

SB 2782



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

Testimony SB 2782

Relating to Environmental Protection

Governor Neil Abercrombie

SENATE COMMITTEE ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

And

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & HOUSING

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair

February 7, 2012

2:45 pm, Room 225

Chair Gabbard, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair English, Vice Chair Solomon, and members of the committees, thank you for hearing Senate Bill 2782 Relating to Environmental Protection. I respectfully request your support of this important measure.

In the last 40 years, the State of Hawaii has managed to protect only 10 percent of its priority watershed areas. Water is the basis of all life on our islands. Without it, our forests will die, our streams will disappear and the variety of ecosystems that our watersheds support will be irrevocably changed. Our lives depend on water.

To protect our lands and all that depend on it, the Department of Land and Natural Resources has developed an action plan to double the amount of protected priority watershed areas in the next 10 years. This plan, called *The Rain Follows the Forest*, will help stabilize our water source in Hawaii by providing for the necessary stewardship of our islands.

This is not unrealistic. We can achieve this goal given adequate resources. I am committed to working with the Legislature on finding creative ways to fund this plan, for the coming fiscal year and into the future. By protecting our water supply, we will also protect our forests, prevent erosion and muddy beaches, protect our native plants and animals, provide capability for food sustainability, and promote the resiliency of our island chain.

Mahalo again for your consideration of this appropriation.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on
WATER, LAND & HOUSING
and
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Tuesday, February 7, 2012
2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2782
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Senate Bill 2782 appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) for the immediate protection of priority watershed forests to replenish Hawaii's water supplies and provide many other fundamental benefits to Hawaii's environmental health. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) **strongly supports this** Administration bill.

This measure implements the central natural resource stewardship goals of the Abercrombie Administration. This critical appropriation provides a jump start for the Department's *The Rain Follows the Forest* plan (available online at <http://Hawaii.gov/dlnr/rain>) to implement on-the-ground actions needed to stabilize Hawaii's water sources. Projects are ready in each county to begin reaching job creation and accomplishment targets. Funds would be allocated in a statewide competitive process to maximize effectiveness and accountability.

Forests are essential to provide water at affordable rates. Hawaii's native forests absorb moisture from rainfall and passing clouds that condense on the thick vegetation and can increase groundwater supply by up to 50%. However, over half of forests have already been lost to invasive species, causing extensive water loss across landscapes. Even a small percentage reduction in groundwater recharge can cost millions per year in increased pumping to transport water for human use. When groundwater levels decline to a point that they cannot be pumped, expensive alternative water sources are needed - long transport pipes, new wells, and even desalination plants. Clearly, our forests are enormous economic assets. Just as clearly, their degradation is ongoing and accelerating. The longer Hawai'i waits to take significant action to halt this destruction, the higher the costs will be to reverse the damage and ensure our future water supply for current and future generations.

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

GUY H. KAULUKUKUI
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Fortunately there are cost-effective and long-term solutions to reverse the trend of forest degradation. The Department's Watershed Program supports public-private partnerships to leverage state funds and provide a diverse range of local jobs. However, funding for these efforts is not sufficient and forest losses continue. In 2000, the State legislature directed the Department to identify additional funding sources to protect Hawaii's watershed forests. But a decade later, the only dedicated funding source for watershed partnerships is the Natural Area Reserve Special Fund (NAR Fund), which receives a percentage of the State Conveyance Tax from the sale of real property. With recent cuts to state general funds, a variety of natural resource programs have increasingly relied on the NAR Fund. This has significantly compromised the funds allocated to watershed protection. In Fiscal Year 2011, 11 partnerships split \$1.25 million, and the five island-based committees that control invasive species and contribute to watershed protection have no authorized dedicated funding whatsoever. Their general fund allocation was eliminated, and they now receive annual legislative allocations from the NAR Fund. In recent years, the NAR Fund has become the funding source for a variety of worthy natural resource programs. But its capacity is stretched to the limit as it is carved up into smaller and smaller shares. While watershed partnerships have typically been able to leverage dedicated state funds with at least 1:1 matching funds, declining state revenues have reduced their ability to find matching contributions. This significantly compromises their ability to protect and maintain priority watershed areas into the future.

An October 2011 statewide poll demonstrated Hawaii's residents' willingness to support increased funding of watershed protection. In addition to a high rating of urgency to protect upland forests for water supplies, 78% of respondents were supportive of increasing funding of watershed protection from \$1 million to \$11 million. When respondents were presented with various means by which the increased funds could be raised, a majority supported increases in general funds (7.4 out of 10, with 10 indicating "Strong Support"). These results suggest that the public recognizes the immediate need for government to significantly increase investments in watershed protection.

In addition to increasing fresh water supplies, the protection of forests prevents erosion that muddies beaches, coral reefs, and fisheries. Forests reduce Hawaii's greenhouse gas emissions, and mitigate many damaging impacts from climate change. Protection sustains the native plants and animals unique to our islands and sacred to the Hawaiian culture.

An appropriation to fund this Program is a responsible measure to provide immediate action to ensure wide-ranging benefits essential to Hawaii's environmental and economic health for current and future generations.



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Water Resources Research Center
Environmental Center

February 06, 2012
RL: 2280

SB 2782

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing
Public Hearing – Tuesday, February 07, 2012
2:45 p.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 225

By
David Penn, Environmental Center
IN SUPPORT

Dear Chair Gabbard, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair English, Vice Chair Solomon, and committee members,

The Environmental Center supports the intent of this proposal to appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the immediate protection of priority watershed forests to replenish Hawaii's water supplies and provide many other fundamental benefits to Hawaii's environmental health. Without stable and substantial sources of long-term state funding for this and other water resource management programs, it will be impossible to make necessary progress to improve our methods, refine our assumptions and priorities, and optimize our effectiveness and efficiency in protecting and enhancing watershed health. In particular, we would like to emphasize the importance of Action Item 7 in the Rain Follows the Forest Plan - promote consistent and informed land use decision-making that protects watersheds.

Thank you for considering our testimony on this proposed legislation. Please note that our testimony is advisory only and should not be construed to represent an official institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96843



February 7, 2012

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The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
and Members
Committee on Energy and Environment
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
and Members
Committee on Water, Land, and Housing
The Senate
State Capitol, Room 225
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Gabbard, Dela Cruz and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill No. 2782, Relating to Environmental Protection

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill No. 2782, Relating to Environmental Protection.

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply supports Senate Bill No. 2782, which provides an appropriation to support the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the protection of priority watersheds that replenishes water supplies. The protection of our forested watersheds will ensure our groundwater supplies will be sustainable for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 2782.

Very truly yours,

ERNEST LAU
Manager and Chief Engineer

ALAN M. ARAKAWA
Mayor



DAVID TAYLOR, P.E.
Director

PAUL J. MEYER
Deputy Director

DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793-2155
www.mauiwater.org

Testimony of the Maui County Department of Water Supply

Supporting S.B. 2782 Relating to Environmental Protection

Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Thursday, February 9, 2012, 2:45 p.m., Room 225

The Maui County Department of Water Supply supports S.B. 2782 and S.B. 2511 to provide funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources' statewide watershed management initiative "Rain Follows the Forest." Funding this initiative will direct revenues toward comprehensive and sustained protection of Hawai'i's forest watersheds, a critical natural resource needed to secure our finite supply of fresh water.

The Maui County Department of Water Supply's mission is to provide clean water efficiently to approximately 35,600 services on Maui and Molokai. Supplying fresh potable water is critical to meeting the demand of diverse sectors throughout the County including agriculture, commercial, residential, economic development which includes hotels and resorts. Maintaining the supply of efficient quantities is a challenge based on numerous threats to water supply including population increase, climatic conditions such as declining rainfall and the loss of habitats and upland forests linked to water recharge, fog water supply and source availability. In the past 40 years, Maui's population has increased on average by 45%. The draft Maui Island Plan projects Maui's population to increase by 42% by 2030. Increased populations (i.e. residential, non-residential, visitor) will have an impact on resources such as land, water and the natural environment resulting in a negative impact upon our quality of life. In addition to the trend of increased population, one of the greatest threats to Maui's native forest is the destruction caused by non-native, invasive animals and plants. According to the report "Watershed Threats" produced by the East Maui Watershed Partnership, nearly two-thirds of Maui's original forests have already been lost. Many other landscape transformations such as agricultural practices of clearing native vegetation and the introduction of invasive species through horticulture and

"By Water All Things Find Life"

1

agricultural industries in the past have all severely reduced the capacity of the forest ecosystem to recharge Maui's aquifers.

In concert with the objectives of the "Rain Follows the Forest" our Department has provided financial support to seven Watershed Partnerships on Maui and Molokai to ensure upland watersheds are fully functioning so fresh water resources can be utilized and enjoyed by the people of Hawai'i in perpetuity. Since 1995, we have provided \$7.07 million dollars of funding to seven Watershed Partnerships comprised of a total of partners. The 54 partners represent ranchers, federal, state, county and local government, water utilities, large landholders, fire task forces, non-profits, non-government associations, public land trusts, the King Kamehameha schools and many representatives from the private business sector.

