



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

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Testimony of
SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Thursday, February 24, 2022
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

**SUPPORT
SB 2768, SD1
RELATING TO THE HAWAII YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS.**

Chair Dela Cruz, and Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports SB 2768, SD1, which authorizes the Governor to designate the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to administer or enter into an agreement for the administration of a green jobs youth corps to provide temporary work and training opportunities in the fields of natural resource management, agriculture, or other sustainability related professions to young adults ages thirty-eight and younger; requires the department to partner with an organization that has received accreditation from the Corps Center of Excellence Accreditation Program or has at least ten years of experience providing similar programming statewide in the State; and appropriates funds.

HSEO believes that DLNR is well-suited to oversee the corps, provide training and job experience for the workforce of the future, in the areas noted above. This program will help advance Hawaii's clean energy and decarbonization goals, expand the green workforce, and launch a new generation of clean energy leaders. HSEO is in support of this and other green workforce development efforts, as we work together toward achieving 100% clean energy by or before 2045.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS

Thursday, February 24, 2022
10:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 211, Via Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2768, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE HAWAII YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS

Senate Bill 2768, Senate Draft 1 proposes to authorize the Governor to designate the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to administer or enter into an agreement for the administration of a green jobs youth corps to provide temporary work and training opportunities in the fields of natural resource management, agriculture, or other sustainability-related professions to young adults ages twenty-six and younger. The bill also proposes to appropriate unspecified funds to the Department. **The Department supports this bill.**

The State of Hawaii's progressive move towards a zero-emissions clean economy by 2045 requires that we actively invest in the community and emerging economic sectors and provide residents with the education and training opportunities they need to make the transition. A job corps program designed specifically to address the State's climate change goals would be beneficial in helping the growing green sector scale up efforts to address climate change and provide diversified training opportunities to a displaced workforce, supporting a resilient local economy.

The Department has been long-time partners with AmeriCorps and Kupu through their mentorship programs which have been successful in getting the youth of Hawaii not only into conservation jobs but into the workforce at large. The Kupu Aina Corps Program, funded by the CARES Act and ARPA funding, demonstrated how eager the local workforce is to get back to work and provided new opportunities for many to enter emerging and growing fields of work.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

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

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

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2768, S.D. 1

February 24, 2022
10:00 a.m.
Room 211 and Videoconference

RELATING TO THE HAWAII YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2768, S.D. 1: authorizes the Governor to designate the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to administer a green jobs youth corps to provide temporary work and training opportunities in the fields of natural resource management, agriculture, or other sustainability-related professions; requires DLNR to partner with a qualified organization; and appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for FY 23 for DLNR to administer the green jobs youth corps.

B&F notes that \$5,000,000 in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds has been appropriated and awarded for this program with a performance period of May 11, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

B&F also notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

SB-2768-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 7:48:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT!



Food+ Policy Internship 2022

food@purplemaia.org

February 21, 2022

Subject: **In support of SB2768** Relating to the Hawai'i Youth Conservation Corps

Aloha e Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

We fully support **SB2768 Relating to the Hawai'i Youth Conservation Corps** because we understand that this program would not only employ our youth, but would employ them in green jobs that would help Hawai'i with natural resource management, agriculture, and sustainability goals. Three things that are fundamental to a livable future on the islands.

Green jobs youth corps like that of the Kupu 'Āina Corps hired more than 350 people in 2020, many of which had lost their previous hospitality and tourism jobs due to the pandemic. The Kupu 'Āina Corps also reported bringing in an estimated \$6.5 million in economic benefits, cared for 21,000 acres of land, and logged 89,000 staff hours in 150 host sites across all islands. Not only would a green jobs youth corps like this program provide employment for people, but will also provide social capital for businesses, non-profits, and government agencies trying to grow. It will introduce these organizations to employees that they could hire and retain afterwards.

As our post-pandemic economy is being reimaged by residents, Hawai'i residents ranked "Agriculture/Aquaculture/Forestry/Fishing" as the number one future ideal workforce sector in a 2020 survey, with "Natural Resource Management" also ranking in the top six of 22 other sectors. This green jobs youth corps is a direction that the residents of Hawai'i believe to be our future.

SB2768 will allow the creation of a green jobs youth corps that will serve a dual purpose: to employ our youth of Hawai'i while building a sustainable future. Or, as a news [article](#) by KHON2 described it, a "win-win for the environment and a more resilient economy for Hawaii." We therefore fully support SB2768 to create a green jobs youth corps.

