessities and our native species.

Me ka mahalo nui,

Bellamoon Hunkin

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:32:34 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kamalei Bullock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Dear Representative: Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

My name is Kamalei Bullock, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because it serves as a food and water source for native animals. 'Ōhi'a is also put into aquifers and is crucial for emergencies. 'Ōhi'a lehua has sturdy wood and can make good tools. 'Ōhi'a also serves medicinal purposes... For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, HB2202, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

According to the article [Hawai'i's Legendary 'Ohi'a Tree Is Important For Birds And People](#). 'ohi'a is the most common native tree species in the main islands. It is also one of the most important trees for [native Hawaiian birds](#) such as ['Apapane](#) and 'Akohekohe, which get their food from nectar-producing flowers. Dozens of extinct species would have fed frequently on 'ohi'a, too. Helping 'Ōhi'a growth could save a lot of the native species that are declining.

As a legislator you can help by passing the law of the 'Ōhi'a lehua tree becoming the state tree. This will severely help the tree to be brought to awareness and to be cared for more. The tree is a big part in the Hawaiian culture. Me ka mahalo nui.

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:32:34 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Aiden Symonds	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Dear Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

My name is Aiden Symonds, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because it can change the landscape of lava flow, it also collects water for other plants and trees, and some insects use them as homes. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, HB2202 "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

According to Hawaii Magazine "Just because the 'ōhi'a lehua flower looks dainty and delicate, the plant itself is incredibly durable and can grow in rugged, barren environments. Nowhere is that more apparent than in areas that have been covered by recent lava flows; the 'ōhi'a tree tends to be one of the first plants to colonize these dry, obsidian lava rock habitats." which proves the 'ōhi'a can create new terrain and forests. This would help us by making more forests so our native animals can thrive. It would also make areas that have been covered by lava able to live in for humans and animals alike.

As a legislator, you can help by introducing the bill to the legislative branch which would show legislators the topic. That would have a significant impact because it would be pushed into the branch and would show that people care about this topic and that people want change.

Me ka mahalo nui,

Aiden Symonds

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:32:34 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tiare-lei Duarte-Vanzandt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:32:34 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Aene Valdez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Time: 10:30 A.M.

Dear Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates Chair

My name is Aene Valdez, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because. Out of the Ōhi'a tree you can make leis and clothing out of it. According to Hawaii Magazines "the 'ōhi'a tree tends to be one of the first plants to colonize these dry, obsidian lava rock habitats."

According to the The Ohia "the tree soaks in water and puts it in the ground to the pipes so we can drink the water it provides us." The ōhi'a can grow on rocks and the flower blooms around the lava. According to Hawaii Magazine "the plant itself is incredibly durable and can grow in rugged, barren environments."This tree can grow almost anywhere but if we don't do anything about it this tree will be extinct.

As a legislator you can show this to the legislative branch to hopefully make it the state tree. That would be a significant impact because this would mean that this tree wouldn't go

extinct or be forgotten. It would be taken care of. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, HB2202, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

Ma Ka Mahalo Nui,

Aene Kapule Valdez

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:32:35 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Radyn Yap	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adriana K. Tam, Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30AM

Dear: Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

My name is Radyn Yap, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because the 'Ohi'a can be used to make shelters or food and can even collect water from rain or passing clouds. All those things are essential for survival so the 'ōhi'a can be very important. The 'ōhi'a was a big part of Hawaiian culture so it should definitely be a state endemic tree. A 'ōhi'a is endemic to hawaii, meaning it can only be found in hawaii so it holds a lot of meaning for hawaii. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, HB2202, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

According to an article titled, "The Legend & Culture Significance of the 'Ōhi'a Lehua" Written by Kapina Lansdale. It says that "The 'Ōhia's sturdy wood was used to create weapons, kapa cloth beaters, boards for poi pounding and statues." This was important to Hawaiian culture because they were able to use a single tree for many things and that was why Hawaii was so healthy and able to live off the land. 'Ōhi'a Lehua's were also used for medicinal uses and often mentioned in mele and oli's.

As a legislator, you can help by bringing this idea up to the legislative branch. That would have a significant impact because it would bring awareness to the 'Ōhi'a and would slowly solve the problem of the deadly ROD.

Thank you for your consideration,

Radyn Yap

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:32:35 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gideon Kapuaala	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Argument Writing

Key Standard WHST.6-8.1

Dear: Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

My name is Gideon Kapuaala, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because it has more uses and more of a significant benefit on wildlife and people alike in today's society. The 'ōhi'a trees serve as shelter for plants and wildlife. 'Ōhi'a trees also collect water for other trees when they can't reach water, this occurs when it rains. For these reasons, I am supporting the bill, HB2202, "Relating to the State Endemic Tree."

According to an article titled "Rapid Ohia Death – Threat to Hawaii's Water" published by "[TIMOTHY A. SCHULER](#)" In the article it states "No other tree in Hawaii's native forests "captures water the way 'ōhi'a does," says CTAHR's Corie Yanger. Look at an 'ōhi'a – at its branch architecture, its densely clustered leaves, at the lichens and mosses that often colonize its bark. "All of that creates a sort of sponge for the water that falls," she says.". This article supports my claim of 'ōhi'a trees collecting water. It shows an explanation of how 'ōhi'a trees collect water.

As a legislator, you can help by telling others about Rapid Ohia Death (ROD) and telling others about the benefits of 'ōhi'a trees and why it would be so significant to make 'ōhi'a trees the state endemic tree. This would have a significant impact because as a senator you have the ability to influence a lot of people and draw people's attention to the topic.

Me ka mahalo nui, Gideon Kapuaala

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:32:35 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Emily Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Dear, Representative Cedric Asuga Gates, Chair

My name is Emily Ching, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because it is biocultural used in ōlelo, mele, and oli. Also, 'Ōhi'a's sturdy wood was to create weapons. Lastly, it is an important food source for birds. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, HB2202, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

According to the article titled "'Ōhi'a Lehua Trees" published by Haleakala National Park it states, 'Ōhi'a lehua flowers are an important food source for the native hawaiian birds because they sip the nectar from the red blossoms and glean insects in bark and leaves. These trees are home to many native insects and even rare native tree snails. This is important because the native Hawaiian birds need a food source to live. Also this is important because it tells that the 'ōhi'a lehua flowers help our environment too.

As a legislator, you can help by making 'ōhi'a lehua trees the endemic tree of hawai'i. That would have a significant impact because the 'ōhi'a lehua flowers are very important because they have many different impacts on the environment. For example, you can use the 'ōhi'a's sturdy wood to create many weapons. It is an important food source for birds

and native animals. The ‘ōhi‘a lehua flowers are also used in many hawaiian mele’s, ōlelo’s and oli. I hope you will support this bill on making the ‘ōhi‘a lehua the state endemic tree.

Me ka mahalo nui,

Emily Ching

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:32:40 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Maika Jonick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, and Adrian K. Tam,

My name is Maika Jonick and I'm in seventh grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about the 'Ōhi'a because of its cultural and economical importance to Hawai'i. One reason I care is that the 'Ōhi'a tree is a habitat for many native birds and animals. The 'Ōhi'a tree also is endemic to Hawai'i so many people will have connections and bonds to the tree. Another reason is that the 'Ōhi'a tree collects the water humans need to survive. For these reasons, I am supporting the bill, "HB2202"

Did you know that 'Ōhi'a trees grow on lava? Because they grow on lava they are the first trees to grow after a lava flow solidifies. According to David Benitez, an ecologist at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, he states that "It has the potential to terminally alter Hawaiian ecosystems, water resources and cultural practices." (Referring to Rapid 'Ōhi'a death) Adding on to what he stated, with the 'Ōhi'a tree dying at an alarming rate, Hawai'i's ecosystem will drastically change because the tree is a big part of our water supply. That is why we should protect the 'Ōhi'a at all costs.

Passing HB2202 would have a significant impact because if more people know the importance of the 'Ōhi'a they may be more considerate and do whatever they can to protect it. Mahalo for your time.

Sincerlely,

Maika Jonick.

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:32:35 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gianna Keau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear representatives, Cedric Asuega Gates and Adrian K. Tam,

My name is Gianna Keau, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about the 'ōhi'a because a lot of animals and plants rely on the 'ōhi'a like the honeycreeper. Ect. they are only found in Hawaii nowhere else. The amount of cultural importance that this plant has is intense. When it comes to hula, oli, and chants ohia is a big part of these things. Did you know that the ohia leaves were used to make herbal tea and medicine?

According to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Several native Hawaiian birds feed on the flowers and seeds, including the 'i'iwi (Vestiaria coccinea), 'apapane (Himatione sanguine), and 'akohekohe (Palmeria dole) which feed mostly on the flowers and insects surrounding the 'ōhi'a.

Please help by using your position to pass HB2202.

Sincerely,

Gianna M. A. Keau

Kamehameha Schools Maui

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep, Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Dear Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair,

My name is Bailey Baybayan and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I hold interest in designating the 'ōhi'a lehua as the state's endemic tree because they have high cultural significance. The 'ōhi'a also provides water for our islands and makes food and shelter for us, animals, and plants. It's also important to note that the 'ōhi'a has been dying rapidly due to ROD (Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death). For these reasons, I am in support of the house bill, HB2202, *"Relating to State Endemic Tree"*.

Lately a fungus named ROD is spreading swiftly across Hawai'i Island and Kaua'i and infecting our 'ōhi'a trees. According to an article on the Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death by the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources it states that, "...in 2019, more than 175,000 acres of forest contain 'ōhi'a showing symptoms of Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death disease on the Island of Hawai'i". This shows that whole communities of 'ōhi'a are dying *just* on Hawai'i island, not to say how many are dying on Kaua'i and O'ahu. With ROD rapidly killing our 'ōhi'a, our forests would deteriorate and a whole array of species across our islands would pass without the 'ōhi'a. Native birds would be left without a home and food, and the 'āina would be absent of water,

As a legislator, you can help by promoting this bill to the rest of the legislative branch and push for it to be a law. By making the 'ōhi'a the state endemic tree, it would raise awareness about ROD and help make people care about the 'ōhi'a. In doing so, the 'ōhi'a would no longer perish, but prosper. I ola 'oe, i ola mākou nei. (My life is dependent on yours, your life is dependent on mine.)

Sincerely,

Bailey Baybayan

Kamehameha Schools Maui

7th Grade

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:33:01 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kahiau Kaopuiki-Santos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Dear: Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

My name is Kahiau Kā'ōpuiki-Santos, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because the 'ōhi'a tree is the tree of life, it collects water for us to live, it also pushes air for us to breathe. Another reason I think we should designate the 'ōhi'a lehua tree as the state's endemic tree because they are very valuable for our native insects and Hawaiian birds they eat, drink and live from or on these trees. Their canopies capture mists and rainwater that replenish our island aquifers and also bring life to other plants and animals. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, HB2202, "Relating to State Endemic Trees."

According to the Leeward Haleakalā Watershed Restoration Partnership website they say that the native Hawaiian forest plays a critical role in managing clouds, wind, humidity, air quality, and rainfall patterns. The lehua tree plays critical components in a watershed's ability to collect rainwater. Fog condensing on trees high up in watershed areas can increase rainfall collection and absorption. Restoring just one 'ōhi'a forest will help water slowly percolate down and replenish our aquifer, our source of fresh water.

As a legislator, you can help by designating the ‘ōhi‘a lehua tree as the other state’s endemic tree, that would have a significant impact because it could help with the fungal disease currently attacking and killing ‘ōhi‘a on Hawai‘i. This fungus clogs the tree’s vascular system, depriving the canopy of water, and may kill ‘ōhi‘a very quickly. ‘Ōhi‘a is the keystone species in Hawaiian forests, and ROD has the potential to cause major ecosystem disturbances that will negatively impact watersheds, cultural traditions, natural resources, and the quality of life.

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,

Kahiau Ka‘ōpuiki-Santos

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:33:14 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Emma Gouveia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Dear: Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

My name is Emma Gouveia, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because the 'ōhi'a lehua tree is a pioneer species, also they are great water providers, and because of the R.O.D (Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death), we have to plant more trees and stop the virus. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, HB2202, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

Did you know that Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death is a fungus that clogs the vascular system of the tree, which poisons the water in the tree and can kill the tree quickly? The article "Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death", states this "'Ōhi'a is the keystone species in Hawaiian forests, and ROD has the potential to cause major ecosystem disturbances that will negatively impact watersheds, cultural traditions, natural resources, and quality of life." So ROD can kill the whole environment, not just the 'ōhi'a tree. To stop the disease, you can stay on established trails, clean your shoes before and after going in and out of a forest, and lastly wash your gear and clothing in hot soapy water. To me, this virus is like covid, if we don't do something to stop it then it'll be here for a long time. To Hawaii, if these trees keep dying then there won't be any left and because this tree is endemic, the tree could die forever.

As a legislator, you can help by using my examples to convince others to agree to the 'ōhi'a tree being our state endemic tree. That would have a significant impact because you will be one more person who agrees to have the 'ōhi'ā tree our state endemic tree.

Me ka mahalo nui,

Emma Gouveia

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:33:49 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Teyvon Kahalewai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gats, Chair

Rep. Adriana K. Tam, Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30Am

Dear Representative Troy Hashimoto,

My name is Teyvon Kahalewai, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because protecting the 'ōhi'a tree means protecting other native species since its a shelter and provides food, water and wood which can help people with there daily life. The 'ōhia tree is a water collector which can help with other native plants or animals. It can also be used for weapons, clothing and could be used for medicine. 'Ōhia tree can also be a shelter for animals and food. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, HB2202, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

According to an article titled, "The cultural significance of ohia lehua and Hawai'i Magazines" the 'ōhia tree shelters and feeds animals like our native birds.This tree is a large food and water source which is important to our native plants and animals. It also helps with our daily life like making clothes, weapons and medicine. All these benifits help keep our culture and aina healthy and alive.

As a legislator, you can help by understanding the benefits of making the 'ōhia tree a state endemic tree. You could also help by trying to convince people that the 'ōhia tree is helpful and important to Hawaii and its culture. That would have a significant impact because our native species could be saved and could be staying healthy since the 'ōhia tree makes such a big impact to our 'āina.

Thank You For Consideration,

Teyvon Kahalewai

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:35:51 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lyla Aki-Kimura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Cerdic Asuega Gates:

My name is Lyla Kimura, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about 'ōhi'a because honeycreepers depend on the 'ōhi'a tree, it's also a cultural importance to us Hawaiians, and the 'ōhi'a helps our island have less erosion. For these reasons, I am supporting the bill, "Relating to State Endemic Trees."

Did you know that the leaves of the 'ōhi'a tree were used as a medicinal tea, which gave many physical and mental healing benefits for a human. According to hawaiimagazine.com, the sturdy tree of the ohī'a was carved into the poi pounding table, weapons, and kapa cloth beaters, which shows too much importance to hawaii.

Another reason is that birds that are now extinct commonly feed on this tree as a food source. Such as 'Apapane, 'Akohekohe and other native birds. This tree has been the start to new life, and offered many wildlife a home. This tree also gives us stories to tell, and its beauty.

As representatives Cerdic Asuega Gates, you can help by using your voice and speak for the 'ōhi'a. That would have a significant impact because people will take action and protect this tree and save it from extinction.

Sincerely, Lyla Aki-Kimura

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:36:31 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Pono Hodges	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Rep. Adrian K. Tam:

My name is Pono Hodges, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about the 'Ōhi'a because it is only found in Hawaii and it is very important to our state. The 'Ōh'ia is also a big food source and habitat for many endangered birds and bugs in Hawaii. Also the 'Ōhia starts in a forest in Hawaii and grows from lava rock. Did you know that many native birds including the 'i'iwi, 'apapane, and 'akohekohe feed mostly on the flowers and insects.

According to "U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service" the native Hawaiian birds will use the tree for camouflage in more prehistoric times when there were more predators that harmed the birds. The birds don't have to use the 'Ōhi'a as camouflage as much because there aren't nearly as many predators as there were back then. Another reason is that there are some native birds also forage among the foliage. Some of these birds are the 'akaipola'au, the 'akialoa's, and the black mamo or hoa.

As a legislator, you can help by funding programs to help 'Ōhi'a. That would have a significant impact because it's a harmless way to help the 'Ōhi'a. Please pass HB2202.

Mahalo for your time,

Pono Hodges

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:38:31 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Akeu Pocock-Nakaosne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representative Cedric Asuega Gates and Representative Adrian Tam:

My name is Akeu-Pocock Nakasone, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about the 'ōhi'a trees because they start forests, they can only be found in Hawai'i, and the 'ōhi'a trees give us water. For these reasons, I am supporting the HB2202.

'Ōhi'a trees can only be found in Hawai'i? That is why I think it is important for the 'ōhi'a trees to be recognized. I think making the 'ōhi'a the state endemic tree will spread awareness to people and they will take action in helping stop (ROD) rapid 'ōhi'a death.

According to an article from Hawai'i Magazine "One of Hawai'i's most iconic trees, the 'ōhi'a lehua (*Metrosideros polymorpha*) is endemic to the Hawaiian Islands and is steeped in the Islands' history." The 'ōhi'a is also a habitat for endangered animals and without the 'ōhi'a the endangered animals would die.

Please help by making the 'ōhi'a tree the state endemic tree. That would have a significant impact because people would be more aware of 'ōhi'a and help stop rapid 'ōhi'a death.

Sincerely,

Akeu Pocock-Nakasone

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:40:29 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Micah Hatakeyama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representative Adrian K. Tam and Representative Cedric Asuega Gates:

My name is Micah Hatakeyama, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about the 'ōhi'a lehua tree because It collects the water from the clouds, The tree homes a lot of creatures that are found only in Hawaii and because 10-20 percent of ohia got wiped out from the rapid 'ōhi'a death on the Big Island. For these reasons, I am in support of HB2202.

The ROD fungus can spread by wind, people, beetles, and cutting tools like saws. The 'Ōhi'a Lehua plant also houses bugs and birds. Some birds are only found in Hawaii and are endangered. If the 'Ōhi'a dies out the birds will too. Another reason is that the trees die from a wound or when the little beetles called ambrosia beetles burrow into the tree and the wounds get the ROD inside it. Also, you cant tell an 'ōhi'a lehua tree has ROD until it's all brown and dead unless you test it.

You can help by passing HB2202 to help all the people that care for this tree and to get the recognition that it needs help. That would have a significant impact because it would bring more awareness to the indigenous tree. We're hoping that more people would bring awareness to the 'ōhi'a lehua tree because of the thing that is happening to it.

Sincerely,

Micah Hatakeyama

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:42:16 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kapena Lani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representatives Cedric Asuega Gates and Adrian K. Tam:

My name is Kapena Lani and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a because it is only found in hawaii. Also, The tree itself is like a big sponge and it sucks up all the water from the rain that comes down, and it is the source of our water supply. Lastly, it is the home to many native bugs and birds, and they depend on the tree to live. For these reasons, I am supporting HB2202.

The 'ōhi'a tree is the home to many native animals such as the 'Apapane' and 'Akohekohe'. Both rely on the 'ōhi'a tree for food. According to the American Bird Conservancy, it states that the 'Apapane' and the 'Akohekohe' both rely on the 'ōhi'a for food. Also, many other extinct birds would have relied on the 'ōhi'a to live. Another reason is that if the 'ōhi'a tree goes extinct then think about what would happen to the birds that rely on the tree for food. Then, they would most likely go extinct too.

Please pass HB2202. You can also help to turn this bill into a law. Next, you can spread the word to help with this problem of the ROD (RapiD 'Ōhi'a Death.) Afterwards, you can help support the 'ōhi'a community. That would have a significant impact because the people will hear a word that is the state endemic tree and support it. Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Kapena Lani

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:43:12 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nanea Kou Maka Arquero	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representative Cedric Asuega Gates and Representative Adrian K. Tam:

My name is Nanea Kou Maka Arquero, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree (HB2202) because the 'ōhi'a is a water collector meaning that it collects condensation from the sky and stores it so us and other trees around it have a source of water. Pele chose this flower and it is her favorite flower giving this tree so much meaning to us Hawaiians. My last reason is because although 'ōhi'a is an endemic tree it also houses hundreds of native species of insects and is a food source for many birds.

Did you know that the 'ōhi'a houses hundreds of insects that are native to Hawaii. It is also a main food source for many endangered native hawaiian honeycreepers and other types of birds as well. According to the Ulana Museum it says that the seeds from the lehua feed the 'apapane and the nectar from the flowers feed honeycreepers and the now extinct mamo.

Another reason is that in ancient Hawaii the 'ōhi'a would house many insects and would provide food and water for them.

As a representative, you can research the importance of 'ōhi'a so you can see why this topic is so important to us. You can also educate others so they can learn more about this tree. That would have a significant impact because our 'ōhi'a provides so much for us and that is why this topic is so important to us and why we want it to be our state's endemic tree.

Sincerely,

Nanea Kou Maka Arquero

Date & Time of Hearing: 2022 February 09, 10:30 a.m.
House Committee on Culture, Arts and International Affairs
Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of my Iolani 4th grade students, I would like to formally submit their written testimony in support of HB2202, Relating to State Symbols, which designates the ‘ōhi‘a lehua as the state endemic tree. Included in this document are student written statements, poems, and artwork expressing their support and love for the ‘ōhi‘a lehua.

In recent months, the 4th graders have been learning and building their awareness of the ‘ōhi‘a lehua. Students first learned about the importance of the ‘ōhi‘a lehua to Hawai‘i’s watershed, its cultural connections to the Hawaiians of old, and the unfortunate threat of Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death (R.O.D.) that a growing number of these endemic trees are facing.

To assist students with forming a deeper understanding and connection to the ‘ōhi‘a lehua tree, students were introduced to the seven ‘ōhi‘a trees on our ‘Iolani School campus. Many of our 4th graders were unaware that these beauties even existed in our own backyard. Since then, students have taken occasional walking trips across campus to observe, admire, and connect with our ‘ōhi‘a lehua. They have witnessed firsthand every flower stage of the ‘ōhi‘a lehua and are forming a special relationship and kuleana for being caretakers, as they have each harvested and planted their own ‘ōhi‘a seeds. It is exciting that they now have the opportunity to mālama the ‘ōhi‘a and advocate for these native trees to increase awareness in other people. Their love for the ‘ōhi‘a lehua is growing and will hopefully blossom into something wonderful in the months to come.

Thank you for your consideration and time spent reading through my students’ testimony.

Sincerely,
Addie C. Kim
‘Iolani School 4th Grade Teacher

Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

We, Mia and Allison, 4th grade students at Iolani School, are in support of HB2202, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree.

Here is an acrostic poem we wrote about the ohi`a lehua.

Ōhi`a Lehua trees need to stick around because native birds and insects depend on the `Ōhi`a.

However, Rapid Ōhi`a Death is killing the Ōhi`a and soon might be extinct.

Important to Hawaiian culture.

Aquifer depends on the Ōhi`a Lehua.

Since we were introduced to the ohi`a lehua tree it has changed the way we think about nature and our surroundings. Thank you for taking the time to read our testimony and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Allison and Mia

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

We, Avery and Seri, 4th grade students at Iolani School, are in support of **HB2202**, Relating to State Symbols which designates the `ohia lehua as the state endemic tree..

We have been learning about the `ohia tree and that it is very important to many other native species. It is also important because it preserves the Hawaiian culture and replenishes our aquifer after it replenishes our aquifer we can drink the water and/or use it for different uses . We have also learned that ROD (Rapid `Ohia Death) has been a threat to our `Ohia trees and this would affect the animals that depend on the `ohia. It is also our Kuleana (responsibility).

We feel since we learned about the `ohia that it made us more aware of our surrounding and the `ohia we have on our campus. We recently planted our own `ohia seeds and have been taking care of our seeds, these seeds are very important to us. I hope you will consider this bill as it will kokua (help) protect our ohia and will raise awareness of R.O.D. Mahalo for considering this bill.

Sincerely,
Avery and Seri
Iolani School 4th Graders



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Kaika, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of bill **HB2202**, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree.

Here is an acrostic poem I wrote about the ohi`a lehua.

Ohi`a wood helped the ancient Hawaiians make things like a house post to keep their hale strong.

Hawai`i used to have tons of Ohi`a in its forest before R.O.D. came along. We need to keep our Ohi`a healthy for the future of Hawai`i.

In the Hawaiian islands, Ohi`a were important to the watershed because they helped get water to the aquifer. The leaves would allow rainwater to slowly drip to the ground.

A lot of animals depended on the Ohi`a trees like the Honeycreeper or I`iwi.

I care about the Ohi`a because I recently learned Ohi`a are endemic to Hawaii because they can only be found in the Hawaiian forest or mountains. I also care about the Ohi`a because they help me understand that the Ohi`a is very important to Hawai'i. I don't want the tree to be extinct like some of the birds that are already extinct. I also care for it because I don't want the birds that drink from it to be extinct too. Also, I don't want an important piece of the Hawaiians to be extinct. I have lots of ho`ihi (respect) for the Ohi`a because I had so much care for the Ohi`a tree when I first learned about it. Please consider this bill so that the Ohi`a can be named the Endemic Tree of the state of Hawai`i. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kaika

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

We, Tye and Luke, from Iolani school 4th grade, are in support of bill HB2202. We are in support of it being designated the State Endemic Tree of Hawaii. Thank you for your time and consideration of our testimony.

Here is an acrostic poem we wrote about the ohi`a lehua.

Ohi`a trees gave nectar to birds such as the black hawaiian honeycreeper which are now extinct. Today, the Ohi`a provides nectar to birds like the i`iwi.

Hawaiians used the Ohi`a trees' blossoms for medicinal purposes.

In Hawai`i Ohi`a tree's are endemic and it's important that we keep them around because they are an important part of our aquifer because they slow down the dripping water with their leaves.

An Ohi`a can be dying right now because of R.O.D. If we don't become more aware of the ohi`a and take action or the Ohi`a trees will go extinct. Naming the Ohi`a trees our endemic state tree, will help others to be more aware of this island treasure.

Sincerely,
Tye and Luke
Iolani School 4th Graders



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Ellery, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of **HB2202**, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree.

The Ohi`a has an enemy, R.O.D (rapid ohia death). R.O.D. is a fungi that enters through cuts and clogs the tree's water system. Sadly R.O.D. only affects Ohi`a trees. We need this tree because it provides us with healthy rainforests, beautiful lei, and a lot of shelter for animals like the `i`iwi. Not a lot of people know about this amazing tree. More people would know and pay more attention to it if it was named our state endemic tree. People would help fight off R.O.D. I think it is my kuleana (responsibility) to malama (care) for these precious Ohi`a. Thank you for considering this bill.

Sincerely,

Ellery

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

We, Sophia and Mikayla, 4th grade students at Iolani School, are in support of bill **HB2202**, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree.

We have learned that the ohi`a is extremely important to the preservation of Hawaiian culture, it's a cornerstone species of our forests, and is important as a vital water gatherer to refill our aquifers. We've also learned the sad reality of Rapid Ohi`a Death or R.O.D. R.O.D. is a fungus that clogs it's water supply.

We think that if the ohi`a lehua is made the state endemic tree, people would pay more attention to it, want to learn about it, and help stop R.O.D. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sophia and Mikayla
Iolani School 4th Graders



...



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Aya, 4th grade student from Iolani school, am support of **HB2202**, relating to state symbols which designates the Ohi'a Lehua as the state endemic tree.

I have recently learnt about the Ohi'a tree and rapid Ohi'a death (R.O.D). I have also learnt about the cultural importance to Hawai'i.

Another reason for this is there are many birds that depend on the Ohi'a tree for food. I think if the Ohi'a tree is named The State Endemic Tree Of Hawai'i, people will Ho'ihii (respect) it more. As I said before, I have learned a lot about the Ohi'a tree in class. I hope you accept this bill and choose to name the Ohi'a tree The State Endemic Tree of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Aya

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Sydney, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of **HB2202**, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohia lehua as the state endemic tree.

I have recently learned that the ohia has an enemy, Rapid Ohia Death, which is also known as R.O.D. Something else I have learned is the cultural importance the ohia brings to Hawaii, like it being an island flower and part of some of the legends of which Hawaiians believe. In addition to this, there are many birds who depend upon this lovely tree for part of their lives. I also believe that if the ohia was the state endemic tree of Hawaii, people would ho'ihi (respect) and kokua (help) it a bit more than they do now.

I have made many connections to this tree and one is that I have lived around it, as it's in my backyard, and have learned so many interesting facts just by looking at it every day. I thank you for reading and considering this bill and hopefully making the ohia lehua the State Endemic Tree Of Hawaii.

Thank you for your service,
Sydney
Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Audrey, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of bill **HB2202**, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohī`a lehua as the state endemic tree.

During Social Studies, while we learned about the Hawaiian plants, I realized the importance of this endemic tree. The beautiful `Ōhi`a is extremely durable and important to our environment. It is one of the main parts of Hawai`i's water supply. The `Ōhi`a, along with the Koa tree, slows rainwater from creating run-off on the mountains. The `Ōhi`a was also a resource of medicine for the ancient Hawaiians. Plus, it is a native plant and keystone species. A keystone plant is a plant that is a very important part of an ecosystem. Native birds and insects rely on the `Ōhi`a for food and homes. With strong, hard wood, the `Ōhi`a also has many uses.

While we speak a fungus called R.O.D. (Rapid `Ōhi`a Death) is infecting our `Ōhi`a. To protect our beloved `Ōhi`a we ask you to consider our bill. These `Ōhi`a are so important to me because they help the environment. It's also an important part of Hawaiian culture.

Here is a haiku poem I wrote about the ohī`a lehua.

A Beautiful Tree

Blood-red flowers sway,
Strong wood rooted in the earth,
Both make `Ōhi`a.

Sincerely,
Audrey
Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

We, Hunter and Jax, 4th grade students at Iolani School, are in support of **HB2202** relating to State Symbols which designates the Ohi`a Lehua as the state endemic tree.

In class we have learned that the Ohi`a tree holds a lot of rainwater that drips slowly into the aquifers. Another thing that we have learned about the Ohi`a is that Hawaiians used Ohi`a for many things like canoes and posts to support their home. The Lēhua blossom was used for dyes, leis, clothes, and medicine for women giving birth. Another thing that we have learned is that R.O.D. or Rapid Ohi`a Death is killing our Ohi`a trees.

The Ohi`a tree means a lot to us because it is an important part of Hawaiian culture and good for our aquifer, native plants, and native animals. If we didn't have Ohi`a trees we would not have enough rainwater to drink from our aquifer. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,
Jax and Hunter
Iolani School 4th Graders



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Mattie, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of **HB2202**, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ōhi`a lehua as the state endemic tree.

I have been learning about the ōhi`a lehua tree and have started to realize that it is a very important part of Hawaiian culture, our watershed, and the life of many native birds. I have also been learning about Rapid Ōhi`a Death (R.O.D) which has been affecting and killing millions of ōhi`a in the state of Hawai`i. With many ōhi`a trees dying, it is our kuleana (responsibility) to protect and ho`ihi (respect) it. If we don't protect the ōhi`a, this would not only affect many native birds and animals it would also affect us. I believe that if you decide to make the ōhi`a the State Endemic Tree of Hawai`i, people would become more aware of the situation that the ōhi`a is facing. For these reasons I think that the ōhi`a should be named the State Endemic Tree of Hawai`i. Thank you for reading and considering this bill.