The Watershed Partnerships address a variety of threats to the watershed including through their collective activities such as: ungulate control through fencing and targeted hunting practices; eradication of invasive weeds and plants; reforestation and vegetation of upland areas and other habitats critical to the recharge and protection of water supply; and suppression and management of wild land fires resulting in the loss of forests. These efforts have successfully resulted in essential tangible outcomes and deliverables and include: fence installation, maintenance and monitoring resulting in a reduction in the feral animal populations; eradication of invasive weeds and plants (nearly 35,000 acres); hunting programs to increase access for hunters and reduce feral animal populations; restoration of forests with native species of plants and trees; documentation, protection and research of rare species; establishment of volunteer programs in all watersheds; interpretive hikes and field studies; resource monitoring and mapping; installations of trails, camps and helicopter landing zones; educational presentations and displays at public events and schools; and landscape level watershed protection through the protection and out planting of native plant species and Countywide community garden projects.

In addition to these positive outcomes, funding the watersheds has resulted in innovative research and development of technology and best management practices that address greater cost efficiency of watershed management and protection of our water supply. Best management practices include the ability to conduct thermal surveys to monitor feral animal control; detailed high resolution aerial GIS resource mapping to illustrate the effectiveness of invasive plant and ungulate control and revegetation/reforestation efforts; resource monitoring to analyze trends with regard to cost efficiency of various management methods; and the development of pest pollution prevention protocols, to name a few examples.

Sustaining these successful achievements will be challenging. State financial support through the funding of the statewide watershed management initiative "Rain Follows the Forest" is a critical factor necessary to maintaining these efforts. Through a dedicated funding source of state dollars, greater leverage can be achieved by matching funds with existing support. In Maui, it is estimated that for each dollar of State funding, the watershed partnerships are able to match it with three dollars from County and community based contributions, private and non-profit entities. Additionally, with a dedicated source of funding from the State greater match opportunities can be also provided with new organizations and additional sources of private funding. Is it worth it? Consider the economic value of the forests and water recharge from a University of Hawaii study which states:

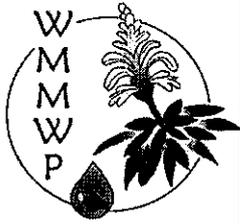
- \$4.6 to 8.5 billion for the recharge to our aquifers alone. That's according to a study of the Ko'olau forest on 'Oahu, prepared by the University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization in 1999.
- When aesthetic values, water quality, climate control, biodiversity, and other forest services were calculated, the total value is estimated at \$7.4 to 14 billion. (Excerpted from "Last Stand - The Vanishing Hawaiian Forest" prepared by The Nature Conservancy, Hawaii.)

The Department of Land and Natural Resource's initiative to provide a dedicated state funding source to ensure that the mauka watersheds are fully functioning so fresh water resources can be enjoyed by the residents and visitors of Hawai'i is important for the provision of a sustainable water supply. Despite all of the successful achievements accomplished by Maui's Watershed Partnerships, long term sustainable funding would bolster the capacity of the Partnerships to not only sustain their ongoing efforts, but to also implement activities they have not been able to address due to the limited availability of resources. Outreach, education and volunteer programs could be expanded to accomplish more and garner more support for the issues that face our water supply. More invasive weed control and biological control efforts could be implemented for the highest priority native rainforest species that threaten vital watershed functions for Maui's population. Fire suppression and prevention management practices to prevent loss of forest acreage needs additional long term financial support. Additional State funding will provide long term, sustainable leverage to implement a holistic approach toward an on-going Island wide collaborative effort.

Respectfully Submitted,



David Taylor, P.E.
Director of Water Supply



West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership

February 3, 2011

RE: Supporting S.B. 2782 & S.B. 2511

Relating to Environmental Protection
Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Tuesday, February 7, 2012, 2:45PM, Room 225

Aloha Legislators,

The West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership Supports SB 2782 and 2511 to provide funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for watershed protection programs. Identifying funding sources for the DLNR's "Rain Follows the Forest" watershed protection initiative is a highly worthy cause.

The proposed bill would allow for resource management to be increased, reverse the degradation of additional forests resources, and further secure the water resources that our state depends on for residential, agricultural and commercial use. Funding will also be leveraged with federal, county, or private grant sources to further stimulate local economies, **bring in millions of outside dollars and provide more jobs.**

As a partnership and as individual entities, we understand that the roots of our success has been built upon the waters which flow from our forests. Without the forest we cannot depend on the water which nourishes our personal and economic interests and understand the necessity of natural resource stewardship even during challenging financial times. Our forefathers recognized this need and we need to echo that wisdom now that the demand for water resources is increasing and supply is decreasing.

The DLNR's watershed initiative proposes a sound investment in our forests. We hope that you can join us in lending your support for watershed protection.

By unanimous consent and on behalf of our partners,

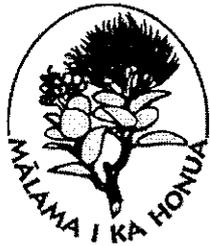
Mahalo nui loa,

Christopher N. Brosius
Watershed Coordinator

West Maui Mountains
Watershed Partnership
P.O. Box 13240
Lahaina, Hawai'i
96761
Phone (808) 661-6600
Fax: (808) 661-6604

Watershed Partners

County of Maui
Dept. of Land &
Natural Resources
Ka'anapali Land
Company, LLC
Kahoma Land, LLC
Kamehameha Schools
Makila Land Co., LLC
Maui County
Department of Water
Supply
Maui Land &
Pineapple
Company Inc
Wailuku Water Co.
LLC
The Nature
Conservancy



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803
808.538.6616 hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING

February 7, 2012, 2:45 P.M.
(Testimony is 2 pages long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2782

Aloha Chairs Gabbard, Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter, with 9,000 dues paying members and supporters statewide, *strongly supports* SB 2277. This bill would provide funding for the protection of priority watershed forests and protection of Hawai'i's environmental heritage.

Hawaii's Natural Area Reserves contains some of the best native Hawaiian ecosystems on state-managed land. While the NARS struggles for its budget appropriation annually, resource experts estimate that at least \$11 million is needed annually to maintain the integrity of the watersheds for our children and future generations.

From the coral reefs at 'Ahihi-Kina'u to Lake Waiau on the summit of Mauna Kea, the NARS protects unique Hawaiian plants, animals, and ecosystems on 109,000 acres of public-trust lands. The NARS includes habitat for threatened and endangered species, and portions of essential watersheds that support our economy and way of life. But the NARS is seriously underfunded and understaffed. The result is increasing encroachment by invasive species, decrease in healthy habitat for native plants and animals, and the loss of the native essence of Hawai'i.

While SB 2782 is a good bill and deserves to be passed, permanent adequate funding is needed to protect these special areas in perpetuity as mandated by the State Legislature. A bill like SB 2511 could provide this support in future years after the initial funding from this year is expended. To that end, we support both bills moving forward.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



NATIONAL TROPICAL BOTANICAL GARDEN

Chartered by Congress to Create a National Resource in Conservation, Research, and Education

January 31, 2012

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair

Testimony Supporting SB 2782 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

Dear Senators,

As the Chair of the Kaua'i Watershed Alliance (KWA) and the Director and CEO of the National Tropical Botanical Garden (NTBG), I am writing to you to express my STRONG support for SB 2782 which outlines the importance of the Department of Land and Natural Resources' "Rain Follows the Forest" watershed protection initiative.

The health of our watershed is the key to providing clean water for our native plants and animals and ultimately for the health and well being of our communities. We have made some important progress on Kaua'i over the past several years and the "Rain Follows the Forest" initiative represents an opportunity to take a proactive position on watershed health - one that will benefit the 'āina as well as our communities and economy.

As stated in SB 2782, only about ten percent of the priority watersheds in the State are protected from feral ungulates and ecosystem transforming invasive weeds. We need to undertake large-scale watershed protection, and I sincerely believe that the goal of doubling the number of acres of protected area is achievable if a minimum of \$11,000,000 annually is dedicated to this initiative. As an important partner for the DLNR, the KWA stands ready to implement this visionary plan across property lines on the island of Kaua'i and the other watershed partnerships are equally ready to take this initiative and run with it - the difference it could make in our lifetimes will be remarkable.

The time is now to take this bold action and restore our watersheds to health. Please pass SB 2782 and the associated funding bills - our future depending on your actions.

Aloha,

Chipper Wichman,
Director and CEO - National Tropical Botanical Garden
Chair of the Kauai Watershed Alliance

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting S.B. 2782 Relating to Environmental Protection
Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Tuesday, February 7, 2012, 2:45PM, Room 225

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of Hawaii's native plants, animals, and ecosystems. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands for native species in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 32,000 acres in 10 nature preserves on Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i. We also work closely with government agencies, private parties and communities on cooperative land and marine management projects.

The Nature Conservancy supports S.B. 2782 to provide funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for watershed protection programs.

Climate change is an imminent and unprecedented threat to natural systems (e.g., forests, coastlines, coral reefs, wetlands) and to every person in Hawai'i that—whether they know it or not—depends on services from the natural environment for their livelihoods, health and welfare. Even if we drastically reduce CO2 emissions now, we will still feel the effects of climate change. In Hawai'i, science indicates that this may include:

- More frequent and more severe storms, and increased runoff and siltation;
- Overall, less rainfall and therefore less fresh water;
- Higher temperatures that may affect the health of forested watersheds;
- Climatic conditions even more conducive to invasive plants, insects and diseases;
- Sea level rise and high wave events that will harm coastal areas and groundwater systems; and
- Ocean acidification that will inhibit the growth of protective coral reefs.

