

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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M. KALEO MANUEL  
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LAND  
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on  
WATER & LAND

Thursday, March 17, 2022  
8:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 430, Via Videoconference

In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 2768, SENATE DRAFT 2  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS

Senate Bill 2768, Senate Draft 2 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.

**SB-2768-SD-2**

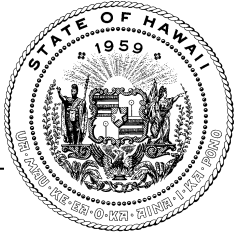
Submitted on: 3/15/2022 6:53:44 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/17/2022 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leah Laramée	DLNR	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am available for questions to DLNR. Please allow me Zoom access.



# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN  
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

235 South Beretania Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
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(808) 587-3807  
energy.hawaii.gov

Testimony of  
**SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer**

before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

Thursday, March 17, 2022  
8:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 430 & Videoconference

**SUPPORT  
SB 2768 SD2  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS.**

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports SB 2768, SD2, which authorizes the Governor to designate the Department of Land and Natural Resources 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, or both. This bill also 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



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

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

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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 2768, S.D. 2

**March 17, 2022**  
**8:30 a.m.**  
**Room 430 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. 2: 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. It is uncertain whether there is a need for additional funds for FY 23.

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.



**Testimony in Strong Support of S.B. 2768 S.D. 2,  
Relating to the Hawai‘i Youth Conservation Corps**  
House Water and Land Committee

Submitted by Kupu CEO John Leong, hearing date March 17, 2022

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco, 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. 2, Relating to the Hawai‘i Youth Conservation Corps**. We also thank the committee for its support in passing H.B. 1989, the companion to this bill, from this committee on February 17.

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 ‘Āina 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 ‘Āina 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, most of whom have been deployed into the field into their new positions. In the 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. 2’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. 2 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. 2**. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in strong support of this important bill.

Sincerely,

*John Leong*

John Leong, CEO

Kupu



**SB-2768-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 8:15:26 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/17/2022 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hawai'i Green Fee	Hawaii Green Fee Initiative	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

On behalf of the coalition of organizations, individuals, and community members working to pass a visitor green fee program for Hawai'i, we want to share our strong support of a Hawaii Youth Counservation Corps through SB2768. The passage of this bill would provide another year of integral workforce opportunities for our local communities, uplifting our irreplaceable natural resources and ecosystems. As we continue to navigate recovery from the economic challenges of the past two years, this bill would provide relief to our residents and invest in sustainable job training and knowledge to last a lifetime. This program was a demonstrated success during the initial year. Another year of funding is an opportunity to incorporate lessons learned, impact more resident lives, and give needed allocation to restoring our green infrastructure for decades to come.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. We do not suggest any amendments, and support the passage of SB2768 as it stands.

With aloha,

Hawai'i Green Fee

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy  
Support for SB 2768 SD2, RELATING TO THE HAWAI'I YOUTH CONSERVATION  
CORPS.**

**Committee on Water & Land  
March 17, 2022, 8:30 AM  
Conference Room 430 via Videoconference**

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco, and Members of the Committee:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) supports SB 2768 SD2, 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 SD2, 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 SD2.

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*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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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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HAWAII FOREST INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (HFIA)

P. O. Box 66 ❖ 'O'ōkala, HI 96774

Phone: 808-933-9411

Email: [hfia@hawaiiiforest.org](mailto:hfia@hawaiiiforest.org)

Website: [www.hawaiiiforest.org](http://www.hawaiiiforest.org)

**DATE:** 3/15/22

**FROM:** Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA)

**TO:** WAL Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Patrick Pihana Branco, WAL legislators Sonny Ganaden, Bertrand Kobayashi, Sam Satoru Kong, Dee Morikawa, Takashi Ohno, Bob McDermott

**SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of SB2768 SD2 Relating to the Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps**

Dear Legislators,

On behalf of the Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA), this testimony is in support of SB2768 SD2.

HFIA directors and affiliates have personally experienced the value and benefit young people who have gained knowledge and skill via programs similar to the Green Jobs Youth Corps (such as Kupu's Conservation Leadership Development Program and Kupu's Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps) add to small organizations in the field of conservation, forestry and resource management. Such young professionals contribute to our operations daily.

Numerous other state, federal, and private conservation, forestry and resource management teams could benefit from a Green Jobs Youth Corps all while young adults could be gaining valuable knowledge, skills and experience as well contributing to Hawaii's economy via nearly year long stable employment opportunities.