Mahalo,
Mattie
Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

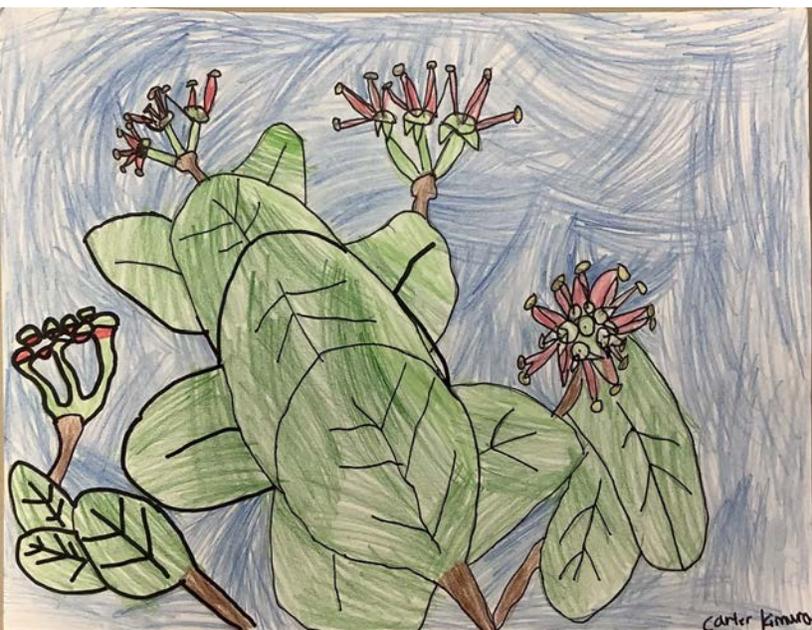
We, Carter and Henry, 4th grade students at Iolani School, are in support of **HB2202**, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree.

We have recently been learning about Rapid Ohi`a Death, the fungus that spreads to Ohi`a trees. We have learned that R.O.D. has killed over one million Ohi`a trees. The trees are in danger so it's our kuleana (responsibility) to ho`ihi (respect) and care for them. We need to do this because the Ohi`a trees give many animals shelter, food, and nectar. Ohi`a is also a staple of Hawai'i history being the mostly used tree for lei and canoe. Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony and we hope you will consider this bill.

Ohi`a Haiku

The Ohi`a Tree
Brilliant Red, White, Yellow
Honey and Nectar

Sincerely,
Carter and Henry
Iolani School 4th Graders



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Kara, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of **HB2202**, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree.

In our social studies class we started to learn about the Ohi`a tree. I learned how it kokua (helps) Hawai`i. It gives shelter to native birds, its flowers are made to make leis, and much more. Sadly, the Ohi`a tree has an enemy. R.O.D., also known as Rapid Ohi`a Death. R.O.D has killed over one million Ohi`a trees. I think if you make the Ohi`a tree the state endemic tree, people will try to learn about the Ohi`a and tree to help it. I think it is my kuleana (responsibility) to inform you about this and I feel strongly towards showing malama (care) to the Ohi`a. Mahalo for your time.

Sincerely,

Kara

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Brady, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of **HB2202**, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree.

I have recently learned about a tree called Ohia. We also planted Ohia seeds and are caring for them. But there is a enemy to the Ohia called ROD it is a disease that is killing millions of Ohia they need our help. We know the Ohia was important to the Hawaiians to make medicines, canoes, and house supports. That is not all it is helpful for we have also learned that the Ohia is important to the watershed by funneling the water with its leaves and transferring it into the aquifer. We are not the only ones who depend on the tree. This tree gives shelter and food to native help birds and bugs that inhabit our island.

We want the Ohia to be named the state endemic tree so that we can build awareness to preserve this tree. The Ohia is important to us because it has it has also helped the it also gave me water to drink which helped our aquifer collect more. I want to spread awareness to help the Ohi`a with stopping R.O.D. Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you for your consideration,

Brady

Iolani 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Archie, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of **HB2202**, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohia lehua as the state endemic tree.

I have learned that the Ohia is a very important tree to the environment because it provides shelter and food for many endangered and native Hawaiian animal species such as the honeycreepers and spiders. I also learned that animals are losing their shelter and food to wood gathering and **R.O.D.** (Rapid Ohia Death). It's my Kuleana (responsibility) to care for the Ohia on and off our campus.

This tree is important to me because when I planted an Ohia at school, I learned to care for it. Now the Ohia are like family to me. Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,
Archie
Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Avalon, am a student at Iolani School, and I am in support of **HB2202**, Relating to State Symbols, which would designate the Ohi`a Lehua as the State Endemic Tree of Hawai`i.

I have recently learned that Ohi`a trees are extremely important to Hawaiian culture. The Ohi`a trees also have a vital role in Hawai`i's watersheds. The Ohi`a allows water to sink into Hawai`i's natural aquifers. Unfortunately, the Ohi`a trees are in danger. R.O.D. (Rapid Ohi`a Death) has killed over 1 million Ohi`a trees on the Island of Hawai`i alone.

Learning about the Ohi`a has made me feel ho`ihi (respect), it is my kuleana (responsibility) to help protect the Ohi`a. I feel that if the Ohi`a Lehua is the State Endemic Tree, we could spread awareness about R.O.D. and how to protect our beloved Ohi`a. Thank you for putting this into consideration.

Sincerely,

Avalon

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Thomas, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of **HB2202**, Relating to state Symbols which designates the Ohi'a Lehua as the state endemic tree.

I have been learning about how the Ohi'a tree is so important to Hawaii. The Ohi'a's sweet nectar helps feed the native birds. The Ohi'a tree also sucked the water in and then goes into the aquifer for us to drink. The Ohi'a tree is in danger because of the Rapid Ohi'a Death. Rapid Ohi'a Death has been killing a lot of Ohi'a trees.

It is our job to protect the tree from ROD and let everyone else know how important this tree to Hawaii. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Thomas

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Aiden, a 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of **HB2202**, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi'a lehua as the state endemic tree.

These past few weeks, I've learned a lot about the ohi'a tree, including the fact that the ohi'a is endemic to Hawai'i. If the tree becomes extinct because of R.O.D., then, you cannot find it anywhere else in the world. I've also learned that if the ohi'a becomes extinct, the native birds that need the tree to live will also become extinct. The native birds are a cultural importance to Hawai'i, so people that live in Hawai'i will be really sad because it may be very important to them.

The ohi'a is important to me because it taught me to be more careful around plants because they can be very important too. I've learned how to take care of an ohi'a tree because I had experience planting my own ohi'a. The ohi'a is also important to me because whenever I see a fully bloomed tree, I get filled up with joy for the rest of the day.

Thank you for your time and maybe considering this bill.

Mahalo,

Aiden

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Kaitlyn, an Iolani 4th grader, am in support of **HB2202**, Relating to State Symbols which designates the Ohi`a Lehua as the state endemic tree.

I have recently learned that Ohi`a is very important to the Hawaiian cultural and ecosystem. I have also recently discovered that Rapid Ohi`a Death (or R.O.D.) has invaded our Ohi`a forest and has damaged many of these special trees. The Ohi`a is a big part of our water cycle. It leads the water droplets to our aquifers which leads into our everyday lives. Ohi`a was also important to the Hawaiians of old. They used the Ohi`a wood for carvings of their akua (or Gods). Ohi`a also provides sweet nectar to our native birds, such as the I`iwi and Honeycreeper. These birds depend on the nectar to survive.

When my family and I take an evening walk, I like to take a look at the Ohi`a that hides behind a big tree up our street. This Ohi`a is small but it has beautiful blossoms blooming. I`d like people to know more about the Ohi`a and why it`s so important to us and nature. Thank you for your kind courtesy towards our sacred Ohi`a Lehua.

Here is an Ohi`a Lehua acrostic poem that I wrote.

Ohi`a has made me care and notice the beauty around us much more.

Helping this Ohi`a has made me want to save our Native creatures around us too.

I feel like the Ohi`a gives me a calming sensation.

As the months pass, Rapid Ohi`a Death (or RO..D) has killed to much Ohi`a, that now

I want to help these trees as much as I can before it`s too late.

Mahalo,
Kaitlyn
Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Kayde, a 4th grader at Iolani School, am in support of **HB2202**, Relating to State Symbols which designates the Ohi`a Lehua as the state endemic tree.

I recently learned that native birds like the `i`iwi like to suck the nectar from the ohi`a lehua. If the ohi`a lehua is gone, the native birds may be extinct soon due to Rapid Ohia Death. The ohi`a is important because it can be a food source for animals, and can make things like canoes or medicine. The ohi`a tree also mattered to the native Hawaiians, they were the ones who made the canoes and medicine.

The ohi`a is important to me because it has made me realize that it's only here in Hawai`i. We have to be aware of the ohi`a because they are dying to Rapid Ohia Death. We need to help the ohia, before the tree itself and a lot of animals die too.

Sincerely,
Kayde
Iolani School 4th Grader

Ohia Haiku
Red, yellow, orange,
Really high in the mountains,
On volcanic land



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

We, Asher and Angelina, 4th grade students at Iolani School, are in support of **HB2202**, relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi'a lehua as the state endemic tree.

We have recently learned that the Ohi'a is dying of the spreading of Rapid Ohi'a Death. We think that by naming the Ohi'a Hawaii's state endemic tree, people will recognize it more and help protect it from dying out. We need to save the Ohi'a because it is food for many animals, and those animals depend on Ohi'a to survive.

Learning about the Ohi'a has changed how we feel about nature. We have seen Ohi'a before, but have never really noticed it. We hope you will consider naming Ohi'a the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Sincerely,
Asher and Angelina
Iolani School 4th Graders



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Luke 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of **HB2202**, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohia lehua as the state endemic tree.

I have recently learned that native birds rely on this tree to live. For example the native birds drink out of the ohia blossoms, so if the ohia tree dies out the native birds will too. I have also learned that the ohia is endemic to Hawaii. Since it is endemic to Hawaii, if it dies out, it's gone forever. If it's gone forever Hawaiian people may be really sad.

In my opinion I think that the ohia tree represents Hawaiian culture because back in the day the old Hawaiians used it, and without it, Hawaii wouldn't be the Hawaii we are today. Thank you for your time and hopefully considering this bill.

Sincerely,

Luke

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Arya, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of **HB2202**, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohia lehua as the state endemic tree.

I have learned many things about the 'ohi'a and its vital importance to our ecosystem. I have learned that the 'ohi'a is an important freshwater gatherer, and catches water for our daily activities. The 'ohi'a's leaves are cupped and they catch freshwater from the clouds. There's an endangered bird species called the Hawaiian honeycreeper, and it relies on the 'ohi'a's nectar for food. Without it the honeycreeper would probably go extinct. It also helps to remind us of the story of 'Ohi'a, Lehua, and the fire goddess Pele. Pele was jealous of 'Ohi'a and Lehua's love, so she turned 'Ohi'a into a tree, then the akua turned Lehua into a beautiful flower so the two lovers could be together again, the legend is that if you pick the 'ohi'a flower their tears will fall from the sky. I have also learned of a big threat to the 'ohi'a called Rapid 'Ohi'a Death, or R.O.D. A fungus that is killing and infecting these beautiful trees.

If I hadn't been introduced to the 'ohi'a I would have thought it was just a tree, but now that I am caring for and slowly understanding the 'ohi'a tree, I've grown to respect it and other trees more. I think growing and learning about the 'ohi'a made me realize that it's more than a tree, that it's a species that has many benefits to our ecosystem. I hope you will understand and consider this bill to help our beloved 'ohi'a. Mahalo for your time.

Sincerely,

Arya

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Emma, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of **HB2202**, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree.

I think this because the tree is important in many ways, for example, native birds. The O`hia is important to native birds because the birds drink the sweet nectar from the flower. Another important thing to know about the O`hia is that ancient Hawaiians used the stump of the tree to make a house also known as a hale. If the O`his is named the state endemic tree, people will find out about the Rapid O`hia Death and they will be more aware of it. I think that making it the state endemic tree will teach people more about the tree and might get attached to it like how I did.

I think that the tree is really cool and amazing. Sometimes in school, I go to visit the O`hia trees on campus and always find something different and interesting to look at. Finding out that I was going to have the opportunity to plant my own O`hia tree made me really excited. Thank you for listening to my testimony. I hope that you will consider accepting it.

Sincerely,

Emma

Iolani School 4th



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Alec, a 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of **HB2202**, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree. I think that the Ohi`a Lehua should be designated as the state endemic tree.

I have learned that the Ohi`a is an important part of our ecosystem because it helps in all different kinds of ways for different things for example the honeycreeper drinks the nectar of the Ohi`a tree. The Ohi`a tree is resilient like the people of Hawaii.

The Ohi`a tree made me more careful where I step. The Ohi`a tree has made me more observant of the Ohi`a tree now I see details I didn't see before. Thank you very much for reading my testimony and I hope you consider this bill.

Sincerely,

Alec

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Maddy, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of **HB2202**, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohia lehua as the state endemic tree.

I support this bill because the Ohia is important in so many ways, for example the native birds. The Ohia is important to the birds because they rely on the trees' sweet nectar from the flower to drink. Another important thing to know about the Ohia tree is that naming the Ohia the state endemic tree will make others notice the tree and realize how important it is. If this tree does become the state endemic tree then people will find out about the Rapid Ohia Death and hopefully be more aware of what's happening to them.

Sometimes in school I go to visit the Ohia trees on our campus. Every time I check the tree there are more interesting things to see. When I first heard about the Ohia I wasn't too excited because I thought that it was just a simple tree but as I learned more about it I got more connected to the Ohia. Planting my own Ohia was super exciting to do.

Thank you for listening to our testimony and I hope you will consider this.

Sincerely,

Maddy & Emma

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Aryanna, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of **HB2202**, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohia lehua as the state endemic tree.

I have recently learned that Ohia is an important part of the watershed and culture. The Hawaiians used to use the ohia flower for medicine, They also used the ohia flower's nectar to help feed native birds. Rapid Ohia Death, also known as R.O.D., is spreading and killing the Ohia. The hardwood of the Ohia tree was used to make homes and statues by the ancient Hawaiian people.

The ohia is very important to me because I used to walk past the tree everyday, now every time I walk past the ohia I always check if it's healthy so we can keep the ohia protected. Thank you for taking your time to read this bill, I hope you take it into consideration.

This is a acrostic poem about the Ohia`a

Ohi`a is an endemic tree.

Hawaiians used Ohia`a's tree wood for tools

In the Hawaii island it is illegal to take Ohia`a off of the island.

A serious disease is spreading killing Ohia.

Sincerely,

Aryanna

Iolani School 4th Grader



Testimony in Support of HB2202 - Relating to State Symbols

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Rylen, 4th grade student at Iolani School, am in support of **HB2202**, Relating to State Symbols which designates the ohi'a lehua as the state endemic tree. Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Pihana Branco, and Members of the Committee,

This bill is important to me because it will get people interested in the Ohi'a tree so maybe they will be more careful and considerate about nature and it might get people interested in R.O.D (Rapid Ohi'a Death) and the Ohi'a is also important to native birds because it is food to these native endangered birds of Hawai'i.

I like the Ohi'a because ever since we planted our own Ohi'a in school and saw some on our school campus, I just find these plants and nature is making me notice stuff I never noticed before.

THE OHI'A BLOSSOM

Usually bright red
Pick blossom and sky will cry
On molten lava

Sincerely,
Rylen
Iolani 4th Grader



HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:26:53 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Faith Hubin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates and Rep. Adrian K. Tam,

My name is Faith Hubin, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state endemic tree because the 'ōhi'a is the first tree to grow out of lava rock helping to grow other plants and trees, they can act like sponges sucking up water after it rains leaking water into caves where we take and get water out of, and because it's home to many endangered or native animals like 'apapane meaning if the 'ōhi'a die then they might too, and is very culturally important to hawaii. For these reasons, I am in support of HB2202.

'Ōhi'a gives shelter to small birds called 'apapane? The 'apapane is also known as the Hawaiian honeycreeper. These small crimson birds follow the blooming pattern of the native tree. Another reason is that 'apapane are also very culturally important so if we lose 'ōhi'a we would be losing two things that are very important to our culture. According to the American Bird Conservancy, their feathers are extremely important to Hawaiian culture.

You can help by trying to see the point of view from people who support and don't support the bill before you decide. That would have a significant impact because if the bill gets passed then it would have a positive impact on the 'ōhi'a lehua.

Sincerely,

Faith Hubin

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:29:28 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
kameleonapuuwai kamau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, & Rep. Adrian K Tam:

My name is Kameleonapuuwai Kamau, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because 'ōhi'a is a tree that protects our native animals. Some of the animals that it protects are endangered because the 'ōhi'a tree is safe for them and not invasive. Second, our kupuna used 'ōhi'a in so many mele, hula, oli, etc. making the importance of it high to our ancestors. Third thing about 'ōhi'a is that it gives us water, so if it takes care of us I believe we should take better care of 'ōhi'a. For these reasons, I am supporting the bill, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

Department of Land and Natural Resources say that birds and many other species depend on 'ōhi'a for food and nesting sites including many of Hawaii's federally endangered forest birds. 'Ōhi'a lehua is considered a primary habitat for many plants, animals, and invertebrates like the 'apapane and the now-extinct mamoa. Native Hawaiian birds feed on the flowers and seeds, including the 'i'iwi (Vestiaria coccinea), 'apapane (Himatione sanguinea), and 'akohekohe (Palmeria dolei) which feed mostly on the flowers and insects.

Please help by designating the 'ōhi'a our state endemic tree. That would have a significant influence because 'ōhi'a has a large impact on our Hawaiian species and since 'ōhi'a protects all those insects/animals if we protect the 'ōhi'a we will be able to protect all of those species as well.

Sincerely,

Kameleonapuuwai Kamau

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:32:44 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lehiwa Foster	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representative Adrian K Tam and Representative Cedric Asuega Gates,

My name is Lehiwa Foster, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about 'Ōhi'a Tree because The 'Ōhi'a Tree provides us with water which is helpful for this community, it is the only tree that can grow where the lava flowed And it turned where the lava flowed into soil, And it provides building materials for the community. For these reasons, I am supporting the bill, "Relating to State Endemic Tree." Did you know that the 'ōhi'a tree can turn where the lava flowed Turn that place into soil. According to fws.gov and nativeplants.hawaii.edu. Another reason is that the ohia tree can grow anywhere and it can grow in rough places.

Please pass HB2202 so that 'ōhi'a trees can be protected throughout the state.

Sincerely,

Lehiwa Foster

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:34:54 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tehani-Hoku Keliiliki-Lovato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representatives Cedric Asuega Gates & Adrian K. Tam:

My name is Tehani-Hoku Keliiliki-Lovato, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because the 'ōhi'a trees have been here since the island was formed. The 'ōhi'a trees not only provide water sources but they also provide and/or give good sunlight, rich organic soil, and excellent drainage. "Native Plants Hawaii." Why I need to take action is because this tree has been suffering from R.O.D. (Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death) since the summer of 2014. That year Hawai'i planted 800 'Ōhia'a trees in support of these special trees. I want to help the 'ōhi'a trees so that they flourish all over Hawai'i and STOP R.O.D. For these reasons, I am supporting the bill, "Relating to State Endemic Trees." Did you know that right after a volcanic eruption 'ōhi'a trees are the first living plant to grow back.

According to the website, [abcbirds](#), the 'ōhi'a is one of the most important trees for native Hawaiian birds such as 'Apapane and 'Akohekohe, which get their food from nectar-producing flowers. Dozens of extinct species would have fed frequently on 'ōhi'a, too.

Another reason is that the 'ōhi'a trees are the most abundant, ecologically important. Without the 'ōhi'a trees a lot of birds would be relying on other trees that will give them food such as nectar, and water, but won't be as reliable as the 'ōhi'a trees.

Please help by passing HB2202. That would have a significant impact because it would bring more attention to the 'ōhi'a trees and about (R.O.D.) Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death.

Sincerely,

Tehani-Hoku Keliiliki-Lovato

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:33:58 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kauanaulu Medeiros	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates and Rep. Adrean K. Tam,

My name is Kaua Medeiros and in school we have been learning about the ‘ōhi‘a tree and it’s benefits. I would like to encourage you to pass HB2202. One reason is because the ‘ōhi‘a tree is a natural water storage. It can hold lots of water in itself from humidity or from watersheds. My second reason is because the ‘ōhi‘a tree creates a place for other plants to grow. It is the first plant to sprout out of dried lava. My hopes are that the ‘ōhi‘a tree will become our state's endemic tree.

Mahalo,

Kaua Medeiros

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:36:30 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kaia Salvatierra	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representatives Cedric Asuega Gates and Adrian K. Tam:

My name is Kaia Salvatierra, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because the 'Ōhi'a tree is our water source, 'Ōhi'a is the tree of life and is a home to many insects and birds, The 'Ōhi'a grows from lava rock and it helps other plants to grow. For these reasons, I am supporting the HB2202.

According to the Rapid-'Ōhi'a-Death-Poster that I found online it says that the 'Ōhi'a lehua is our main watershed forest tree. And that's true of all of the main islands. That makes 'Ōhi'a ecologically really important as a watershed tree. Mosses adorn 'ōhi'a branches and trunks and water in great amounts is collected by this pristine 'ōhi'a-dominant forest. The water slowly percolates down and replenishes our aquifer, our source of freshwater. The 'Ōhi'a tree is a vital water gatherer to replenish our state aquifers.

Please help by making the 'Ōhi'a tree the state's endemic tree. That would have a significant impact because the 'Ōhi'a tree is important to all hawaiians and the 'Ōhi'a tree provides shelter and food for numerous native birds, including endemic Hawaiian nectar-feeding honeycreepers such as the 'apapane and 'i'iwi, as well as innumerable insects, snails and other invertebrates.

Sincerely,

Kaia Salvatierra

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:37:18 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Euliana Ueki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representative Cedric Asuega Gates & Adrian K. Tam:

My name is Euliana Ueki, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about the 'ōhi'a because without the 'ōhi'a some of the native birds would not be alive, the 'ōhi'a makes soil and starts a forest and helps a forest live, the 'ōhi'a is very important to us, it is a water collector and gives us air. For these reasons, I am supporting HB2202.

According to Go Hawai'i, the 'ōhi'a lehua is our main watershed forest tree. And that's true of all of the main islands. That makes 'ōhi'a ecologically really important as a watershed tree. Imagine if there was no forest there at all and the rain fell upon the barren landscape. There would be erosion, the water would rush down the mountainside and send mud and sediments into the ocean and smother our coral reefs.

As a Representative, I hope that you will consider passing this bill. That would have a significant impact because it would bring more attention to the 'ōhi'a. Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Euliana Ueki

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:41:07 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kamauoha Tomita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representative Cedric Asuega Gates and Adrian K Tam:

My name is Kamauoha Tomita, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating 'Ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because they give us the proper water supply we need to live, the trees are home to most of our endemic and endangered species, and they're a significant plant in our cultures history. For these reasons, I am supporting HB2202.

Did you know that the majority of Hawaii's endemic animals are at risk of extinction because of ROD? The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service stated that 'I'iwi, 'Apapane, 'Akohekohe, and many more birds feed mostly on the flowers and insects. Other animals however, survive under the foliage such as the 'Akiapola'au, the extinct 'akialoa, and the now extinct Black Mamo. As you can see, 'Ōhi'a Lehua trees are very important to wildlife. However, ROD causes these animals to go extinct with the death of the 'Ōhi'a trees. So not only do the rare endemic trees die out, but so do the endangered and endemic creatures that are supported by it.

As representatives, you can help by supporting this bill that protects the 'Ōhi'a and recognizes it as Hawaii's state endemic tree. That would have a significant impact because then people can gravitate their attention towards this issue of ROD, and not only will people take notice of it, they can prevent this problem from continuing to happen.

Sincerely, Kamauoha Tomita

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:42:06 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Haaleikapuuwai Biga Kauhaahaa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Rep. Adrian K. Tam

My name is Haaleikapuuwai Biga Kauhaahaa and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. Do you know about the disease killing the 'ōhi'a tree? The disease is killing thousands of trees. I care because the trees are a habitat for our native species like the 'Apapane or 'I'iwi. Also, because the 'ōhia tree is very important to our Hawaiian culture which can also teach our Hawaiian keiki lessons or meanings. Lastly, the 'ōhia tree provides water which we use everyday in our lives. For these reasons, I am supporting HB2202.

The 'ōhia tree can collect water through the roots and leaves that are connected to the tree which is where we can get water. Without the tree we lose 3,000 gallons of water which is crucial to Hawaii. According to the Washington Post, Hawaii is in a drought that is continuing to get worse, so if the 'ōhia trees go extinct another source of water will be cut off.

Please pass HB2202. It would have a significant impact on the 'ōhia tree, because it can help others support the cause which would have a good benefit on the 'ōhia tree.

Sincerely, Haale Biga Kauhaahaa

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:43:02 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ahjalee Kamakeeaina	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates and Rep. Adrian K. Tam:

My name is Ahjalee Kamakeeaina, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state endemic tree because the 'ōhi'a tree is only tree endemic to Hawai'i and in the past some Hawaiians passed a bill to replace the Kukui tree (the state tree) with the 'ōhi'a lehua tree but more Hawaiians loved the Kukui tree so the bill died. The 'ōhi'a tree is a water collector and if they weren't here we would have no way to get water from the mountains and forests to our watersheds and if we don't get it to our watersheds we wouldn't have the water we drink, the water we use to take a bath, ect. 'Ōhi'a trees can also be used for medicine. Its flowers were used for medicinal purposes, like easing the pain of childbirth. For these reasons, I am supporting HB2202.

According to "Hawaiian Magazine" by Kevin Allen " its flowers were used for medicinal purposes, like easing the pain of childbirth." That information from the text supports the fact that the lehua flowers are used for medicine purposes. If we got the bill to become a law then more people would know that it is used in our everyday lives then maybe it would bring more attention towards saving the trees from the fungus and learn how to either stop spreading it or sight a tree from dying.

As representatives, you can help by introducing this bill to the legislative branch. It would help us a lot because then our bill could start its journey to becoming a law and then our beloved 'ōhi'a lehua tree would become the state endemic tree.

Sincerely,

Ahjalee Kamakeeaina

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:43:36 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Pueo Hill	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Rep. Cedric Aseuga Gates and Rep. Adrian K. Tam,

My name is Pueo Hill and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about 'ōhi'a because they are our main water collectors, they break down rocks and prevent erosion. 'Ōhi'a lehua is one of the main cultural traditions of Hawaii.

According to Hawai'i's Magazine, the 'ōhi'a lehua is one of Hawai'i's most iconic trees, the 'ōhi'a lehua, is endemic to the Hawaiian Islands and is steeped in the Islands' history. The flowers are gorgeous coming in a variety of colors from red to yellow and even white and have played muse for many local clothing and accessory designers. Typically, halau collect their adornments from the forest and return them after the competition. But, because there still is still so much to learn about ROD including how it spreads and how to cure it concerned community members hosted a [Puaenaena. Ceremony](#) to burn any 'ōhia parts that were brought to the Merrie Monarch and return their ashes to the forest instead. We want to make sure we can preserve this valuable source.

I hope you consider HB2202 as it will help protect our 'ōhi'a lehua. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely ,

Pueo Hill

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:44:23 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kawai Ventura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice-Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:45 AM

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 329 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Testimony in Support of HB2202

Aloha Chair Cedric Asuega Gates,

I, Kawailele Ventura, am in support of HB 2202, Relating to the state endemic tree, which would designate Ohi'a as the state endemic tree of Hawaii. Here are some reasons I think Ohi'a should be Hawaii's state endemic tree: Ohi'a was one of the first trees to arrive in Hawaii, and survive the conditions of the heat and the lava rock. And as we all know, Ohi'a is under attack from the rapid ohi'a death (ROD), and thousands of ohia trees have been dying off. If we make ohia our state endemic tree, then the Ohi'a will become protected from humans and animals that harm it. The Ohi'a tree is so important because it helps our coral reefs be kept clean, and the coral reefs keep our oceans clean and beautiful. Also, the Lehua flower, part of the Ohia tree, is food for our native birds, and our native birds, in Hawaii, are very important to us. Ohi'a is very important to our State, and it only grows in Hawai'i, so it's our responsibility to protect it. So please take

this under consideration about making the Ohi'a Lehua tree Hawaii's state endemic tree, so it can become protected from going extinct.

Sincerely,

Kawailele Ventura

A person who wants to protect ohia

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:23:07 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alex	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The House of Representatives

Committee on Water and Land

January 14, 2022

State Capitol

Testimony in Support of ('Ohi'a Bill)

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee.

I, Alex Kainuma , and in support of the ('Ohi'a Bill) , relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate "ohi'a lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawai'i.

The Ohia tree is a crucial part of our water supply here in Hawaii. Now more than ever it is important to take care of our water supply (which is related to the 'ohia' tree) . This tree collects water and pumps it down into the watershed. The 'ohia tree has a lot of cultural significance to the people of the Hawaiian islands. The 'ohia tree is an important part of hula, which is an important part of Hawaiian culture. This shows that this is beneficial to all people in Hawaii and this should be an easy decision.

Sincerely,

Alex Kainuma

Highlands Intermediate Student

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:44:36 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kahiau Ting	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates and Rep. Adrian K. Tam,

My name is Kahiau Ting, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state endemic tree because the 'ōhi'a is endemic to Hawaii, the 'ōhi'a is home to many native Hawaiian species, and the 'ōhi'a is a natural water collector. For these reasons, I am supporting HB2202 the bill, *Relating to the state endemic tree*

One reason is that the 'ōhi'a is endemic to Hawaii. That means the only place in the world where you can find the 'ōhi'a tree is in the Hawaii islands which makes it special and unique to Hawaii. According to Ulana Museum, "'Ōhi'a is also vital to our everyday lives as it is critical to our watersheds as it comprises 80% of Hawai'i's native forests and provides 50% more effectiveness of retaining moisture, feeding streams, and recharging aquifers. This tree also prevents erosion from occurring." To me this means that the 'ōhi'a isn't only important to the Hawaiian islands, but it is important to the people living in it too. The watersheds are a key way that we get water in Hawaii and without the 'ōhi'a the watersheds could lose a lot of water that we need in order to live.

As representatives, you can help by giving 'ōhi'a the name of the state endemic tree. Which can also come with more attention towards the 'ōhi'a tree. That would have a significant impact because the 'ōhi'a has been dying to a disease called ROD or Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death. But if the 'ōhi'a can get the name of the state endemic tree it can help make new laws that could possibly help stop the spread of the ROD across the Hawaiian islands.

Sincerely,

\Kahiau Ting

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:45:41 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Zhailyn Dudoit	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Cedric Asuega Gates and Adrian K. Tam:

My name is Zhailyn Dudoit, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating 'ōhi'a as the state endemic tree because first, 'ōhi'a is a water source. Second, it's important to nature because it can break down lava rocks and help fertilize other trees. Third, 'ōhi'a is important to our culture and is found in stories, mele, lay making, and etc.