Mahalo,
Kelsey Amos & the Food+ Interns
[#fixourfoodsystem](#)

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2022, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Support for SB 2768 SD1, RELATING TO THE HAWAI'I YOUTH CONSERVATION
CORPS.**

**Committee on Ways and Means
February 24, 2022, 10:00 AM
Conference Room 211 via Videoconference**

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

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) supports SB 2768 SD1, Relating to the Hawai'i Youth Conservation Corps, which authorizes the Department of Land and Natural Resources to administer a green jobs youth corps program.

Hawai'i's natural environment is the engine that drives our state's economy and a natural, recreational, and cultural treasure supporting our island lifestyle and livelihoods. Careful, thoughtful, and intentional conservation, management, and restoration is required to ensure our environment can withstand the increasing impacts of climate change while continuing to fuel our islands' economic engine. TNC is proud of our decades of working in partnership with so many local organizations, agencies, and communities to care for this vital and fragile resource.

Since 2011, TNC has benefitted from the tremendous work of dozens of Kupu interns. These interns provide much needed capacity to help us manage our native forested watersheds and coral reefs. These enthusiastic and committed interns have created positive environmental, cultural, and community impact across the islands while also learning under the mentorship of environmental experts. Through their work, these interns are making a positive difference right now while also paving the way for the next generation of conservationists dedicated to perpetuating our unique island environment and diversifying Hawai'i's economy. This program would be funded and strengthened through SB 2768 SD1, which provides the platform and funding for additional Kupu internships and other green jobs across our islands. If the bill is not passed, there will be no continued funding for the program begun under Act 181 last year.

As we work together to create a diversified economy, green jobs can and must play a role. By providing opportunities for local jobs while also paving the way for long-term green jobs, environmental expertise, and local leadership, this legislation is an important step in the right direction, and we urge the committee to pass it.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2768 SD1.

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i and Palmyra is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 40,000 acres in 13 nature preserves and work in over 50 coastal communities to help protect and restore the nearshore reefs and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnerships with government, private parties, and communities to protect forests and coral reefs for their ecological values and for the many benefits they provide to people.

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Testimony Before The
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
IN SUPPORT OF SB 2768 SD 1
February 24, 2022, 10:00AM, Room 211

My name is Kevin Chang and I am the Executive Director of [Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo \(or KUA\)](#). KUA works to empower grassroots rural and Native Hawaiian mālama 'āina groups -fishers, farmers, families- to celebrate their places and pass on their traditions to better Hawai'i and achieve 'āina momona— an abundant, productive ecological system that supports community well-being.

KUA employs a community-driven approach that currently supports a statewide network of 36 mālama 'āina community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together), 40 fishpond projects and practitioners called the Hui Mālama Loko I'a, and a growing group of over 60 Limu practitioners and supporters called the Limu Hui. Our vision of 'āina momona includes pathways to new economic and environmental regenerative opportunities for present and future generations.

KUA generally supports SB 2768 SD 1. This bill would continue to support the Green Job Youth Corps program within the DLNR to help address the unemployment impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and support economic diversification. It would also appropriate funds for this purpose

Beyond supporting a stop gap in employment for our state the Green Job Youth Corps are important pathway to meeting the greater systemic needs we as a state identified during this pandemic: new workforce training, economic diversification, caring for our environment, and supporting businesses in Hawai'i as they work to make our state more self-sufficient and resilient

A primary function of KUA includes development of an 'auwai, a stream of resources, tools, bridges, relationships, and networks that help to cultivate and take our communities' work to greater levels of collective impact. A core catalyst for the flow in this 'auwai includes increasing the percentage of our economy which helps to manage and better the condition of the natural resources systems that sustain us. Indeed, the University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization, with input from KUA and a number of partners (DLNR, Kupu, TNC, KS,OHA etc.) now tracks natural resource workforce development as a key part of a "Green Economy."

We are also supportive for what this opportunity could mean for increased environmental co-management, co-governance and uplifting an ethic of mālama 'āina. Our current state institutions lack in resources but also in institutional ethos and policies that could better bolster citizen stewardship of our home. Key new generation staff members -such as exist within the Division of Aquatic Resources community-based subsistence fishing area and DOCARE Makai Watch programs- that do more work in partnership with communities are the future of environmental stewardship.

A state job corps that can build a conservation workforce for Hawai'i is a necessary pathway toward uplifting the environment which sustains and undergirds the "economy" for our state. It also

further places our island community like others in the Pacific as a leader for environmental leadership and adaptation.