We must plan and implement mitigative and adaptive measures to ensure the resilience of our natural and human systems. One of the most effective tools we have to help address the effects of climate change in Hawai'i is to protect our forests. Healthy and diverse Hawaiian forests act like a sponge, collecting rain and moisture from passing clouds, slowly delivering fresh water into streams and aquifers, absorbing greenhouse gases, and reducing runoff and siltation into near shore waters during storm events.

For these reasons, we support this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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COORDINATING GROUP ON
ALIEN PEST SPECIES

The Senate
Committee on Energy and Environment
Coimmittee on Water, Land, and Housing
Tuesday, February 7, 2012
2:45 p.m., Conference Room 225
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB 2782

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **supports SB 2782**, *Relating to environmental protection*, which would provide critical funding for watershed protection. Watershed protection has been chronically underfunded for decades.

With more people and more industry, demands for fresh water is growing, while exponential increases in water-wasting invasive species like strawberry guava and changing climate patterns threaten the ability of forests to deliver water. Funding to increase protection for priority watersheds by fencing, ungulate and invasive plant removal is key. As high a priority is the long-term invasive species control work that is provided by biocontrol, and the preventative work done by the Invasive Species Committees and other groups. We must recognize the true cost of protecting watersheds and move the bar accordingly, and SB 2782 is a great step in the right direction. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

Christy Martin
Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS)
Ph: (808) 722-0995



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS*

League of Women Voters of Hawaii

49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813

www.lwv-hawaii.com | 808.531.7488 | voters@lwvhawaii.com

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Senator Gabbard, Chair, Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

Committee on Water, Land and Housing
Senator Dela Cruz, Chair, Senator Solomon, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 7, at 2:45 in Room 225

SB 2782 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Anna Hoover, Legislative Committee Member, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chairs Gabbard and Dela Cruz and Vice Chairs English and Solomon and committee members,

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii **supports** providing sufficient funding for the Department of Land and Natural Resources projects designed to protect watershed forests that protect the replenishment of Hawaii's water supplies.

Hawaii's watersheds allow for percolation of water to aquifers. As watershed lands diminish or are altered the urgency to protect existing watershed areas increases to protect this most important resource for today and the future. Without recharge there will be no groundwater and that is our primary source of water.

The League supports water resource programs and policies that reflect the interrelationships of water quality, water quantity, ground-water and surface water and that address the potential depletion of water supplies. This includes protection of recharge areas for groundwater. Watershed protection needs to happen now.

Please send SB2782 on to adequate fund DLNR's watershed programs.



CONSERVATION COUNCIL FOR HAWAII'I

Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing
And Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Hearing: Tuesday, February 7, 2012 2:45 pm
Conference Room 225

In Support of SB 2782 Relating to Environmental Protection

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 2782, which appropriates funds to the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources to protect priority watersheds. Our native forests provide essential watershed areas that replenish our freshwater supply. Funding is needed to protect these forests and actively manage them for watershed, habitat, cultural, and other values. Sadly, much of our native forest has been destroyed by invasive species.

The DLNR's watershed protection initiative – The Rain Follows the Forest – is an exciting new effort by the State to protect an additional 10% of our remaining priority mauka watersheds in the next 10 years. We have a long way to go in light of climate change, drought, and the continued onslaught of invasive species, and this program is an essential first step. Please fund it.

State funding for this effort will leverage others sources of funding and support effective public-private partnerships already in place to protect native forests and the native species they support. A dedicated source of funding will also be needed.

Water is life. This is one of the most important things you, our elected officials, can do to protect water for our people and generations to come. Please support SB 2782 and protect our watersheds and freshwater supply.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Ziegler



Hawai'i's Voice for Wildlife – Ko Leo Hawai'i no na holoholona lohiu

Telephone/Fax 808.593.0255 • email: info@conservehi.org • web: www.conservehi.org

P.O. Box 2923 • Honolulu, HI 96802 • Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 220 • Honolulu, HI 96814

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Directors: Lida Pigott Burney * Koalani Kaulukukui * Robin Kaye

Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler



Testimony of the Maui Invasive Species Committee
Senate Bill 2782
Before the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing
Conference Room 225

February 7, 2012, 2:45PM

The Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC) supports S.B. 2872, which will appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the protection of Hawaii's forested watersheds. Our native forests provide life-giving waters for human consumption and are home to plant and animal species found nowhere else in the world. Healthy forests mean healthy reefs.

Hundreds of studies have documented the damage caused by invasive plants and animals. Research has shown that invasive plants consume significantly more water than our native koa-ōhi'a complex. Monotypic forests result in increased sedimentation threatening our precious coral reef ecosystems. We have seen the impacts of miconia elsewhere in the world. We do not need to repeat the unintentional experiment.

Resources to protect our forested watersheds has never been adequate. In some instances we are barely keeping pace with the invaders; in others, they are clearly winning.

Please reverse the trend of declining health in our forests and provide increased funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for this important initiative.

Thank you for your consideration and for your kōkua.

~~Testimony~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2012 5:40 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: sydsinger@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM **SB2782**

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: **Oppose**
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: **Sydney Ross Singer**
Organization: Good Shepherd Fndtn.
E-mail: sydsinger@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/7/2012

Comments:

The assumptions of this project are wrong. An important research study in Hawaii has shown that removing ungulates from the forest increases invasive plant cover but does not increase native plant growth. This important study shows that this plan to weed our forests will only increase invasive plants and not help regenerate native species.

Reference: Ecological Applications, 21(6), 2011, pp. 2094-2104 Remote analysis of biological invasion and the impact of enemy release

Good Shepherd Foundation

P.O. Box 1880, Pahoa, Hawaii 96778

808-935-5563

Testimony on **SB 2782**

WLH/ENE 225 2/7/2012 2:45 PM

Aloha Senators,

This project proposes a massive forest make-over and public use change, will involve thousands of gallons of herbicide that may poison the watershed, and will kill hundreds of thousands of trees and animals in our forests. WHERE IS THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT?

According to Hawaii Revised Statute 343, these types of actions must be subjected to an EIS process. The public has had no opportunity to legally comment on this proposed project. An EIS must be done prior to funding, since the outcome of the EIS is not yet known, and there may be better alternatives to the proposed project.

You should not fund a project prior to project approval, and the project cannot be legally approved until after an EIS is done.

This project will alter the environment in significant ways. There must be an analysis of the alternatives to this proposed action, primary and secondary impacts, and a cultural analysis of its impact, especially on the hunting and gathering community.

As for the local hunting community, the fact is that the local culture highly values the introduced pigs and other ungulates and the plant species that support these animals. Attacking these species is being perceived, rightly or wrongly, as an attack on the local culture itself. This all needs to be addressed by the DLNR before this project can proceed, since public cooperation is imperative for the success of this project.

Many people are trying to protect the forest and its wildlife as it currently is. The DLNR wants to return the forests into what they once were in the past, and can no longer be. Climate change has altered the environment. The species that populate our forests may be the fittest to survive future environmental changes. Any interference with the natural process of succession in our forests may cause more harm than good, and should be thoroughly reviewed prior to implementation.

It is therefore imperative that this project be subjected to the EIS process, as the law requires, before the project is funded. It must first be approved by the public EIS process. The environmental law applies to the government, as well as to the people.

Respectfully,

Sydney Ross Singer
Medical Anthropologist
Director, Good Shepherd Foundation

~~Private~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 2:44 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: dhenkin@earthjustice.org
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: David Henkin
Organization: Earthjustice
E-mail: dhenkin@earthjustice.org
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Please provide the funding necessary to implement the Department of Land and Natural Resources' watershed management efforts.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

THE
TRUST
for
PUBLIC
LAND



HAWAII

**THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND'S TESTIMONY
REGARDING SB 2782 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**
Senate Committees on Energy & Environment and Water, Land & Housing
Tuesday, February 7, 2012, 2:45 p.m., Room 225

The Trust for Public Land's Hawaiian Islands Program **strongly supports SB 2782** relating to environmental protection, which appropriates funds for the Department of Land and Natural Resources' "Hahai No Ka Ua i Ka Ulula'au" - "The Rain Follows the Forest" watershed protection initiative.

Watershed conservation has proved to be a cost-effective alternative to expensive water-treatment technology in keeping drinking water clean. Natural hydrological systems recharge and cleanse the watershed. Native forests increase the availability of water by absorbing it, storing it, and releasing it slowly during times of scarcity.

In 2001, the Trust for Public Land and the American Water Works Association conducted a study of 27 water suppliers and discovered that the more forest cover a watershed has, the fewer dollars water suppliers (e.g., county boards of water supply) must spend on treatment costs. According to the study, for every 10 percent increase in the source area's forest cover, treatment and chemical costs decreased approximately 20 percent, up to about 60 percent forest cover. For example, when 60 percent of the watershed is forested, average annual treatment costs are \$297,110. When only 10 percent is forested, average annual costs rise to \$923,450.

One of the clearest demonstrations of the economic value of watershed conservation came in 1989, after the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ordered New York City to build a \$6 billion to \$8 billion water-filtration plant that would cost \$300 million a year to operate. Instead, the city got EPA's permission to spend \$1.2 billion over the first ten years to restore and protect its watersheds, letting a 2,000 square-mile forest do the work of the water filtration plant. Similarly, the city of Auburn, Maine, saved \$30 million in capital costs and an additional \$750,000 in annual operating costs by spending \$570,000 to acquire and protect land in its watershed.

