

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA**

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LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
TRANSPORTATION
and
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

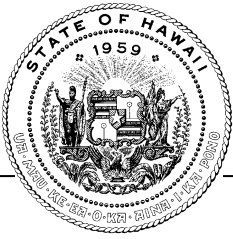
**Tuesday, February 14, 2023
10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1278
RELATING TO GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE**

House Bill 1278 proposes to establish green infrastructure objectives and policies for transportation systems, infrastructure, and projects, and establishes the Green Transportation Infrastructure Task Force to examine, evaluate, and develop policies for the design, implementation, and maintenance of green transportation infrastructure. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

This measure is aligned with the mission of the Department's Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program. The Kaulunani Program builds capacity in our communities to plan for, establish, manage, and protect green infrastructure including street-trees, urban forests, green spaces, bioswales and related natural areas. The urban tree canopy in Honolulu is declining, and with it, the benefits provided by urban green infrastructure as stated in the bill. This measure would help reverse that trend.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.



**STATE OF HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN
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Statement of
SCOTT GLENN, Director
before the
**HOUSE COMMITTEES ON TRANSPORTATION
AND ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**
Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of
HB 1278
RELATING TO GREEN TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE.

Chairs Todd and Lowen, Vice Chairs Kila and Cochran, and Members of the House Committees on Transportation, and Energy and Environmental Protection:

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) offers the following **comments** on HB 1278. HB 1278 is generally in alignment with the work of the [State Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force](#) and the recommendations of the State of Hawai'i's decennial climate and sustainability strategic action plan—the [Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan: Charting a Course for the Decade of Action \(2020-2030\)](#).¹

OPSD supports the development and expansion of green infrastructure across the state. Specifically, the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan recommended to:

Focus Area 4: To advance the development of sustainable and adaptive communities in Hawai'i

1. "Increase the urban tree canopy and increase dedicated bike lane miles." (Recommended Action #142, Page 103)
2. "Increase public availability of outdoor spaces and provide areas to interact with nature and reduce urban heat island effects." (Recommended Action #144, Page 103)
3. "Study and implement green infrastructure design guidelines and policies." (Recommended Action #158, Page 103)
4. "Support and expand on-site rainwater harvesting and stormwater harvesting." (Recommended Action #159, Page 103)
5. "Expand and integrate permeable pavement and concrete opportunities." (Recommended Action #160, Page 103)

Focus Area 7: To preserve Hawai'i's natural environment:

1. "Evaluate the use of green infrastructure along Hawai'i's shoreline, and throughout the coastal zone, with the dual-benefit of controlling erosion and other shoreline processes

¹ The Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan was published in 2021 by the Office of Planning & Sustainable Development, and officially serves as the State of Hawai'i's climate adaptation and sustainability strategic action plan, pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes §226-65 and the Hawai'i State Planning Act. Available online: <https://hawaii2050.hawaii.gov>

- while mitigating the impacts of land-based pollution and inland flooding.”
(Recommended Action #216, Page 106)
2. “Sponsor symposia and trainings on green infrastructure installation and maintenance for professionals, property owners, and advocates.” (Recommended Action #217, Page 106)
 3. “Identify adaptations needed to implement green infrastructure successfully in Hawai‘i’s unique conditions (topography, climate, soils, and development patterns.”
(Recommended Action #218, Page 106)
 4. “Study the efficacy, cost, and lifespan of green infrastructure and traditional water management techniques compared to ‘grey’ infrastructure currently utilized in Hawai‘i.”
(Recommended Action #219, Page 106)

The Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force organized a [Permitted Interaction Group](#) on Urban Green Infrastructure, which included the Department of Transportation and the Department of Land and Natural Resources and produced a report identifying various forms of green infrastructure.

The OPSD supports the goals and responsibilities directed in the proposed “Green Infrastructure Task Force” which tasks OPSD to serve as a task force member. OPSD supports the need to examine, evaluate, and develop best practices to guide the design, implementation, and maintenance of green transportation infrastructure to advance Hawai‘i’s sustainable and climate resilient transition. The OPSD defers to the appropriate agencies on the administrative requirements of the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Painting Industry of Hawaii Labor Management Cooperation Trust Fund

Hawaii Tapers Market Recovery Trust Fund

Hawaii Glaziers, Architectural Metal Glassworkers Local Union 1889
AFL-CIO Stabilization Trust Fund

and

Carpet, Linoleum and Soft Tile Local Union 1926 Market Recovery Trust Fund

February 10, 2023

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
House Committee on Transportation
and
Representative Nicole Lowen, Chair
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: House 1278 (Relating To Green Transportation Infrastructure)
Hearing date: February 14, 2023
Time: 10:30 a.m.