Did you know that 'ōhi'a is essential to our lives. According to the Ulana Museum, our watersheds comprise most of Hawaii's native forests. 'Ōhi'a is one of the most reliable sources when it comes to collecting water. An adapter can grow from sea level to 8000 ft. Water is then collected on the 'ōhi'a and then replenishes our aquifer. This is important because it stops erosion from happening and preserves our freshwater resources.

I hope you will consider passing HB2202 as it will help to bring protections for our beloved 'ōhi'a. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Zhailyn Dudoit

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:25:32 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Brayden Silva	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Brayden Silva , am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ohia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows: the ‘ohia tree is an endemic pioneer species which could be only found in hawaii. Since it is a pioneer plant, it is one of the first plants to grow on a cooled lava field. The ‘ohia tree provides food and shelter for insects, different types of birds, and snails. The ‘ohia tree makes up the largest amount of the cover in native wet forests. The roots of the ‘ohia tree provide a vass area for new plants to grow. However, Their trunks act like nurse logs, allowing them to supply nutrients, clear water and cover for native seedlings and epiphytes.

Ohi‘a is also highly valued in commerce. These days ohi‘a wood is used for flooring, house posts, fencing posts, decoration, framing of traditional houses, and firewood. ‘Ohi‘a seedlings are also the most sought-after plants for native landscaping. Thus, ecologically and culturally, ‘ōhi‘a stands as one of the most vitally important trees of Hawaiian forests. Several native Hawaiian birds feed on the flowers and seeds, including the ‘i‘iwi , ‘apane, and ‘akohekohe which feed mostly on the flowers and insects.

Sincerely,

Brayden Silva

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:46:20 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hinano Cua	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representative Cedric Asuega Gates and Representative Adrian K Tam:

My name is Hinano Cua, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because it sucks up water into its roots and can pump some of it into an aquafire. It also makes this soil soft enough from breaking fresh lava rocks and it is one of the main trees in the forest. It is also a place for birds to drink the tree's nectar to feed the native birds. For these reasons, I am supporting HB2202, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

Did you know that the 'Ōhi'a is a main provider to our island's water and helps in the watersheds. According to the Ulana museum, the 'Ōhi'a is vital to our everyday lives because it is critical in our watersheds as it comprises 80% of Hawaii native forests and provides 50% more effectiveness of retaining moisture, and feeding streams. Another reason is that the 'Ōhi'a can help by recharging the aquifers by basically pumping the water into the water under the dirt. The 'Ōhi'a helps us get our daily drinking water for us and many people around the islands and these facts show how important it is in our daily lives and like what the old Hawaiiand used to say wai is life and it gives us and many other life forms life.

As representatives, you can help by accepting this bill into the congress to help get it protected and acknowledged to stop the Rapid 'Ōhia Death. That would have a significant impact because then less and less trees would have to die from the disease.

Sincerely,

Hinano Cua

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:25:45 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Samantha DeAnne Lucas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Samantha DeAnne Lucas, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree 'ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows: The reason I support this bill is because Ohia is important to Hawaiians, birds and the rainforest. Ohia trees are very important in Hawaiians culture because they use the Lehua to help collect rain water and mist to use as drinking water. Not only is Lehua used to collect water it's also used to make beautiful leis and Haku leis for Hawaiians beautiful hula. The Ohia tree is also used in Hawaiians chants, stories and songs. We often don't think that birds need a place to live. The Ohia tree is the perfect home for many native birds. The Ohia tree also provides great food for our native birds. Our rainforest is very special in Hawaii one of the most important trees is the beautiful Ohia. The Ohia trees also create great beginnings for new trees by making the soil fertilized to help new trees grow.

Sincerely,

Samantha DeAnne Lucas

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:47:12 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Leiah Kaaa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Rep.Tarnas and Rep Asuega Gates,

My name is Leiah Kaaa and I would like to request that you pass HB2202, recognizing the ‘Ōhi‘a tree as the state's endemic tree. I've been learning about the importance of the ‘Ōhi‘a tree this past year. This specific tree is important to Hawai‘i because it is considered sacred to the goddess of lava and volcanic eruptions, Pele. There are many versions of mo‘olelo about the ‘Ōhi‘a lehua tree. Hawaiians utilized the hardy tree for building houses, canoes, and spears. The flowers are used in lei and are included in chants and hula. Thank you for taking time to read this.

Aloha,

Leiah Kaaa

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:48:37 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kawaianu Shaw	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representatives Gates and Tam,

My name is Kawaianu Shaw , and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about the 'ōhi'a being the state endemic tree and would like you to pass HB2202.

The ohia lehua trees make organic soil and starts new forests all around our Hawaiian islands. Another reason it needs protection is because most native animals use these trees as shelter and also as a source of food. The last reason why I think the 'ōhi'a should be our state endemic tree is because to some people the trees dying is like losing a community of people or family members.

Please pass HB2202.

Mahalo,

Kawaianu Shaw

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:26:16 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
jayden	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Jayden Anderson am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

The “ohia lehua” tree really makes up the island it in almost all of our forest it doesn't only make up the land , but it also cleans the water in our island it cleans it and through this time we need that during the military housing we need the water, also the people need this tree it makes up a big part of our culture this is my reasoning behind getting the hawaii state to help the “ohia lehua” through this economic.

Sincerely,

Jayden anderson

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:50:18 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kaiwi Karlen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Rep. Troy N. Hashimoto:

My name is Kaiwi, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because it provides a habitat to many other native and endemic species which is great because we want those animals to thrive. Another reason is because it paves the way for other life because when there is an eruption and lava flows the ohia tree is the first one to pop up and give soil to other living plants. The last reason is because it provides a lot of water for us. For these reasons, I am in support of the bill HB2202 Relating to the state's endemic trees.

Did you know that the 'ōhi'a is home to many native animals? According to J.B. Friday and Ambyr Mokiao-lee of the rapid 'ōhi'a death (ROD) statewide outreach coordinator. Birds and many other species depend on 'ōhi'a for food and nesting sites including many of Hawaii's federally endangered forest birds. With the majority of Hawaii's endemic birds at risk of extinction, losing the dominant tree from their remaining habitat makes these birds more vulnerable, particularly if the fungus spreads to other islands. Some of the birds that depend on the tree are 'Akepa, 'I'iwi, and the Hawai'i Creeper. Another reason that I support it is because the majority of Hawaii's endemic birds are at risk of extinction, losing the dominant tree from their remaining habitat makes these birds more vulnerable, particularly if the fungus spreads to other islands. Even non-threatened birds, such as the could become endangered following severe habitat loss.

As representatives, you can help by voting on the bill so that the 'ōhi'a tree can be the state's endemic tree. You can also help by introducing the bill to congress. That would have a significant impact because we need the 'ōhi'a lehua tree to be the hawaii's state endemic tree because we need more protection for the 'ōhi'a because it is dying in very fast rates and it could get to the point where the trees are close to going extinct and it would help tremendously if you did that.

Sincerely,

Kaiwi Sonny Karlen

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:52:47 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Keiano Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e Rep. Tarnas,

My name is Keiano Ching. I am a student at Kamehameha Schools Maui. In 7th grade, we have been learning a lot about the ‘ōhi‘a tree and its significance to our people. Will you please pass HB2202^[P]_[SEP] to make the ‘ōhi‘a tree the official state endemic tree? The tree is important to Hawaii because some of our native creatures use the ‘ōhia tree as their home and the trees are a natural water collector. Thank you for your time.

Mahalo,

Keiano Ching

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:26:41 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Anthony Tyler Madelo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Anthony Tyler Madelo, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

The Reason I support this bill is as follows: The reason I support this bill is because the ‘Ōhia is an endemic pioneer keystone in Hawaii and is also one of the first plants to grow on a cooled lava field. The ‘Ōhia provides food shelter for ‘apapane, ‘i‘iwi, insects, snails, and numerous native birds. The trunks of the ‘Ōhia act as nurse logs, supplying nutrients, water and protection for native seedlings and epiphytes. The canopies capture mists and rainwater that replenish our aquifers, which provide drinking and irrigation water for Hawaii’s communities and agricultural sector.

The 'Ōhi'a are woven deeply into Hawaiian culture through symbology in mo'olelo, mele and 'oli. The 'Ōhi'a serve as the sacred kinola of multiple Hawaiian deities such as Kū, Laka, Pele, Hi'iaka, and Kāne. 'Ōhi'a wood was used for various ceremonial structures on heiau. Today, 'ōhi'a wood is used for flooring, house posts, fencing posts, decoration, framing of traditional hale, and firewood.

Sincerely,

Anthony Tyler Madelo

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:53:22 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kamei Freitas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representatives Cedric Asuega Gates and Adrian K Tam:

My name is Kamei Freitas, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about the 'ōhi'a because it's the tree of life (water collector), specie use it for homes and lastly it's important to our kūpuna. For these reasons, I am supporting HB2202.

Did you know that other species use 'ōhi'a for homes? Birds and many other species depend on 'ōhi'a for food and nesting sites including many of Hawaii's federally endangered forest birds. With the majority of Hawaii's endemic birds at risk of extinction, losing the dominant tree from their remaining habitat makes these birds more vulnerable, particularly if the fungus spreads to other islands. Even non-threatened birds, such as the 'i'iwi and 'apapane could become endangered following severe habitat loss. This would devastate Hawaiians because of the love they have for their 'āina. Without the 'ōhi'a humans, nature, and animals can't thrive and keep the culture alive.

As representatives, you can help by passing this law. It would impact saving the 'ōhi'a and bring protection over our much loved 'ōhi'a.

Sincerely,

Kamei Freitas

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:40:02 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sandy Caires	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representative Cedric Asuega Gates and Representative Adrian K. Tam:

My name is Sandy Caires, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'Ōhi'a as the state endemic tree. Its cultural importance plays a big role in our practices in Hawai'i. The shelter and food it provides for native animals is crucial for certain animals to stay alive, many of them being endangered. It is also the base of most of our wet forests in Hawai'i so without them we wouldn't have a foundation for those places. For these reasons I am in support of HB2202.

Did you know that the 'Ōhi'a tree provides shelter for birds such as 'apapane and 'i'iwi? According to National Wildlife Refuge Hawaii, the 'ōhi'a tree gives shelter to many of our native animals. Insects, birds, and other animals use it for food as well. I think this issue is very important because if 'ōhi'a died off, so would native animals, this would be a tragedy. Another reason is that 'ōhi'a supports our wet forests that provide a needed habitat for our animals.

As representatives, you can help by passing HB2202. That would have a significant impact because it would further the impact of saving the 'ōhi'a tree from ROD (Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death)and keeping native animals safe. This would also help with preserving our forests as well by drawing more attention to this cause to make sure we take care of our beautiful trees. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sandy Caires

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:41:21 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kaikea Hu?eu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates and Rep. Adrian K. Tam:

My name is Kāikea Hū‘eu and I’m in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the ‘Ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree because the ‘Ōhi‘a is used for ceremonial purposes, it is the foundation of the forest, and it collects water. For these reasons, I am supporting HB2202.

Did you know that the ‘Ōhi‘a is the foundation of our forests? According to Amber U. Mokiao-Lee, Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death (ROD) Statewide Outreach Coordinator, she says “The ‘Ōhi‘a is the foundation of our forests.” Another reason is that the ‘Ōhi‘a is used for lots of ceremonial purposes and has been loved by Hawaiians for 100’s of years. Without the ‘Ōhi‘a lots of stories and forests will be lost. This disease will cause lots of ‘Ōhi‘a to die and forests to vanish, losing habitats for many of our native birds and animals.

You can help by passing HB2202 for our ‘ōhi‘a. By passing Hb2202, we can protect our ‘ōhi‘a and help prevent rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death. That would have a significant impact because then we can prevent rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death and care for the trees.

Sincerely,

Kāikea Hū‘eu

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:25:15 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ezekiel Kaleo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Ezekiel Kaleo, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii. The “ohi‘a lehua ” is a big part of Hawaii's history with many Hawaiian traditions. The “ohi‘a lehua tree plays a key role in Hawaii's ecosystem. The reason I support this bill is because ‘Ohi‘a is one of the main sources of food and water for the animals and insects of hawaii. Additionally, Ohia forests are important in the oxygen and take out the carbon out of the air and that would help the atmosphere.

Sincerely,

Ezekiel Moewale Kaleo

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:42:24 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Aaron Ikehara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates and Rep. Adrian K. Tam,

My name is Aaron Ikehara, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because 'ōhi'a trees are very useful for building and water, They're dying rapidly and if we spread awareness by making it our state endemic tree more people will know about the situation, and because so many animals and bugs live in/by 'ōhi'a trees and if we let them die out they'll go extinct. For these reasons, I am supporting HB2202.

'Ōhi'a trees are dying and if we spread awareness by making 'ōhi'a trees our endemic tree we might be able to get more hands on with our attempt to stop ROD [Rapid 'ōhi'a death] we might be able to make a big impact on 'ōhi'a trees if we're able to make it our endemic tree.

Another reason is that a lot of endangered animals and bugs live in 'ōhi'a trees, and with 'ōhi'a trees dying rapidly those bugs and animals will have nowhere to go, and will eventually die out unless they adapt to a new habitat somewhere. According to the 'ōhi'a Ulana Museum website it states that, "Loss of the 'ōhi'a canopy in some areas has resulted in a decrease in population of some native birds and increased numbers of some introduced birds. Endangered plant species in decline areas probably have also been affected."

Please help by passing HB2202 that makes the 'ōhi'a tree our endemic state tree because of how important the 'ōhi'a tree is. That would have a significant impact because if we get the 'ōhi'a tree to be our endemic tree we might be able to restrict so many people from using it to instead focus on finding the solution for ROD. Not only making our state endemic tree the 'ōhi'a tree would benefit the health of 'ōhi'a trees but also the things that live by/in it. By making the 'ōhi'a tree endemic, the difference it'll make is more time to dedicate to saving the 'ōhi'a trees and finding a cure for ROD. These are just some of the things you'll be able to do if you create a law that makes the 'ōhi'a tree our state endemic tree and lot's of the changes you will make will be useful for us.

Sincerely,

Aaron Ikehara

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:43:45 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ihikolonahe Maxwell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representatives Cedric Asuega Gates and Adrian K. Tam:

My name is Ihikolonahe Maxwell, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha wē4w444êw= Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because first 'Ōhi'a is a key stone foundation for forests in hawaii. Secondly, it is a water collector. Lastly it is a shelter/source of food for many birds. For these reasons, I am supporting HB2202.

'Ōhi'a is a keystone species in Hawaiian forests. ROD, or the Rapid Ohia Death fungus, has the potential to cause major ecosystem disturbances that will negatively impact water supply, cultural traditions, natural resources and quality of life. Mosses adorn 'ōhi'a. Branches and trunks and water in great amounts are collected by this pristine 'ōhi'a-dominant forest. 'Ōhi'a is so important because they are shelter/food for our Hawaiian birds. We should all have thanks for this beautiful tree.

Please help by making 'ōhi'a our endemic tree of hawaii. That would have a significant impact because it would make it illegal to take it out of our state. Mahalo for reading my testimony.

Sincerely

Ihikolonahe Maxwell

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:27:19 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kashana Watts	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Kashana Watts , am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

The reason I support this bill is because the Ōhi'a tree holds a lot of meaning to Hawai'i and it's environment. The ‘Ōhi’a tree symbolizes mo’olelo (stories), mele (songs), and ‘olis (chants). They also serve as physical manifestations of many Hawaiian deities such as Kū, Laka, and Pele. The wood of the tree was also used for many sacred ceremonies. The red of the lehua symbolizes the bloodshed during war.

The 'Ōhi'a tree is extremely important to Hawaii's ecosystem. It is an endemic pioneer and keystone species in Hawaii and it ties the whole ecosystem together so it can thrive. It provides food for the 'apapane, the 'i'iwi, insects, snails, and other invertebrates. The 'Ōhi'a tree protects natural seedlings and epiphytes. The canopies capture mist and rainwater that can feed Hawaiians. Without the Ōhi'a tree Hawai'i would be in danger and Hawai'i would lose some of its cultural meaning.

Sincerely,

Kashana Watts

Highlands Intermediate School

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:44:31 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Blaze Kahale	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Dear: Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

My name is Blaze Kahale, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because when you protect the 'ōhi'a you take care of birds home. The 'ōhi'a will protect lots of animals, bugs, and other native plants. The 'ōhi'a also makes a lot of habitats for animals and has a big part in the forest. The 'ōhi'a is the only plant that can break down lava and make it into soil. For these reasons, I am supporting house bill HB2202, "Relating to State Endemic Trees."

According to the article "5 Things You Need to Know About the 'Ōhi'a Lehua Tree" they state "Just because the 'ōhi'a lehua flower looks dainty and delicate, the plant itself is incredibly durable and can grow in rugged, barren environments. Nowhere is that more apparent than in areas that have been covered by recent lava flows; the 'ōhi'a tree tends to be one of the first plants to colonize these dry, obsidian lava rock habitats. This is in large part thanks to the tree's superior capacity for extending its root system deep into lava rock crevices" This will impact everyone in Hawaii because this is the only plant that can grow through lava. It will also help birds and animals thrive because it's making habitats for the animals.

As a legislator, you can help by supporting this bill. This will have a significant impact because it will bring more attention to the importance of the 'ōhi'a trees

Sincerely,

Blaze Kahale

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:44:33 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nalu Haili	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in Support of HB2202

Dear Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair:

My name is Nalu Haili, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designated the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because One million 'ōhia trees have died in the past seven years and If we protect it our forest will have a balanced ecosystem. A lot of Hawaiian birds and animals use the 'ōhia tree for shelter and for water. The ōhia is one of the first plants to grow through a fresh lava flow and has a lot of cultural importance.For these reasons. I am supporting the house bill, HB2202.

“Relating to State Endemic Tree.” Did you know that “there once was a beautiful man named 'Ōhi'a. He was so good-looking he attracted the gaze of Pele, the Hawaiian goddess of fire. Unfortunately for Pele, 'Ōhi'a had his eyes set on a woman named Lehua, who also happened to fancy 'Ōhi'a. In a fit of rage, Pele transformed 'Ōhi'a into an ugly, gnarled tree, and while Lehua tried to convince Pele to change him back, she refused. Lehua then asked the other gods to intervene, and in a compromise, they decided to transform Lehua into a beautiful flower that would beautify the 'ōhi'a tree, so the lovers could stay together forever. Some say that if you pick the flower from an 'ōhi'a tree, the two lovers cry, causing the sky to rain down their tears. According to Hawai'i Magazine the mo'olelo of how the man 'ōhia got turned into the tree and how lehua got transformed into the lehua flower.

Another reason is that “ The ‘ōhi‘a lehua can grow in rugged, barren environments. Like areas covered by recent lava flows the ‘ōhi‘a tree tends to be one of the first plants to colonize the obsidian lava rock habitats. ‘ōhi‘a helped start the forest and grow with it, also I don’t know any trees besides ‘Ōhia lehua that grow on a recent lava flow.

As a legislator, you can help by sharing this letter with fellow senators and legislators so we can have this bill approved. That would have a significant impact because As a legislator, you can help by making the ‘ohi‘a the State Endemic Tree. That would have a significant impact because the ‘ohi‘a tree is more than a tree because It is part of Our Ohana to us the Hawaiian people. it’s usages are wa‘a, hale, firewood and more things.

Sincerely, Nalu Haili

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:44:37 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kulia Kapualala	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Dear representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair:

My name is Kūlia Kapua‘ala, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools. I care about designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state's endemic tree because the ‘ōhi‘a is one of the most cultural trees in hawai‘i. The ‘ōhi‘a lehua tree also has a very big impact on our lāhui. They provide shelter, water, wood work, fire wood, landscaping, and cultural importance, but due to the rapid ‘ōhi‘a death the ‘ōhi‘a lehua forests are dying. For these reasons I am supporting the house bill, HB2202.

The ‘ōhi‘a lehua can grow to about 500 years ago and tends to thrive in a higher altitude. Animals started using the ‘ōhi‘a as a food source, water collector, shelter, and wind conductor. That's one of the reasons why it has such a big cultural importance, and has a big impact on our lāhui. According to <https://www.hawaiimagazine.com/the-cultural-significance-of-ohia-lehua/> it states “At the 2016 Merrie Monarch Festival, for the first time in its more than half-a-century history, many hula halau (hula schools) opted to forgo traditional lei and adornments from the ohia lehua tree” so Merrie Monarch started using ‘ōhi‘a lehua as a way of saving the ‘ōhi‘a lehua from the ROD.

As a legislator, you can help by supporting my say and making our idea come to life, that would have a significant impact because as a hawaiian a state tree has a lot of meaning to it, and for the tree to have a lot of meaning to it would be so important to me and everyone else. Me ke aloha pumehana. A hui hou!

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:44:37 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cash Kalama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in Support of HB 2202

Dear: Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

My name is Cash Kalma, and I am in the 7th grade of kamehameha maui. I care about designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree because almost one million trees have died on the Big Island alone, so that gives evidence why we should give more attention to the ‘ōhi‘a. Also the ‘ōhi‘a is referred to as the “tree of life” because of it’s aspects that can help other native animals. Our culture has relied and respected the ‘ōhi‘a. They used it for oli, mele, hale, wa‘a, hula, and warriors used it. The cultural importance to ‘ōhi‘a should be recognized thus making people more aware of Rapid ‘ōhi‘a Death (ROD). For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, HB2202, “Relating to State Endemic Tree.”

According to Hawaii Magazine they state “As such, the abundant plant had many uses for early Hawaiians: ‘ōhi‘a’s sturdy wood was used to create weapons, kapa cloth beaters, boards for pounding poi, enclosures and statues; its leaves were used as a medicinal tea; and its flowers and its seeds fed native birds like the apapane and the now-extinct mamō”. This supports my state about how the ‘ōhia tree is significantly and culturally important for the Hawaiian people. The ‘ōhia tree collects water creating the respect from the hawaiians to the tree because the more water in an area, the more life blooms in that area.

As a legislator, you can help by supporting the bill “Relating to State Endemic Tree.”. That would have a significant impact because people will be more aware of the Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death (ROD). There is so much cultural importance from the tree so we should not let the (ROD) kill all the ‘ōhi‘a trees. To preserve and protect the ‘ōhia by giving it the respect it has got for years.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Cash Kalama.

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:44:37 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kahikina	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in support of HB 2202

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Dear: Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

My name is Kahikina Kaona, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because it is native to Hawai'i, it is part of our culture and not only do the people of Hawai'i benefit from the trees but so do our native birds and animals. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, HB2202, Relating to State Endemic Tree because everybody needs to be aware of the Rapid Ōhi'a Death that is killing thousands of tree's here in Hawai'i and we need to come together and Kokua in saving these beautiful native trees.

Ōhi'a tree's are only in Hawai'i. They are also the main source for our 'āina and everyday uses. Their tree's are used for shelter and food, they're our main water collectors, and they are used for buildings, firewood, landscapes, and more.

Not only does this website (Save The Ōhi‘a Medium) agree about protecting Ōhi‘a, but many others as well. We should make the Ōhi‘a tree’s our state endemic tree because the Ōhi‘a makes up 80% of trees in the native forest which means many wildlife use these tree’s for cover, food, and much more. People of Hawai‘i use Ōhi‘a in their everyday lives. We use it for shelter, firewood, buildings, and our water supply. Ōhi‘a is the main support for ecosystems all through the Hawaiian islands. without them, our resources and wildlife would decrease.

Another reason is that Ōhi‘a is also used for Hawaiian culture for it has great importance to our people and our ‘aina. It is part of our culture, our ancestors used the Ōhi‘a wood to beat the Kapa cloths, they used the wood for building structures, they also made boards for pounding poi. It’s flowers are medicinal and continue to feed our native birds. It’s the first plant to sprout after a lava flow.

As a legislator, you can help by introducing this bill to the legislative branch because you can make them aware of the endangerment of the Rapid Ōhi‘a Death and the importance of Ōhi‘a tree’s. It would be a great difference to Hawai‘i for it will change peoples point of view in Ōhi‘a tree’s on how important they are, letting them know the negative impact of what Rapid Ōhi‘a death does to these tree’s, and allowing others to understand why we need Ōhi‘a tree’s to be our state endemic tree.

That would have a significant impact because it would cause awareness towards the Ōhi‘a tree’s and what’s happening to it. People would start to realize how much the Ōhi‘a provides for us and wildlife.

Ke aloha nō,

Kahikina Kaona

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:44:39 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Zion Ebana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Dear Rep. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair

My name is Zion Ebana and I'm a 7th-grade student at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I would like to bring your attention to the 'ōhi'a tree, as the state's endemic. As you know the 'ōhi'a trees have ROD (Rapid 'ōhi'a death) and it isn't the most useful thing for us, for instance, the 'ōhi'a tree provides shelter for animals. It also supplies water for the environment. Additionally, it also brings the animals food like the 'i'iwi and many other birds and animals. For these reasons, I'm supporting the house bill HB2202

As you can see, the 'ōhia tree is giving us a lot of supplies for life, so I would like to bring your attention to the ways the 'ōhia tree provides us with water. So, when the 'ōhia tree collects water for us, the pua on the 'ōhia tree will attract the mist and hold the water. Over time the water will go down the trunk, go into the roots, and drip down into the aquifer which is our water supply.

As a legislator, you can support by bringing your time and looking into the 'ōhia tree. That would have a significant impact because the 'ōhia tree is one of the numerous providing hawai'i trees out there. It is't a suitable thing for us because it helps us with even more

than this letter has cited like that for animals they sip the nectar from the red blossoms. Mahalo for taking the time and reading my statement.

Me ka mahalo nui,

Zion Ebana

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:44:39 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Matilda Stone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in Support of HB 2202

Dear: Sen. Lynn Decoite, Chair

My name is Matilda Stone, and I am a seventh-grade student at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree because the ohia is a water collector that brings water into our watersheds. The ‘Ōhi‘a can start whole environments that help prevent erosion. Lastly, the ‘Ōhi‘a provides a habitat for endangered animals. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, HB2202, “Relating to State Endemic Tree.”

Not only is the ‘Ōhi‘a important to endangered animals, but it also has cultural significance. According to Hawaii Magazine “The abundant plant had many uses for early Hawaiians: Ohia’s sturdy wood was used to create weapons, kapa cloth beaters, boards for pounding poi, enclosures, and statues; its leaves were used as a medicinal tea; and its flowers and its seeds fed native birds” I also found it interesting that in the article it stated, “When listening to traditional Hawaiian mo’olelo (stories), mele (songs) and oli (chants) about the land, or the Gods, it’s almost impossible to avoid some mention of ohia or its lehua flowers.”

As a legislator, you can help by supporting the bill “Relating to State Endemic Tree.”

That would have a significant impact because if the ‘Ōhi‘a is recognized as the state endemic tree, people will learn more about it and can help prevent ROD.

Ke aloha nō,

Matilda Stone

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:44:39 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jayde Agustin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in Support of HB 2202

Dear: Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

My name is Jayde Agustin, and I am a 7th grader at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree because the ‘ōhi‘a tree is a habitat for animals. The ‘ōhia‘a is also a water collector and all water collected will be used in our community. Lastly, the ‘ōhia‘a is used in many cultural things, such as hula, mele, and hale. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, HB2202, “Relating to State Endemic Trees.”

Did you know that the ‘ōhi‘a has cultural uses too? The ‘ōhi‘a can be used in various things. According to Hawaiian Magazine the ‘ōhi‘a can be used to “create weapons, kapa cloth beaters, boards for pounding poi and enclosures and statues”. The ‘ōhi‘a is very important to the Hawaiian people as they used it for many things. The ‘ōhi‘a also holds a very important mo‘olelo to the Hawaiian people. I found this intriguing because the ‘ōhi‘a has a deep meaning to us Hawaiian people. Not only for resources but was involved with Pele, one of our goddesses which is important.

As a legislator, you can help by supporting this bill, and making it the state endemic tree. That would have a significant impact because the ‘ōhi‘a is currently endangered to R.O.D, rapid ‘ōhi‘a death, causing it to become an endangered plant. People will become more aware of rapid ‘ōhi‘a death and help stop rapid ‘ōhi‘a death.

Me ka mahalo nui,

Jayde Agustin

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:44:41 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
amy simpsonkane	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e Representative Cedric Asuega Gates & Adrian K. Tam,

My name is Amy Simpson-Kane and I go to Kamehameha Schools Maui. I am in middle school, grade 7, and I have been learning about the importance of the ohia tree. I would like you to help us make the ohia our state endemic tree by passing House Bill 2202.

This tree is a very important tree to Hawai'i but is being threatened by a fungus called Rapid Ohia Death. Please help us save an important part of our ecosystem.

Mahalo,

Amy Simpson-Kane

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:44:44 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ryan Kama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Dear Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

My name is Ryan Kama, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because It is an endemic tree which means it is only found here so we need to keep the 'ōhi'a trees safe so they don't end up going extinct. Also all types of wildlife use the 'ōhi'a as shelter to stay warm for the winter and other seasons. The 'ōhi'a also gives everything we use in our daily life like water, food, and shelter.I am supporting the house bill, HB2202, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

According to the PDF, "Rapid-Ohia-Death-Poster", The 'Ōhi'a lehua is a very critical part of Hawai'i. However, with the ongoing rapid 'ōhi'a death, its symptoms are causing many to die. Because of this, it is important for us to do whatever it takes to keep the trees healthy for many reasons. Not only is it important for hula, mele and Hawai'I, but it is a

state endemic tree so if we don't do our part, all of the trees could die and there would be no more for future generations".

As a legislator, you can help by keeping track of all of the 'ōhi'a lehua trees with some wildlife cameras. Also maybe take some samples of the trees from time to time so you can check if the tree is healthy or not. That would have a significant impact because the tree is a critical part of hawai'i's culture and should be kept in a safe area so that the rapid 'ōhi'a death does not spread to other environments with 'ōhi'a lehua trees.

Me ka hau'oli

Ryan

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:44:47 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lucas Ginoza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in Support of HB 2202

Dear: Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

My name is Lucas Ginoza and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because it is a keystone species as it provides habitats for wildlife, collects water for the aquifers or the birds, and the lehua flowers can provide food to certain birds. It is a very culturally esteemed tree as it was used to build many things like hale, wa'a, lei, etc. Lastly, it would bring attention to the species as the 'Ōhi'a needs to be protected with Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD) killing over a 1,000,000 trees on Hawai'i island alone and no cure found yet. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, HB2202, "Relating to the State Endemic Tree."

According to Kumu Heno, the lehua blossoms are very important in our ecosystems because of the dew that they provide that almost all of the native birds drink. It also produces nectar which provides food for the 'I'iwi, 'Apanepane, 'Akohekohe and other birds that are now extinct. Without the tree and the blossoms, the ecosystem would fall apart with that major blow to all of those birds. Since there would be no reliable food or

water source the bird population would die out very quickly. Also the other species would start to rampage as there wouldn't be as many predators.

As a legislator, you can help by bringing awareness to this topic by telling other lawmakers about it. That would have a significant impact because people would be more aware of ROD and try to help prevent it.

Me ka mahalo piha,

Lucas

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:45:02 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sara-Rose K. Cluney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of HB 2202

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Dear Representative Cedric Asuega Gates,

My name is Sara-Rose Cluney, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui Kula Waena. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state endemic tree because we are already putting our best efforts into protecting the native animals whether they are going extinct or not. If we were to protect the 'Ōhia as a state endemic tree then we would also be protecting the countless animals that inhabit the 'Ōhia tree. After the last eruption on Kilauea, the first tree to grow on the lava flow grounds was the 'ohia, this happens after the seeds travel in water or wind and settle in the small cracks of rocks. So far because of the Rapid 'ōhia death, it has killed over one hundred thirty-five thousand acres of what once was a healthy 'ohia forest. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, HB2202 "Relating to State Endemic Trees."