An investment in the health of our native forest watersheds is a wise one. It will pay off in avoided treatment costs, and clean drinking water for future generations.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify -

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lea Hong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, decorative flourish at the end of the word "Hong".

Lea Hong
Hawaiian Islands Program Director
1136 Union Mall, Suite 202
524-8563 (office), 783-3653 (cell)

Testimony of **Castle & Cooke Resorts, LLC**
Supporting S.B. 2782 Relating to Environmental Protection
Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Tuesday, February 7, 2012, 2:45PM, Room 225

Castle & Cooke Resorts, LLC supports S.B. 2782 to provide funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for watershed protection programs. Our company is a member of the **Lana'i Forest and Watershed Partnership** and we support the DLNR's "Rain Follows the Forest" watershed protection initiative. We hope you will too.

We recognize the necessity of natural resource stewardship even during challenging financial times. Generations of Hawaii's ranchers, farmers and land managers have always understood the close connection between a healthy natural environment, land protection, stewardship, water supply, agricultural self-sufficiency, and the economy. We represent the single private majority landowner of the Island of Lana'i and recognize the critical nature of our watersheds and the need to protect and enhance our forests and watersheds to provide drinking water for future generations.

Business and government often measure our economy by the number of tourism and construction jobs in operation. That's understandable, but doesn't account for vast natural assets (forests, fresh water, beaches, coral reefs, agricultural land) that support every person in Hawai'i — residents and visitors — who depend on services from the environment for their livelihoods, health and welfare.

The DLNR's watershed initiative proposes a sound investment in our forests, which are the source of nearly all the islands' supply of fresh water. The watershed protection and invasive species programs supported with state funds and leveraged several times over with matching funds from county, federal and private sources help to ensure healthy, managed natural resources that permit our survival in the middle of the vast Pacific.

Mahalo,

Bryan Plunkett

Manager, Conservation & Natural Resources
Castle & Cooke Resorts, LLC.
Cell 808-559-0444
Ofc 808-565-3218
Fax 565-3325



822 Bishop Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
P.O. Box 3440
Honolulu, HI 96801-3440
www.alexanderbaldwin.com
Tel (808) 525-6611
Fax (808) 525-6652

**SB 2782
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**PAUL T. OSHIRO
MANAGER – GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
ALEXANDER & BALDWIN, INC.**

FEBRUARY 7, 2012

Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Committees on Water, Land & Housing and Energy & Environment:

I am Paul Oshiro, testifying on behalf of Alexander & Baldwin, Inc. (A&B) and its agricultural company Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company on SB 2782, "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION." We support this bill.

Hawaii's eleven watershed partnerships provide the general framework for large-scale watershed protection. These voluntary alliances of public and private landowners and managers cooperatively work together to protect over two million acres of forests that supply hundreds of millions of gallons of fresh water in Hawaii every year. Working across ownership boundaries, these partnerships leverage State efforts, pool funding, and provide a diverse range of local employment opportunities. Alexander & Baldwin is an active participant in three of Hawaii's watershed partnerships, the East Maui Watershed Partnership, West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership, and the Kauai Watershed Alliance.

We support this bill as it provides additional funding to maintain and to protect our valuable watersheds. In addition to being a primary source of our fresh water, Hawaii's watersheds also provide several other benefits. Without a healthy watershed

to anchor the soil and temper the erosion from heavy rain, large amounts of sediment would wash off the mountain slopes and into the ocean. Watersheds also absorb large amounts of carbon dioxide, reducing Hawaii's greenhouse gas emissions. These watershed resources are integral in providing much needed water to sustain our island community into the future.

Based on the aforementioned, we respectfully request your favorable consideration on this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Maui Land & Pineapple Company, Inc.

February 6, 2012

Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing
Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Solomon and Members of the Senate Committee on Water,
Land, and Housing:
Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair English and Members of the Senate Committee on
Energy and Environment:

RE: S.B. 2782 & S. B. 2511 —Relating to Environmental Protection

Maui Land and Pineapple Company, Inc. (MLP) supports S.B. 2782 and S.B. 2511 to appropriate funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) for the immediate protection of priority watersheds.

The Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve, which was established in 1988, is the largest private nature preserve in Hawaii and one of MLP's outstanding initiatives. Located on Mauna Kahalawai -- commonly referred to as the West Maui Mountains -- the 8,304-acre preserve is one of the wettest spots on earth, averaging over 400 inches of rain annually. It is also home to plant and animal species that exist nowhere else in Hawai'i, let alone the rest of the world. This fragile and complex watershed of native flora and fauna, that took hundreds of thousands of years to be created, has been actively managed by MLP since 1988 to ensure its pristine state for future generations.

These proposed bills will assist in providing resources to the DLNR to support its "Hahai nō ka ua i ka ulula'au, Rain follows the Rainforest" initiative for protection of watersheds. We not only support the initiative, but also recognize the need to protect all of the priority watersheds similar to Pu'u Kukui. To ensure that fresh water resources and native habitats that collect such water will remain intact against aggressive invasive species and degradation for future generations, all available resources and efforts must be put towards this initiative now, before the window of opportunity vanishes. The Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve is part of the Natural Area Partnership Program (NAPP) that receives 2:1 match funding from DLNR, which is crucial for the sustainability of active stewardship of the preserve.

Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing
Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
February 6, 2012
Page 2 of 2

An old Hawaiian saying often spoken by kūpuna, "Uē ka lani, ola ka honua" translates "when the heavens weep, the earth lives," reminds us of this esteemed blessing that must be cherished.

Protection of our water and priority watersheds, such as Pu'u Kukui, ensures that we will cherish this blessing of the cleanest fresh water in the world and its abundance to be able to sustain life here in Hawaii for all future generations.

We hope that you will join ML&P and support the State's DLNR watershed initiative by supporting these bills for its implementation.

Sincerely,



Pōmaika'i Kaniaupio-Crozier
Conservation Manager,
Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve
Maui Land & Pineapple Company, Inc.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 12:24 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: ohana@kipahulu.org
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Scott Crawford
Organization: Kipahulu Ohana, Inc.
E-mail: ohana@kipahulu.org
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

The Kipahulu Ohana, Inc. is a Hawaiian grassroots organization that has been active for over 15 years in traditional ahupua'a management including lo'i kalo restoration and native forest protection, and are a Supporting Partner for the East Maui Watershed Partnership. We have taken the lead to install almost a mile of feral animal control fencing to a sensitive area in Kipahulu, and contributed hundreds of hours of volunteer time to fence building, invasive species removal, and native plant restoration work. We recognize that the forest is the source of all water and all life, and protecting the forest is the single most important activity for the long term health of our 'aina. With the damage from goats and invasive species, changes in stream flow volume and regularity have been witnessed in Kipahulu. Having the state recognize this as a priority and provide resources to help protect and restore our forests is of utmost importance and has our full support.

~~Dane Wicker~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 2:37 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: rick.ck.barboza@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rick Barboza
Organization: Hui Ku Maoli Ola
E-mail: rick.ck.barboza@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

~~Trane Wicke~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 2:54 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: rockbot@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Anthony H. Sylvester II
Organization: Hunters of Hawaii
E-mail: rockbot@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

SB 2782 Testimony

I feel that the target and scope of this proposal SB2782 have been chosen in error. The target for watershed protection is the Big Island of Hawaii. This proposal states that “Currently, only 10 per cent (approximately 90,000 acres) of the priority watershed areas are protected.” However, a much greater percentage of the island’s watershed areas are indeed forested. These areas are also available for other uses such as hiking, hunting, and gathering. Even with the presence of hikers, hunters, and wild animals, healthy forests are sustained. To enable the proposed increase in native watershed areas, lands available for public uses such as hunting will surely be confiscated and reduced. This watershed project will eliminate animals and any non-native plants in the project areas, effectively eliminating hunting and gathering activities in those areas.

I would also like to criticize the accuracy and credibility of some statements made within this proposal. As stated in the proposal “*The gradual invasion of alien plants into native forests may have already reduced the estimated groundwater recharge by up to 10 percent in certain aquifers. For example in East Hawai’i, invasive plants have already reduced estimated groundwater recharge by 85 million gallons a day.*” How is the effectiveness of alien plants in capturing and storing groundwater automatically less than that of native plants? Where is the quantifiable evidence (not estimates)? Studies have already shown that native plants of Hawaii have developed in isolation, and therefore are inferior to non-native plants in growth efficiency and survivability. One can logically deduce from these characteristics that the more efficient and hardy non-native plants will outperform native plants in the ultimate goal of retaining groundwater. So why eliminate these non-native plants? The proposal states that “*Without vegetation, most of our islands’ rainfall would quickly run off into the ocean and be unusable.*” The restoration plan calls for the removal of non-native plants from the project areas that will be replaced with slow growing native plants. What will be used to prevent erosion once the non-native plants are removed and the frail native plants take many years to grow?

To avoid this destruction of local culture and already viable vegetation sources, I would propose targeting areas that are already degraded and in need of conservation such as former cattle pastures for this watershed project. This is a much better alternative to disturbing already functioning and established hybrid native/ non-native vegetative forests. Or an even better alternative would be to choose another primary target area for watershed restoration such as the island of Oahu. The island of Oahu has a far greater human population and significantly less watershed areas than the Big Island of Hawaii. The population of the island of Oahu has a much higher need for watershed security for the future and would be a more knowledgeable appropriation for watershed restoration funds. As a former resident of the Big Island of Hawaii and a current resident of the Island of Oahu, I fear for the future of water resources of Oahu much more than that of the Big Island. I hope that the concerns raised here within this testimony will be honestly factored into the decision process.