Please pass this bill out of your committee and mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Aloha 'Āina Momona.

SB-2768-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 7:19:11 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ronald Weidenbach	Testifying for Hawaii Fish Company Inc.	Support	No

Comments: Hawaii Fish Company Inc. (HFC) strongly supports SB 2768 SD1 Relating to the Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps which supports job training and work opportunities in both Conservation and Agriculture. HFC is currently a Host Site and was previously so in 2020. Our family fish and aquaponics farm has found this program to be very beneficial for both participants and as a host site. Many jobs in conservation and modern agriculture require college degrees and a passion for conservation and agriculture due to the hard outdoor work involved. Nevertheless, after more than 50 years in both fields, initially as a National Park Service Ranger/Naturalist and National Audubon Society Fishery Biologist, and subsequently as an aquaculture researcher and Co-owner/President of Hawaii Fish Company Inc., Hawaii's oldest land-based fish farm, my wife and I have found this to be a very rewarding career path and look forward to continuing to participate in this beneficial green job training program. With our farmers and ranchers having an average age of 60+, with many in their 70s, passionate Kupu participants are a welcome addition to our natural resource field and career track. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this important measure.



**Testimony in Strong Support of S.B. 2768 S.D. 1,
Relating to the Hawai‘i Youth Conservation Corps**

Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Submitted by Kupu CEO John Leong, hearing date February 24, 2022

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

My name is John Leong, and I am the Chief Executive Officer and co-founder of Kupu, a statewide youth-focused conservation nonprofit. On behalf of Kupu, I am pleased to testify in **strong support of S.B. 2768 S.D. 1, Relating to the Hawai‘i Youth Conservation Corps**.

As written, this measure would continue funding for the Green Job Youth Corps, a program that provides employment and training opportunities for young adults in conservation, sustainable agriculture, clean energy, and other sustainability-related industries. As the organization that managed the original green job corps program upon which the Green Job Youth Corps is based, and as the organization now partnering with the Department of Land and Natural Resources to administer this program, we have seen firsthand the benefits it is providing to individuals and to the diversification of our economy. We thank the legislature for establishing this program last year, and especially thank Senator Lorraine Inouye for introducing S.B. 2768 this year. The Green Job Youth Corps is an urgently needed addition to Hawai‘i’s strategy to address many of the needs of our state, including workforce development, environmental sustainability, economic diversification, and others.

Kupu was established in 2007, in the early stages of the Great Recession. Today we are a statewide organization, developing youth and young adults through hands-on service training in conservation and natural resource management professions. Since 2007 we have trained over 5,000 youth in conservation, sustainability, and environmental education. Young adults served by Kupu have provided more than 3 million service hours during this time, which included planting over 1 million native plants and removing over 100,000 acres of invasive species. This has created a cumulative \$155+ million in impact for Hawai‘i with a 1:3 cost to benefit ratio. We believe more investment in the green economy - as this bill provides - would enable similar economic benefits to our state, create jobs in related fields, and help diversify our economy.

In the early stages of the pandemic, Kupu saw the economic devastation happening in Hawai‘i and wondered what more we could do to help. We created a new program -- in concept -- that would help unemployed and underemployed people of all ages work in the green economy during the pandemic. This program, called the Kupu ‘Āina Corps, received funding and partnership from the state thanks to the foresight of the legislature and the support of Governor Ige, as provided by Act 9 (SLH 2020). With this program Kupu helped over 350 displaced workers and recent graduates connect with work,

training, and the dignity of helping themselves and their communities. We are humbled that our program could serve as an example of what a longer-term program of this nature could achieve.

The ecological, economic, and human benefits of the Kupu ʻĀina Corps were clear. Over 90 percent of our participants completed the program, gaining its full benefits and helping 150 different host sites across the state. Based on a post-program evaluation survey completed by participants, one in three remained employed or were moving on to other employment at the end of the program. Logging over 89,000 work hours, these participants produced an economic benefit estimated at \$6.55 million, based on a formula developed by Columbia University. (This was more than twice the cost of the program.) Additionally, these participants collectively improved over 21,700 acres of land across our state. Community-based conservation corps around the nation have inquired about the program, which has also received national media coverage.