According to an article written by Nps.Gov which is the official site for National Park Service it states that “Hawaiians utilize the hardy tree for building houses, canoes, spears, while the flowers are used in lei and sung about in chant and hula. Flowers are considered sacred to the goddess of lava and volcanic eruptions, Pele.” Another reason that you as a representative should care about our cultural wants and needs is that you can express this by supporting our movement to make ‘Ōhia the state endemic tree of Hawa‘i. Did you know that only the real name for R.O.D or rapid ‘ōhia death is Ceratocystis. According to abcbirds.gov which is a bird blog, they stated that in 2016 ‘ōhia was the most common state endemic tree but now that same tree is on the endangered list.

As a legislator, you can help by using your voice to help us support H.B 123 this bill supports naming the ‘ōhia lehua the State Endemic Tree of Hawai‘i. If we name this the state endemic tree that would put further protection on this tree. This would have a significant impact on native Hawaiians because of the cultural significance ‘ōhia has towards us as native Hawaiians.

Me ka mahalo piha,

Sara-Rose K. Cluney

Papa Ehiku

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:27:05 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tera Cypriano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Tera Makamae Cypriano, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

I support this bill because of the tree’s importance to Hawaii. For not only our culture but also for our ecosystem. They are important to the ecosystem because they are a keystone species. A keystone species is a species that the other species largely depend on. They give shelter, food and protection. Ohi’a trees are also important because they are woven very deeply into our Hawaiian culture. It is a main symbology towards the Hawaiian gods and

used in ceremonies. It makes Lehua which is used to describe people who are experts in their field of work, as well as bloodshed of war and the very first warrior that had fallen in battle.

Sincerely,

Tera Cypriano

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:22:56 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ethan Scott	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Ethan Scott, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

The ‘Ohi’ a tree is the keystone species of Hawaii. If it dies, not only will Hawaii lose a tree that means so much to their culture, but many species of birds and insects will lose their homes. The ‘Ohi’ a tree is also endemic to Hawaii. It also keeps erosion in check. Without it, many coral reefs around the islands would cease to exist. Please help protect these trees. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ethan Scott

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:46:31 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kealii Schoeppner	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Febuary 7 2022

Aloha Rep Cedric Asuega Gates and Rep Adrian K. Tam:

My name is Keali'i Schoeppner, I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'Ōhi'a as the state endemic tree because the 'Ōhi'a tree is a water collector and it is our water source for showering. Also, another reason that the 'Ōhi'a should be our state endemic tree is because they are dying and we need to do something about it. The last reason that the 'Ōhi'a tree should be our state endemic tree is because we use the 'Ōhi'a for a lot of things like hula and it was also used for building houses.

According to Hakalau Forest's website, the 'Ōhi'a is endemic to Hawaii, and it is found on the Islands of Kaua'i, O'ahu, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, Maui, and Hawai'i and can be found from sea level to over 7,000 feet elevation. Several native Hawaiian birds feed on the flowers and seeds, including the 'i'iwi. Additionally, the coloration of these birds may have served as camouflage, protecting them in prehistoric times from extinct predators such as the harrier. Did you know that 'Ōhi'a trees can make tikis? Also, it is a strong plant, the Lehua Blossom is a beautiful flower. The next fact is that if you pick the blossom it will start to rain because the blossom is separated from the tree.

I would like you to pass HB2202. I appreciate you taking the time to listen to my concerns and hope you will consider them.

Respectfully submitted,

Keali'i Schoepner

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:19:47 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Marley N	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Us, Marley and Jayden, support of the (HB2202) , relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate “ohi’a lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawai’i.

This tree has taken up most of the land of Hawaii so seeing that the loss of just some trees from the forests, affects most of the parts of Hawaii. The forest with these causes will not help us attract tourists therefore the hawaii state gets more money. But besides that, the Ohi’a tree is a big part of Hawaiian culture from using the wood for tools, weapons and many more! So in conclusion, this endemic has taken a toll on not just Hawaii’s culture but Hawaii in general! This needs to be approved!!

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:45:07 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Leila Kapaku-Fraser	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in Support of HB 2022

Dear: Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

My name is Leila Kapaku-Fraser, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because it is important to Hawaiian culture. It is one of our main water collectors. The 'ōhi'a provides shelter for animals, birds, and insects found in the forest. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, HB2202 "Relating to State Endemic Trees".

According to the Department of Land and Natural Resources. 'Ōhi'a was used to create weapons and everyday tools. Leaves of this tree sustained populations of native birds whose vibrant feathers were used in traditional Hawaiian clothing. Today, 'Ōhi'a blossoms continue to be used in cultural ceremonies and practices, such as lei and hula. Though many hula practitioners have begun forgoing the use of 'Ōhi'a to prevent the spread of ROD and protect this culturally significant tree species.

As a legislator, you can help by supporting the bill and making the ‘Ōhi‘a a state endemic tree.

That would have a significant impact because right now the ‘Ōhi‘a is under the spread of ROD.

Me ka mahalo nui,

Leila Kapaku-Fraser

Kamehameha Schools Maui

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:45:52 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Riley Phillips	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

kanaka=letter

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Dear Rep.Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair:

My name is Kanaka‘auakai Phillips, and I’m in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree because the little bugs and birds feed off the trees. The ‘Ohi‘a trees grab water for us so we can drink and it can grow thru rocks and starts a forest. A lot of animals use the ‘Ohi‘a trees for their habitats. We use the ohia lehua wood for wa‘a, hale, papahele. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, HB2202, “Relating to State Endemic Tree.”

According to <https://abcbirds.org/> “the ‘ohi‘a tree is the most important tree in the state because the pua of the tree brings the ‘ohu to the tree and then the water goes in the a‘a and then it goes to the lokowai .Birds and many other species depend upon the 'ohi'a tree to survive.” Did you know that “‘ohi'a makes up approximately 80 percent of our native forests.” Another reason that we should add the ‘ohi‘a as our state Endemic Tree is that the ohia tree starts most of the forest on the Hawaiian islands. Birds and many other species depend upon the 'ohi'a tree to survive.

As a legislator, you can help by making the 'ohi'a the State Endemic Tree. That would have a significant impact because the 'ohi'a tree is more than a tree because like ohana to the Hawaiian people its used your wa'a,hale,fire wood and way more things. Me ke aloha pumehana, Kanaka'aukai

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:46:00 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lesili Bertelsen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in Support of HB 2202

Dear Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair,

My name is Lesili Bertelsen, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because it is very important to many native Hawaiian birds as food, it prevents erosion by slowing raindrops, and it is very important to oli, mele, and hula. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, HB2202, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

According to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, "ōhi'a trees make up the largest portion of the canopy in native wet forests?" So, if we don't stop rapid ōhi'a death native canopies of wet forests many native species will lose their homes and die. Another reason is that 'ōhi'a are also highly valued in commerce. According to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, "Today, 'ōhi'a wood is used for flooring, house posts, fencing posts, decoration, framing of traditional hale, and firewood. 'Ōhi'a seedlings are also among the most sought-after plants for native landscaping."

As a legislator, you can help by spreading the word of putting a stop to rapid ōhi‘a death. That would have a significant impact because ‘ōhi‘a trees are very important to many native Hawaiian birds as food, they prevent erosion by slowing raindrops, and they are very important to oli, mele, and hula.

Sincerely, Lesili Bertelsen

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:47:33 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kahoano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in support of HB 2202

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE,ARTS AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cendric Asugea, Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

Date: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Time: 10:30AM

Aloha e Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

My name is Kahoano Keahi and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designing the 'ōhi'a as the state endemic tree because the trees are really good for our environment and it treats everything like ohana. It helps out both insects and birds by providing them with food and not only does it help out birds it also used to help out the hawaiians build houses, spears and more just by using its wood. Not only is it used to feed insects and birds and helped the hawaiians build important items in the past but its flowers were also super beautiful. It was used in many Hula because of the flowers' beautiful mixed colors.

And here are facts that state my topics about how the 'ōhi'a flowers are used in hula and how hawaiians use 'ōhi'a to build and how 'ōhi'a feed birds and insects are true. First i will talk about how the flowers are used in hula. in 2016 Merrie Monarch Festival for the first time in its more than half-a-century history, many hula schools went to do the traditional lei and adornments from the 'ōhi'a lehua tree in order to stem the spread of a blight known as ROD.

(Rod means rapid 'ōhi'a death) The hardy native ohia lehua is one of the first plants to recolonize otherwise barren lands blanketed in lava. There are also different types of color variants like fiery orange, yellow, pink and red. Next I'm going to talk about how

Hawaiians used the 'ōhi'a to make items that helped them using bark. They used the bark to make spear water houses and more. Now i would like to tell you about how the 'ōhi'a is used as shelter/food for birds and insects birds are able to make nests on the tree and it's also a nice place to get food because of the flowers bugs or whatever they can find at a ohia tree. and bugs used ohia trees as a food source to help them survive.

This is why I think we should design the 'ōhi'a as the state endemic tree. I am supporting the HB2202 House bill. Thank you for hearing me out.

Mahalo:

Kahoano

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:47:36 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jayden Garcia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representatives Cedric Asuega Gates & Adrian K. Tam:

My name is Jayden Garcia, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because the 'ōhi'a tree is used as a water collector and if we didn't have the 'ōhi'a tree we probably wouldn't be alive. 'Ōhi'a tree is used as food and shelter for animals that live in or by the tree. The 'ōhi'a wood was used in everyday objects like poi pounders and other stuff. I support HB2202 and hope you will too.

Sincerely,

Jayden Garcia

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:49:00 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Pe'ahi Hema-Costa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Rep. Adrian K. Tam and Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates,

My name is Pe'ahi Hema-Cost and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because without these trees, we wouldn't get water, this tree is only found in Hawaii, and it has cultural importance. For these reasons, I am supporting HB2202.

Did you know that the 'ōhi'a had a cultural importance for early Hawaiians! According to "Hawai'i Magazine", it states that the sturdy wood was used to create weapons like spears, kapa cloth beaters, boards for pounding poi, enclosures and statues. Its leaves were used as a medicinal tea. Its flowers and its seeds fed native birds like the apapane and the now-extinct mamō. When listening to traditional Hawaiian mo'olelo, mele, and oli about the land or the Gods, it's almost impossible to avoid some mention of 'ōhi'a or its lehua flowers.

Please pass HB2202 to designate the ohia as our state's endemic tree so that it can be recognized and protected.

Sincerely,

Pe'ahi Hema-Costa

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:50:01 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sariah Keahi-Tavares	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representative Cedric Asuega Gates & Adrian K. Tam:

My name is Sariah Keahi-Tavares, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because it's a natural water collector, it's very important in Hawaiian culture, and it's a home to many native Hawaiian species. For these reasons, I am supporting HB2202.

According to the Ulana museum, the 'ōhi'a has a very significant role in Hawaiian culture. It is used in many mele, oli, mo'olelo, and 'ōlelo no'eau. In oli, mele, etc there's stories of the history and significance of the 'ōhi'a lehua. The 'ōhi'a is also associated with the fire goddess, Pele. The 'ōhi'a is found in many mo'olelo because of it's significance to pele. The Hawaiian people use the wood to create "temple image figures", these figures are used for religious reasons. I think these 'ōhi'a plants are very important to Hawaiians, because they were very religious, and used these figures made from the 'ōhi'a lehua for their religious practices. As a legislator, you can help by considering this bill and help us make this bill a law. That would have a significant impact because the 'ōhi'a is a very important tree to Hawaiian culture and people. Not only is it good for the people and culture, it is good for the environment.

Please pass HB2202 to protect ohia trees throughout our state.

Mahalo,

Sariah Keahi-Tavares

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:51:11 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kau'i Joaquin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, and Representative Adrian K Tam,

My name is Kau'i Joaquin, and I'm in the seventh grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because the 'ōhi'a provides water as it is one of our major water collectors, endemic to Hawai'i, and it protects state animals. I support HB2202.

'Ōhi'a lehua forests protects watersheds for agricultural and drinking water. According to the 'Ōhi'a Lehua-Department of Land and Natural Resources, "the 'ōhi'a forest of Kohala is often shrouded in mist as clouds continually pass through the landscape. Mosses adorn branches and trunks and water in great amounts is collected by this pristine 'ōhi'a-dominant forest. The water slowly filters and fills up our aquifer. (our source of freshwater.) Another reason is that the 'ōhi'a tree provides for animals. For example, 'ōhi'a forests support an incredible diversity of life, from the tree snails that feed on the leaves of the 'ōhi'a to the very watersheds that give drinking water to the people of Hawai'i.

Please help by conversing about this topic to the people around you. That would have a significant impact because possibly more people would also want to make this bill a law after hearing about how 'ōhi'a helps not just our ecosystem but also how we live.

Mahalo,

Kau'i Joaquin

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:53:25 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
tavin kiesel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates and Rep. Adrian K. Tam:

My name is Tavin Kiesel, and I'm in 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designing the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because. The 'Ōhi'a is a water source that collects from the passing clouds so that there is another water source. The 'Ōhi'a is also a safe place for the animals so if we just left the 'Ōhi'a to die then there would be no place for the animals to keep them safe. 'Ōhi'a also can be used for clothing so we can be in warmth if something happens to our islands. I support HB2202.

Did you know that the 'ohi'a tree actually protects animals from any danger, so if we just left the 'ohi'a to die there would be no safe place for animals. According to Ambyr Mokiao-lee is a Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD) Statewide Outreach Coordinator, she talked about the 'Ōhi'a being a safe place for animals. Another reason is that the 'Ōhi'a is a water collector so the animals do have a water resource so they can survive off the 'Ōhi'a so that's another reason the death of 'Ōhi'a needs to stop. This is why the Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death is affecting not only us but the animals too and nature around us.

Please bring awareness to the 'Ōhi'a and bring the attention from other representatives to think twice about making this our endemic tree. That would have a significant impact because it can change the mindset so that they will accept this change and make the 'Ōhi'a an endemic tree to Hawaii. Thank you for listening to this message

Sincerely,

Tavin Kiesel

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:57:52 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cyris Cagasan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear: Rep.Cendic Asuega Gates, and Rep. Adrian Tam:

My name is Cyris Cagasan, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's tree. The first reason why I would like to support the 'ōhi'a is because it has a very big importance to Hawaiian culture. The second reason is because the 'ōhi'a is the start of a forest and it's the center of it. The third reason is that the 'ōhi'a holds water which puts nutrients for people to live on Maui.

Did you know that the 'ōhi'a is the start of a forest and it is the first thing that pops out of the lava pele created? That is why pele wanted that flower to be hers. The 'ōhi'a is basically two trees because the 'ōhi'a is made up of lehua and 'ōhi'a. Lehua and 'ōhi'a are lovers and pele burned both because pele loved 'ōhi'a, but 'ōhi'a loved lehua. If you pick a 'ōhi'a flower then it will rain because they are separated. According to ulana museum website, the 'ōhi'a is a water collector.

Passing HB2202 would have a significant impact because it will bring special attention to this tree. They are dying because of this disease called rod (rapid 'ōhi'a death).

Sincerely,

Cyris Cagasan

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:19:27 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
De'an	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee.

I, De'an Valenzona , and in support of the (SB2059I) , relating to State Endemic Tree which would designate "ohi'a lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawai'i.

Some reasons why this tree should be protected is because the, Ohi'a Lehua, plays a big role in Hawaiian culture. It should be in a safe environment where this unique tree can grow, without it hawaii would lose its main source of freshwater. This tree is only found in, Hawai'i. If all the trees disappear we would not be able to have a story to tell, one point hula was at the brink of being loss. We shouldn't lose neither, instead teach the next generation about the importance of this tree. The rapid Ohi'a death is, devastating. I hope you consider this bill as it will help bring protections for this lovely tree.

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:19:03 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sophanara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

Reasons I support this bill are as follows: I, Sophanara Va, and in support of SB2059 , relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate "ohi'a lehua " as the state endemic tree of Hawai'i. It is because it is the main way to hold fresh water and prevent it going to the sea water and killing the coral and the fish. The Ohia tree is the food to the bugs and home to the birds. I love hiking and seeing the trees and the naturally formed land and if the tree is gone that land will look like the sandy deserts in california

Sincerely,

Sophanara, Va

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 1:35:40 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tatum Bogner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The House of Representatives

Agriculture and Environment Committee

January 14, 2022

Testimony to support of SB2069

Aloha, I support Testimony SB2069, designating the Ohi'a tree as the Hawaiian islands state endemic tree. The Ohi'a has found to help the improvement of the Hawaiian islands environment.

When working in agriculture or environment companies, you rely on the flow of water in the environment, creating healthy crops and ecosystem. The Ohia tree assists with the flow of water throughout the islands. Without it, there would be lands that are dry and lands overflowing with water.

This bill is very important to me because people need to be more aware of their surroundings when entering an important land. Along with that, me and my dad's job rely on the flow of water in the soil when planting and growing crops. Because it rarely ever rains in that area.

For the future generations to see the native birds within the Hawaiian islands, they need to have access to materials. The birds use the Ohi'a tree as shelter, forming a sense of protection. With informing people about the Ohi'a tree's great value to the Hawaiians islands, we will have a greater chance of saving it.

Sincerely,

Tatum Bogner

Hawaii Technology Academy

8th grade

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:18:56 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Carli	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Carli Imamura am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows: have learned that Ohi’a death is affecting Hawaii’s forest and I have learned that most of Hawaii’s forest is made off of the Ohi’a which is a state endemic tree. This tree is important to me because if we get to save the Ohi’a tree a lot of animals that survive off the tree to live will still have a home to live in. Also it is the only tree that grows only on Hawaii and nowhere else and so it is very important to save this tree. So I hope you consider helping the Ohi’a tree and protecting it. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Carli Imamura

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 1:44:31 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Peyton Fontanilla	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 329 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Testimony in Support of HB2202

Dear Chair Cedric Asuega Gates,

I, Peyton Kelly Fontanilla, am in support of HB2202, relating to state symbols, which would designate Ohia Lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii. I am in 7th grade and I attend Hawaii Technology Academy Charter School. Normally, I would try and convince you why you should help us make the Ohia Lehua Tree The State Endemic Tree. But...I'm sure you have read hundreds of testimonies saying the same things. It is a habitat for our birds. It collects water and filters the air. Although all this is true, it is not as important as the bigger picture. And well... Here is the bigger picture.

Ohia is the head of our culture, the neck of our rivers, holds an arm out to the sick/weak, reminds our hula dancers too, "break a leg." And most importantly, it is the foot of this

land. Without the Ohia Trees, we would not only not be here today, but we also wouldn't have the beautiful flowers for the merry monarch or most of the native birds.

Wouldn't you love for the future generations to live with this culture surrounding them? We have already lost 40-50% of our Ohia Forests, let's change that. Re-grow the trees, raise awareness, make this a place that keeps Ohia endemic, so that it doesn't go extinct.

Please see my vision,

Sincerely,

Peyton Fontanilla

Kauai Resident

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:18:28 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Danniel Kha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The House of Representatives

Committee on Water and Land

January 14, 2022

State Capitol

Testimony in Support of (SB2059)

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee.

I, Danniel Kha, and in support of the (SB2059) , relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate “ohi’a lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawai’i.

Many people (myself too) aren't aware of what the ohia lehua is happening to it and why it's important to protect this tree. This tree allows all other tree species and plants to grow but it is one of the most vital trees in Hawaiian culture. It is also economically important. The ohia tree acts as a keystone and a pioneer species. It's one of the first plants to grow on a cooled lava field and because of its roots, it allows future plant species to begin growing. Ohia trees are currently in a outbreak , (rapid ohia death) it is basically the corona virus for ohia trees.

Ohi’a also has high value, it’s wood is used for furniture, decoration, etc, It was also the hawaii endemic tree. The Ohi’a is the keystone and pioneer species. Deadly fungus is

causing ohia trees to die, and because of this fungus trees will continue to die and eventually go extinct. If the ohia tree goes extinct, the forest will probably start to die because the trunk of the ohia tree acts as a nurse house. If this tree goes extinct Hawaii will be in danger. I hope that you start to care about the ohia tree and the importance of it. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Danniel Kha, Grade 8

Highlands Intermediate Student

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:18:28 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sophie Yamamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Sophie Yamamoto, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

Many people (including myself up until recently), are not aware of what ohia lehua is, what is happening to it and why it's important to protect this tree. Not only does this tree allow all other plants of Hawaii to grow but it is one of the most vital Hawaiian trees, making them economically important as well. The ohia tree acts as a keystone and pioneer species. It is one of the first plants to grow on a cooled lava field and because of its roots, it allows future plant species to begin growing. Also, the ohia tree is an endemic species and is unique solely to Hawaii. As someone who is interested about the well being of nature,

specifically birds, the thought of this tree dying out concerns me greatly. Birds and organisms of Hawaii rely on this tree to provide its basic needs such as food and shelter.

Ohi'a also has high value. Its wood is used for flooring, house posts, fencing posts, decoration, farming of traditional hale, and firewood. Their seedlings are also among the most sought-after plants for native landscaping. Additionally, their trunks act as nurse logs, supplying nutrients, water and protecting for native seedlings and epiphytes. Their canopies capture mist and rainwater, providing water for the people of Hawaii. And as we know, water is an essential component of life, without it, we will perish. Despite its obvious importance, ohi'a is rapidly decreasing due to a deadly fungus. This phenomenon is known as Rapid Ohi'a Death. Because of this fungus, more and more ohi'a are dying and slowly going extinct. If an important species such as this one does go extinct, the people of Hawaii will be in grave danger. I hope you will consider this bill as it will help conserve the plant that starts all plant life. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sophie Yamamoto

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:16:06 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
El	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Eli Aspera am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows: The Ohi’a trees are only existent here on the islands of hawaii. They are very important to its ecosystem and are currently endemic. It collects water which can be important for nature and its forests . Ohi’a trees also can attract many tourists to Hawaii which can have a big impact if something starts to happen to them.

Sincerely,

Eli Aspera

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:14:29 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Trystin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Trystin Watanabe, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows: I’ve learned that ‘Ohi’a is a native tree that only grows in Hawaii. It plays a vital role in Hawaiian culture, gathers water and replenishes aquifers, and native birds survive off them. I’ve also learned that there are threats like Rapid ‘Ohi’a Death, which put the trees in danger. I hope you consider this bill as it will help protect the trees.

Sincerely,

Trystin Watanabe

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:24:51 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lexi Carlos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representative Cedric Asuega Gate and Adrian K Tam:

My name is Lexi Carlos, and I'm in the seventh grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because 'ōhi'a is home to many native species, it has a cultural significance, and it's endemic to Hawaii. For these reasons, I am in support of the bill, Relating to the State Endemic Tree (HB 2202).

Did you know that 'ōhi'a is only found in Hawaii? According to Kalena Silva, University of Hawai'i Hilo Professor of Hawaiian History, it's the first plant to grow out of a fresh lava flow. This means that it is the creator of new forests and environments. 'Ōhi'a grows through the lava flow and as the roots break the ground, other plants start to grow around it. Then it will become the home of many native species like the 'apapane, the black and crimson Hawaiian honeycreeper, the 'akohekohe, and now extinct mamoa, a black and yellow variety of native honeycreeper.

As a legislator, you can help by looking up how important 'ōhi'a is to Hawaii and its people. This would raise awareness for 'ōhi'a and why it is important. That would have a significant impact because you would learn more about why people want to make 'ōhi'a our state endemic tree.

Sincerely,

Lexi Carlos

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:14:08 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Brennan Jonick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The reason I support this bill is because the ‘ōhia tree has cultural meaning. It is in songs, chants and stories. It is used for poi pounding boards, the nectar feeds the birds it is also used for medicine. So far 1 million ‘ōhia trees have died from ROD. It travels by humans, samlossia beetles and wind. The ‘ōhia is a keystone species; without it there would be less water. The ‘ōhia otherwise known as the tree of life holds the ecosystem together; it supports birds, spiders, butterflies, and beetles.

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:37:24 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Bruce Beltran	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree

Dear: Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair:

My name is Bruce Beltran, and I’m in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the ‘Ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree because if we make the ‘Ōhi‘a the state endemic tree people will notice the disease that is killing the trees and they will try to help stop it. Also, ‘Ōhi‘a is a big part of Hawaiian culture and some of our hula is inspired by ‘Ōhi‘a trees. Lastly, ‘Ōhi‘a provides shelter, food, and water for us and animals, they are a very big part of our lives. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, HB2202, “Relating to the State Endemic Tree.”

‘Ōhi‘a is a big part of our Hawaiian culture and ‘Ōhi‘a inspires a lot of our hula dances. Did you know that in the Division of forestry and Wildlife states that “today the ‘Ōhi‘a blossoms continue to be used in cultural ceremonies and practices, such as lei and hula, though many hula practitioners have begun forgoing the use of ‘Ōhi‘a to prevent the spread of ROD and protect this culturally significant tree species.” If we don’t take action these trees will perish and we will lose the relationship in the Hawaiian culture we have with ‘Ōhi‘a. In order to save ‘Ōhi‘a we have to stop the spread of fungus that is causing ROD so we are able to perpetuate the importance of ‘Ōhi‘a to Hawaiian culture.

As a legislator you can help by making this a law so 'Ōhi'a can become the state endemic tree so we can perpetuate the hula and the culture. If we make 'Ōhi'a the state endemic tree others will notice 'Ōhi'a and the spread of fungus that is hurting 'Ōhi'a. People will hopefully take action and prevent the spread of ROD. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bruce Beltran

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:37:25 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Urijah Benz A Yen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tre

Dear: Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

My name is Urijah Benz, and I’m in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree because you can only find this tree in hawaii. Another reason is because ‘ōhi‘a is a bio culturally important species. Lastly, the fungi from the past tree may be shared to the next tree. For these reasons, I am supporting the bill, house bill, HB2202, “Relating to State Endemic Tree.”

According to Hawaii Magazine it states you should make sure that you do not injure the tree or cause any open wounds. Open wounds can help diseases and fungus into the tree called pathogens. “The disease may also spread from your equipment like machete knives and other equipment so make sure you clean your equipment.” I believe you should be cleaning your equipment everytime it touches something new because you don’t wanna cross contaminate germs from tree to tree. I think it would be even smarter if you used a machete on one tree and maybe a knife on another tree so that the germs and fungus from the first tree don’t spread to the new tree.

As a legislator you can help by making 'ōhi'a one of the state's endemic tree's. 'Ōhi'a can become the state endemic tree so others are aware of the cause of rapid 'ōhi'a death. If we make the 'ōhi'a state endemic tree, people will start to take notice and prevent the spread of diseases and germs that's hurting the 'ōhi'a tree. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely

Urijah Benz-Ah Yen

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:13:36 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Danielle Woodward	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Danielle Woodward, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

Back then a long time ago in ancient Hawaii, the Metrosideros polymorpha, more commonly known as ‘ōhia Lehua has been very important and had made a huge cultural impact, not only that but the ‘ōhia Lehua tree is endemic to the land of Hawaii. It has been shown that the ‘ōhia Lehua has been used for various purposes to help the people of Hawaii back in ancient times. For example, the ‘ōhia tree is a food source and shelter for the native birds including endemic Hawaiian nectar-feeding honeycreepers such as the ‘apapane and ‘i‘iwi, the ‘ōhia wood was also used to create various different heiaus. Today

the 'ōhia tree is now being used to create flooring, house posts, fencing posts, decoration, and even firewood. This shows that the 'ōhia tree has numerous purposes that ancient Hawaiians used back and now.

Another reason why I support this bill is that 'ōhia has been a very important part of Hawaiian culture for it has been told in many Hawaiian mo'olelo, mele, and 'oli. The 'ōhia tree serves as a sacred kinoalu for multiple Hawaiian deities or gods such as Ku', Laka, Pele, Hi'kala, and Kāne. This alone can show that the 'ōhia tree was a very important part of Hawaiian culture. All of this evidence proves that we should make the 'Ōhi'a tree our state endemic tree.

Sincerely,

Danielle Woodward

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:37:25 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Aiyana Lahela Adams	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree

Dear Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair,

My name is Lahela Adams, and I’m in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree because the ‘ōhi‘a is a habitat for other species so native animals live off of this tree. Also the ‘ōhi‘a is an endemic tree so it is found in Hawaii and in Hawaii only. The last reason is it provides shelter and water. The tree has wood and you can use that to build and it collects water. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, HB2202, “Relating to State Endemic Trees.”

‘Ōhi‘a is a habitat to many species like plants, bugs, and native birds. According to the article, “The ‘I‘iwi, a Besieged Hawaiian Forest Bird, Is Now Listed as Threatened”, It states that a tree fungus is devastating the birds main source of food and shelter. The bird's source is the ‘ōhi‘a tree and the fungus is found in the woody tissue of the tree. The fungus/disease grows and it kills the tree and cuts the water supply which causes the ‘I‘iwi bird’s to get less water and it can possibly die. This fungus is the cause of rapid ‘ōhi‘a death (ROD). And if we don’t put a stop to it now, then there goes all the plants, bugs, and native birds.

As a legislator, you can help by introducing the bill to the legislative branch. This would have a significant impact because it will make a difference in our Hawaiian culture and save our 'ōhi'a lehua trees. This will help keep our culture alive and save the tree from dying.

Mahalo

-Lahela Adams

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:37:26 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jenna later	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree

Dear Rep Cedric. Asuega Gates, Chair:

My name is Jenna Later, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because first it's only found on our islands which makes it so special because nobody else can love this tree as much as we do. Another reason why I support this house bill, HB2202 is because it's very important to our native people, animals, insects, etc, that use the 'ōhi'a tree for various things. My last reason is that the 'ōhi'a lehua tree is very sacred to our lahui, it was one of the few favorite tree of our goddess and gods, it's also getting killed off by ROD so by following this bill you are ensuring its protection and safety in our very sacred community. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, HB2202, "Relating to State Endemic Trees."

According to the article named, "Hawaii's Legendary 'ōhi'a Tree Is Important For Birds And People" published by George Wallace, it states that "In Hawai'i, 'ōhi'a is the most common native tree species in the main islands. It is also one of the most important trees

for [native Hawaiian birds](#) such as '[Apapane](#) and 'Akohekohe, which get their food from nectar-producing flowers. Dozens of extinct species would have fed frequently on 'ōhi'a, too.” This supports my second reason. I am saying this specific fact because I think that our native animals matter and do a lot for our environment. Like the article says 'ōhi'a can help/helped shelter and feed endangered animals.

As a legislator, you can help by making this process easier and help out our lahui to save our 'ōhi'a lehua tree's. You can save our native animals and people if you follow this house bill. That would have a significant impact because all we have left is our people and animals, so you could save our culture, our 'ohana, and you could save the whole Hawaiian islands by just saving this one tree from becoming extinct.