Sincerely,
Anthony Sylvester III



Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

2343 Rose Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Phone: (808) 848-2074 • Neighbor-Islands: (800) 482-1272
Fax: (808) 848-1921 • Email: info@hfbf.org
www.hfbf.org

February 7, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND HOUSING
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON HB 2782
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Room 225
2:45 PM

Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committees:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Chief Operating Officer and Government Affairs Liaison for the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF supports SB 2782, appropriating funds to protect priority watershed forests and replenish Hawaii's water supplies.

HFBF agrees that healthy watersheds are important for Hawaii's goal of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability. As a primary user of watersheds, agriculture has a vested interest in this matter.

We agree fencing to limit invasive species in the watershed and grow local agriculture is important. Digging by pigs destroy the forest floor, reducing infiltration of water. We agree that removal of invasive species is also important to encourage plants that improve the capture of water.

As we support these initiatives, we also believe that a parallel effort to protect our State from new pests is critical. Efforts such as the Dog detector program, funding of biosecurity facilities and inspectors along with measures that improve farm and ranch viability are equally important. Even as we are users of the water, our agricultural

products reduce the need for imports, minimizing the risk of introduction of new invasive species that have the potential to harm the watershed.

HFBF respectfully request your support of this measure along with other biosecurity and agricultural measures that will protect our islands from new invasive pests.

I can be reached at (808) 848-2074 if you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2012 7:25 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: alohaxtc@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Harvey Arkin
Organization: Individual
E-mail: alohaxtc@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

1. The legislature finds that immediate action is needed to secure Hawai'i's water supply. Hotter, drier conditions and damaged watershed forests are escalating the costs and conflicts over water.
2. While climate change is a problem on a global scale, simple, local actions can safeguard Hawai'i's declining water sources. Through Act 152, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2000, the legislature recognized that fresh water is not an infinite resource and its high quality, quantity, and sustainability depend upon forested watersheds. Without vegetation, most of our islands' rainfall would quickly run off into the ocean and be unusable. Instead, forests break the impact of heavy rains, reducing flooding and erosion and siltation of reefs and fisheries.
3. Protecting forest watersheds is the most cost effective and efficient way to absorb rainwater and replenish ground water. Watersheds also reduce impacts from climate change by absorbing greenhouse gases. Additionally, forests sustain irreplaceable cultural and natural values.
4. Half of Hawai'i's forests have already been lost. Alien species, such as feral pigs and goats trample and devour vegetation, leaving bare ground or openings for alien plants that consume more water and increase runoff.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 9:17 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: paulbanko@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Paul Banko
Organization: Individual
E-mail: paulbanko@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

I strongly support the DLNR's watershed initiative to protect our forests, which are the source of our supply of fresh water and which provide habitat for our native plants and animals. Funding is needed to protect our watersheds primarily by reducing the impacts of invasive species that accelerate erosion, reduce biodiversity, and compete with native species for resources.

Protecting forest watersheds is the best way to absorb rainwater and replenish ground water. Too much of Hawaii's forests have been destroyed by poor land use practices and invasion by alien species. SB2782 is a long overdue step in the right direction, and I encourage support for this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 1:39 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: rtb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Randy Bartlett
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rtb@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Gabbard & Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs English & Solomon & WLH/ENE
Committee Members:

As a concerned kama`aina born & raised on `O`ahu and a conservation professional for nearly 25 years on Maui, I strongly support increased funding to malama i ka `ulula`au o Hawai`i nei via SB 2782 and/or any other means available for the benefit of all of Hawai`i's residents & visitors alike; both now & for the generations to come after us.

Mahalo nui loa no kou kokua kakou!

Randal Tadashi Bartlett
POB 11197
Lahaina, Maui HI 96761

To whom it may concern:

I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2782.

As a concerned citizen and environmentalist, I support this initiative to invest in our forests, our water, and our native flora and fauna. We need this funding to protect not only humans but the forest and species within it.

Watersheds look at the whole process of water collection and interactions in the environment. Supporting these programs as well as invasive species committees and environmental restoration and research programs help protect our environment and our water. Without a reliable water resource, Maui cannot survive. Water provides us with food, hygiene, and sustenance. We need to plan for the future on Maui and being independent of outside resources in order to sustain our population as well as protect its habitats.

More people and a changing climate will mean more efforts into protecting these watersheds and resources. Being cost effective and efficient by encouraging the forests to absorb more water and replenish the ground water is effective. Hawaii's forests and environment are already in danger. We are the extinction capitol of the world. We need to prevent this loss and support our ecosystems. Protecting the watersheds also protect the ocean and its resources. All in all this is a great program that needs state, county, and public support.

Submitted by Laura Berthold
2465 Olinda Road, Makawao, HI 96768
lberthold@yahoo.com
847-845-8443

TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF S.B. 2782 – RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

February 7, 2012

(COMMENTS) Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of S.B. 2782. Unfortunately I will not be able to testify in person at this hearing. My name is Michael Buck, former Hawaii State Forester / Wildlife Director and current Sustainable Forests Representative for the National Association of State Foresters. I have spent much of my professional career dealing with this subject area in Hawaii and applaud the intent of this measure as well as the sponsors who have introduced it. The intent of my testimony is to provide some policy and economic perspective of managing Hawaii's forested watersheds in light of the enormous pressure you have as decision makers to allocate limited funds over a range of needs and requests.

Hawaii's forests exist today only because of a considerable investment and political consensus established over a century ago that involved extensive fencing, animal control, and reforestation. While natural resource valuation is not an exact science, Hawaii's forested watersheds are obviously enormous assets to our economy and society and the need for dependable supplies of fresh water is expected to increase in the future. Yet, many of our priority forested watershed landscapes are slowly degrading, and so is our water supply. Hawaii's 11 watershed partnerships provide an innovative framework for the landscape level forest management activities needed, yet they are faced with inconsistent funding. The bottom line is that we are reaping the benefits of past investments made and are not assuring Hawaii's future population of a dependable supply of water. A permanent funding mechanism for watershed management in Hawaii's is needed.

When we pay our water bill in Hawaii, little or no monies are going to manage the forested watershed where that water originates. The price consumers pay for water generally includes: the amortized cost of infrastructure to collect, purify and distribute water; the cost of energy to move water from source to tap; and, the cost of staff and materials to maintain, monitor and administer water services. No cost is assigned to water resources in their natural state or the costs associated with insuring sustainable forested watersheds to collect and percolate our water supplies.

The question of who should pay the watershed bill has been an ongoing debate at the legislature for years. Allocating a portion of the conveyance tax in 2001 provided a portion of the dedicated funding needed but that has been diminished from reduced real estate values and other programs. All citizens and business sectors benefit from our forested watersheds, yet issues of State/county relationships, military use of water, role of tourism sector, and agricultural subsidies have complicated the identification of a fair and equitable mechanism for that payment.

It is important to remember that private lands comprise @ one half of the priority watershed areas in the State (and two thirds on the island of Oahu). Historically, private landowners allowed their forests to be managed by the Territory, under surrender agreements, but retained the water rights and did not pay any property tax. But times have changed as real property tax incentives for watersheds have not been adopted by the counties, the public now "owns" the water, and the majority of these lands are now in restrictive Conservation limits. While restrictive zoning can prevent development in priority forested watersheds (which is a good thing!), it does not pay for watershed management.

A 1911 quote (over a 100 years ago) from Ralph Hosmer, Hawaii's first territorial forester, helps frame the economic argument:

"Why this constantly recurring talk of forests and forest protection. Why not leave it to government officials to look after the forests? That is what they are paid for. The answer to these questions is simply and solely because in Hawaii forestry is a business necessity. Wherever it can be got water is the most valuable product that the native Hawaiian forest can be made to yield. In Hawaii, without the native forest we should be without water. I am not making this plea on the grounds of abstract altruism. I am merely putting up to you as a business proposition."

In 2001, a team of economists at the University of Hawaii did a natural resource valuation of the Koolau Mountains watershed on the island of Oahu. This forested watershed spans over 100,000 acres with an estimated sustained yield of over 133 billion gallons of water each year. It recharges the major aquifer that provides the majority of water for the city of Honolulu and Pearl Harbor. Their preliminary economic analysis of the amenities provided by the Koolau Mountains watershed on Oahu show an estimated Net Present Value of 7.44 to 14.0 billion dollars. Amenities considered in the analysis were ground water quantity, water quality, in-stream uses, species habitat, biodiversity, subsistence, hunting, aesthetic, commercial harvests, ecotourism, and climate control. Net present value per acre was estimated at \$76,000 to \$143,535, with a mean annual stream of benefits at roughly \$165 million or \$1,700 per acre.

Even without exploring Hawaii's other forested watersheds in comparable depth, the authors found prima facie reasons for concluding that other forested watersheds around the state would be at least as valuable as that of the Koolau Mountains. Management costs for this area are less than one-half of one percent of the value of the asset that was being maintained - a sound investment.