Chairs Todd, Lowen and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Painting Industry of Hawaii Labor Management Cooperation Trust Fund, Hawaii Tapers Market Recovery Trust Fund, Hawaii Glaziers, Architectural Metal Glassworkers Local Union 1889 AFL-CIO Stabilization Trust Fund, and Carpet, Linoleum and Soft Tile Local Union 1926 Market Recovery Trust Fund **in support** of House Bill 1278. The aforesaid organizations are labor management cooperation funds between the Painters Union, Tapers Union, Glaziers Union, and Carpet and Soft Tile Layers Union and their signatory contractors.

This measure will promote the employment of green strategies and technologies including, among other things, painting infrastructure to blend in with Hawaii's natural environment.

We are particularly excited about the opportunity to contribute our knowledge and expertise toward the preservation and enhancement of Hawaii's scenic beauty through the visual improvements envisioned by the bill. Aesthetic treatment of our state's infrastructure can only improve the quality of life in Hawaii, improve its attractiveness as a tourist destination, and benefit our local economy.

Thank you again for this opportunity to voice our **support** for this measure.



**International Union of Painters and Allied Trades
District Council 50**

**TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON TRANSPORTATION AND
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
REGULAR SESSION OF 2023**

TIME/DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023, 10:30 AM, ROOM 325

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1278 – “RELATING TO GREEN
TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRATURE.”**

**TO CHAIRS TODD AND LOWEN AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE
COMMITTEES ON TRANSPORATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:**

The International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, District Council 50, Painters Local Union 1791, appreciates the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT to House Bill No. 1278 – “RELATING TO GREEN TRANSPORATION INFRASTRUCTURE.” My name is Lorna Woo, Director of Government Affairs, District Council 50.

This measure establishes green infrastructure objectives and policies for transportation system, infrastructure and projects; and it establishes a Green Transportation Infrastructure Task Force. We appreciate the importance of incorporating green strategies into existing structures such as highways, buildings, concrete barriers, etc., which not only helps the environment, but dramatically enhances the natural esthetics of our communities. These green strategies will visually improve the urban core and surrounding areas and will also preserve and protect the environment.

For these reasons, we strongly urge the committees to support the initiatives in House Bill No. 1278. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

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Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

February 11, 2023

To: The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair.
The Honorable Elle Cochran, Vice Chair, and Members of the
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
House of Representatives, Hawaii State Legislature

Re: **HB 1278 – Relating to Green Transportation Infrastructure**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 10:30 am, Room 325 & videoconference

Position: **Strong support**

Aloha, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and Committee Members:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i has an enrolled membership of more than 7,000 voting residents here in Hawai'i. We strongly support HB 1278, which would establish green infrastructure objectives and policies for transportation systems, infrastructure, and projects. It would create a Green Transportation Infrastructure Task Force to examine, evaluate, and develop policies for the design, implementation, and maintenance of green transportation infrastructure.

The hideous Honolulu Rail disaster has blighted our landscape with a worthless monstrosity that cannot meet its proposed goals and will bankrupt the City at a cost of about \$20 billion if it ever gets “completed.” Honolulu’s Rail is a poster-child demonstration of how NOT to develop transportation infrastructure – starting with the falsehoods by which it was “sold” to an unsuspecting public; the powers who made the decisions; the process; the values and political pressures that dictated the design; the horrendously ugly design itself, with massive amounts of concrete; the route that runs through landfill; a failure to secure a station at Ala Moana Center; the idea that “somebody else will ride the rail so I can continue to drive on the freeway”. All of these are not the way to develop transportation infrastructure. We definitely need to change the direction of transportation projects in Hawaii by making them environmentally friendly and better adapted to human needs.

It is inspiring indeed to read the introduction of this bill, which states, in part: “Hawaii is world-renowned for its lush vegetation and citizens and tourists actively seek out green spaces. Increasing the number of parks and green spaces in Honolulu’s urban core will increase the quality of life of residents and visitors.”

And we are very pleased that the bill transforms these broad goals into very specific and well-focused plans to make those goals actually happen. The bill requires projects to incorporate green infrastructure to achieve climate and sustainability design objectives. Those objectives include: (1) Minimizing stormwater runoff and [maximizing] replenishment of the water table; (2) Reducing the urban heat island effect by providing shade that reduces heat absorption over



Environmental Caucus of
The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Testimony for the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
HB 1278 – relating to Green Transportation Infrastructure
Hearing: Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 10:30 am, Room 325
Page 2

hardened surfaces; (3) Providing cooler shaded transit for pedestrians, bicycle users, and micro-mobility users; and (4) Encouraging the removal, sequestration, and storage of pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions.