Mahalo nui,

Jenna later

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:37:26 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Anthony Sardine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree

Dear: Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

My name is Anthony Sardine Jr, and I’m in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree because not only does this endemic tree provide shelter and food but it is a natural water collector, it filters rain water through all the layers of rock and into our watersheds. ‘Ōhi‘a has tremendous cultural importance; it can be used as hula implements and such. ‘Ōhi‘a being one of the state's endemic trees can also bring awareness to the disease ROD or rapid ‘ōhi‘a death which is killing almost 10% of ‘ōhi‘a trees each year. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, HB2202 “Relating to State Endemic Tree.”

Did you know that according to an article in, “gohawai‘i” it talks about the ‘ōhi‘a being pillars of Hawaiian forests that are celebrated in chant, song, dance, ceremony, lei, and

other decorations, “rapid Ohia Death, a newly identified disease caused by a foreign fungus is killing ohia. One of Hawaii’s most important and abundant native trees.” Rapid ‘ōhi‘a death is a disease infecting the tree and the leaves itself. Which enters into the tree from a wound and it gives the tree a drought from inside the tree itself stopping water flow and eventually killing the tree. Which not only kills this amazing tree but disrupts the water filtration and water flow.

As a legislature you can help by making ‘ōhi‘a one of the state endemic trees. ‘Ōhi‘a being one of the state endemic trees will bring awareness to ROD and maybe save ‘ōhi‘a. Mahalo for your consideration on making this bill a law.

Mahalo Nui,

Anthony Sardine Jr

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:37:27 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Isaac Gosselin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree

Dear: Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

My name is Isaac Gosselin, and I’m in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree because Invasive species are killing the ‘ōhi‘a tree and taking it away from Hawaii by killing it. Another reason is it is like life for all the non invasive animals like birds and insects and without this tree all of the native animals will all die including the trees. The last reason is because some of our hula is inspired by the ‘ōhi‘a tree because of the way it sways in the wind. For these reasons, I am supporting the bill,HB2202 “Relating to State Endemic Tree.”

According to the article, “Hawaii Invasive Species Council” states that ``"A new fungal pathogen known as Rapid Ohia Death was identified on Hawaii Island in 2014. The fungus attacks can quickly kill ohia trees. Ohia is endemic to Hawaii and comprises approximately 80% of Hawaii’s native forests. Also, as of December, 2018, both strains of Ceratocystis fungi which cause Rapid Ohia Death have been confirmed to exist on the island of Kauai”. I think that (ROD) or Rapid ‘ōhia Death is very important to not only me but the rest of hawai‘i because that feels like a really big part of hawai‘i’s history is dying due to (ROD).I

think we need to take a stand and do something about the disease and this is my way of taking a standing against (ROD).

As a legislator, you can help by making the 'ōhi'a tree one of the state endemic trees. 'ōhi'a being one of the state endemic tree's will bring awareness to ROD and help stop it. Mahalo for making this bill a law.

Mahalo Nui,

Isaac Gosselin

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:37:29 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kayla Baptist	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree

Dear Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

My name is Kayla Baptist, and I’m in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the ‘Ōhi‘a Lehua tree as the state’s endemic tree because it is only able to be found in Hawaii. Nowhere else in the world has the ‘Ōhi‘a Lehua tree being the first tree sprouting up after a volcano eruption. Secondly, ‘Ōhi‘a Lehua tree’s are home’s to the endangered species of Hawaii nei. Lastly, ‘Ōhi‘a Lehua is a great source for water collecting when it rains. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, HB2202, “Relating to State Endemic Trees.”

According to an article titled, “About ‘Ōhi‘a”; published by College Of Tropical Agriculture And Human Resources at The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, it states that ‘Ōhi‘a Lehua can capture mist and rain water which can help replenish our island aquifers. Replenishing our aquifers provides us with more drinking water and more water for our agriculture and community use. More water for agriculture and community means our lāhui can thrive more. Farmers will be able to grow more plants and feed more

animals. When ‘Ōhi‘a Lehua captures water, birds and other animals are able to get the water they need from the ‘Ōhi‘a flower.

As a legislator, you can help by passing this bill to the legislature. I hope you take this into consideration as it will help to bring awareness to our beloved ‘Ōhi‘a Lehua Tree.

Me ke aloha,

Kayla Baptist

Grade 7

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:37:29 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kahau Legsay	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in support of designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Dear: Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

My name is Kahau Legsay, and I’m in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree because ‘ōhi‘a gets rid of invasive species. Also ‘ōhi‘a can be used for medicinal use. Another reason is that ‘ōhi‘a collects water and creates shelter. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, HB2202, “Relating to State Endemic Tree.”

Did you know that ‘ōhi‘a can be used as medicine? In the article, “Division of Forestry and Wildlife: Forestry Program by Malaysian Apple” it states that ‘ōhi‘a bark when chewed could help sore throats. When the bark liquid is combined with salt it can heal lacerations. In my opinion, I think the ‘ōhi‘a lehua is a very effective tree because it has natural medicinal properties. It’s medicinal properties are better than western medicine because western medicinal properties aren’t all natural. This will help our Hawaiian people by making it easier for them to heal.

As a legislator, you can help by making this easier for the 'ōhi'a lehua tree are endemic state tree. That would have a significant impact because the 'ōhi'a lehua tree would get rid of the invasive species, have shelter and water for the non invasive species and, there would be natural medicinal use.

Mahalo nui,

Kahau Legsay

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:37:30 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kawai Akimseu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree

Dear: Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair:

My name is Kawai‘olulililehuaokamakau‘i Akimseu, and I’m in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree, house bill, HB2202, because it creates organic matter which is a large source of carbon based compounds. The ‘ōhi‘a tree can also be used for woodworking, fire wood, landscaping and it can prevent erosion. Not only that, but the ‘ōhi‘a is a habitat for animals, a source of food and collects water. This can help life on earth thrive because the animals will have a source of food and water.

According to an article in Hakalau Forest National Wildlife refuge, “‘Ōhi‘a lehua is an important part of Hawai‘i’s forests and provides food and shelter for native birds.” This helps support my claim that the ‘ōhi‘a lehua tree can be a habitat for birds. This also supports my claim because it states that the ‘ōhi‘a lehua provides food for the native birds.

As a legislator you can help by introducing the bill to the legislative branch. This can make a difference in our Hawaiian culture because it will help protect our ‘ōhi‘a lehua trees. These trees are important to our culture because they help tell mele or stories and in Hawaiian culture, stories are predominant. This will help keep our culture alive.

Mahalo nui,

Kawai Akimseu

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:37:32 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sienna Fukino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree

Dear: Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

My name is Sienna Fukino, and I’m in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree because ‘ōhi‘a are native to Hawai‘i. They are a pioneer species because they break up lava rock to help other plants grow. Lastly, they are habitats for many animals and provide shelter and food for native birds. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, HB2202, “Relating to State Endemic Tree.”

Did you know that the ‘ōhi‘a lehua provides food and shelter for native birds. According to, “‘Ōhi‘a - Hakalau Forest - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service” it states, Native Hawaiian birds feed on the flowers and seeds of the tree including the ‘i‘iwi, ‘apapane, and ‘akohekohe. Which feed mostly on the flowers and insects on the tree. Some forage among the foliage: ‘akiapola‘au, the ‘akialoa’s which is extinct, and the black mamo or hoa which is also extinct. Additionally, the coloration of these birds may have served as camouflage. This is important because ‘i‘iwi are an endangered species and so are ‘ōhi‘a and if the ‘ōhi‘a continue to die out and not be protected then the ‘i‘iwi can go extinct from loss of food, water and habitat.

As a legislator, you can help by introducing this bill to the legislative branch and turn this bill into a law. That would have a significant impact because it will provide protection for our magnificent 'Ōhi'a Lehua that is suffering from Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD).

Sincerely,

Sienna Fukino

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:37:36 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Naiya Hamasaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Dear: Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

My name is Naiya Hamasaki. I am from Kamehameha Schools Maui Campus. I care about designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree because it is a main water collector, it is used as a habitat, and it is used for Hula and Mele. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, HB2202 “Relating to State Endemic Tree.”

The ‘ōhi‘a tree is used for mele and or hula. This is a big reason to me because apart of the Hawaiian islands is for the Hawaiians to dance hula and to do mele for our land and for what the Hawaiians had in the past. The Hawaiian islands and the things that we still have from the past is sacred we need it to keep going and make it better. Apart of ‘ōhi‘a being a part of hula, our ancestors used to write mele for it so that we can dance to it now. That is why as a Hawaiian and a hula dance it is important to me to have the ‘ōhi‘a become the state endemic tree.

As a legislator, you can help by using the reasoning that I have you can show or tell to other legislator’s and have them on your side about the tree becoming the state endemic tree. That would have a significant impact because then it would have Hawaiians with you on turning the ‘ōhi‘a to the state endemic tree.

Mahalo,

Naiya Hamasaki

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:37:42 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Peyton Rosenthal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree

Dear: Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

My name is Peyton Rosenthal, and I’m in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree because it is only found in Hawai`i. Secondly, it is used for cultural purposes, for example hula, which many hālau use for dancing. Lastly, ‘Ōhi`a Lehua has it’s benefits for our state. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill HB2202 “Relating to State Endemic Tree.”

According to Hawai`i Magazine there is an article named The Cultural Significance of ‘Ōhi`a Lehua, published on April 12, 2016, written by Meghan Miner. It states that the ‘Ōhi`a plant had many uses for early Hawaiians. ‘Ōhi`a’s wood was used to create weapons, kapa cloth beaters, boards for pounding poi, and statues; its leaves

were used as a medicinal tea. My second reason comes from an article called About “‘Ōhi`a” published by UH Manoa it says that it is home to many animals like birds (‘i`iwi, `apapane, and `akohekohe) it is also home to many insects (snails and other invertebrates). Their trunks are used for many things like nurse logs, supplying nutrients, water and protection for native seedlings and epiphytes. My third reason comes from the same article. It is said that their canopies capture mists and rainwater that replenish our island. That water provides water that we drink. `Ōhi`a lehua are deep in Hawaiian culture. ‘Ōhi`a serve as the sacred kinolau (physical manifestations) of multiple Hawaiian deities. ‘Ōhi`a wood was used for various ceremonial structures on heiau .

As a legislator, you can help by giving this bill to the legislature community so they can consider bringing the `Ōhi`a Lehua as our state endemic tree. That would have a significant impact because it will help our Hawaiian people and make them happy that one of the most significant trees is now one of our state's endemic trees.

Mahalo,

Peyton Rosenthal

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of 'Ohi'a as the state endemic tree

Dear: Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

*I am Rome Moleta, a 7th-grade student at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because 'ōhi'a is important to our culture, it used in ceremonies, hula, mele, and other ceremonial structures. In the past few years, we have noticed constant 'ōhi'a death, over 1 million lost on Hawai'i island. We need to preserve the 'ōhi'a it is native and endemic to Hawai'i if it is our state endemic tree it will raise awareness for 'ōhi'a so it does not go extinct forever. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, HB2202, **"Relating to State Endemic Tree."***

Did you know that... the 'ōhia helps animals and humans absorb water. If left untreated, this tree will die due to a fungus known as keratocystic lukuohia. This fungus can kill off almost all of the organisms living in the tree. According to dlnr.hawaii.gov, since 2014 Hawai'i Island has been under attack from a new fungal pathogen, "A new fungal pathogen known as Rapid Ohia Death (Ceratocystis fimbriata) was identified on Hawaii Island in 2014. The fungus attacks and can quickly kill ohia trees (Metrosideros polymorpha). Ohia is endemic to Hawaii and comprises approximately 80% of Hawaii's native forests."*

As a legislator, please sponsor the bill and share it with other individuals so they can support it and vote for it, you can also talk to the mayors and governor about it. You can write news articles or have a presentation on the news station to let the people of Hawai'i know about this problem. It would make a huge difference in how long it would take for the 'ōhia to become the state endemic tree to Hawaii.

I hope you consider and support this bill to preserve and protect our sacred 'ōhi'a tree.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Rome Moleta

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree

Dear Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair:

My name is Hawika Pua, and I’m in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree because the ‘ōhia helps absorb water for the people and animals that live out in nature. If we do not care for this native tree it will slowly die due to a fungus called ceratocystis lukuohia (destroyer of ‘ōhi‘a) also known as the Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death. Humans, Beetles, and other types of animals rely heavily on this tree for survival. For these reasons, I am supporting the bill, “*Relating to State Endemic Tree.*”

Did you know...that If we do not care for this native tree it will slowly die due to a fungus called ceratocystis lukuohia (destroyer of ‘ōhi‘a) also known as the Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death. According to Hawaii News Now, “For the past five years, 'ohia trees on Hawai'i Island have been under attack -- dying mysteriously and rapidly from an unknown disease, but researchers are now one step closer to figuring out how to prevent mass devastation now that they've figure out what's killing the native species. Ceratocystis Fimbriata is an aggressive and deadly fungus so powerful, the disease has been named Rapid 'Ohia Death.” If we don’t take action, the ‘ōhia tree will most likely go extinct. Some things that we can do to prevent that from happening is clean out footwear/shoes before and after we enter the forest, don't touch the ‘ōhia tree like don’t pull it out of the ground, don't break the branches, and don't ruin it so it can grow and be a healthy tree.

As a legislator, you can help by talking to the county or mayor about it, make websites and send it out to the public so they know, maybe start a little crew that will for sure help the ‘ōhia trees. That would have a significant impact because it would make people on each island think about it and help out with it. Who knows, maybe the mayor might agree to having a team go out and help protect the ‘ōhia trees or maybe it'll make scientists think about it and experiment with the fungus to find a cure to help it.

Mahalo nui,
Hawika Pua

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:37:45 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kenji Wunder	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree

Dear Representative Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair,

My name is Kenji Wunder, and I’m in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree because over 7 years there has been an increased number of rapid ‘ōhi‘a deaths, and the ‘ōhi‘a trees wouldn’t collect as much water. ‘Ohi‘a is a main water collector, it provides shelter, food, and they have cultural importance. It can provide shelter for animals, forest birds, and more. If ‘ōhi‘a trees become the endemic tree, then people would be more aware of ‘ōhi‘a death that could save some ‘ōhi‘a trees from the fungus. I am supporting the house bill, HB2202.

According to the article, “The evolving threat of Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death (ROD) to Hawai‘i’s native ecosystems and rare plant species,” it says “Hawai‘i’s most widespread native tree, ‘ōhi‘a lehua, has been dying across large areas of Hawai‘i Island mainly due to two fungal pathogens that cause a disease collectively known as Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death” To me this is just talking about large areas where ‘ōhi‘a trees use to thrive and live, that are now all filled with dead and infected ‘ōhi‘a that can’t be used. Unless we fix this problem, the fungus will keep spreading and it will affect many other ‘ōhi‘a trees that can’t be used. If that happens, there would be less shelter, less water, and less food that would come from ‘ōhi‘a trees.

As a legislator you can help this problem by making this a law so people would know about the rapid 'ōhi'a deaths that have been in Hawaii for so long. That would have a significant impact because, if more people know about the fungus, more people would know about the importance of 'ōhi'a and how to prevent the spread of the fungus, which could save many 'ōhi'a trees.

Mahalo,

Kenji Wunder

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:37:54 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kamele'auli'i Souza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree

Dear Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

My name is Kamele'auli'i Souza, and I'm in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the 'ōhi'a as the state's endemic tree because it is the most dominant tree in our forests and with the 'Ōhi'a dying so quickly due to ROD our forests would be very empty. The 'Ōhi'a is also home and food to many of our native species. The 'Ōhi'a also has a very high cultural importance to Hawaiians. I was used in building, used in ki'i, was what the first warriors to go into battle were called, and it has been referenced in many mo'olelo. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, HB2202, "Relating to State Endemic Tree."

Did you know that the 'Ōhi'a is a pioneer species? In the article, "About Ōhi'a" it states that 'ōhi'a stands as one of the most vitally important trees of Hawaiian forests. What would our forests look like without them? They have been in our forests for so long. Why would we let them disappear now?

As a legislator, you can help by passing this bill to the legislature. I hope you take this into consideration.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Kamele Souza

Grade 7

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 3:41:47 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
JC Watson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony for HB2202.

I strongly support this bill to name the Ohia Lehua Tree as the State's Endemic tree.

Ohia lehua is the most important tree that we have in Hawaii. It is the first tree to come up on new lava and literally builds the forests that inturn provide us with all of our freshwater.

Mahalo nui,

JC Watson

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:38:07 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Josiah Adams Kahuhu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree

Dear: Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair:

My name is Josiah Adams, and I’m in the 7th grade at Kamehameha Schools Maui. I care about designating the ‘ōhi‘a as the state’s endemic tree because the ‘ōhi‘a trees can provide water, food, air, and shelter which are necessary for survival. ‘Ōhi‘a trees are the first trees to grow in volcanic areas after an eruption which is good for people who live by volcanoes. The ‘ōhi‘a tree can be a habitat for many different animals like insects, and small woodland creatures. For these reasons, I am supporting the house bill, HB2202, “Relating to State Endemic Tree.

According to an article by Aron Ochoa, and Holly Richards “the majority of endangered birds depend on the ‘ōhi‘a trees for food and shelter”. The reason that's important to me is because most endangered birds don’t have anywhere else to live but the ‘ōhi‘a trees . And I wanted to help all the endangered birds by protecting the ‘ōhia trees. So they have somewhere to make new baby chicks to regrow their population. What I’am saying is once you help the ‘ōhi‘a trees you’ll start helping the endangered birds as well.

As a legislator, you can help by listening to people's opinions more and putting more thought into a suggestion before you turn it down. Also by giving an honest opinion to someone's idea instead of just saying something made up. That would have a significant impact because more people will think you care about what they have to say, and some of them will get a good impression when they meet you.

Mahalo nui,

Josiah Adams.

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 4:35:06 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Francesca Koethe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Tam, and members of the House Culture, Arts & International Affairs Committee,

I SUPPORT HB2202, which seeks to designate ohia lehua as the state endemic tree in order to recognize its cultural and ecological importance and raise awareness of the critical threats to ohia.

I respectfully urge you to PASS HB2202.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify,

Francesca Koethe

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 4:50:50 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
William Weaver	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Tam, and members of the House Culture, Arts & International Affairs Committee,

I SUPPORT HB2202, which seeks to designate ohia lehua as the state endemic tree in order to recognize its cultural and ecological importance and raise awareness of the critical threats to ohia.

I respectfully urge you to PASS HB2202.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify,

William Weaver

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 5:58:25 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Erika Arnett	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To Who it May Concern;

I have spent most of my adult life on the island of Kaua'i and I feel strongly about the importance of protecting the endemic species of Hawai'i. The 'Ōhi'a lehua trees not only provide food and shelter for many native bird and insect species but they represent the resilience of the people of Hawai'i. Please vote yes on this bill.

With aloha,

Erika Arnett

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:26:08 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Melissa Sharon Long	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

My name is Melissa Long, I am a resident of Hawai‘i. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2202 which will designate the ‘Ōhi‘a Lehua as state endemic tree.

Our ‘Ōhi‘a Lehua are special to our islands; the strongest, most resilient kumulā‘au that can survive where no other plants can. It is home to many of our native species, like manu, and also works within it’s ecosystem to perpetuate the circle of life. Without these kumulā‘au, many of our native birds and other native species would suffer.

As a kumu at a Hawaiian-focused Charter School, we teach our haumāna that we must protect our native species. We honor our kūpuna through mālama ‘Āina and through treasuring our native plants and species and working towards their survival. He ali‘i ka ‘Āina, he kua ke kanaka. The land is the chief, and we are it’s servants. We must continue to stand as stewards of this land and all the sacred species in it.

HB2202 would help to ensure that we protect this special kumulā‘au and make sure that it survives and thrives to honor our kūpuna, to provide a habitat and food for native species, and to ensure the ecosystem continues to support and sustain life.

In closing, please PASS HB2202. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mālama Pono,

Melissa Sharon Kapolei Long

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:05:08 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
James B Friday	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates and Vice Chair Tam,

I am writing in support of HB2202 Relating to State Symbols to designate ohia lehua as our state endemic tree. While kukui is an important tree, culturally as well as practically, it is not native to Hawaii, having been brought here with the first Polynesian voyagers, along with taro, bananas, and sweet potato. Ohia evolved here and is of this land. Given all the threats our ohia forest face, from agricultural and residential conversion to Rapid Ohia Death, it would be great to give them some official recognition.

Sincerely,
J. B. Friday

Hilo

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 7:23:25 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Charlie Concepcion	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Carly “Charlie” E. Concepcion, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhi‘a lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

Making the ‘ōhi‘a lehua tree the state endemic tree is because it is crucial to Hawaiian culture and ecology.

In Hawaiian culture, there’s a legend about how the tree came to life. It involves Pele, the Hawaiian goddess of fire and volcanoes. Long story short, a warrior and a maiden, ‘Ōhi‘a and Lehua, had fallen in love. Pele tried to interfere with their love life and failed, ultimately turning ‘Ōhi‘a into a tree. The other gods of the forest decided to turn Lehua into the blossoms for the tree to reunify the two lovers. This tale is one of the most known in Hawai‘i.

There are also several different structures made out of ‘ōhi‘a wood. For example, ceremonial structures on Hawaiian temples are made of ‘ōhi‘a, as well as the framework for traditional Hawaiian houses, flooring, firewood, decor, and house/fence posts.

Alongside housing and other infrastructure, they serve as the physical representation (statues) of Hawaiian deities/gods, those being Kū, Laka, Pele, Hi'iaka, Kapo, and Kāne.

As for native life forms and ecology, the 'ōhi'a tree provides shelter, nutrients and other necessary qualities for the things living here, more specifically the 'apapane, the 'i'iwi, the 'akiapōlā'au, the 'akohekohe, the extinct mamo, as well as other specimens like snails and insects. The trees also help replenish Hawai'i's aquifers, giving residents more water to use and more water to grow agriculture.

Sincerely,

Carly "Charlie" E. Concepcion

Highlands Intermediate School

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 7:23:37 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Helena Beltran	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Helena Beltran am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

I am in support of this bill for several reasons. To begin with, the ‘ōhi’a provides refuge and food for the native birds of Hawaii. For instance, the flower produces nectar as food and the coloration acts as a camouflage for the birds. Furthermore, the wood of the ‘ōhi’a

stores and collects water to help refill the state aquifers. Water is a very divine necessity of life. Especially in these times, we need the 'ōhi'a to help replenish our aquifers, giving the land and people water to thrive. Additionally, the 'ōhi'a itself is very resourceful, each part of it - such as the leaves, wood, and flowers - being used for many different purposes. Lastly, this bill will help raise awareness of Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD) and help contribute to the conservation of the 'ōhi'a. Not only is the 'ōhi'a rapidly dying from this disease, it is endemic to Hawaii. By raising awareness of ROD, we can help protect this tree from going extinct.

The 'ōhi'a is an endemic keystone species to the beautiful state of Hawaii. By putting this bill in motion, it will recognize and protect this wonderful pioneer plant. For these reasons, I hope you will consider supporting this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Helena Beltran

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 7:26:28 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kerstyn Afuso	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Subject: In support of HB2202

Aloha e Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the CAI Committee,

I fully support HB2202 that designates ‘ōhi‘a lehua as the state endemic tree. If you have ever seen these trees, it is easy to pick them out in a forest because of their bright red blossoms (sometimes yellow) and unique leaf structure. I only get to see ‘ōhi‘a lehua once a year, on the off chance that it is present in the high elevations on a hike. Not further protecting the ‘ōhi‘a lehua, which has immense cultural significance to Native Hawaiians, would be further ignoring the cultural, generational, and spiritual ties that Native Hawaiians have to this ‘āina. Please pass HB2202, because letting the ‘ōhi‘a lehua go down would be also letting the countless other native species that rely on it, go down also. The ‘ōhi‘a lehua needs more protection and this bill will help to spread awareness of this beautiful tree to spark even more conservation efforts across Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Kerstyn Afuso

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 7:30:46 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Brad Suenishi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Tam, and members of the House Culture, Arts & International Affairs Committee,

I SUPPORT HB2202, which seeks to designate ohia lehua as the state endemic tree in order to recognize its cultural and ecological importance and raise awareness of the critical threats to ohia. Ohia trees are a key native plant species for our native forests and watershed health in the State of Hawaii. It only makes sense that such a key native species such as ohia lehua represents Hawaii as its state tree.

I respectfully urge you to PASS HB2202.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify,

Brad Y. Suenishi

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 7:54:23 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kenny Tsuru	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Kenny Tsuru, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows: The reason I support this bill is because they are so sacred to this island. Things like kapa cloth beaters,boards to pound poi,building structures,statues, and even birth medicine from the leaves.These items are just several products that came from some parts of ‘Ohi‘a trees and how the older hawaiiians and possibly current hawaiiians benefited from this tree. But in today’s age we can see it used for many construction supplies. Not only is it useful but is also referenced in mele (songs),oli (chants),mo’olelo (stories) which just shows the importance of this well known tree. In addition, flowers on the tree are also extremely beautiful and can vary between a rainbow of colors. But the ‘Ohi‘a lehua also comes in a variety of shapes and sizes just like

the variation of colors it comes in. This species is also very capable of living anywhere even though the appearance may not show it. But it's incredibly durable and can grow in rugged,barren environments. Being mostly found nearby lava just like the famous legend of 'Ohi'a lehua and Pele referred to. To conclude these were my reasons on why I support this bill for the cultural and notable 'Ohi'a lehua.

Sincerely,

Kenny Tsuru

Highlands Intermediate school

The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
Wednesday, February 9, 2022
10:20 AM VIA Videoconference

Testimony in Support for HB2202

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ambyr Mokiao-Lee and I am the Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD) Statewide Outreach Coordinator, which is part of the ROD Strategic Plan. I am testifying in **support of HB2202, Relating to State Symbols**, which would designate 'ōhi'a lehua (*Metrosideros polymorpha*) the State Endemic Tree of Hawai'i. This is a personal testimony and does not reflect the University of Hawaii's legal stance towards the issue.

This bill seeks to recognize the importance of our most iconic and beloved Hawaiian tree, 'ōhi'a lehua, by designating it as Hawaii's State Endemic Tree. By definition, endemic is something that has evolved over time in a location and is found nowhere else in the world. Our native 'ōhi'a lehua is a true definition of an endemic species and is uniquely Hawaiian. This tree has not only ecological value but it is so entwined with the Hawaiian culture and its peoples and is currently being threatened by a disease that has been decimating forests across our islands.

ROD is caused by a recently discovered fungal disease that infects 'ōhi'a lehua, and is killing 'ōhi'a at an alarming rate. This tree is not only the most abundant tree in our state, but it also serves as the foundation of our native forests, providing much of our water supply that we rely on. Wide-scale loss of the 'ōhi'a forests would be an environmental and economic catastrophe for the state.

Over the past 6 months, I have been working with the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) staff to reach out to K-12th grade students and teachers from across the state and engage them in the legislative process. We have taught them lessons about the importance of 'ōhi'a lehua, ROD, advocacy to over 25 schools across the state. We have been impressed with the dedication and commitment from these teachers and students and their willingness to engage in the legislative process.

The intention of this bill will aid in raising awareness about ROD and the ecological and cultural importance of 'ōhi'a lehua. Without 'ōhi'a, we will not only lose part of a unique and important ecosystem, but more importantly we would lose the function and ability for our systems to create the freshwater that we need to survive here in Hawai'i. The loss of our native forests would also equate to a loss of the cultural identity of the people of Hawai'i. For the reasons stated above, we ask that you pass HB2202 and designate 'ōhi'a lehua as Hawaii's State Endemic Tree. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Mahalo Nui Loa,
Ambyr Mokiao-Lee
ROD Outreach Coordinator
ambyr@hawaii.edu
(808) 989-7222

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:36:51 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Marian M. Chau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

‘Ōhi‘a lehua is the keystone tree of our beloved forests, creating our watersheds, feeding our ‘aina, and nourishing our wailua. This tree deserves recognition, as well as continued support from the government, as we fight the threat of Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death and do our best work to keep ‘ōhi‘a forests healthy.

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:37:14 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Loganne Keamo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Loganne Keamo, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

I am writing this testimony in support of the ‘ōhia bill. The reasons I support this include, it being referred to as the ‘Mama/Mother Tree’, it helps start plant life after a lava flow, it replenishes aquifers, and it is also used for ceremonial purposes. It is often referred to as the ‘Mother Tree’ because it provides shelter, food, water, and they’re often used as nursing logs. Meaning they supply nutrients and food for animals and seedlings. This can

describe them as a keystone species. Also, after a lava flow has destroyed forests and plant life in the area, 'ōhia is often the first plant to start plant life and regrowing. Other plants rely on the 'ōhia to do so, because it breaks the rocks/dried magma to allow other plants to begin to grow again.

Moreover, they replenish aquifers and are often used for ceremonial and cultural purposes. They replenish aquifers by catching water and mist in their canopies, and considering how much it can rain here in Hawai'i they do this job fairly often. But, they are also used for ceremonial and cultural purposes. 'Ōhi'a are a deeply rooted part in Hawaiian culture, they can represent the sacred kinolau of many Hawaiian gods and deities. Their wood is/were also used as the ceremonial structures of temples. The lehua flowers also represent the first warrior to fall in battle. With these reasons it is obvious that 'ōhia are a very important part to the islands in many ways, and have provided multiple uses for locals, past and present.

Sincerely,

Loganne Keamo

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:37:27 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hylee Hueu-Clymer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Hylee Hueu-Clymer, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

I’m writing in support of the ‘ōhia bill. The reasons I support it include: Its cultural significance. These trees play a big role in Hawaiian culture. The ‘ōhia Lehua legend originated from an urban legend passed down from generation to generation, since its appearance is particularly unique. Furthermore, they were used to make necessities and goods in Ancient Hawai’i (weapons, medicine, tapa , etc.)

These trees are also ecologically important. In fact, they are pioneer species, meaning they start forests. Many endangered species seek shelter in these trees, which proves that not only forests rely on them, but animals do too.

By passing this bill, you will not only preserve the significance of the 'ōhia Lehua, but you will also preserve Hawaiian culture for future generations.

Sincerely,

Hylee Hyeu-Clymer

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:38:28 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Brooke-Michelle Okawaki-Chun	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Brooke-Michelle Okawaki-Chun, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

The reason I support this bill is because the ‘ōhia lehua tree is endemic to the state of Hawai’i. When I say endemic I am explaining that this tree is only found in Hawai’i. It was naturally founded here and it has been here for as long as possible. The ‘ōhia lehua tree is also used as habitats for all types of animals/creatures. These animals include honeycreepers, bees, spiders, butterflies, snails, crickets, and more. It was used for a lot of cultural significance such as weapons, kapa, flower leis, and poi pounding. The ‘ōhia lehua tree can also be found as a very valuable water source in the state of Hawai’i.

A few more reasons/facts why this tree deserves a bill consist of how beautiful the blossoms of the tree are. They include bright colors of red, yellow, and even red with peach tips. The ‘ōhia lehua tree has a forest on the island of Hawaii that is becoming scarce, and they also have many mo'olelo/legends made about them too. I truly believe that the ‘ōhia lehua tree deserves a bill at least, its name deserves to be known.

Sincerely,

Brooke-Michelle Okawaki-Chun

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:38:54 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sarah Takase	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Sarah Takase, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

The reason I support this bill includes the cultural background of ‘ōhia, such as the legend/story of how ‘ōhia came to be, why ‘ōhia is very essential to us and ways we use it to help with everyday things.