We need to restore the historical commitment Hawaii had to manage watershed resources in the early 1900s as we reap the benefits from that investment. Senate Bill 2782 provides a one year down payment on that historical commitment as we strive to develop a fair and equitable mechanism for sustained funding for Hawaii's forested watersheds.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

~~mailed~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 12:13 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: andrea@lhwrp.org
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Andrea Buckman
Organization: Individual
E-mail: andrea@lhwrp.org
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:
Aloha no,

I would like to express my strong support for SB2782. Protecting our state's watersheds is a critical step in protecting our water supply, biodiversity, cultural resources, and quality of life in the Islands.

Too much of our native forests have been lost, and conservation organizations have job opportunities waiting for people that need them who want to contribute to our natural and cultural resources. This measure will enable leveraging of significant additional funds that will support local businesses, local families, and our local economy, and will result in a long-term investment in the foundation of our State's economy, our unique natural resources.

Please pass this bill, and show your foresight and willingness to invest in our State's future. Your support of this bill will be appreciated and remembered for generations to come.

mahalo,

Andrea Buckman
LHWRP Project Coordinator
Leeward Haleakala Watershed Restoration Partnership P.O. Box 652, Makawao, HI 96768

SB2782 (strong support)

Senate Committees on Energy and Environment; Water, Land and Housing
Hearing on Tuesday, February 7 at 2:45 p.m. in conference room 225

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair English, Chair DelaCruz, Vice Chair Solomon, and members of the committees,

I strongly support SB2782. Protecting our watersheds is mom and apple pie. \$11M is a small price to pay to safeguard our drinking water for generations to come.

Please pass this bill. Mahalo for your support.

Sincerely,

Randy Ching

Honolulu

oahurandy@yahoo.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 2:03 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: tcolleencole@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Colleen Cole
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tcolleencole@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

February 5, 2012

To: Senators Mike Gabbard, Chair and J. Kalani English Vice Chair,
Committee on Energy and Environment
Senators Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair and Malama Solomon, Vice Chair
Committee on Water Land and Housing

From: Patrick Conant

Regarding: Testimony supporting SB 2782

I am very much in support of this much needed measure. We all take for granted that when we turn on the tap, we will get good clean drinking water, for whatever use we need. But do we all really understand where it comes from and where it starts? Unless you spend time in watershed forests and have a basic understanding of what makes clouds form on our mountains and where that rain goes to end up in our water pipes, you need to understand that resource to protect it. The early Hawaiians understood how the "forest catches the clouds". The deforestation of the South slope of Haleakala and Kahoolawe has reduced those areas to deeply eroded barren lands. Those former forests used to catch the clouds. Wild ungulates are much to blame at both sites (and bombing on Kahoolawe did not help). This same scenario continues to play out on different scales on all the islands (except that Kahoolawe is now ungulate-free) including Niihau. It is just harder to discern on the larger, greener islands.

It has been said that those that ignore history are doomed to repeat it. At the turn of the 19th century, large scale fencing of our Forest Reserves was accomplished and thousands of wild goats, cattle and sheep were shot to protect watersheds for sugar cane cultivation in particular. Our predecessors were partly motivated by profit, but at least they recognized that the forests were under siege and needed protection. So here we are about 100 years later and we should ask ourselves if we have maintained that forest/watershed protection over that time. In small fenced areas we have, thanks to efforts by the Division of Forestry and Wildlife, the Watershed Partnership Programs and NGO's like The Nature Conservancy, Maui Land and Pineapple, Kamehameha Schools, Ulupalakua and Haleakala Ranches and others. But on the whole we have not done nearly enough. Our forests are not only under siege by newer alien weeds, but also newer wild game ungulates: deer and mouflon. If we don't support serious control of these aliens, we won't have the water to support our growing population. It takes money, and that is what this Bill is about. The funds are needed to get those alien weeds and fence wild ungulates out of our mauka native forests.

Research by faculty of the UH Manoa Geography Department on the hydrology of native forest vs. alien plant dominated forest (strawberry guava) has shown that the guava takes 27% more water out of the ground than the native forest. And that is just one species of weed that has been studied. Our forests are becoming choked with Miconia, fiddle wood, Himalayan kahili ginger, faya tree, "Albizia", Australian tree fern and many more. Sheep, goats, deer and mouflon are causing erosion on all islands they occur on (except deer on the Big Island have only just been found and must be removed ASAP).

Research has also shown that more than 70% of the wild pigs in a forest in Hawaii need to be removed **every year** to reduce their numbers. Unfortunately, research has also shown that public hunting is ineffective at accomplishing this. Research by the USGS-BRD has found public hunting equally ineffective at reducing a population of mouflon at Kahuku on the Big Island. Hunters selectively remove males, so animal populations can actually increase as a result. So what do we do to protect our mauka watersheds from these alien animals?

We do need to learn from history and fence our watersheds and remove the animals as our predecessors did. There are lower elevation alien plant dominated forests that are appropriate for hunting. Our upper wao akua forests are not. That is where our water comes from. Wild pua'a are indeed good to eat, but should they be at carrying capacity numbers in our watersheds and defecating in the mud, where our water comes from? Hunters are estimated to be 1% of Hawaii's population. Should we allow uncontrolled numbers of destructive alien animals to destroy our forests and watersheds so that the other 99% of us ultimately end up with less water, more erosion and silt on our reefs? What happens up mauka affects what happens makai.

Local hunting traditions should certainly continue, but they must change with the times. It is no longer enough to do only what your father taught you and your grandfather taught him. There are many new alien weeds invading native forests and feral ungulates have been shown to facilitate that invasion. We all have an obligation to educate ourselves about protection of the aina. So let's do what needs to be done.

Lane Wicke

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 4:41 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: scyboron@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sheila Cyboron
Organization: Individual
E-mail: scyboron@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

I applaud this initiative and the people behind it. Our freshwater is our most important natural resource, and the forests that nurture and protect it are already severely threatened by alien species and development pressure. This forward-looking legislation would go a long way toward addressing this critical issue.

~~Dane Wilson~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2012 8:24 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: tjdavies@juno.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: T.J. Davies
Organization: Kokua Council & AARP 60
E-mail: tjdavies@juno.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

~~Subject~~
From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2012 10:58 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: ndavlantes@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nancy Davlantes
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ndavlantes@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

One wouldn't know it from the way water is taken for granted here, but fresh water is not an infinite resource and its high quality, quantity, and sustainability depend upon forested watersheds. As was so dramatically shown on the DLNR's production, "The Rain Follows the Forest," without vegetation, most of our islands' rainfall would quickly run off into the ocean and be unusable. Instead, forests break the impact of heavy rains, reducing flooding and erosion and siltation of reefs and fisheries.

Invasive species—both flora and fauna—are threatening Hawaii's oceans and forests. Half of Hawai'i's forests have already been lost. Alien species, such as feral pigs and goats trample and devour vegetation, leaving bare ground or openings for alien plants that consume more water and increase runoff.

Protecting forest watersheds is the most cost effective and efficient way to absorb rainwater and replenish ground water. Watersheds also reduce impacts from climate change by absorbing greenhouse gases. Additionally, forests sustain irreplaceable cultural and natural values. The DLNR must have adequate funding for the immediate protection of priority watershed forests to replenish Hawaii's water supplies and better Hawaii's environmental health. We cannot afford to wait.

Lane Wicke

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 12:46 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: kim@bigislandplants.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kim Dillman
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kim@bigislandplants.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Please support the bill to increase Hawaii watershed protection. Natural resources all over Hawaii need all the help we can offer. Thank you.

~~Page Wicks~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 1:42 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: ehrhornp001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Erick Peter Ehrhorn
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ehrhornp001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Please be advised that I support this bill. Reasons are as follows:

The DLNR's watershed initiative proposes a sound investment in our forests, which are the source of nearly all the islands' supply of fresh water. Funding is needed to protect water for our people and generations to come.

The watershed protection and invasive species programs supported with state funds and leveraged several times over with matching funds from county, federal and private sources help to ensure healthy, managed natural resources that permit our survival in the middle of the vast Pacific.

The legislature finds that immediate action is needed to secure Hawai'i's water supply. Hotter, drier conditions and damaged watershed forests are escalating the costs and conflicts over water.

Freshwater is a finite resource and its high quality, quantity, and sustainability depend upon forested watersheds. Without vegetation, most of our islands' rainfall would quickly run off into the ocean and be unusable. Instead, forests break the impact of heavy rains, reducing flooding and erosion and siltation of reefs and fisheries.

Protecting forest watersheds is the most cost effective and efficient way to absorb rainwater and replenish ground water. Watersheds also reduce impacts from climate change by absorbing greenhouse gases. Additionally, forests sustain irreplaceable cultural and natural values. Half of Hawai'i's forests have already been lost. Alien species are taking over the forest, trample and consume native plants, consume large amounts of water (e.g., strawberry guava), and cause increased runoff and siltation of our streams and reefs.

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 1:00 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: gisdreams@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Page Else
Organization: Individual
E-mail: gisdreams@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

I strongly support this measure. Lack of water in Hawaii is already a problem, and will get worse. We must have good water to protect agriculture, human water supply, coral reefs, and the tourist industry. Hawaii's watersheds have been badly impacted by invasive ungulates and plants. We must stop the degradation.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2012 10:26 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: merway@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM **SB2782**

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: **Support**
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: **Marjorie Erway**
Organization: Individual
E-mail: merway@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

The DLNR needs funding so our watershed forests are well protected. Protecting forest watersheds is the most cost-effective and efficient way to absorb rainwater and replenish ground water. Half of Hawai'i's forests have already been lost due to feral pigs and goats, leaving bare ground for alien plants that consume more water and increase runoff. So, I ask to fully support this bill and the DLNR. Mahalo nui loa.