That being said, HFIA does have reservations. Will there be enough people interested for this to be successful? Has there been an inventory/assessment of the labor supply side? If the state and/or the legislature has done adequate assessments of such factors that would dictate the viability of Green Jobs Youth Corps, and can confidently say "yes", then HFIA is happy to fully support SB2768 SD2 and the establishment of a Green Jobs Youth Corps.

Mahalo,

*Aspen Billiet*

Aspen Billiet, Membership Coordinator

Hawaii Forest Industry Association

Established in 1989, HFIA's is a nonprofit organization founded by committed to sustainable forest management.

HFIA's mission is to promote healthy and productive forests and a sustainable forest industry through management, education, planning, information exchange, and advocacy. HFIA has over 100 members including woodworkers, landowners, sawyers, foundations, foresters, growers, educators, environmentalists, architects, millers, ranchers, and others interested in HFIA's mission and goals.

HFIA Board of Directors

Officers: President Don Bryan, Vice-President Guy Cellier, Secretary Peter D. Simmons, Treasurer Wade Lee

Directors: Thomas Calhoun, Jeremy Campbell, Aaron Hammer, Nickolas Koch, Tai Lake, Gilles Lebbe,

Michael Sowards, Irene Sprecher, Michael Tam, Jorma Winkler, Ron Wolfe, Aileen Yeh



Testimony Presented to  
House Committee on Water & Land  
March 17, 2022 8:30am Conference Room 430

by  
*Ron Weidenbach, Co-owner/President, Hawaii Fish Company Inc., Waiialua, HI*

Re: Support for SB2768 SD2 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco, Members of the Water & Land Committee:

Hawaii Fish Company Inc. (HFC) strongly supports SB 2768 SD2 Relating to the Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps which supports job training and work opportunities in Conservation, Agriculture, and other sustainability-related professions. HFC is currently a Kupu Host Site and was previously so in 2020 with the Kupu Aina program. Our family fish and aquaponics farm, the oldest land-based fish farm in the State, has found this program to be very beneficial for both participants and for our company as a host site.

Many jobs in the natural resource sector, including conservation, modern agriculture, and other sustainability-related fields, require a passion for the hard outdoor work involved and, in many cases, a college degree or advanced degree. Nevertheless, after more than 40 years as Co-owners of HFC, my wife and I have found aquaculture and aquaponics to be a very rewarding career path and look forward to continuing to participate in this beneficial green job training program and helping to prepare our youth for this rewarding career path. With Hawaii's farmers and ranchers having an average age of 60+ and with many in their 70s, passionate Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps participants are a welcome addition to this natural resource field and career track. This program is a proven and vital pathway to prepare our next generation for these essential, sustainability-related professions and deserves your strong support.

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

Respectfully,

Ronald P. Weidenbach  
Co-owner and President  
Hawaii Fish Company Inc.

**Sustainability. Innovation. Quality.**

P.O. Box 740 | Waiialua, HI 96791 USA | [info@hawaiifishcompany.com](mailto:info@hawaiifishcompany.com) | [hawaiifishcompany.com](http://hawaiifishcompany.com)

**March 16, 2022**



**Committee on Water and Land**

**RE: SB2768 SD2**

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco, 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-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 8:46:42 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/17/2022 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Climate Protectors Hawaii **strongly support SB2768 SD2!**

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.

Please pass this bill!



## Food+ Policy Internship 2022

[food@purplemaia.org](mailto:food@purplemaia.org)

March 16, 2022

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

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Pihana Branco, and House Members of the WAL 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 reimagined 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](#)

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**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.

**SB-2768-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 8:42:01 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/17/2022 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Diane Leimomi Riley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco, and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Leimomi Riley, and I am a Hawaiian mother, Tutu, musician, artist, 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 divorced, single mother in order to provide for my family, sometimes working at four 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 important part of restoring our economy and environment by helping the industries that do both of those things. Without this bill, funding for the Green Job 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-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 9:14:38 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/17/2022 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Douglas Callison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco, and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Doug Callison, and I am writing to testify in strong support of SB2768 to keep Hawaii Green Job Youth Corps going. I am a construction worker by trade, specializing in Plastering. I was born and raised in California, but I've 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, Ph.D, director and research ecologist and director of the Forest Service Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, Pacific Southwest research station, and Dr. Patrick Hart, Professor of the Department of biology with the University of Hawaii in Hilo, with 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 Jobs 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 chance that I had. Thank you for this opportunity to be heard.

Please pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Douglas Callison

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**SB-2768-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 4:03:19 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/17/2022 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB2768.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei, Maui

**SB-2768-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 8:00:50 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/17/2022 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of SB2768 SD2 towards a green jobs youth corp. Please pass this important measure!

Mahalo.