The legend of ‘ōhia isn't just about a simple tree, it represents and comes from something much more than that. It shows the true meaning and importance of the flower and cultural background of the tree. The story interprets the rebirth of strength and the power and force of love all of which the ‘ōhia gives back to us . ‘ōhia gives back to us in many different ways, we even use it to help run our everyday lives, it's a very valuable water source, leaves are used to create tea, and to create things such as lei's, weapons, the, and many more things.

Sincerely,

Sarah Takase

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:40:47 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kamaile Paaluhi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Kamaile Paaluhi, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

The reason I support this bill is because ‘ōhi‘a lehua is a very special plant because of the weight it holds on the ecosystem and Hawaiian culture.

Not only is 'ōhi'a endemic to Hawaii, 'ōhi'a plays an important niche to the ecosystem. 'ōhi'a is a keystone species, other native animals depend on 'ōhi'a for their source of food and safety. Without 'ōhi'a, the entire ecosystem would perish. At the bottom of the food chain are the plants ('ōhi'a lehua), then the primary consumers (native birds and insects), then the secondary consumers, and at the top tertiary consumers. In a food chain everything depends on one another and balances each other out. The slightest change to one of the things in the food chain could affect the entire ecosystem. Just like in the government, nature follows the same concept that every branch of the government or every part of the ecosystem balances each other out. Taking a branch out of the government or giving one of the branches too much power could potentially ruin the government just as having too much or too little of a species could ruin the ecosystem. Therefore without 'ōhi'a, it would affect the other native species that also hold significance.

Besides the significance 'ōhi'a holds in the environment, it also holds significance in Hawaiian culture. 'ōhi'a lehua has many purposes and is an important part of Hawaiian culture. 'ōhi'a was used for weapons, tools, boards, medicine, leis, etc... 'ōhi'a is even used in songs, and a number of stories. The 'ōhi'a is a pioneer species, so it can survive in harsh conditions, making it one of the first species that grows after a lava flow. For which reason Hawaiians created the legend of 'ōhi'a, that is well known by many. As clearly shown, 'ōhi'a is significant because of the effect it has on the environment and the importance that 'ōhi'a is tied with to Hawaiian culture. Without recognizing the 'ōhi'a and its importance it could potentially affect Hawaii in more ways than one.

Sincerely,

Kamaile Paaluhi

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:41:30 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Yanisa Nakata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Yanisa Nakata am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhiā lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

I’m writing to express my support for the 'Ohi'a bill. The importance ‘ōhi‘a has to nature and its cultural significance are among the reasons I support it. The ‘ōhi‘a tree is endemic to Hawaii, and it is a pioneer and keystone species. Since the tree is endemic to Hawaii, it is only found on the Hawaiian Islands. Because the tree is a pioneer species, it is the first to grow, which in this case means it is the first to grow after a lava flow. Furthermore, as this is a keystone species, meaning many other species rely on it to survive.

The 'ōhi'a tree has cultural significance in the form of being used for myriad purposes, used in Hawaiian mo'olelo, wood which is used to make objects, and being used to create medicine. Because the tree was used for myriad purposes, it refers back to songs, chants, and stories. The tree is also used in Hawaiian mo'olelo, which are native stories told by the native Hawaiians, adding to the tree's cultural significance. The tree's wood is used to make weapons, kapa cloth beaters, poi pounders, and other items. Finally, it is used to create medicine to help the sick and hurt.

Sincerely,

Yanisa Nakata

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:43:05 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
madison nueva	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Madison Nueva, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

The reason I support this bill to make the ‘ōhia tree the state endemic tree is because it has many cultural connections to Hawai’i, being used for things such as kinolau, mo’olelo, mele, and ‘oli. Each part of the tree can be seen as something meaningful. The ohia flower legend of how it came to be is one of the more known and very beautiful love mo'olelo.

The ‘ōhia flower is also very important biologically. It was used as a water and protection source. Creating shelter for animals and capturing water. The wood from the tree is also

useful to us humans, helping with things such as flooring, firewood, decoration, and much more. With these facts, I hope you can consider making this tree the state endemic tree.

Sincerely,

Madison

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:43:45 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Amelia Somera	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Amelia Somera, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

Our Ohia tree is essential to both our Hawaiian culture and ecologically as it serves an important role for protecting organisms and gathering water to provide for our state aquifers. I recently discovered that there are various kinds of threats causing rapid Ohia deaths, showing a dreadful future for life forms from the mountains and to the sea. We need to protect our endemic tree and take this issue seriously. Please consider this bill to protect our beloved state endemic Ohia tree. Thank you and mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Amelia Somera

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:44:15 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Julez Alontaga	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Julez Alontaga am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

I've recently been discussing the Ohia trees in my science class and learning about a disease that could harm the whole Island that I grew up in my whole life is devastating. Culture is extremely important when it comes to islands and since Ohia only grows on the island of Hawaii the possibility of extinction towards Ohia trees is there. I've only just now learned about

Ohi'a trees and everything that's going on but all I know is that it's important to keep these trees alive so I hope these words and many others can help

Sincerely,

Julez Alontaga

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:44:23 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Brennan Nagamine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Brennan Nagamine, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows: The reason I support this bill is because of how important the ‘Ōhi‘a tree is to Hawaii’s environment. Throughout the first two weeks of school after returning from winter break, I have learned that the ‘Ōhi‘a is not just a tree that's part of some of the forests in Hawai'i, but it's also the home to several of Hawaii’s native birds by providing food and shelter for them which means that without the ‘Ōhi‘a tree, probably most of our native birds would die. I have also learned that since the ‘Ōhi‘a tree is a keystone specie, many other species highly depend on it to live, meaning that if we let the ‘Ōhi‘a die and be destroyed by ROD, or also known as Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death, the ecosystem would change drastically. The ‘Ōhi‘a tree is the dominant tree in the wet forests

on all islands meaning that if the 'Ōhi'a dies due to ROD, the forests on all islands would change dramatically. I believe that the 'Ōhi'a tree should become the state endemic tree because many of the 'Ōhi'a trees have died on all of the islands and since its endemic, meaning that it is only found here in Hawaii, if we don't do our best to protect this tree, it would never be found again.

I've also learned that the 'Ōhi'a is really important because of how it ties in with Hawaii's history. The 'Ōhi'a trees were used by ancient Hawaiians for many things and to do many things. For example, they used the wood for kapa cloth beaters, as boards for pounding poi, and for building structures and statues and they would use the flowers for medicinal purposes. I've also learned that the 'Ōhi'a tree is a flower that is born from a legend. I really hope that you will take this bill into consideration as it will not just help the 'Ōhi'a but Hawaii as a whole. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brennan Nagamine

Highlands Intermediate school

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in **support** of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Vy Tran, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree 'ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

Currently I've learned how Rapid Ōhi'a Death (ROD) has been affecting our island by spreading causing the trees' population to decline rapidly. This tree is endemic to Hawaii, which is another reason why it's even more vital to provide help for this tree. If it were to go extinct the effects would be major, such as how many life forms depend on the Ōhi'a tree for shelter and food and without it they'll suffer the causes. Ōhi'a is an important factor for our lives that we depend on as it serves a part in replenishing our aquifers that provide us with our water. Hawaiian culture also will be affected by this as Ōhi'a is important for mo'olelo (stories), mele (songs), and more. This is why it's essential to make the Ōhi'a the Hawaii's state endemic tree to provide the tree with help to fight against Rapid Ōhi'a Death. I hope this bill will be considered to help bring the protections the Ōhi'a currently need. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Vy Tran

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:44:48 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ezekiel Duquez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Ezekiel Duquez, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

I am writing in support of the ‘ōhia lehua bill. The reason I support this bill is because of its cultural and ecological significance. The ‘ōhia lehua tree has flowers that are used to make leis. As you know, leis are a very important part of the Hawaiian culture. The ‘ōhia is used in many songs, chants, and stories. It also had many uses and was very important to ancient Hawaiians. For example, the wood was used to make boards to pound poi, and kapa cloth beaters. The flowers on the other hand, were used for medicinal purposes.

The ‘ōhia tree is also important because it is endemic to Hawaii. The ‘ōhia is also a pioneer species. The tree produces nectar that is used as food for some birds. Many birds also use the tree as a home. With all these reasons, I believe that the ‘ōhia lehua tree should be another one of Hawaii’s symbols. Accepting this bill will not only make the ‘ōhia lehua tree the official endemic tree of Hawaii, it will also save them from being endangered or even extinct. Please take these reasons into consideration. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ezekiel Duquez

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:45:06 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kaitlen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Kaitlen Pagaduan, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

As of late, our school’s science teachers have set up meetings with professionals relating to ROD (Rapid ‘Ohi’a Death) and also showed us documentaries concerning the issue. We’ve learned that ‘ohi’a roots are the first to bloom after lava eruptions—therefore, they are chiefly the reason behind growing forests in Hawai’i. Without ‘ohi’a, our islands would lack the trees to shelter native species (ex. birds, insects) which would significantly impact the ecosystem. Additionally, ‘ohi’a trees are significant to our state aquifers and have an important role in Hawaiian culture. Without this endemic tree, our islands would endanger native species, water

aquifers, and parts of our native culture. Please consider this bill as the 'ohi'a lehua's importance goes deeper than a tree that belongs only to our islands.

Sincerely,

Kaitlen Pagaduan

Highlands Intermediate Student

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:45:25 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Charmaine Morimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill are as follows: The ‘Ohi’a is a very important tree to Hawaii, without it an important part of Hawaiian culture would be gone. If the bill to make it the state tree was passed, then it’d be much more visible by the community, making more people want to conserve and protect the endemic Ohia forests. Ohia is also a very important part of the environment, providing food, shelter, and even preventing floods by absorbing excess water. Ohia is also very commonly used in building materials, due to its high quality and availability.

It is imperative that Ohia forests are protected so that the future citizens of Hawaii can prevent ecological disaster.

Sincerely, a Highlands Intermediate school student

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:45:30 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Angelyn Chan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Angelyn Chan, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Ohia is an endemic state tree in Hawaii that is important to the culture. It is also ecologically important for it to replenish the island's aquifer and provide food and shelter for birds and other organisms. I've recently discovered that the Ohia tree is infected by a fungal species (Ceratomyces Fimbriata) and may go extinct. This is why it is essential to work together and help reduce the spread of the Rapid Ohia Death, along with spreading awareness and support for Hawaii's Ohia forests.

Sincerely,

Angelyn Chan

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:45:39 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
John Mandia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, John Carlos Mandia, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows: In class, I have recently learned that the “ohia’ endemic tree is super important because of how it serves as a shelter for native birds, snails, and insects. I have also recently learned that they’re used for Hawaiian culture in mo’olelo (stories), mele (songs), and ‘oli (chants). I also recently learned that they’re many threats to Rapid “Ohia’ Death and a rust that endanger the species which would be devastating because I also want future generations to see our beloved Ohi’a. I hope you will consider this bill as it will help to bring protections for our beloved Ohi’a. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Carlos Mandia

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:13:17 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joshua Chang	Highlands Intermediate	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Joshua Chang am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

The tree blooms colors which look beautiful. The tree is also the only tree that grows where lava flowed in the land which helps start forests in the area. The flowers can be used to paint. The wood was used to make kapa cloth beaters used for boards for pounding poi. The wood was also used to make building structures and statues. The flowers can be used for medicinal purposes. The nectar can feed Hawaii’s native birds. They also come in different shapes and sizes all endemic to Hawaii. The ‘ōhia tree is found in mo’olelo, meles, and oli so the tree is already culturally known in Hawaii. The tree is also a keystone species so we should protect the tree or else the ecosystem will change a lot.

Sincerely,

Joshua Chang

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:45:42 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jaslene Vierra	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Jaslene Vierra, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows: ‘Ōhi‘a Testimony

The reason I support this bill is because of the cultural significance and is a keystone species. To begin, the ‘Ōhi‘a has lots of cultural significance to Hawaii, like the background and how people use it. ‘Ōhi‘a can be used in many various ways like creating weapons, making lays, making tea, kappa cloth, pounding boards for koi, and so much more. Not only, taking away the many resources, it also has an old legend behind how ‘Ōhi‘a first grew. Basically how Pele got rejected by this man and got turned into a tree and his lover also turned into a tree to be with her lover (lover became into ‘Ōhi‘a). In addition, ‘Ōhi‘a is a keystone species. Lots of birds actually depend on ‘Ōhi‘a by feeding on the flower and the seeds. Also, removing/transferring ‘Ōhi‘a can be very dangerous and may cause many risks like diseases. ‘Ōhi‘a is not only a keystone species but it's also endemic, pioneer species, water source, and etc. These are reasons why I support the bill because of the culture it represents and how it is a very dependent species.

Sincerely,

Jaslene Vierra

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:47:18 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shyanne Lee Sesoko	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, (Shyanne Lee) am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

Relating to State Endemic Tree which would designate “ohi’a lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawai’i.

This tree is very important to Hawaii because it makes our water supply. It gives us clean water that we use every single day. Ohia trees also gives nectar producing flowers to Native Hawaiian birds such as Akohetohe and Apapane. Other dozens of species would also feed off the ohia tree. If we don't save Ohia we could die.

Sincerely,

Shyanne Lee Sesoko

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:48:36 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alicen Ichimura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Alicen Ichimura, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree 'ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows: I recently noticed our Ohia tree population has been declining due to the spread of Rapid Ohia death (ROD). This endemic species of hawaii has a big impact on our island ecosystems and ways we live. This tree species is only found here in Hawaii which makes it even more special. Our water system, wildlife, and way of life will struggle to thrive if we don't care about this problem now. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alicen Ichimura

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:49:04 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ravyn Cablay	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Ravyn Cablay, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows: I support this bill because as a person living in Hawai‘i it is still important to care for this environment and the things going on around me. For the past week and a half in science we have been educating ourselves on the destruction of the ohi‘a trees, watching documentaries, listening to speakers from UH, and researching the tree. We learned that this tree is the first to grow after lava rock as cooled, they make up the biggest portion of the canopy in native wet forests, we use them for flooring and wood products, and their canopies gather the rainfall and mists which then replenish our water aquifers. These examples show why the trees are so important and why we shouldn’t let them go.

Sincerely,

Ravyn Cablay

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:50:32 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
saimone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Saimonepita Mafi, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii. I recently learned that ohia is important to hawaiians and their land. ‘Ōhia is an endemic pioneer keystone species in Hawaii.

As a pioneer plant, it is one of the first plants to grow on a cooled lava field. The roots of ‘ōhia help prepare the area for future plant species to begin growing. It provides food and shelter for different insects and snails. I also recently learned about rapid ‘Ohi’a death and rust that endanger the species. I hope you examine this bill as it will help protect our ‘Ohi’a. Thank you for listening

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

Sincerely,

Saimone mafi

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:50:42 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Aaron Zeus	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Aaron Zeus, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

The Reason I support this bill is as follows: The Ohi'a Bill is because Ohi'a is important to the native birds in Hawaii such as the Apapane and 'Akohekohe which get the nectar from the flowers on the Ohi'a. Another reason Ohi'a is important is that the trees capture/collect rainwater that replenish our island aquifers, which provide drinking water for Hawai'i's communities. It's also an endemic tree which is only found in Hawaii and nowhere else.

Sincerely,

Aaron Zeus

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:50:52 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lorrie Ito	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

The reason I support this bill is because it has recently come to my attention how important Ohia trees are, not only to the ecosystem, but also to Hawaii's culture. The Ohia tree is symbolic in many stories, songs, and chants, in addition to it being the manifestation of many gods like Pele and Laka. If we were to ignore the factors threatening its existence, like Rapid Ohia Death, we'd be disregarding our own culture. In addition, the Ohia tree is also a vital plant for many of our native animals, if the Ohio were to go extinct, it would wreak havoc in our natural habitat.

I hope you will support this bill. if you recognize how important the Ohio tree is in both our culture and ecosystem, you'll support the effort to protect it.

Sincerely,

Lorrie Ito

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:49:47 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lexi Morisako	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Lexi Morisako, am in support of the HB2202, relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate “ohi’a lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawai’i. The reason I support this bill is because the Ohia tree is very important to Hawaiian culture. The Ohia tree had songs, chants, and physical manifestations made about it. Also, it’s used in everyday life and is very common. For example, Ohia trees are being used for flooring, house posts, decoration, framing and firewood.

Sincerely,

Lexi Morisako

Highlands Intermediate Student

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:52:56 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
sarai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senate

Committee on Water and Land

January 20, 2022

State Capitol

Testimony in Support of (SB2059)

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee.

I, sarai manufekai , and in support of the ('Ohi'a Bill) , relating to State Endemic Tree which would designate "ohi'a lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawai'i.

I support it because it is very important to our island. It'll have a great impact on the island if it goes extinct so we have to do something about it. We already see military families having water problems. Ohia trees also provide for the animals. bees and butterflies feed off of it and we also see the flowers used in hula. it's used as a cultural thing and it may have an impact on the hula dancers.

Sincerely,

Sarai manufekai

Highlands Intermediate Student

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:56:13 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
kalen kao	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Kalen am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ohia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows: Recently we have been discussing about the ohia trees like watching documentaries and learning about the legend of the ohia trees and i learned that the ohia tree is vital to our ecosystems all over hawaii. One of the reasons the ohia lehua is very important is that it is home to many native insects and are a great source of food for birds. Ohia lehua trees also absorb water and replenish aquifers by doing so , they also release water through their leaves back into the air adding more water to the clouds and are released as rainfall. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kalen kao

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:06:08 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Leinani Lozi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kākou, I fully support the ‘Ōhi‘a Lehua being made the Hawai‘i State tree. It is native to Hawai‘i unlike the kukui, meaning that it has evolved over generations to adapt and belong to Hawai‘i specifically. Therefore it is more Hawaiian than the Polynesian introduced Kukui. Furthermore, the ‘ōhi‘a lehua is dying. It suffers from Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death, two types of fungus that destroy the tree from the inside out. This fungal infection is preventable but low funding of outreach within conservation organizations make it nearly impossible to educate the entire state on this issue. If the ‘Ōhi‘a Lehua was designated as the state tree then students would learn about how to care for it earlier in their schooling. I sincerely hope you will consider this bill and the change it is asking for. Mahalo nui, Leinani

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:09:32 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hokuokahalelani Pihana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Mai Kākou,

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony for HB2202 to designate ‘Ōhi‘a as the state endemic tree. As, Kanaka ‘Ōiwi and Kia‘i ‘Āina, ‘Ōhi‘a hold significant value to Hawai‘i nei culturally and ecologically. Providing this designation to ‘Ōhi‘a will enable us to perpetuate it’s presence across Hawai‘i and sustain our native forests for our future. E Ola Nā ‘Ōhi‘a, E Ola Nā Ulu La‘au Hawai‘i. E Mālama.

Na‘u,

Hōkū Pihana

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:14:59 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nicole Antos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The House of Representatives

Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs

February 9th, 2022

10:30 am., Conference Room 329 via Videoconferencing

State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 2202

Aloha e Chair Cedric Asuego Gates, Vice Chair Adrian K. Tam, and Members of the Committee,

I, Nicole Antos, am in support of HB 2202 which would create a new state symbol (the State Endemic Tree) and would designate ‘Ōhi’ā Lehua as our State Endemic Tree.

I work for Kupu as an environmental education leader. My students and I believe that Ōhi’ā Lehua is the most important tree in our watershed, and is also one of the most important trees to Hawaiian Culture. Ōhi’ā Lehua is a cornerstone species in our forests and is also one of the main water gatherers. Without Ōhi’ā Lehua, we have no water..

Today, Ōhi’ā Lehua is facing a very serious threat– an invasive fungus called Ceratocystis. It has been nicknamed “Rapid Ōhi’ā Death.”

Ōhi’ā Lehua is an extremely important tree to our Native Ecosystems and to Hawaiian Culture. Ōhi’ā Lehua deserves all the attention and honor. By designating Ōhi’ā Lehua as our state endemic tree, Ōhi’ā Lehua would get the honor it deserves. This action would also

highlight Ōhi'a Lehua's importance and highlight the threats it's facing. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nicole Antos

Kupu- Environmental Education Leader

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:35:10 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jaymerson Ryan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Jaymerson Ryan , am in support of HB2202, relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate "ohi'a lehua " as the state endemic tree of Hawai'i.

The reason I support this bill is because the Ohia is a cornerstone tree providing for other species besides itself, it is native to Hawaii and has a deep connection to Hawaiian culture. It has been used for everyday construction and was used in the past to create weapons, kapa cloth beaters, boards for pounding poi, enclosures, and statues. We do not have a state endemic tree so wouldn't the O'hia tree be fit for it?

Mahalo,

Jaymerson Ryan

Highlands Intermediate Student

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:35:42 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Catherine Yi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Catherine Yi, am in support of HB2202, relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate "ohi'a lehua" as the state endemic tree of Hawai'i.

It has recently come to my attention that 'ōhi'a is a pioneer keystone species in Hawaii that serves as food and shelter for other numerous endemic species, provide the communities in Hawaii with safe drinking water, and the wood of 'ōhi'a trees has many purposes including the creation of furniture, flooring and much more which contributes to the economic importance of the 'ōhi'a trees. I've also recently discovered that there are several threats to the 'ōhi'a trees such as Rapid 'Ohi'a Death which would cause a devastating blow to the economy as well as the wildlife who rely on the 'ōhi'a trees. I hope you will consider this bill as it would help provide protection for our 'ōhi'a trees. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Catherine Yi

Highlands Intermediate Student

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:36:51 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Marina Vowell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Marina Vowell, am in support of the HB2202, relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate "ohi'a lehua " as the state endemic tree of Hawai'i.

The reason I support this bill is because I have recently learned that the Ohia Tree is a very important endemic pioneer keystone species. It is the home for many species of birds, such as the rare and endangered akiapolaau species, and home to many insects.

Another reason why I support this bill is because it means alot to the cultural aspect of Hawaii. For starters, the tree is deeply woven into Hawaiian culture. The tree is told through mo'olelo (stories), mele (songs), and oli (chants). These stories are passed on from generation to generation, thus telling the importance of the Ohia tree. The tre also served as a sacred Kinolau, or physical manifestation of multiple Hawaiian deities. Some of which include Ku, the god of war and manifestations, Laka, god of hula, Pele, god of volcanoes, Hiiaka, the sister of Pele, and Kane, the god of water. Not to mention the wood is used for many ceremonial structures on heiau, or temples. Finally, the red lehua, the blossoms of the ohia tree, is seen as a reflection of the bloodshed of war. With many wars throughout Hawaii's history, you could see why the flowers would be important.

In conclusion, this is why the Ohia Tree should be made the state endemic tree.

Sincerely,

Marina Vowell

Highlands Intermediate Student

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:38:14 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Elijah Ladera	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Elijah Ladera, am in support of HB2202, relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate “ohi’a lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawai’i.

I’ve learned that the Ohia tree is very important to Hawaii. The Ohia Tree is a keystone species, as the forest relies heavily on it. It also helps replenish the state aquifers. A fungus called Rapid Ohia Death is threatening these trees and has already caused over 1 million of them to die. I hope you consider this bill as it will help raise awareness towards the Ohia Tree.

Sincerely,

Elijah Ladera

Highlands Intermediate Student

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:38:32 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Aiko Josephine Lochmann	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Aiko Lochmann, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

The reason I support this bill is because it is a keystone species. It serves as a sacred kinolau which is a physical manifestation, and it is culturally important as a tree.

Sincerely,

Aiko Lochmann

Highlands Intermediate Student

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:39:35 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Caylee Lucas	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Caylee Lucas, am in support of the HB2202, relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate “ohi’a lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawai’i. I support it because the Ohia tree is really important to Hawaii and our environment and Hawaii is very important so me so I wanna take care of my environment.

The reason I support this bill is because the Ohia tree is an important tree for Hawaii’s environment and is used for shelter and food for other animals including the ‘apapane and the ‘i’iwi, the Ohia is also used for irrigating Hawaii’s water for our communities and agricultural center which can be used for drinking. The Ohia is also important to Hawaii since it’s important to our culture and symbology for many Hawaiin gods and goddesses which is why it’s important to Hawaii. Lastly the Ohia is also used for houses, flooring,

decoration, and traditional firewood/hale. In my reasoning, this proves that the Ohia tree is the most useful Hawaiin tree for our island, culture, and buildings.

Sincerely,

Caylee Lucas

Highlands Intermediate Student

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:39:57 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kalyn Toyama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I, Kalyn Toyama , am in support of HB2202, relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate “ohi’a lehua ” as the state endemic tree of Hawai’ii.

The reason I support this bill is because of what I’ve recently learned about ohia. Ecologically and culturally, ohia stands as one of the most vital important trees of Hawaiian forests. The ohia plays an important role in Hawaii's forest, providing food and shelter for all the native birds and insects. The ohia’s trunk supplies the nutrients and water which replenishes our island aquifers and which is why it provides irrigation water for Hawaii's communities. There’s also some threats to the ohia and one of them is a disease called Rapid Ohia Death which has been a threat to the ohia trees statewide, already killing hundreds of thousands of them. The loss of the ohia trees would be tragic not only to the forest but also to our Hawaiian traditions. I hope you’ll accept this bill to help bring safety to our ohia. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kalyn Toyama

Highlands Intermediate Student

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:40:05 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cosette Kaminske	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Cosette Kaminske, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

The reason why I think the Ohia tree should be designated as the state endemic tree is because one, it's always been deeply woven into Hawaiian cultures. Whether that be by the stories or songs (etc) or things like ceremonial structures. Even being the physical manifestations of multiple Hawaiian deities such as the god of war and manifestations, god of water, sister of Pele, and so on. It has always provided for people and even animals alike with things like shelter or even food for insects. By making the Ohia tree the state endemic tree it would allow awareness of the slowly declining population of the tree and get people to help take action.

Sincerely,

Cosette Kaminske

Highlands Intermediate Student

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:40:46 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
jacob	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Jacob Kambe, am in support of tHB2202, relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate “ohi’a lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawai’i.

The reason I support this bill is because the Ohi’a tree is only found in Hawaii and is also a cornerstone tree. Many animals such as ‘akiapola’av which is endangered/ rare, make their home in the Ohi’a. It it also provided drinking water and irrigation for Hawaiians. It is deeply woven into Hawaiian culture and bold thought stories,songs and chants.

In conclusion, this is why the ‘ohi’a tree should be made the state endemic tree.

Sincerely,

Jacob Kambel

Highlands Intermediate Student

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:40:58 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Danica	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Danica Takemoto, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

The reason I support this bill is because not only has the Ohia tree helped to benefit people and animals' lives such as a habitat for native birds, the Ohia tree has provided a purpose all around hawaii. I've learned a lot recently about the ohia tree and its importance as an endemic tree that is only found in hawaii. The Ohia has served its purpose such as it's roots of the tree to help prepare the area for future plant species to begin it's stage of growing. It provides food and shelter for apapane, i'iwi, insects, and snails. The trunks of the tree act as nurse logs, providing and supplying nutrients, water or protection for native seedlings and epiphytes. Also, Ohia trees have become a very important cultural significance with a symbolic representation of mo'olelo (stories), mele (songs) and 'oli (chants). 'Ōhi'a serves

as the sacred kinolau (physical manifestations). It's been brought to my attention that another cause of threatening to the trees was the Rapid Ohia Death that endangered many species. I hope you take into consideration the creation of this bill to have protection for the ohia tree. Mahalo for your time.

Sincerely,

Danica Takemoto

Highlands Intermediate School (Grade 8)

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:41:01 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alleanna Alexa Catriz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Alleanna Alexa Catriz, am in support of the `Ohi`a tree, relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate "ohi`a lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawai`i.

The reason I support this bill is because the `Ohi`a tree is important to the Hawaiian community. First, `Ohi`a trees make up the largest portion of the canopy wet forests. Next, the `Ohi`a tree was used for flooring, house posts, decoration, framing of traditional hale, and firewood. It's even the first plant to grow on a cooled lava! Next, the `Ohi`a tree provides shelter and food for numerous native birds and other native animals. They are very important to humans because their canopy captures mist and rainwater that replenish the island's aquifers. Aquifers that are our source of drinking water and for agriculture. Lastly, it is woven deeply into Hawaiian culture through symbology in mo`olelo. `Ohi`a even serve the sacred kinalou of multiple deities such as ku (god of

manifestation. These are some the reasons why the `Ohi'a tree should be an endemic state tree.

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:41:40 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Micah Ynigues	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Micah Ynigues, am in support of the HB2202, relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate “ohi’a lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawai’i.

Recently over 1 million or 20% of Ohi’i trees have been infected and killed due to ROD (Rapid Ohi’i Death). ROD or Rapid Ohi’i Death is caused by a beetle which infects the tree’s causing the tree to slowly be infected and eventually die because of the tree not obtaining water. To prevent this, we propose a bill helping to prevent the doom of our endangered tree, the Ohi’i. This bill will support the tree’s by having them be secured in a safe location rather than the tree’s be left in the wild and slowly die out over the course of time.

Sincerely,

Micah Ynigues

Highlands Intermediate Student

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:47:40 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mia Higashionna	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Mia Higashionna, am in support of the HB2202, relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate "ohi'a lehua " as the state endemic tree of Hawai'i. The reason I support this bill is because their canopies capture mists and rainwater that replenish our island's aquifer which provides drinking and irrigation for Hawaii's communities and agriculture sector. Also it provides food and shelter for animals like 'i'iwi, 'apapane, and more.

There are fungus that have been killing the 'Ohia tree by cutting off their water supply. Symptoms don't show until 2 years after it's infected. The 'Ohia trees are slowly dying out and without it we won't have clean water to drink and animals won't have a food source or shelter. I hope you will consider this bill. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mia Higashionna

Highlands Intermediate Student

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:50:07 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Caleb Colmenares	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Caleb Colmenares, support this bill because the Ohi'a tree is a very important part of Hawaiian culture. It gathers lots of water for Hawaii's aquifers, keeping the citizens hydrated and living. I have been educated about Rapid Ohi'a Death, threatening the life of most Ohi'a trees. If they become extinct, some animals won't have homes, and we could run short on water. This bill will help protect the Ohi'a tree and keep it from dying out.

Sincerely,

Caleb Colmenares

Highlands Intermediate 8th Grader

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:50:28 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Angel Mya Lorenzo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Angel Mya Loreno, am in support of the HB2202, relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate “ohi’a lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawai’i.

The reason I support this bill is because the Ohia tree has enormous effects on several nations and toward Hawaiian culture. The Ohia tree was utilized to be woven in Hawaiian culture sings, stories, chants, and physical manifestations. It was additionally utilized for flooring, house posts, fencing, decoration, farming, and firewood. Also not only this but it was one of the first plants to grow on a cooled lava field.

Sincerely,

Angel Mya Lorenzo

Highlands Intermediate Student

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:53:38 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
zjharyah kumos-kaauamo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Zjahryah Kumos-Kaauamo , am in support of the HB2202, relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate ohia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawai'i. The reason I support this bill is because the ohia tree has huge impacts on many people and towards Hawaiian culture. The 'ohia tree was used to be woven in Hawaiian culture songs,stories,chants,and physical manifestations. It was also used for flooring,house posts,fencing,decoration,farming,and firewood.