~~Dane Wickert~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 4:49 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: cevans@hpu.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Chris Evans
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cevans@hpu.edu
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

~~Testimony~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 7:33 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: jkimof@msn.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kimo Falconer
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jkimof@msn.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committee:

I am writing in support of bill SB2782. As a participant of one of many watershed partnerships in the State, It is important to note the accelerated need to protect our future water supply. Partnerships are doing good work with your support so far. Please keep them a high priority.

~~Jane Wicks~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 4:43 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: lisa.m.galloway@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lisa Galloway
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lisa.m.galloway@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

The DLNR's watershed initiative proposes a sound investment in our forests, which are the source of nearly all the islands' supply of fresh water. Funding is needed to protect water for our people and generations to come.

The watershed protection and invasive species programs supported with state funds and leveraged several times over with matching funds from county, federal and private sources help to ensure healthy, managed natural resources that permit our survival in the middle of the vast Pacific.

The legislature finds that immediate action is needed to secure Hawai'i's water supply. Hotter, drier conditions and damaged watershed forests are escalating the costs and conflicts over water.

Freshwater is a finite resource and its high quality, quantity, and sustainability depend upon forested watersheds. Without vegetation, most of our islands' rainfall would quickly run off into the ocean and be unusable. Instead, forests break the impact of heavy rains, reducing flooding and erosion and siltation of reefs and fisheries.

Protecting forest watersheds is the most cost effective and efficient way to absorb rainwater and replenish ground water. Watersheds also reduce impacts from climate change by absorbing greenhouse gases. Additionally, forests sustain irreplaceable cultural and natural values. Half of Hawai'i's forests have already been lost. Alien species are taking over the forest, trample and consume native plants, consume large amounts of water (e.g., strawberry guava), and cause increased runoff and siltation of our streams and reefs.

~~Dane Wicke~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 12:31 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: karingill@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Karin Gill
Organization: Individual
E-mail: karingill@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:
Strong support.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 8:48 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: jg@lava.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM
Attachments: SB 2782 Watershed Protection.doc

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Janet Gillmar
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jg@lava.net
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2012 9:51 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: mh@interpac.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cory Harden
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mh@interpac.net
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:
Clean water--you can't get any more basic than that! Please protect our forests and water supply. Mahalo.

~~Dane Wilson~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2012 6:20 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: anthuriumz@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Wynn Hee
Organization: Individual
E-mail: anthuriumz@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

Please protect our precious natural water sources. Give the DNLR the funding it needs to protect our forest watersheds! Water is the life of the land and people. Pure water is the best drink for health and life.

Karen M. Holt

Post Office Box 354 # Kaunakakai, Hawai'i 96748

February 11, 2011

The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

SB 2782 appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the immediate protection of priority watershed forests. "Hahai No Ka Ua i Ka Ulula'au" - "The Rain Follows the Forest" watershed protection initiative is an exciting and new program by the State to double the amount of protected priority watersheds in the next 10 years.

~~Re: Water~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2012 2:35 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: jenhomcy@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jennifer Homcy
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jenhomcy@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:
Its time to move forward on this. I support this bill its measures to allocate funding to DLNR for watershed protection measures.

TO: State of Hawaii
Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing
Senate Committee on Energy

FROM: Mary Ikagawa, Kailua

RE: Strong support for SB 2782, appropriating funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the immediate protection of priority watershed forests

The economy is a wholly owned subsidiary of the environment. As our ecologists can explain in detail, the State of Hawaii has not invested the needed funds and planning to provide good stewardship of our critical natural resources. Our watersheds have been increasingly degraded by uncontrolled populations of pigs, goats, sheep, and deer, which probably number in the hundreds of thousands. Whatever the numbers, the animals are more widespread than ever before.

If we are to support sustainable agriculture and keep something of the character of the Hawaiian Islands as a unique place with its own native flora and fauna, we must make this investment. We cannot afford to let our land and water resources continue to degrade.

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 1:11 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: jepsona001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Andrea I. Jepson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jepsona001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:
The importance of water -
The importance of watershed protection
The importance of this initiative.
Please vote yes.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 03, 2012 11:52 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: zjudd@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: zachary judd
Organization: Individual
E-mail: zjudd@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 12:28 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: ddkapan@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Durrell D. Kapan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ddkapan@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

My testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 2782** is based on my firsthand fieldwork in Hawaii's watersheds.

As a biologist working at the Center for Conservation and Research Training, University of Hawaii over the past 5 years I strongly support the DLNR's watershed initiative. IT will be a strong investment in our forests providing critical fresh water and on-going carbon sequestration services.

These watersheds face the triple threat of invasive species, human encroachment and importantly, competition over the precious water they capture and contain.

Invasive species and watershed protection programs supported with state funds are leveraged several times over with matching funds from county, federal and private sources help to combat these threats.

Water is critical for Hawaii's survival in the center of the Pacific Ocean. These watersheds capture rain & fog and replenish groundwater. They also help capture carbon and other greenhouse gases helping mitigate the impact of climate change. Importantly, healthy WET forests help sustain the unique biota including endangered animals and plants unique to Hawaii. Thus these forests sustain irreplaceable natural & cultural resources.

Immediate action is needed to secure Hawai'i's water supply: please provide the funding needed to protect water for our people and generations to come.

Mahalo,

Durrell

Durrell D. Kapan

~~Robin Kaye~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 2:10 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: rkaye@mdi.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM
Attachments: Watershed Testimony SB2782.pdf

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robin Kaye
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rkaye@mdi.net
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Committee on Energy and Environment

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair

Comments in **SUPPORT** of SB 2782, Relating to Watershed Protection
Hearing: February 7, 2012, 2:45 p.m.

Aloha kakou, Chairs Gabbard and Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees:

I write in **SUPPORT** of SB2782, that allocates funds to the DLNR for the immediate protection of priority watershed forests.

- The island of Lana`i is the only island in the State of Hawai`i with a single aquifer, and the montane forest protecting it shrinks daily.
- Lana`i's watershed area has suffered from decades of neglect; strawberry guava has been allowed to all but take over the Lanaihale watershed area, threatening the future of our water supply.
- Axis deer proliferate in our watershed area, decimating the understory, and feral cats are attacking our endangered 'Ua'u.
- Those who work on the Hale think it is the most endangered watershed in the State of Hawai`i.
- Those who have begun the work of restoration on Lana`i say that it will take several generations to restore, and such work could gainfully employ every single member of those next generations.
- The time to start this vital work is NOW.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment,

Sally Kaye
Lana`i City



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 12:19 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: sabrakauka@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sabra Kauka
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sabrakauka@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

I write in support of SB2782 to protect Hawaii's forest and all important watershed. Without water there is no life.

Aloha,
Sabra Kauka
Kaua'i

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2012 7:59 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: clk@quixnet.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Carolyn L Knoll
Organization: Individual
E-mail: clk@quixnet.net
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

Through Act 152, Session Laws of Hawaii 2000, the legislature recognized that fresh water is not an infinite resource and its high quality, quantity, and sustainability depend upon forested watersheds. Without vegetation, most of our islands' rainfall would quickly run off into the ocean and be unusable. Instead, forests break the impact of heavy rains, reducing flooding and erosion and siltation of reefs and fisheries.

Protecting forest watersheds is the most cost effective and efficient way to absorb rainwater and replenish ground water. Watersheds also reduce impacts from climate change by absorbing greenhouse gases. Additionally, forests sustain irreplaceable cultural and natural values.

~~Dane Wichar~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 1:13 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: Eknutson@Hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Erik Knutson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Eknutson@Hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

I am a student at UH manoa. I have grown up on the island of Oahu. Water is a finite resource and a responsible stewardship is key for our islands. Thank you for this opportunity to support the work of DLNR I will support this bill at the hearing thank you for your time.

Aloha
Erik

~~Dane Wicker~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 12:41 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: skramling@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: scott kramling
Organization: Individual
E-mail: skramling@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

The DLNR's watershed initiative proposes a sound investment in our forests, which are the source of nearly all the islands' supply of fresh water. Funding is needed to protect water for our people and generations to come. The watershed protection and invasive species programs supported with state funds and leveraged several times over with matching funds from county, federal and private sources help to ensure healthy, managed natural resources that permit our survival in the middle of the vast Pacific. The legislature finds that immediate action is needed to secure Hawai'i's water supply. Hotter, drier conditions and damaged watershed forests are escalating the costs and conflicts over water. Freshwater is a finite resource and its high quality, quantity, and sustainability depend upon forested watersheds. Without vegetation, most of our islands' rainfall would quickly run off into the ocean and be unusable. Instead, forests break the impact of heavy rains, reducing flooding and erosion and siltation of reefs and fisheries. Protecting forest watersheds is the most cost effective and efficient way to absorb rainwater and replenish ground water. Watersheds also reduce impacts from climate change by absorbing greenhouse gases. Additionally, forests sustain irreplaceable cultural and natural values. Half of Hawai'i's forests have already been lost. Alien species are taking over the forest, trample and consume native plants, consume large amounts of water (e.g., strawberry guava), and cause increased runoff and siltation of our streams and reefs.