When the legislature passed H.B. 1176 in 2021, signed into law by Governor Ige as Act 181 (SLH 2021), we were excited to see that the progress made in the 2020 Kupu ʻĀina Corps program was going to continue in some form. Late last year, Kupu was selected by DLNR to partner on the continuation of this program. We spent the remaining months of 2021 recruiting and selecting participants. This year we are launching the program in three cohorts, the first of which started last week Monday. While we are in the very early stages of the program, from the recruitment and onboarding alone we have seen tremendous interest from applicants, with well over two-and-a-half applicants for every position available. We also saw significant willingness from nonprofits and for-profits to host and train individuals. Without legislation to continue funding this program, the Green Job Youth Corps will not have funds to operate after this year, due to Act 181 providing funds on a one-year and not biennial basis.

We also strongly support S.B. 2768 S.D. 1's provision setting the maximum participant age at 38-years-old. In this year's program, the Green Job Youth Corps is focused on participants between the ages of 20 and 40-years-old, as was directed in H.B. 1176. We thank the Senate Committee on Water and Land for setting the participant age at 38-years-old, close to the current age range, so that this program can be available to a wide range of residents looking to transition into a sustainability-related field. Since U.S. Census data recently reported that Hawai'i's median age is 38.5 years old, the cap provided in the S.D. 1 still limits the program to individuals below the state's median age, and well below the median age for adults.

Please pass **S.B. 2768 S.D. 1**. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in strong support of this important bill.

Sincerely,

John Leong

John Leong, CEO
Kupu

February 23, 2022



Committee on Ways and Means

RE: SB2768 SD1

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

Re-use Hawai'i is a non-profit organization working to create a long-term solution to Hawaii's waste management challenges by keeping building materials out of the landfill and cultivating the circular economy in Hawai'i.

SB2768 relating to the Green Jobs Corps Program is an important measure that will support workforce development in the sustainability sector. Re-use Hawai'i was a host site for ten participants of the Kupu 'Āina Corps program in late 2020 and recently onboarded another cohort of trainees made possible by the passage of HB1176. We're employing and training individuals with diverse backgrounds and abilities whose jobs were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Training included specific skills in deconstruction, lumber processing, customer service, and administration. Our training programs also include workshops on woodworking and safety.

SB2768 and the continued support of a Green Job Corp Program will allow Re-use Hawai'i and other green job providers to expand our impact, reduce unemployment, and contribute to a regenerative economy.

We strongly support SB2768 and Re-use Hawai'i is eager to participate again as a host site as we work toward a brighter future for Hawai'i's workforce and industries.

Mahalo nui loa,

Quinn Vittum
Executive Director
Re-use Hawai'i

SB-2768-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 3:47:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Suzanne Fields	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the establishment of a green jobs program that provides youth with job opportunities in conservation and management of natural resources and recreation areas.

Shifting attention/career consideration away from tourism and into green jobs creates a pathway for our youth to know that they can do good work and contribute to our environment.

The time for this initiative is NOW!

Mahalo!

Suzanne Fields

Haiku, Maui

SB-2768-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 8:58:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT SB 2768 RELATING TO THE HAWAII YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS.

SB-2768-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 11:56:54 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Carissa Cabrera	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee:

My name is Carissa Cabrera, I am a local marine conservationist and environmental educator and I am testifying in strong support of SB 2768 as it stands. For the past six years I have observed a continued need for environmental work in Hawai‘i, as well as eager students and early-career residents interested in becoming involved. However, the limited jobs available, compounded by the barriers associated with acquiring the necessary skills to work in a green economy, have limited the potential of our residents. An additional year of funding for this program can provide impactful pathways for employment for residents, as well as opportunities to create meaningful careers that give back to our communities and ecosystems.

I am also apart of the Hawai‘i Green Fee initiative, a conservation financing solution underway this session. We currently underinvest in our natural resources, cultural resources, and projects that preserve them for future generations. The same is true for supporting our local residents with employment challenges. The program outlines in SB 2768 helps solve both of these obstacles in a comprehensive and effective way that has been a demonstrated success as of the last year. As we work to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, these changes can ensure Hawai‘i is seizing the opportunity to build back better and stronger for decades to come.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of SB2768.

With aloha,

Carissa Cabrera

SB-2768-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 12:23:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Diane Leimomi Riley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Leimomi Riley, and I am a Hawaiian mother, Tutu, musician, harpist, writer, and resident of the Big Island of Hawaii. I thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB2768, which will allow the continuation of the Green Job Youth Corps.

I was born in Hilo, Hawaii in 1956, and I have seen many changes throughout the years. Plantations closed, and Resorts opened. Tourism became a major provider of employment to many of the people of Hawaii. I raised my children on the Big Island, and I worked as a musician and harpist, and at many other jobs as a single mother in order to provide for my family, sometimes working at 4 different part time jobs at one time, and I am aware that it is a struggle for many families to provide for their households in Hawaii. It is even more expensive these days. The Covid pandemic has presented further complications in so many ways.