This is the proper way urban planning should move forward. For these reasons, we strongly support this bill. We would propose one amendment at this time: Insert “maximizing” before “replenishment of the water table” on page 3, line 10 of the bill, as shown in our quotation of this portion of the bill, above.

If this bill is enacted into law in its present form, or something close to it, and if it is implemented conscientiously and competently, it has the potential of transforming much of Hawaii’s urban and suburban landscape in a truly beneficial way. We need this transformation. Full stop. Everyone will benefit, even the developers.

This bill would amend HRS Chapter 264, relating to highways. We note that this Committee will be considering today another bill that is very similar, HB 837, which would amend the Hawaii State Planning Act, which is HRS Chapter 226. Both of these bills have exceptional merit, and we would be very pleased to see both of them made into law.

On behalf of the Environmental Caucus, we urge you to PASS HB 1278 (as well as HB 837). We thank you very much in advance for your favorable consideration of this bill.

Alan B. Burdick and *Melodie Adyja*, co-chairs
Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

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To: The Honorable Chairs Chris Todd and Nicole Lowen, the Honorable Vice Chairs Darius Kila and Elle Cochran, and Members of the Committees on Transportation and Energy and Environmental Protection

From: Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: **Hearing HB1278 RELATING TO GREEN TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE.**

Hearing: Tuesday February 14, 2023, 10:30 a.m., room 325

Aloha Chairs Todd and Lowen, Vice Chairs Kila and Cochran, and Members of the Committees on Transportation and Energy and Environmental Protection:

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB1278!

The transportation sector is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions for Hawai'i. If we are to meet our carbon negative goals as soon as practicable but no later than 2045, we must reduce emissions from transportation and increase carbon sequestration.

This bill would help move toward that goal by establishing green infrastructure objectives and policies for transportation systems, infrastructure, and projects.

"Green infrastructure" means the range of measures that use plant, tree, or soil systems with an expected life span of at least twenty years designed to reduce carbon footprints, enhance shade, reduce temperatures, reduce stormwater flow to sewer systems or surface waters, and meet the State's climate and sustainability goals.

The bill also would establish the Green Transportation Infrastructure Task Force to examine, evaluate, and develop policies for the design, implementation, and maintenance of green transportation infrastructure.

Together these provisions will help move Hawaii transportation toward greater sustainability.

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)



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Helping to keep Hawai'i
clean, green, beautiful,
livable and sustainable
since 1912

February 13, 2023

RE: FULL SUPPORT FOR HB 1278 Relating to Green Transportation Infrastructure

Dear Representatives,

The Outdoor Circle has advocated for beautiful and scenic roads and landscapes for over 110 years, and has backed up that advocacy with projects throughout the state that have resulted in many beautiful and treed roadways, parks, schools, military bases and much more.

We strongly agree on the need for HB 1278 to further our collective goals for all of the benefits listed in the bill preamble and rationale and others not listed but well-known.

We would offer a friendly amendment under (b) (5):

“Requiring the Department of Transportation and its contractors to adopt uniform best practices when planting, caring for, and maintaining trees and green infrastructure by following ANSI A300 standards for tree care practices.”

ANSI A300 is a national standard for best tree care practices, but there are some instances where our unique environment may not be in all circumstances be comprehensively covered by ANSI A300 standards completely, so we would suggest a simple change of the last few words of this to read:

“by following ANSI A300 or similar best practice standards appropriate for Hawaii for tree care.”

to allow for local expert arborist flexibility in incorporating best tree care practices.

We would also suggest that this type of green infrastructure legislation be further required of all state agencies, departments, jurisdictions and contractors for such.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify,

Winston Welch
Executive Director



HB1278
RELATING TO GREEN TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE
House Committee on Transportation
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

February 14, 2023

10:30 AM

Room 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following **COMMENTS** on HB1278, which would establish the Green Transportation Infrastructure Task Force to examine, evaluate, and develop policies for the design, implementation, and maintenance of green transportation infrastructure. OHA asks that the Legislature amend this measure to include OHA on this necessary task force.

OHA makes this request as the principal public agency in the State responsible for the performance, development, and coordination of programs and activities relating to Native Hawaiians,¹ who are disproportionately represented among having the worst health conditions in the State – conditions that the preamble of this measure identifies as a major impetus for the development of green infrastructure.