Sincerely,

Zjahryah Kumos-Kaauamo

Highlands Intermediate Student

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:55:14 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
dreyten	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Dreyten Anguay, am in support of the HB2202, relating to the State Endemic Tree which would designate “ohi’a lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawai’i.

The reason I support this bill is because the tree is dying at a fast rate. Also because we can still use it for materials. Another reason is so we can keep this native tree in the world. To also keep this tree up and running for a long time coming.

Sincerely,

Drteyten Anguay

Highlands Intermediate Student

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:57:10 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hailey Hernandez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:00 AM

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 329 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Testimony In Support of HB 2202

Dear Representative Cedric Asuega Gates,

I, Hailey Hernandez, am in support of HB 2202, wanting the state endemic tree of Hawaii to be the Ohi'a Lehua. I learned that the Ohi'a Lehua is very important to Hawaii. For example, it is one of Hawaii's major water sources. It also is important to the native birds. It is the native birds' food and shelter, so without the tree the birds will die. With rapid Ohi'a Lehua death a lot of the land from the mountain to the sea will die. I hope you consider this bill and help protect the Ohi'a Lehua. Mahalo for consideration.

Aloha,

Hailey Hernandez

Cool KID

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:57:33 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Camden Hernandez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 329 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Testimony in support of SB 2202

Dear Representative Cedric Asuega Gates,

I, Camden Hernandez, am in support of HB 000. Wanting to change the state endemic tree to the Ohi'a Lehua.

I learned that the Ohi'a Lehua is very important to our ecosystem. They help our native birds, water gatherers, and are important to Hawaiian culture. I have learned that there is Rapid Ohi'a Lehua death and is now causing some of our native birds to be endangered. It is also killing a lot of other plants and things all over the mountains. Please consider this bill as it will protect the native Ohi'a Lehua and all the other things that need it to survive. Mahalo for considering helping the Ohi'a Lehua.

Sincerely,

Camden Hernandez

Super Cool Chick

HTA, Grade 8th

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:02:48 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Finn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 TIME: 10:30 AM PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 329 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

I, Finn Matsuoka, am in support of HB2202: relating to state symbols, which would designate Ohia Lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Over 175,000 acres of forest contain 'ohi'a showing symptoms of rapid 'ohi'a death disease on the island of Hawaii. We want to make 'ohi'a our state endemic tree so we can protect it more.

'Ohi'a plays a big part in the environment and culture of Hawaii. It is one of the most important trees for native Hawaiian birds such as 'Apapane and 'Akohekohe, which get their food from nectar producing flowers.

Ohia's sturdy wood was used to create weapons, kapa cloth beaters, boards for pounding poi, enclosers and statues; They also used its leaves as medical tea. That is why we should make Ohia a state endemic tree.

Sincerely,

Finn Matsuoka

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:07:58 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Thatcher Brodhagen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Thatcher Brodhagen, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

I believe that the Ohia lehua tree should be the state endemic tree of Hawai'i because they are vital for life on Hawaii. They replenish the aquifers that we draw water from by collecting water on their leaves, and they provide homes for untold numbers of insects and snails. They are vital for forests, and they are often the first plants to grow on cooled lava, which provides the foundations for new forests. Without these trees, life on Hawaii would be much more difficult. Most importantly, they are only found in Hawaii. Making the ohia lehua the state endemic tree could raise awareness for Rapid Ohia Death, which is the largest threat to the ohia lehua trees at this moment.

Sincerely,

Thatcher Brodhagen

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:09:20 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Travis Ohta	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Travis Ohta am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

I learned that the ohi’a is a very important part of Hawaii.It is endemic to Hawaii.It represents Hawaii and also attracts tourists. The leaves of the tree are used to make up Hawaiian cultures such as Hula, dancing. Without ohi’a hawaii’s culture will have no more. The rapit infection of Ohia trees is spreading at a fast pace. Someone needs to take action to save the Hawaii tree.

Sincerely,

Travis Ohta

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:09:36 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Delilah	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Delilah Alarcon, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

As a member of the Military Family community, we have gone through a water crisis involving red hill. So I am very aware how important sources of water are. The ‘Ohi’a tree is also a huge part of Hawai’i culture and I understand that the more I learn about it. I understand the ‘Ohi tree is a keystone species in the ecosystems of Hawai’i, if we make it the Endemic Tree of Hawai’i there will be more demand for saving it. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Delilah Alarcon

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:09:47 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lily Corpuz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair DATE:

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 329 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Testimony in Support of HB2022

Aloha Chair Cedric Asuega Gates and Vice Chair Adrian K. Tam

I, Lily Corpuz, agree in terms of HB2022, relating to the state endemic tree, which would be the Ohia Lehua.

The ohia lehua serves a huge role in Hawaiian culture, is fundamental in our ecosystem and essential in gathering water for our local aquifers. I am aware of the many threats involving Rapid Ohia death, and of the fungus called ceratocystis fimbriata, the vascular wilt fungus. Without Ohia, numerous species of plants and animals might die, because of the perfect habitat it gives. The Ohia is also a primary source of water; it catches water in the leaves and branches, which then drains into our aquifers. The Hawaiians sing songs, chants, and tell stories about this plant and have for generations. It is such a beautiful tree, and a foundation for Hawaii. I would hate for generations to not be able to learn and see for themselves this magnificent plant.

Sincerely,

Lily Corpuz

Citizen of Hawaii

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:10:14 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tiani Giffard-Cordeiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Tiani Giffard-Cordeiro am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

Dear congressman, the reason I support this bill is because i think that the ‘ōhia tree should be the state endemic tree. It’s always the first tree to grow on a lava field and it has many good qualities that helps are mokupuni and the kaiaulu like. The roots of ‘ōhia helps prepare the area for future plant species to begin growing. Their canopies capture mists and rainwater that replenish our island aquifers, which provide drinking and irrigation water to drink. the wood of the tree is used to build houses, make furniture, canoes and the

flowers are used in hula. The 'ōhia tree takes a a big role in the hawaiian legends and i think we should keep the tree alive.

Sincerely,

Tiani Giffard-Cordeiro

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:10:31 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Trevis Corpuz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Trevis Corpuz, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

The ‘ōhia is an incredible tree and should be our state endemic tree. This tree is very important to Hawaiian culture. The tree is used in hula and other Hawaiian traditions. It would mean a lot to the culture if it was the state’s tree. This tree is also only in Hawaii. If the tree is no where else that is special and deserves some kind of attention. This tree helps our forest grow by sheltering and supplying nutrients to insects and animals. Many

animals depend on this tree and if the tree doesn't exist then the animals will go extinct. Not only does it help animals but it also helps provide drinking water for us. It's wood also provides shelter for us too.

Sincerely,

Trevis Corpuz

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:10:45 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jaycie Kamakani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Jaycie Kamakani, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii. To the Hawaiian culture of this island, this tree is very important to us as well as endemic to our people. This tree provides stories and legends, materials to use, and even a home to native animals. The ‘Ohi’a tree is very important to Hawaii as they can only be found here in the islands as they are very sacred to us and its ecosystem. Not only does this tree represent Hawaii, but it also makes an economic difference to the land such as having tourists, as they are our main source of income. The ‘Ohi’a tree not only does that but is needed to save us all as our supply of water can be renewed and can be healthy once more. I hope to see that this bill will help our island and protect the ‘Ohi’a tree once more. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jaycie Kamakani

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:11:02 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Adriel Jonas Garrido	Highlands Intermediate School	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Adriel Garrido, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

The ‘ōhia trees are endemic to Hawaii, yet it is not well-known. This means it is found nowhere else but the Hawaiian islands. It is also a keystone species that starts a new ecosystem and without it, the ecosystem would cease to exist. The trees are major water collectors, like giant sponges that fill the aquifers. However, Rapid ‘Ōhia Death (ROD), a fungus that easily spreads among the open wounds of the ‘ōhia trees, threatens the ‘ōhia population. It cuts off the trees’ water supply in the short span of days or weeks and has already infected over 20% of the forests.

If ROD spreads onto all the ‘ōhia trees, the whole ecosystem would fall apart due to its importance to nature. The trees provide food and shelter for many bird species and humans also have many uses for the trees. The wood is used for kapa cloth beaters, board pounding poi, and structures and statues. People even use the flowers for medicinal purposes. Therefore, the loss of the native ‘ōhia species due to ROD will negatively affect the people, as well as the rest of the ecosystem. If the ‘ōhia tree becomes the state endemic tree, it would spread awareness and more people would take charge to help save our ‘ōhia.

Sincerely,

Adriel Garrido

Highlands Intermediate School

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:11:23 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Reece Maruyama	Highlands Intermediate School	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Reece Maruyama, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill are as follows: I support this bill for the ‘ōhia lehua to become the state endemic tree because it is an incredible tree. It is incredible for many reasons, such as its cultural significance to Hawaii, its many abilities and purposes, and its beautiful appearance and structure. The ‘ōhia lehua is endemic to Hawaii and is a keystone species. It is currently experiencing Rapid ‘Ōhia Death (ROD) that is killing the trees. So far, ROD has killed around 1 million trees, it enters through wounds and cuts off the water supply. The ‘ōhia lehua comes from a legend, a story, like Santa or the Easter bunny. This story is about a handsome man named Ōhia who was loved by the goddess Pele. Unfortunately for

Pele, ‘Ōhia had his eyes on a woman named Lehua, who also had eyes for him. In fury, Pele turned ‘Ōhia into a twisted, gnarled tree, Lehua was heartbroken and she begged for Pele to reverse it, when she refused, Lehua looked to the other gods, in compromise, they turned her into a beautiful flower so ‘Ōhia and Lehua could be together forever. This story shows the significance and impact the ‘ōhia lehua has on the people of Hawaii.

The ‘ōhia lehua was used by Ancient Hawaiians to make kapa cloth beaters, poi pounding boards, and it was used to make structures and statues. The flowers were used for medicinal purposes and the flower’s nectar was used to feed native birds. It is referenced in many songs, chants, and stories. It comes in many different sizes, shapes, and colors, most commonly scarlet red, but sometimes in salmon, garnet, yellow, and even white. It can grow in extremely harsh environments and is very durable. The ‘ōhia lehua can be found from shores to mountains and it is referred to as the “Tree of Life” to birds, spiders, butterflies, and beetles. The ‘ōhia lehua has such cultural significance and it deserves more recognition.

Sincerely,

Reece Maruyama

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:11:42 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joshua-Axel De Guzman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Recently, I have been noticing how important the ‘Ohi’ a Tree is to Hawaii. The ‘Ohi’ a tree is only native to Hawaii, making it the Hawaii state tree, making it special, telling us a lot about native legends and stories of this island, but now it’s dying. We’ve learned about Rapid Ohi’ a Death and how it’s killing off the trees. This would have a big impact on Hawaii because of how it would not only affect the people of Hawaii, it would also impact wildlife and our water supply. I feel that we should help stop this Rapid ‘Ohi’ a Death. I’m not sure how we can but I’m sure we can find a way. I really do hope that this bill can help Hawaii and the ‘Ohi’ a tree.

Sincerely,

Joshua-Axel De Guzman

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:11:57 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tyler Stokes	HTA	Support	No

Comments:

I Tyler stokes think that we should make ohia the state endemic tree, for many reasons some of them being that is the natural habitat for native birds, another reason is that it is beautiful and make up some of our forests and it may also help the economy in a roundabout way because it is a beautiful plant that may bring in tourist and help local businesses like my dads, Kauai pasta.

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:12:00 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Naomi Manmano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Naomi Manmano, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

Remember those stories about Santa, easter bunny, or even the tooth fairy? These are the things you believed in as a kid, and were told stories about. What proof is there that these things you believed in as a kid are more important and worth saving than the ‘ōhia lehua tree? This is how the people of Hawaii see the ‘ōhia tree. Everyone was told stories about how the ‘ōhia tree was a big important part of the Hawaiian past and it is a part of the

future. It is something that is a bedtime story to all the kids to teach them about the past of this place we live in. The ‘ōhia lehua tree played an important role in how Hawaii would be today. The importance of it to our past economy, and all the lessons about economy that we learned. Like everything in life, ‘ōhia gives us stories and lessons to tell all the future generations.

‘Ōhi‘a lehua is a prime part of the rainforests of Hawaii, it is the keystone of the ecosystems here. They help all the plant and animal life here thrive and grow to eventually help us as humans live here. They help us as humans collect water to live here on this island, and to just survive. Water is important to us and essential, like ‘ōhia is important and essential to the rainforests and ecosystems. This tree is endemic, once it is gone. It is gone forever, and there is nowhere else you can find it. It’s almost like a person, once that one person is gone. It is irreplaceable because it was one of a kind, and it was important to everyone and everything around it. These are some of the many reasons why I am in support of this bill to make ‘ōhia lehua the endemic tree of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Naomi Manmano

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:12:09 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jemaredd Baguio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in **support** of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Jemaredd Baguio, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

The ‘Ōhia Lehua Tree is endemic to Hawaii, meaning that it is ONLY found here in Hawaii. No other place in the world has this special tree. The ‘Ōhia tree is deeply involved with Hawaiian culture: they were used in hula dances to evoke or inspire gods and to enhance their story telling. They made lei’s and adornments out of the lehua blossoms or buds. The ‘Ōhia branches were used to create traditional kalauu, or dancing sticks. The wood was used as a kappa cloth beater, boards for pounding poi, and for structures & statues.

Not only was the 'Ōhia tree very versatile and used for many things, but it also has a great impact on Hawaii's ecosystem: "Where lava grows, flowers grow." The 'Ōhia tree is a pioneer plant, meaning that it is one of the first plants to colonize barren habitats. Thanks to the 'Ōhia, it helps create forests, thus causing wildlife to move into these forests. 'Ōhia trees provide shelter and food for a variety of native birds, such as the endemic Hawaiian honeycreepers like the 'apapane and i'iwi. But unfortunately, there's a disease called "Rapid-'Ōhia-Death" that is quickly wiping out the 'ōhia tree population. Hundreds upon thousands of trees have been affected and killed. ROD isn't only affecting trees but it's also affecting the wildlife inhabiting those trees. The loss of this tree would have a negative impact to not only native forests and their inhabitants, but also to Hawaii's culture and storytelling.

Sincerely,

Jemaredd Baguio

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:12:26 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Timothy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Timothy Iha am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

Currently we are in a water crisis and we currently need as much water as possible. I learned in class that the Ohia is a big part of our water cycle and without it we wouldn't be able to get most of our clean water we find in our aquifers. For all the military families who serve us we should at least make sure that the future families don't get polluted water by making sure that the trees which provide us with clean water don't go extinct. The tree is not only important to our water supply but is also an endemic tree to hawaii.

Sincerely,

Timothy Iha

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:12:37 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Briana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Briana Campos, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

When I found out the the ‘ohia trees were dying my first thought was how upsetting it must be to the people of hawaii to see not just some tree dying, but to be losing something that is special to hawaii not only for the fact that the ohia can only be found on hawaii and is the state endemic tree. but the ohia is important for the culture of hawaii, and also for the environment like the animals such as the hawaiian bird the Apapane that depend on the flowers that grow from the tree to get nectar from it. I hope that you will at least consider helping out the ‘ohi’a, Thank you for your time and consideration Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Briana Campos

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2022

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:26:09 AM

Testimony for HSG on 2/10/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Meagan Corpuz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair DATE:

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 329 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Testimony in support of HB2022

Aloha Chair Cedric Asuega Gates and Vice Chair Adrian K. Tam

I, Meagan Corpuz, agree in terms of HB2022, relating to the state endemic tree, which would be the Ohia Lehua.

The ohia lehua is an important part of Hawaiian culture, as well as a vital component of our ecology and a source of water for our local aquifers. I'm aware of the several hazards posed by Rapid Ohia Death, as well as the vascular wilt fungus ceratocystis fimbriata. Because of the ideal ecosystem that Ohia provides, several kinds of plants and animals may perish if it is not preserved. The Ohia is also a major water source, catching water in its leaves and branches and draining it into our aquifers. Hawaiians have been singing songs, chanting, and telling stories about this plant for decades. It's a stunning tree that serves as a basis for Hawaii. I'd hate for future generations to be unable to learn and see.

Sincerely,

Meagan Corpuz

Citizen of Hawaii

HB-2022

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:12:49 AM

Testimony for HSG on 2/10/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Aiden	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Aiden oh, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ohia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill are as follows: I have learned that ohia is an important keystone tree, it is an endemic tree, so if it dies out there would be no other place to transport back to hawaii. It gathers and preserves fresh water, vital for life. Some people are experiencing contaminated drinking water. Ohia is our source of drinking water so, if the ohia die we would have to rely on rain water. To add on, this could affect the state's income. Tourists come to Hawaii to see the coral reefs, volcanos, and forests. If the ohia die the forest won't look as beautiful, and the reefs will bleach and look white. Another reason is if we can save the ohia tree we can save the animals that use the tree as shelter and as a food source Most importantly the ohia tree plays a big role in Hawaiian culture, because

they would use the flower in hula and harvest the wood for tools, spears, and musical instruments. I hope that you will review this bill and help protect the ohia and keep our native ecosystem balanced. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Aiden oh

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:13:00 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nisha Mhiel E. Lagua	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Nisha Mhiel Lagua, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

The reason I support this bill is because organisms rely on the ‘Ōhia. ‘Ōhia is one of the most important trees for native Hawaiian birds. They feed on the flowers and seeds of the ‘ōhia tree; it also provides shelter for them. Another reason is the ‘ōhia lehua tree is useful for many things, the wood is useful for building houses and fences, creating seats and decks for canoes, and burning as firewood. It is said that the honey made from its flowers has a

subtle floral taste, in addition to that, the flowers of this plant have long been used for traditional leis worn during performances by those who perform hula.

Furthermore, where there is lava; the 'Ōhia plant grows. This plant helps block toxic volcanic gasses, the 'ōhia tree is one of the first plants to grow in these dry and obsidian lava rocks. This tree is fitting to be Hawaii's endemic tree since there are active volcanoes in Hawaii. Additionally, the 'Ōhia is a floral swiss army knife. The wood is used for building structures and statues, while the flowers were used for medicinal purposes. These are the reasons why I support this bill.

Sincerely,

Nisha Mhiel Laguna

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 12:06:08 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Eve Brady	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

House of Representatives

Committee on Culture Arts & International Affairs

February 9, 2022

10:30am, Conference room 329

State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB2202, Relating to the State Native Tree

Aloha Chair Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair Rep. Adrian K. Tam, and members of the Committee,

I am Eve Brady, a junior at Kalaheo High School, and I am in support of HB2202, Relating to State Native Tree which would designate Ohia Lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Designating Ohia Lehua as the state endemic tree would benefit conservation efforts to protect this tree. People will be more likely to learn about Ohia Lehua's cultural significance in Hawaii. In relation to conservation, the more people learn and care about Ohia Lehua, the more money and energy can be put into combatting Rapid Ohia Death, a fungal disease that is decimating many Ohia Lehua trees.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eve Brady

Kalaheo High School Class of 2023

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 12:06:15 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sarah Harrold	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice chair Rep. Adrian K Tam and members of the committee. My name is Sarah Harrold and I am a student at Kalaheo High school on Oahu. I am in support of HB 2202, relating to the designation of Ohia Lehua as the state endemic tree.

I am in support of this bill for many reasons, first and foremost being that the Ohia tree is of utmost importance to the remaining native Hawaiian ecosystems. To it we owe our gratitude, for it provides us our water, our rains, and our spirit. It is the keystone to not only the welfare of the land but the welfare of the people, many of whom have a deep personal and cultural connection to this tree. And, despite its importance, it is in danger of becoming endangered due to habitat loss and disease. The designation of the State Endemic Tree would make more people aware of its importance, and make it a symbol of Hawaii. It represents the land and the life of the people, and so please hear us and protect this symbol of utmost importance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarah Harrold

Kalaheo High School, Grade 11

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 12:08:13 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Elijah Neighbarger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The House of Representatives

Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs

February 9, 2022

10:30 AM, Conference Room 329

State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB2202

Aloha Chair Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair Rep. Adrian K. Tam, and members of the Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs.

My name is Elijah Neighbarger and I am a senior at Kalaheo High School. I am writing this testimony in support of HB2202, relating to the state endemic tree. This will, in turn, designate Ohia Lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Personally, this bill is very important to me. I have been born and raised here on these beautiful islands so I've seen my fair share of changes. One of the scariest I've seen was the constant threat of R.O.D. or Rapid Ohia Death. Ohia is a crucial tree for our island ecosystem but it feels as if no one knows of it. Its designation as our state's endemic tree would bring much more information about this tree to the spotlight. This will hopefully be the push we need to skyrocket the Ohia to the height of protection and awareness. We need to continue this fight against R.O.D. and the other factors of danger to Ohia so that we may keep our island ecosystems functioning and thriving. Ohia deserves this spot of recognition.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Elijah Neighbarger

Kalaheo High, Grade 12

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 12:09:47 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Adeline Peterson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The House of Representatives

Committee on Culture Arts and International Affairs

February 9, 2022

10:30 a.m., Conference Room # 329

State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 2202, Relating to State Native Tree

Aloha Chair Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair Adrian K. Tam, and members of the committee.

I am Addie Peterson, a senior at Kalaheo High School, and I am in support of the HB 123, relating to the state Native Tree which would designate Ohia Lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

The Ohia Tree provides cultural significance for many people on all islands and is also a keystone species in our ecosystem. If Ohia became our state tree, there would be much more awareness about Rapid Ohia's death, and the impact these trees have on our ecosystems. As their population declines, there are many disturbances in our watersheds and bird populations. Ohia trees have a rich history in Hawaii and represent rebirth. It is deeply important to me to stop rapid Ohia death and raise awareness for Ohia trees that are highly significant in our ecosystems.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration.

Sincerely,

Addie Peterson

Kalaheo, Grade 12

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 12:08:14 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Addison Porter	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts & International Affairs
February 9th, 2022
10:30 am, Conference Room 329
State Capitol

Testimony in support of HB 2202, Relating to State Native Tree

Aloha Chair Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair Rep. Adrian K. Tam, and members of the Committee,

My name is Addison Porter, and I am in support of HB 2202, relating to State Native Tree, which would designate Ohia Lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

I have recently moved to Hawaii, and learning about the culture and environment has shown me the importance of our native species and why we should fight to protect them. Our Ohia trees face many threats, such as ROD (rapid ohia death), that could bring this species to extinction. This would have many adverse effects on our ecosystems as many other native species depend on Ohia for survival. Designating Ohia as our state endemic tree of Hawaii will help protect this keystone species that we depend on so much.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Addison Porter
Kalaheo High School, 12th grade

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 12:12:52 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mohamed Benali	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in support of HB2202 relating to state Native tree

Aloha chair Hashem, Vice chair Perruso and members of the committee. My name is Mohamed Benali and I'm a junior at kalaheo high school. I'm reaching out in support of bill 2202, relating to the state native tree which would designate ohia lehua as the state endemic tree of hawaii. This bill is important to me and many other people due to how this will help educate people of the importance of ohia. This is important to me because ohia is a tree that is necessary for our land due to how it makes up most of the natural watersheds located around our ecosystem. That said, making the ohia tree our state endemic tree could help us inform tourists and locals on the importance of this tree and how it plays a huge role in the amount of water we can receive as an Island. Thus having people informed could help care and nurture for these trees so we can successfully keep them alive and well on our island.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,

Mohamed Benali

Kalaheo High 11th grade

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 12:16:45 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
isaiah akiu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

House of representatives

Committee on culture, arts, and international affairs

February 9th, 2022

10:30am; Conference Room 329

State capitol

Testimony in support of HB2202 native tree bill

Aloha chair Cedric Asuega Gates, vice chair Adrian K. Tam, and the members of the committee. I am a senior from Kalaheo highschool. I support HB 2202. The 'ohi'a to be recognized as the new state endemic tree.

The bill is important because the 'ohi'a is a food source for many native birds, it was also a food source for native birds that went extinct. The native hawaiians used this tree for so many different reasons that it became part of the culture. This tree is one of the first plants to grow after a lava flow. It shows rebirth and the strength of love. I would like this because it's not only part of the culture but it's a piece of our life.

Sincerely,

Isaiah Akiu

Kalaheo Highschool, 12th grade

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 12:20:39 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kennedy Cothran	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

House of Representatives

Committee of Culture, Arts, & International Affairs

February 9th 2022

10:30 am, Conference room 329

State Capitol

This testimony is in support of HB2202, Relating to the State Native Tree.

Aloha, Chair Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair Rep. Adrian K. Tam, and members of the Committee,

My name is Kennedy Cothran, and I am a Freshman at Kalaheo High School. I am in support of HB2202, relating to the State Native Tree which would designate Ohia lehua as the State Endemic Tree of Hawaii.

I am in support of this bill because this tree is a very important part of Hawaii's ecosystem. Without this tree some if not all of Hawaii's plant life will struggle. Recently my class and I have learned that this species is endangered by something called Rapid Ohia Death or ROD. There are many organizations and support groups working to prevent the Ohia's from dying. I would like this bill to raise awareness to those who don't know

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Kennedy Cothran

Kalaheo High School, grade 9

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 12:21:21 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ty Thompson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

House of Reprsertive

Committee on Culture, Arts and International Affairs

February 9th,2022

10:30 Am, Conference Room 329

State Capitol

Testimony in support 'of HB 123, Relating 10 state native Thee

Aloha chair Asuega, vice-chair Tam, and Members of the committee, My name is Ty Thompson

I am a senior at Kalaheo high school, a Boy scout, and a native Hawaiian. I am addressing you

today to show my support for HB123 which pertains to the State native tree which would

designate Ohia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii This Is very important to me as a native

Hawaiian who keeps in touch with the culture. Ohia lehua serves a crucial Part in native

Hawaiian culture we have dedicated Olies to it, it Is also part of Hawaiian Mythology. Not ante

that Ohia plays a crucial role in the native Hawaiian ecosystem, Ohia is a pioneer plant it is the

first? plant to thrive in the new lava flow. It also is one of the main contubuteres to Hawaiian

agriculture the Ohia collets over 70% of all rainfall and puts that water into the aquifer. Ohia is

also suffering from Rod "Raiped Ohia Death". wich Kills Ohia. We must bring awareness to this

fact by designating Ohia as tree states endemic tree it would incentivize pepole to work to protect

Ohie, This is why the naming of Ohia as our state Endemic tree is

So important

Thank you

sincerely

Ty Thompson

Kalaheo school

grade 12

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 12:21:55 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
tia ornellas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair Rep. Adrian K. Tam, and Members of the Committee. I am in full support of HB 2202, which would name the ohia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

The bill is important because the Ohia tree is so essential to Hawaii and the wildlife in Hawaii. It provides homes, shelter and food for animals in Hawaii including native birds who rely on Ohia for food. The bill would mean a lot to me because the Ohia tree does so much for Hawaii and it should be recognized. Naming the Ohia tree the state tree would also let more people know about Ohia and how important it is.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. It means alot to me.

Sincerely,

Tia Ornellas

Kalaheo High School grade 9

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 12:22:35 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Keonaona Peters	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The House of Representatives

Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs

February 9th, 2022

10:30 am, Conference Room 329

State Capitol

Testimony in support of HB 2202, Relating to State Native Tree

Aloha Chair Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair Representative Adrian K. Tam, and members of the committee.

My name is Keonaona Peters and I am a current High School student at Kalaheo High School. I am in support of HB 2202, Relating to State Native Tree, which would designate ‘ōhi‘a lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

‘Ōhi‘a lehua holds significant cultural importance. Many native Hawaiian traditions refer to the tree and the forests it forms as sacred to Laka, the goddess of hula, and to Pele, the volcano goddess. Also, ‘ōhi‘a lehua holds importance in overall environmental health. Colonizing fresh lava substrate, it is instrumental in the process of soil development and ecological succession. They make up the largest portion of the canopy in native wet forests, providing shelter and food for numerous species. Yet, our state is currently facing an uprising in rapid ‘ōhi‘a death (ROD). On Hawai‘i Island, hundreds of thousands of ‘ōhi‘a

lehua trees have died from a fungus called Ceratocystis. It has killed trees in all districts of Hawai'i Island and has the potential to kill trees statewide. By making 'ōhi'a lehua the state endemic tree of Hawai'i, we can educate people about its essentialness and promote vital conservation efforts.

Mahalo Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs.

Sincerely,

Keonaona Peters

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 12:22:43 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kailani Frisch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The House of Representatives

Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs

February 9th, 2022

10:30am, Conference room 329

State Capitol

Testimony is Support of HB 2202, Relating to State Native Trees

Aloha chair Mark J. Hashem, Vice chair Amy A. Perruso, and members of the committee. My name is Kailani Frisch, I am in support of HB 2202, relating to the state native tree which would designate Ohia Lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii. I support this bill because I believe that people should be more educated about Ohia, including cultural uses, medicinal uses, and overall importance to Hawaii. I also want people to be more aware of Rapid Ohia Death (ROD) and how it's affecting Ohia. I believe that if Ohia becomes the state's endemic tree, people will start to realize the importance of ohia and why it's needed in our native Hawaiian forests.

This bill can help spread awareness and help save ohia from extinction, thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kailani Frisch

Kalaheo high, Sophomore

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 12:22:48 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Daisy Tai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The House of Representatives

Committee on Culture Arts & International Affairs

February 9th, 2022

10:30 am, Conference Room 329

State Capitol

Testimony in support of HB 2202, Relating to the State Native Tree

Aloha Chair Rep Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair Rep Adrian K. Tam, and members of the Culture Arts & International Affairs Committee.

My name is Daisy Tai and I am a current student attending Kalaheo High School. I am just one person in support of HB 2202. This bill will relate to the State Native Tree and create a new category designating Ohia Lehua as the State endemic tree of Hawaii.

This bill is important to me because Ohia Lehua not only holds cultural importance for Native Hawaiians but it's also a keystone species in our Native forest. It provides natural shelter and food for multiple native bird species, insects and invertebrates. In Addition it captures 50% more water than other tree species in our forests. Learning about Ohia Lehua in school has brought mine and fellow students attention to it, especially Rapid Ohia Death (R.O.D). R.O.D is a disease caused by two fungal pathogens that kill Ohia, Hawaii's most abundant Native Tree. With the passage of bill HB 2202 more attention, help and

progress will help bring awareness and hopefully a solution to Ohia Lehua and Rapid Ohia Death.

Thank you Culture Arts & International Affairs for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Daisy Tai

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 12:24:22 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Duke Nakayama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I Duke Nakayama, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

The reason I support this bill is because in ancient Hawai’i, the ‘Ōhia Lehua, or Metrosideros polymorpha had a huge cultural significance and not only that but this tree is endemic to the islands of Hawai’i. Referenced in mele, oli and mo‘olelo, ‘ōhi‘a trees were used for a number of purposes by ancient Hawaiians. Its wood was used as kapa cloth beaters, as boards for pounding poi, and for building structures and statues. Its flowers were used for medicinal purposes, like easing the pain of childbirth. The nectar of its flowers helped to feed Hawai’i’s menagerie of native birds, such as the ‘apapane or the Hawaiian honeycreeper and the now-extinct mamo the black Hawaiian honeycreeper, whose colorful feathers were often used for creating hula adornments.