The Green Job Youth Corps Act is making it possible to help our 'Aina. It is an mportant part of restoring our economy and environment by helping the industries that do both of those things. Without this bill, funding for the Green Jobs Youth Corps will run out next year!

I appreciate your time and consideration regarding this matter. Mahalo and Aloha!

Sincerely,

Leimomi Riley

SB-2768-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 12:57:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Douglas Callison	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz, Vice-chair Keith-Agaran,, and Honorable members of the committee,

My name is Doug Callison, and I am writing to testify in strong support of SB2768 to keep Hawaii's s Green Job Youth Corps going. I am a construction worker by trade, specializing in Plastering. I was born and raised in California, but I have lived on the Big Island of Hawaii since 1990. In my career, I've worked on many projects, homes, and resorts. The recession of 2008 closed down many projects, and there was a huge decline in construction employment. In March 2020, due to Covid-19, construction declined again.

When tourism declines, construction declines. In my opinion, it would be wise to create Industries in Hawaii which are not dependent upon construction or tourism. Thanks to KUPU 'AINA CORPS, I was able to work at the Hakalau Sanctuary under the supervision of Susan Cordell PhD, Director and research ecologist, and Director of the Forest Service Institute of the Pacific Islands Forestry, Pacific Southwest Research Station, and also with Dr. Patrick Hart, Professor of the Department of Biology with the University of Hawaii in Hilo in the KUPU 'AINA CORPS.

Before the opportunity with KUPU, I had bills to pay, but no one was hiring. KUPU gave me a chance to work hard in return for a paycheck. This opportunity provided me with income, a sense of purpose, and hope for the future. I am very pleased with the renovative and restorative work that I was able to do for them. My supervisors are wonderful people who worked closely with me, and they were very supportive and appreciative of my work, and I learned a lot about conservation from them in this program, and I feel that we need to create businesses which protect the land of Hawaii. I feel strongly that green jobs and programs like KUPU are very valuable, especially in a time like this when people are still struggling.

While I am no longer participating in this program, I still think that the Green Job Youth Corps needs to continue for the next generation. Participating in the KUPU 'AINA CORPS helped me and my family when we needed help, and it gave me training and experience I could use in any field. I know that many people learned skills from participating in Kupu's green jobs program that they will put to use in their careers. Please keep this program going so that others can have the same chance that I had.

Thank you for this opportunity to be heard. Please pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Douglas Callison

SB-2768-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 5:53:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
John N. Kittinger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the creation of a HAWAII YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS, which would bring much-needed jobs to our youth and help revitalize our critical ecosystems and natural resources, which communities and our economy fully rely on. The program has been a success and should be scaled to meet the conservation challenges of today and protect our green infrastructure for future generations.

SB-2768-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 11:08:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in full support of SB2768 SD1 towards a green jobs youth corp. Please pass this important measure! Mahalo.

SB-2768-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 7:23:12 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kerstyn Afuso	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Subject: In **support of SB2768** Relating to the Hawai‘i Youth Conservation Corps

Aloha e Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Senate Members of the WAM Committee,

I am in support of SB2768 because I recognize the value that these types of programs add to youth’s lives. I am currently in a similar program, the AmeriCorps VISTA program, which places people in various government agencies, non-profits, or for-profit organizations around the nation. In just six months in this position, not only have I made countless connections during our interactions with the community and other colleagues, but I have learned invaluable knowledge that I would not have been able to gain by reading a textbook or watching a video.

Previous to this position, I struggled to find a job in Hawai‘i that would provide me with the experience I wanted. But, this position has provided me with ENDLESS opportunities. I can confidently say that after my year-long AmeriCorps VISTA position is done, I will be able to comfortably move on to other positions, either in my same office, or in organizations that I have worked without throughout my time here. Having a green jobs youth corps similar to the style of program I am in would have even more benefits, as it would be focusing on work in natural resource conservation, agriculture, and other sustainability fields. These three fields would benefit from the countless connections that can be made through green jobs youth corps programs like the one proposed in SB2768.

This bill will not only give wonderful career opportunities and open up pathways for our youth of Hawai‘i, but it will help to build the foundation of our sustainability and agriculture fields here as well. **I therefore fully support SB2768 and its appropriation to create a green jobs youth corps.**

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Kerstyn Afuso