Nā Pou Kihī (“The Corner Posts”) is a Hawaiian framework for achieving social and health equity² at a time of ever-worsening health inequities and disparities faced by the Native Hawaiian people.³ Native Hawaiians are afflicted with chronic disease at a rate three times higher and a decade earlier than the general population of Hawai‘i.⁴ Native Hawaiians have the shortest life expectancy in their own homeland.⁵ The four interconnected corner posts of Nā Pou Kihī are Ke Ao ‘Ōiwi (Indigenous Cultural Space), Ka Mālama ‘Āina (Environmental Stewardship), Ka Wai Ola (Social Justice), and Ka ‘Ai Pono (healthy consumption) – together, they support an interwoven protective canopy over a collection of ideals that give hope to a people in great need; ideals, like culturally relevant and natural – green – living environments.

¹ HRS §10-3.

² Dept. of Native Hawaiian Health, John A. Burns School of Medicine, *Assessment and Priorities for the Health and Well-Being in Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders*, 2020, p.16.

³ Id. at 9.

⁴ Id.

⁵ Id.



HB1278
RELATING TO GREEN TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE
House Committee on Transportation
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Unfortunately, the fetid flow of historical injustice over the past 130 years has systemically severed Native Hawaiians from their ‘āina (the natural world), their traditions, and their cultures. Accordingly, Native Hawaiians now endure some of the worst socio-economic conditions among all peoples in this State, with ongoing inequities and disparities that continue to undermine Native Hawaiian existence. One of the most challenging social determinants of health for Native Hawaiians is interconnected with the health of the environment. The late Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli once observed, “the health of the land is the health of the people.” Native Hawaiians, i ka wā kahiko (in the time long before), intimately understood the need to develop systems and practices – like mālama ‘āina – that would ensure the survival of the people into perpetuity. It has become preeminently clear, over the long struggle to address the inequities and disparities associated with the disturbing status of Native Hawaiian health, that the greatest hope for recovery is through the dismantling of these tangled systems that have kept Native Hawaiians living within unsustainable conditions..

OHA appreciates the opportunity to support this measure with the recommended amendment **to grant OHA a representative seat on the Green Transportation Infrastructure Task Force**. Mahalo nui loa.

HB-1278

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 11:07:26 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/14/2023 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Kauai climate Action Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

By better planning for the incorporation of trees and greenery we greatly improve the aesthetics of where we live, play and work, thus improving the mental and physical health of our people. At the same time this type smart planning can reduce soil erosion, reduce heat, and sequester carbon which is needed to meet the State's climate and sustainability goals.

HB-1278

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 12:25:47 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/14/2023 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

HB-1278

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 4:01:21 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/14/2023 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support. Thank you.

HB-1278

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 5:19:39 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/14/2023 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1278 should lead to better health outcomes and an improved quality of life for Hawaii residents, with benefits to the environment.

HB-1278

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 7:06:17 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/14/2023 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill.

HB-1278

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 7:39:41 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/14/2023 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Sustainable design concepts for public infrastructure incorporate green vegetation and trees to decrease urban temperatures, reduce carbon emissions, improve air quality, and capture water to replenish the water table. The effects of climate change have made the implementation of sustainable design concepts more critical, as each passing year has seen increased temperatures and other impacts from climate change.

People who live in areas that have more trees and green space are less likely to develop acute respiratory symptoms and die of heart disease or respiratory disease. Studies have also found that green vegetation, trees, and properly designed and well—maintained infrastructure can also produce significant improvements to mental health and have positive psychological and quality of life benefits in a community. Please support HB1278.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Hearing on Feb. 14, 2023 at 10:30 am

SUPPORTING HB 1278

My name is John Kawamoto, and I support HB 1278.

The greening of human environments is good for the environment and is good for people. The planting of trees, for example, cools urban environments, reduces carbon emissions, improves air quality, and captures water. The mental health of people and their quality of life are improved by trees and other vegetation.

This bill creates the Green Infrastructure Task Force and requires transportation planning to incorporate green infrastructure.

HB-1278

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 10:55:09 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/14/2023 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members,

I respectfully ask that you support HB1278 which establishes green infrastructure objectives and policies for transportation systems, infrastructure and projects.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

HB-1278

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 9:58:39 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/14/2023 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith Neal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1287

Support

This bill enables carbon sequestration, and build awareness and practice of integrating natural systems into our man-made systems.

Keith Neal

Waimea