Another reason I support this bill is because ‘Ōhi‘a is also highly valued in commerce. Today, ‘ōhi‘a wood is used for flooring, house posts, fencing posts, decoration, framing of traditional hale, and firewood. ‘Ōhi‘a seedlings are also among the most sought-after plants for native landscaping. Thus, ecologically and culturally, ‘ōhi‘a stands as one of the most vitally important trees of Hawaiian forests. Ōhi‘a serve as the sacred kinolau (physical manifestations) of multiple Hawaiian deities such as Kū (god of war and manifestations), Laka (goddess of hula), Pele (goddess of the volcano), Hi‘iaka (sister of Pele), and Kāne (god of water). ‘Ōhi‘a wood was used for various ceremonial structures on heiau (temples).

The red of lehua (‘ōhi‘a blossoms) was seen as a reflection of the bloodshed of war, and "lehua" was a term used for the first warrior to fall in battle. These are the reasons why I support the bill.

Sincerely,

Duke Nakayama

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 12:31:19 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Virgilio Martinez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Virgilio Martinez am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

1 reason I support this bill is because it is very beneficial to Hawaii. This is because it is one of the first plants to grow on a cooled lava field. The roots of the ‘Ōhi‘a also help prepare other plant species to grow, and it provides food and shelter for ‘apapane’ which is ‘i’i’wi, insects, and snails. This shows that the ‘Ōhi‘a benefits many things of Hawaii like shelter, helping other plants, and being one of the first plants on a lava field.

An additional reason is because the tree is important to Hawaii. For the reason that 'Ōhi'a is important to Hawaii is because it is endemic to Hawaii. Also the 'Ōhi'a tree was woven deeply into Hawaiian culture. The 'Ōhi'a tree was used for flooring, housing posts, etc. and is still being used for those reasons till this day. Concluding that the 'Ōhi'a tree was very important to Hawaiian culture.

Sincerely,

Virgilio Martinez

Highlands Intermediate school

Thank you for consideration of our testimony

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 12:33:39 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Layla Losinger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
February 9th, 2022
10:30am, Conference Room 329
State Capitol

Testimony in support of HB 2202, Relating to the State Native Tree.

Aloha Chair Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice chair Adrian K. Tam, and members of the committee,

My name is Layla Losinger, I am currently a junior at Kalaheo High School, and a student in the Natural Resources program provided here. I am in support of HB 2202, relating to the State Native Tree, which would appoint the Ohia Lehua as the State endemic tree of Hawaii.

This bill is important to me because I want to go into forest restoration and/or preservation when I graduate from high school and I want to help spread knowledge about Ohia and Rapid Ohia Death, which is just one of the many things I can do to help Hawaii and its ecosystem at my age. Ohia trees and their survival is very important, as these trees are home to, and feed many native birds, past and present.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Layla Losinger
Kalaheo High School, 11th grade

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 12:34:12 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
maxine hazel espiritu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Maxine Hazel Espiritu, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

The reason I support this bill is because it's a beautiful, amazing tree. Certain types of birds, mainly the ‘apapane, are considered to be the ‘Ōhia tree's personal god. Birds like them feed off its nectar, along with the Ōhia's sturdy wood being used to make weapons in the early times, when listening to traditional Hawaiian stories, songs, and chants. The reason why it's presence was a big deal in the festival, at the Puaenaena Ceremony, the

multifaceted mainstay of native forests has many culturally symbolic uses and meanings in many forms, such as the Ohia tree legend about two lovers. In short, the Ohia legend is about a goddess asking a man to go into the heavens with her; as he refuses, out of anger, the male was turned into a tree. His lover, however, was devastated and cried against the tree bark for moments. The gods had thought about their decision and made the lover become the blossoms of the Ohia tree, reuniting the two lovers.

Sincerely,

Maxine Hazel Espiritu

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 12:34:52 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Andrea James	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The House of Representatives

Committee on Culture, Arts & International Affairs

February 8, 2022

10:30 am, Conference Room 329

State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 2202

Relating to State Endemic Tree

Aloha Chair Cedric Aswega Gates, Vice-Chair Adrian K. Tam, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrea James, I am a sophomore at Kalaheo High School on the island of Oahu. I am in support of HB 2202, Relating to State Endemic Tree which would designate Ohia Lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

This bill is extremely important and significant because it will positively impact many aspects of the Hawaiian islands. The Ohia tree is very significant to Hawaii's culture, people, ecosystems, and so much more. I believe it is respectful to recognize nature not only for ecosystems but also for the people/humans that live in these ecosystems. Right now the Ohia tree's species is declining due to a fungal pathogen known as ROD (Rapid Ohia Death). It is infecting and killing many Ohia trees all across the islands of Hawaii. Many conservational efforts are being made to

keep the Ohia tree species in abundance but more needs to be done. Ohia is such a beautiful tree that deserves as much love as it could get because of the significant role it plays in our ecosystems. It is part of nature's balance.

With everything being said, if Ohia Lehua becomes the state endemic tree of Hawaii it will bring in more awareness and the love that Ohia deserves. I am only fighting to keep nature living like me and every other human being on earth is nature.

I give thanks and appreciation to the committee of Agriculture for taking the time to read my testimony. I hope you guys show the love that Ohia deserves and understand the significance and importance of this beautiful tree to the Hawaiian islands.

Peace and Love,

Andrea R. James

Kalaheo High School, 10th Grade

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 12:35:08 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Zachary White	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Zachary White am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

The reason I support the bill is because ‘Ōhia is an important plant. ‘Ōhia provides food and shelter to various animals. It is also the majority of the canopy of native rainforests which helps native birds. It’s logs provide nutrients and water to seedlings and epiphytes. Their trunks act as nurse logs, supplying nutrients, water and protection for native seedlings and epiphytes. Their canopies capture mists and rainwater that replenish our island aquifers, which provide drinking and irrigation water for Hawai‘i’s communities and agricultural sector.

The ‘Ōhia plant is also important in culture. It’s used in stories and songs and represents multiple Hawaiian Deities such as Ku (God of War), Pele (goddess of fire), Hi‘iaka (Pele’s sister), Laka (Goddess of hula). ‘Ōhia is very important in commerce. It’s used to build several objects like flooring, decoration, and fencing. This is why this bill should be passed.

Sincerely,

Zachary White

Highlands Intermediate School

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 12:36:58 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ayden Peralta	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I, Ayden Peralta, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

The reason I support this bill in making the ‘Ōhia the state endemic tree because ‘ōhia has a lot of cultural significance to Hawaii. According to legend, two lovers turned into the ‘ōhia tree. In the legend, a man named ‘Ōhia and a woman named Lehua were lovers, and went into the forest every night. The goddess Pele tried to get ‘Ōhia to follow her, but he refused. When Lehua arrived, Pele burned the two lovers. The spirits of the forest cherished the couple, and couldn’t stop Pele, but instead turned them from burning humans to a tree.

Another reason is that ‘ōhia is a unique tree. The ‘ōhia is a polymorpha species, meaning it has many forms. It can bloom into the colors scarlet red, salmon, garnet, yellow, and very rarely white. The nectar from the flowers fed honeycreepers, like the ‘i’iwi, ‘apapane, and the extinct Black Mamo. It’s also a material to create weapons, kapa or cloth beaters, boards to pound poi, and closures and statues. It’s leaves were also used for medicinal tea. It’s also a keystone species, meaning without it the ecosystem would struggle and collapse, and it’s a pioneer species, meaning it’s one of the first things to grow in molten rock after an eruption. These are my reasons for making the ‘Ōhia the state endemic trees.

Sincerely,

Ayden Peralta

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 12:57:32 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nathan Dube	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Asuega Gates, Vice Chair Tam, and Esteemed Committee Members-

I strongly support this measure to declare ‘Ōhi‘a as our state endemic tree. As Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death continues to kill thosannds of acres of ‘Ōhi‘a forest across the state, it is important to recognize the importance of this tree in the landscape and the history of this species to the people of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration!

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 12:58:23 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kinsey Negron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

House of Representatives
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
February 9th, 2022
10:30am, Conference Room 329
State Capitol

Aloha Chair Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair Adrian K. Tam and members of the committee. Firstly I want to thank you for hearing the kids of kalaheo out on this bill and moving it forward. My name is Kinsey Negron, I am a 16 year old sophomore at Kalaheo high school. I am in support of HB 2202, relating to State Native Tree which would designate Ohia Lehua as the State Endemic Tree of Hawaii

This bill is important to me because Rapid Ohia Death (ROD) is a big problem in Hawaii that not enough people are seeing. Ohia Lehua trees mean a lot to not only me but also to a lot of people in Hawaii, Ohia is a special and sacred tree to Hawaii, not only has it been around a long time it also has benefits to the environment and to people. Making this bill come true would mean so much to not only me but to also many people of Hawaii.

Thank you again so much for taking the time out of your busy days to read this and to act on it.

Sincerely, Kinsey Negron
Kalaheo high 10th grade.

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 1:42:36 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jing Ying Li	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Jing Ying Li, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

The reason I support this bill for making ‘Ōhi‘a Lehua our state endemic tree is because ‘Ōhi‘a is endemic to Hawaii and it is only found here in Hawaii. ‘Ōhi‘a is also one of the most common and variable of all native trees in Hawaii. About half of the native trees on Hawaii are ‘Ōhi‘a. There are no other native Hawaiian plants that have a greater number of variables than ‘Ōhi‘a. There are some native Hawaiian birds like ‘i‘iwi (*Vestiaria coccinea*), ‘apapane (*Himatione sanguinea*), and ‘akohekohe (*Palmeria dolei*) that rely on ‘Ōhi‘a flower and seed.

Since ‘Ōhi‘a is the first tree that springs after lava flow, many Hawaiians referred to ‘Ōhi‘a as sacred to Pele, goddess of the volcano, and to Laka, goddess of hula. People use the Lehua flower to make lei and hula altar adornment. There is Hawaiian mythology about ‘Ōhi‘a Lehua, when a lehua flower is picked, rain will come representing the separated lovers’ tears. ‘Ōhi‘a is very important to hawaiian’s tradition and storytelling.

Sincerely,

Jing Ying Li

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 1:44:31 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Frian Tallo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Frian Tallo, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

The Reason I support this bill is as follows: is because the ‘ōhia tree is important. The reasons as to why I think that it is important, is first the ‘ōhia tree is very culturally important because it was said to be the first plant that grows after magma cools. It's also known as “the tree of the gods” or even “tree of life”. Another reason is that it's also important to the environment, the ‘ōhia tree helps collect water by storing it underground which helps supply most of our water. It also is a home of many animals such as birds, Not only that it has a wide range of habitats where it can live and grow.

Lastly, being chosen as our state endemic tree would help make others aware of the problems that's happening to the 'ōhia tree. It is said that a fungus has been killing off these trees by aiming for the part of the tree that keeps itself hydrated. We can sometimes see which trees are infected because they would turn green into yellow, and would later die. So people are warned to wash their boots or shoes when going near them to keep it from spreading. but most of the 'ōhia trees are already infected, some are unrecognizable from non infected trees. So making the 'ōhia tree the state endemic tree would help aware others, so that's why i think it should be the state endemic

Sincerely,

Frian Tallo

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 1:44:52 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Julianna Muramoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair,

I, Julianna Muramoto, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows: It is a part of Ancient Hawaiian culture, has a beautiful legend connecting to our environment today, has a significant role in the ecosystem, and is one of the most important endemic plants to grow in Hawai’i. The ‘ōhi’a lehua, as you may have seen, is a common factor of life and story in Ancient Hawai’i. The wood collected from these trees beat kapa cloth, and built sturdy statues and buildings. The flowers were medicinally useful, and are beautifully vibrant which help tell stories of the god Pele, whose lava burned as brightly as the lehua themselves.

The tree and the flower we call “‘ōhi’a lehua” is a direct citation from the great legend itself. Ōhi'a and Lehua, two inseparable human lovers, face challenges from the lava god Pele and are finally united forever as they are transformed into the tree we see today. Raising this bill to show the importance of this tree is greatly needed, considering how much ‘ohi’a matters to our state and to our environment. Ōhi'a is a key part in keeping the majority of our endemic species alive altogether, and supplying us with water. The ‘apapane, or honeycreeper, that also appears in the legend is one of the native animals that rely on this tree for food. This tree is relied on and used in Hawaiian wildlife and culture frequently, and is currently suffering from Rapid Ōhi'a Death, which is all the more reason to promote this bill. As my classmates and I write these testimonies to convince you, I greatly appreciate it if you can consider our voices and officially make ‘ōhia our state endemic tree.

Sincerely,

Julianna Muramoto

Highlands Intermediate School

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 1:45:09 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Riley Leong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Riley Leong, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

‘ōhia Testimony

The reason I support this bill is because the ‘ōhia lehua is a very important tree to Hawaiian culture. While reading some sort of story or Chanting about the land or gods, in some sort of way there will be a reference to ‘ōhia or its flower, the Lehua. If there was a

volcano that erupted and its lava had dried up, the 'ōhia Lehua is one of the first plants to regrow the land and return it back to its colors. 'ōhia itself was used in many different ways for the Hawaiian people. For example, 'ōhia's wood was sturdy and strong enough to be used for weapons, Poi pounding boards, and statues. The leaves from the tree itself were used for medical tea and its flowers were used to feed the native birds.

The story of the 'ōhia Lehua is also very important to know. It starts with a man named 'ōhia that Pele, goddess of volcanoes, loved, but 'ōhia had his eyes set on someone else. It was a lovely woman named Lehua and they loved each other very much, but Pele didn't like this. In anger, Pele erupted the ground with lava while transforming 'ōhia into a scary tree that was born from the lava. Lehua was devastated to see her loved one transformed into this tree. Other Hawaiian gods saw this and felt pitiful towards Lehua. They then transformed her into a beautiful flower that grows on the tree so that they can be together forever. Legends say that if you were to pick the flower off of the tree, it would start to rain because you have separated the 2 apart causing them to cry.

Sincerely,

Riley Leong

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 1:45:27 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Brenden Deguchi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Brenden Deguchi) am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows: ‘Ōhia Testimony

The reason I support this bill is because the ‘Ōhia tree is a keystone species to hawaii. What that means is that a lot of plants in the ecosystem relies on the ohia tree. The second reason is that the ‘Ōhia tree helps collect water when it rains. The ‘Ōhia tree can live up to 600 years. So the tree can collect water for 600 years.

We need to protect the 'Ōhia tree because there is a virus for the 'Ōhia trees called ROD. We need to protect the 'Ōhia from rod because without the 'Ōhia tree we wouldn't get as much water because the 'Ōhia wouldn't be there to help collect water. The third reason is that 'Ōhia is used for many things. For example the wood of the 'Ōhia tree is used for pounding poi and the leaves are used for medical tea.

Thank you for taking the time to read about my ohia testimony.

Enjoy the rest of your day.

Sincerely,

Brenden Deguchi

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 1:45:29 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Santee Standing Crow Miska	Highlands Intermediate	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, (Santee Standing-Crow Miska) am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree 'ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

Ohia Testimony

- **It has been used for many purposes, from medicinal purposes to feeding native birds.**

- **‘ōhia is a keystone and endemic species**
- **‘ōhia is incredibly durable, meaning that it can last for a long time compared to other plants.**
- **‘ōhia is also culturally significant, appearing in many folk-tales and being very old.**
- **This bill would provide protection to ‘ōhia, which is an important species that is dying off due to ROD.**

Sincerely,

Santee Standing-Crow Miska

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 1:45:35 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Stella Ma	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Stella Ma, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

The ‘ōhia has a major cultural and ecological importance to Hawaii. The tree and its flowers, which come from a significant legend, were utilized in old Hawaii, for example the wood could be made into a board for pounding poi or used for building structures and statues. The flowers of the tree, the lehua, also had medicinal uses as well.

Additionally, this tree plays an important role within the ecosystems of Hawaii. The ‘ōhia is endemic to Hawaii and is found nowhere else in the entire world. Some of Hawaii’s native and endangered birds feed off the nectar from the tree and use the tree as camouflage. The ‘ōhia is extremely durable because of its roots, which extend into lava rock crevices, making it the first tree to appear after a lava flow and one of the most common native trees. With these reasons, I hope that this bill is able to raise awareness and support for the conservation efforts of ‘ōhi‘a.

Sincerely,

Stella Ma
Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 1:45:52 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mia Garlitos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Mia Garlitos, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows: The reason I support this bill is because while ‘Ōhi‘a lehua flowers most commonly bloom scarlet red, they also blossom in salmon, garnet, yellow and on very rare occasions white. The ‘Ōhi‘a lehua come in a variety of shapes and sizes, all five species endemic to Hawai‘i and just because the ohia lehua flower looks dainty and delicate, the plant itself is incredibly durable and can grow in rugged and barren environments. ‘Ōhi‘a is also one of the many species endemic to hawaii. ‘Ōhi‘a trees also provide shelter and food for many native birds, including endemic hawaiian nectar feeding honeycreepers, innumerable insects, snails and other invertebrates. The ‘Ōhi‘a tree

trunks act as nurse logs, supplying nutrients, water and protection for native seedlings. 'Ōhi'a seedlings are also one of the most sought after plants for native landscaping.

'Ōhi'a is a part of Hawaiian culture through symbolism in stories, songs and chants. 'Ōhi'a serve as the sacred physical manifestations of multiple Hawaiian deities such as Kū, Laka, Pele, Hi'iaka, and Kāne. 'Ōhi'a wood was used for various ceremonial structures on temples. The red of lehua was seen as a reflection of the bloodshed of war, and "lehua" was a term used for the first warrior to fall in battle. 'Ōhi'a wood is used for flooring, fencing posts, firewood and decoration. 'Ōhi'a is also highly valued in commerce.

Sincerely,

Mia Garlitos

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 1:46:14 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Skyler Thornburg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Skyler Thornburg am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

The reason I support this bill is because, It has a lot of things that can benefit this tree in becoming the new state tree. This is due to multiple reasons as I will list as of now, First reason being the cultural background of this tree. Having a historical background to the ‘Ōhia tree, While the history of the tree may be short, It still can have a historical place as the state tree to make it important. This bill will also obviously be able to shorten the ‘Ōhia

tree endangerment as the bill could make it illegal to be used for any materials. This also helps with the historical purpose of the tree as well. The last reason is simply because they are home to many creatures like birds, honeycreepers, and more.

While this may not be much information, I hope it will be enough to be used to defend the case of the 'Ōhia tree bill.

Sincerely,

Skyler Thornburg

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 1:46:28 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Aiesha DeWeever	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Aiesha DeWeever, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

I support this bill because I've learned that the ‘ōhia tree is very cultural to Hawaii and appears in many different mo'olelo (stories), mele (songs), and 'oli (chants). ‘Ōhia is the first tree to emerge following a lava flow. The roots of ‘Ōhia aid in the preparation of future plant species for growth. After a lava flow, it takes about 8 years for the ‘Ōhia tree to grow. Because it collects water, the ‘Ōhia tree is very important in the forest. Their

canopies collect mists and rainwater, which replenish our island aquifers, which supply drinking and irrigation water to Hawaii's communities and agricultural sector. It aids in the provision of food and shelter for a variety of species. The 'Ōhia tree is an endemic species (found only in Hawaii).

The 'Ōhia tree is a very beautiful tree because It comes in many different colors such as red, orange, pink, yellow and white. The 'Ōhia tree is being affected by the ROD which is a fungus that enters through wounds and cuts. If a tree had ROD it can cut off the water supply which means it would stop collecting the water we use and need. This can be very bad for the people, animals and the forest. The bill will protect 'Ōhia trees.

Sincerely,

Aiesha DeWeever

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 1:46:45 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jared Antonio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Jared Antonio, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

I’m in favor of the ‘ōhia tree being named our state endemic tree.. I think this is an amazing tree because it acts like a swiss army knife of nature. The ‘ōhia tree has many many uses such as medicine purposes to food supply for birds like apapane. The ‘ōhia tree also acts as the water collector of nature, which is crucial for the environment. If the ‘ōhia is not there anymore, there will be many negative consequences if we are not able to access its many uses for the environment and the people.

This tree is especially legendary because it has been mentioned in many Hawaiian mo‘olelo. In the stories, it speaks about the origin and how Pele turns the couple ‘ōhia and lehua into a tree. This tree is suffering from multiple fungal species called ROD. Rapid ‘ōhia Death has been happening on Maui, Hawai‘i Island, Kaua‘i and O‘ahu. This tree deserves to be a state tree because of all the useful things it has done for Hawaii and its people.

Sincerely,

Jared Antonio

Highlands Intermediate School

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 1:47:47 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
highlandsms	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Tyler-Nam Quach, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

Ohia Testimony

The reason I support this bill is because the ‘ōhia tree is very important to the native species of Hawaii and it holds a lot of power culturally. For example, in the past the wood was used to make tools and poi pounding boards, while the flowers were made into lays for hula dancers. Also because the flowers resemble the colors of fire and it is one of the first trees to grow out of a lava flow, they had a story about the tree and the goddess Pele. The fact that this tree has many legends and stories made about it tells me that this tree is an important part of Hawaiian culture, but that’s not all.

Like I said, this tree also plays a big role in the environment. For example, this tree helps shelter and feed many native birds. Without this tree, these birds and many other native species will suffer the consequences. The ‘ōhia tree also helps other trees grow through its roots. It holds water in its roots which help replenish aquifers that other trees can take from, which could help the next generation of trees grow. This tree is an important part of Hawaii in more ways than one, but if it dies out then the culture and environment may go along with it. This is why the ‘ōhia tree should become a state endemic tree and we should get the word out.

Sincerely, Tyler-Nam Quach

Tyler-Nam Quach

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 1:49:20 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Reagan Lopez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Reagan Lopez, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

The reason I support this bill is because the ‘ōhia tree is very important to Hawaii and has a lot of connections with the island and its Gods. The tree has its own story behind how it came to be and it is a beautiful tree. The tree is based off of a story with 2 lovers and the God Pele, Pele wanted to be with the man ‘ōhia instead of him being with the woman. The man rejected Pele’s offer to be together in the heavens and Pele in a state of anger consumed the man in lava and he became an ugly tree. The other girl wept in loss of her

lover and the Gods pitied her, so they turned her into the flowers of the ugly tree to be together forever.

Also, the tree has many uses such as chewing the bark which was taken for sore throats. Bark liquid combined with salt could be used to heal lacerations. When it rains the droplets that landed on the 'ōhia tree were collected by the tree and injected into the ground which later turned into drinking water. The tree is also the first tree to grow on a cooled lava flow which connects to the story about 'ōhia, Lehua, and the Goddess Pele. The 'ōhia tree is also native to Hawaii and can only be found here. It helps prepare the area for future plant species to begin growing. It also provides shelter for numerous native birds. 'ōhia today is used for flooring, house posts, decoration, and firewood. Lastly, the tree provides food and shelter for insects and snails. This concludes my testimony to why the 'ōhia tree should become the state endemic tree.

Sincerely,

Reagan Lopez

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 1:50:59 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
highlands	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Daimen Chase Olipares am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

The ‘ōhia tree makes up one of the largest segments of the given canopies in native Hawaiian rainforests, plus it provides many different life beneficial properties like shelter, food, materials, and the ohana to many numerous native birds, animals, and the people with the Hawaiian Islands. For example, with the use of ‘ōhia’s sturdy wood, it can be used to create weapons, Kapa cloth beaters, boards for pounding poi, enclosures, statues,

medicinal teas from 'ōhia leaves, food for animals, and it is sometimes even used within such important adornments in hula and special ceremonies around each Hawaiian islands. Though the 'ōhia tree can also be found growing in dry and wet environments from starting sea levels to heights above 5,000+ feet as a shrub, making it being extremely incredible, and more durable within the rugged, barren environments around the islands of Hawaii. Making the 'ōhia more apparent in areas that have been covered by recent lava flows, and the 'ōhi'a tree tends to be one of the first plants to colonize these dry, obsidian lava rock habitats. The 'ōhia tree can also range its blossoms in many beautiful amazing colors, ranging in white, red, scarlet, orange, yellow, and salmon!

Although only these ohia trees can only be found within the Hawaiian islands, there is still a major problem that is occurring today that could possibly change the most important overview with these native endemic trees. For more information, a rare case of numerous 'ōhia trees are dying from a fungal disease otherwise called Ceratocystis. This type of fungal disease has infected and killed more than hundreds of thousands of 'ōhia within a few days to a few weeks and it has the potential to kill off ALL of the ohia trees statewide. Otherwise from this type of problem, the ohia tree is as well related to many culturally symbolic uses and meanings that relate to the Hawaiian fire goddess and the tale of their intertwined fates. In short, there once was a beautiful man named 'Ōhi'a. Unfortunately for Pele, ohia had his eyes set on a woman named Lehua, who also happened to fancy 'ōhia. In a fit of rage, Pele transformed 'ōhia into an ugly, gnarled tree, and while Lehua tried to convince Pele to change him back, she refused. Lehua then asked the other gods to intervene, and in a compromise, they decided to transform Lehua into a beautiful flower that would adorn the 'ōhia tree, so the lovers could stay together forever..

At the end of this conclusion, I believe that the 'ōhia tree should be the State Endemic tree because it provides and represents the Hawaiian Islands with many things such as good habitats, food, materials, stories, and much more.

Sincerely,

Daimen Chase Olipares

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 1:51:52 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dayton Calso	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Dayton Calso am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

I support this bill because ‘ōhia was only found here. It’s even a part of Hawaiian culture and a part of legend. Back in the day the ancient Hawaiians used the ‘ōhia for many different reasons. There are 5 different species of ohia only found in Hawaii. Also it was one of the first plant species that grew from the cooled lava field.

They used the ‘ōhia tree wood so that they could make different tools to use for whatever needs that they needed it for. Also the ‘ōhia shelters and feeds the native endemic birds like

the honeycreepers. There's even a festival for it. Also the 'ōhia tree plays multiple important roles for us, nature, wildlife, and tools. This shows that the 'ōhia tree is really important so we should make the 'ōhia tree the state endemic tree.

Sincerely,

Dayton Calso

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 1:51:58 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kaci Ishida	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Kaci Ishida am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows: The reason I support this bill is because it's endemic meaning it's only from here. The flowers grows in lava fields. The pioneer species is one of the first to grow on an old lava field. The flowers helps feed native birds. The ROD (rapid ‘ōhi‘a death) is really a disease caused by these fungal and they currently have no cure. The flower comes in many different colors.

Culturally the flower was born from a Legend. There was a beautiful man named 'Ōhi'a he attracted Pele but 'Ōhi'a liked another woman named Lehua and she liked him too so Pele transformed 'Ōhi'a into an ugly tree. Lehua tried to convince Pele to change him back but Pele refused so Lehua asked the other gods to intervene they transform Lehua into a beautiful flower so the lovers could stay together forever. The flower has many uses. It helped ease the pain of childbirth. Keystone species have lots of organisms depend on it.

Sincerely,

Kaci Ishida

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 1:55:08 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tapa'au Aitavale	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Tapa'au Aitavale, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree 'ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

The roots help grow the future plant species that will begin to grow and it is very important to have plants, we rely on plants and use them for food,water,medicine,the air we breathe, and etc.This plant is also such a big help in the ecosystem because it provides food and shelter for many native species.The 'ōhia is also very interesting because where lava flows, these flowers grow and it is also the first plant specie to grow on cooled lava fields and they say this flower resembles fire. It was also used by early Hawaiians, Hawaiians used the wood of "ōhia for weapons,clothes,boards,and etc. It is also woven deeply into Hawaiian

Culture through symbolism in stories,songs, and chants.ōhia is a very important resource we need to save because the number of this species is dying out.

Sincerely,

Tapa'au Aitavale

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 1:55:24 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Evan Mizuuchi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

Testimony in support of HB 2202

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Evan Mizuuchi am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows:

‘ōhia Testimony

The reason I support this bill is because the ‘ōhia lehua tree is the first tree to blossom after a lava flow. That is important because after some trees get covered, ‘ōhias will break up the lava rock and create soil. Also ‘ōhias are great water collectors, we need ‘ōhias because

they put water in our aquifers. The aquifers give us drinkable water. Another reason why the 'ōhia tree is important is because it's a strong durable tree because it can withstand lava. Lastly, the 'ōhia tree is important because it's endemic to Hawaii.

Another reason why the 'ōhia lehua tree is important is because the tree has many uses like the bark is mashed up to help sore throats, 'ōhia was considered sacred, and was used to sculpt religious images. The 'ōhia tree is important because the different colors of the flower are used for leis. Some facts about the ohia tree is, it can grow from a shrub to a tall tree, trees are dying from something called R.O.D. (Rapid 'ōhia Death),the tree is born from legend, and if you pick the flower it will start to rain. That's why lei makers pick the flower when they exit.

Sincerely,

Evan Mizuuchi

Highlands Intermediate schoolf

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:37:45 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Logan Gunter	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

I, Logan Gunter, am writing in support of HB2202 relating to the State Endemic tree ‘ōhia lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Reasons I support this bill is as follows: The reason I support this bill is because the ‘Ōhi‘a tree is an amazing tree with so many uses and so many things that rely on the tree from insects to animals. Another reason is because it's endemic to Hawaii and is used in so many ways by the Hawaiians such as hula, water, home’s, and fashioned into lei’s by the Hawaiians. The ‘Ōhi‘a tree is also a tree that collects a lot of water and puts it into an aquifer which provides water for humans and animals which makes it a really beneficial tree.

Even the story it's given is really interesting from being the first tree to grow from the lava flow, and how beautiful it is from how it ranges in different colors. Even ‘Ōhi‘a forests are considered sacred to the native Hawaiian people showing that this tree also means a lot to them. So with all that’s been said I hope that you can make this our state endemic tree.

Sincerely,

Logan Gunter

Highlands Intermediate school

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 11:03:20 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kimeona Kane	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha nui,

Kimeona Kane from Waimānalo in strong support of HB 2202 as it will give our legacy tree, ‘Ōhi‘a a fighting chance. This bill could have the potential to be the tipping point necessary to protect this very cultural, environmental and social species. Taking a greater pride in our endemic species, working to establish opportunities to lessen and hopefully remove threats from impacting these critical species is very integral to the very essence of Hawai‘i. These species are invaluable and need more protection, resources, study, and aloha. Pass HB 2202 and give our future generations the opportunity to see these trees in real life and not a story of a failed past.

Mahalo nui,
Kimeona Kane

HB-2202

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 10:29:21 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/9/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Finn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, February 14, 2022

TIME: 3:10 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

I, Finn Matsuoka, am in support of HB2059: relating to state symbols, which would designate Ohia Lehua as the state endemic tree of Hawaii.

Over 175,000 acres of forest contain 'ohi'a showing symptoms of rapid 'ohi'a death disease on the island of Hawaii. We want to make 'ohi'a our state endemic tree so we can protect it more.

'Ohi'a plays a big part in the environment and culture of Hawaii. It is one of the most important trees for native Hawaiian birds such as 'Apapane and 'Akohekohe, which get their food from nectar producing flowers.

Ohia's sturdy wood was used to create weapons, kapa cloth beaters, boards for pounding poi, enclosers and statues; They also used its leaves as medical tea. That is why we should make Ohia a state endemic tree.

Sincerely,

Finn Matsuoka