~~Dane Wicker~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 2:40 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: cal@ofcstudio.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Charles Lewin
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cal@ofcstudio.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

I am testifying in favor of 2782. Protecting the watersheds of Hawaii is absolutely essential to provide fresh water for the future economy of the islands. Also, the pristine natural environment of the islands provides the main appeal for tourism which is so vital to Hawaii's economy. Failure to preserve and protect the wild undeveloped areas of Hawaii would be disasterous to the economy and to future generations of islanders. Thank you, Charles Lewin

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 12:04 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: amarisamarie@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Amaris Marie
Organization: Individual
E-mail: amarisamarie@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Our watersheds sustain life on the islands. It is time that we support watershed conservation endeavors by providing the funding necessary for their protection. The following are several reasons why SB2782 is important for successful remediation of our watersheds:

*The DLNR's watershed initiative proposes a sound investment in our forests, which are the source of nearly all the islands' supply of fresh water. Funding is needed to protect water for our people and generations to come.

*The watershed protection and invasive species programs supported with state funds and leveraged several times over with matching funds from county, federal and private sources help to ensure healthy, managed natural resources that permit our survival in the middle of the vast Pacific.

*The legislature finds that immediate action is needed to secure Hawai'i's water supply. Hotter, drier conditions and damaged watershed forests are escalating the costs and conflicts over water.

*Freshwater is a finite resource and its high quality, quantity, and sustainability depend upon forested watersheds. Without vegetation, most of our islands' rainfall would quickly run off into the ocean and be unusable. Instead, forests break the impact of heavy rains, reducing flooding and erosion and siltation of reefs and fisheries.

*Protecting forest watersheds is the most cost effective and efficient way to absorb rainwater and replenish ground water. Watersheds also reduce impacts from climate change by absorbing greenhouse gases. Additionally, forests sustain irreplaceable cultural and natural values.

*Half of Hawai'i's forests have already been lost. Alien species are taking over the forest, trample and consume native plants, consume large amounts of water (e.g., strawberry guava), and cause increased runoff and siltation of our streams and reefs.

~~secret~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 05, 2012 3:08 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: redahi@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: B.A. McClintock
Organization: Individual
E-mail: redahi@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:
Please do all possible to pass this important bill. Thank you for your time.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 7:51 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: nanimcp7684@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nancy McPherson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: nanimcp7684@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Please fund this program. Climate change is real, and it is only too late if we don't start now to get serious about malama. DLNR has real leadership now and needs our support to protect and enhance our public trust resources.
Mahalo for your vision and kuleana in supporting this bill.
Aloha, Nancy McPherson

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 3:16 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: peterm@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Peter Moore
Organization: Individual
E-mail: peterm@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Please pass this bill to set up a strong base of clean resources for our children and grandchildren.

~~DLNR~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 9:19 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: nihipalim001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michele Nihipali
Organization: Individual
E-mail: nihipalim001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

The DLNR is looking to secure appropriated funding for the immediate protection of priority watershed forests to replenish Hawaii's water supplies and better Hawaii's environmental health. SB2782 will provide these much needed funds. We are an island and if the water runs out we have no other alternative. We must protect our forest watersheds and fund this critically needed resource.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 05, 2012 12:33 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: gerritosborne@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Gerrit B Osborne
Organization: Individual
E-mail: gerritosborne@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

The State Legislature must restrict the building of new living facilities until the state's ability to serve existing facilities with adequate drinking water into the distant future has been determined. To do anything else would be irresponsible.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 9:50 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: palmtree7@earthlink.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: janice palma-glennie
Organization: Individual
E-mail: palmtree7@earthlink.net
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

More must be done to protect Hawai'i's watersheds and forests. The DLNR's watershed initiative proposes a sound investment in our forests, which are the source of nearly all the islands' supply of fresh water. This can't be done without adequate funding.

Water, water, water...The present and future depend upon it. Fresh water is a finite resource and its high quality, quantity, and sustainability depend upon forested watersheds. Without vegetation, most of our islands' rainfall would quickly run off into the ocean and be unusable. Instead, forests break the impact of heavy rains, reducing flooding and erosion and siltation of reefs and fisheries.

Protecting forest watersheds is the most cost effective and efficient way to absorb rainwater and replenish ground water. Watersheds also reduce impacts from climate change by absorbing greenhouse gases.

The island's culture and heritage depends upon intact native ecosystems.

Mahalo for supporting this legislation to protect our islands' watersheds.

~~Lana Wicker~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 1:58 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: coordinator@kohalawatershed.org
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Melora Purell
Organization: Individual
E-mail: coordinator@kohalawatershed.org
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Our watersheds contain the key to life on our islands, and it up to us as a State to support their conservation. Building fences, killing invasive weeds, and controlling feral animals are necessary steps to reduce the threats from humans to our native forests. Please step up to make Hawaii a world leader in protection of our forests and watersheds.

~~Dane Wicker~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 1:55 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: lisarey@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lisa Hinano Rey
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lisarey@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 12:17 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: rezentesc@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cynthia K.L. Rezendes
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rezentesc@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

I wholeheartedly encourage everyone to support this measure as it helps all of us protect those lands which will become more and more critical in the future as we see additional growth and development and requirements for clean potable water.

This bill would fund the efforts identified by the DLNR to meet the requirements to meet those future goals by starting to provide the impetus today while we still have the time and opportunity to make the significant impacts that we need for our future requirements...

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 1:26 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: drodrigues2001@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Darlene Rodrigues
Organization: Individual
E-mail: drodrigues2001@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Please protect the watershed forests of Hawai'i. We need to do everything we can to protect the future generations access to clean and fresh water. The forest watershed provides moisture in our atmosphere and creates rain therefore replenishing our aquifers. It also prevents erosion and runoff that damages the reef and ocean.



From: Noelie Rodriguez [noelie@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 9:41 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Subject: Support SB2782

Dear Senators Delacruz and Solomon, Co-Chairs, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing:

Please support SB2782. We cannot just take our environment and its benefits for granted. It's easy to forget that our water supply depends upon rainwater recharge in our mauka forests, and it's easy to forget that the health of our forests depends upon wise stewardship. In particular, we must protect these forests from invasive species and alien animals. SB2782 is an important initiative by the DLNR to ensure that our water supply is protected, along with the forest. It is the best investment that we can make. If we help the forest, it will continue to sustain us.

Noelie Rodriguez
P.O. Box 5
Ninole, HI 96773

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2782 RELATING TO
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Hearing Date:
February 7, 2012
Room 225, 2:45 p.m.

Senate Committees on Water, Land, and Housing and
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

To the Honorable Chairs Dela Cruz and Gabbard, and committee members,

Thank you for hearing this important bill. As someone who has worked in the conservation education field in Hawai'i for more than 25 years, I understand the urgent need to take bold steps to protect priority watershed areas. The State Department of Land and Natural Resources currently does not have enough funds to do what is needed to ensure that our forests are healthy and continue to provide the most important natural resource to our people – fresh water.

Hotter and drier conditions and damaged watershed forests from years of conflicting management necessitate immediate action. Protecting forested watersheds is the most cost effective and efficient way to absorb rainwater and replenish ground water. Additionally, forests are habitat to unique species of plants and animals found only in Hawai'i that are integral to the fabric of our host culture and our identity as residents fortunate to live in these islands.

We must change the fate of our forests and not let invasive species and improper management overrun our native forests. Let's lose no more than what is already lost, and give our children a future without fear of not having access to freshwater from our watersheds. Please pass and fund this act.

Aloha,



Pauline M. Sato
1173 'Ālewa Drive
Honolulu, HI 96817

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Brilana Silva, resident of Pearl City, and I am testifying in support of SB 2782. Fresh water is talked about and used as though we have an infinite supply, but unless we protect our watershed forests, the state of Hawaii could be in jeopardy.

Immediate action is needed to secure Hawaii's water supply. Protecting watersheds is the most cost effective and efficient way to absorb rainwater and replenish ground water. If not protected, further loss of watershed forests will be subject to alien species, such as feral pigs and goats, which trample and devour vegetation, leaving bare ground or openings for alien plants that consume more water and increase runoff. Please protect this basic necessity and support SB 2782.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Brilana Silva

Dane Wick

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 1:33 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: mvaught@hcsugar.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mark Vaught
Organization:
E-mail: mvaught@hcsugar.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Dana Wicke

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 9:41 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: pr@eastmauiwatershed.org
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Allison Wiest
Organization: Individual
E-mail: pr@eastmauiwatershed.org
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

Testimony of Allison Wiest
Supporting S.B. 2782 Relating to Environmental Protection Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing Senate Committee on Energy and Environment Tuesday, February 7, 2012, 2:45PM, Room 225

I support S.B. 2782 to provide funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for watershed protection programs. I am an employee of the East Maui Watershed Partnership and I support the DLNR's "Rain Follows the Forest" watershed protection initiative. I hope you will too.

I recognize the necessity of natural resource stewardship even during challenging financial times. Generations of Hawaii's ranchers, farmers and land managers have always understood the close connection between a healthy natural environment, land protection, stewardship, water supply, agricultural self-sufficiency, and the economy.

Business and government often measure our economy by the number of tourism and construction jobs in operation. That's understandable, but doesn't account for vast natural assets (forests, fresh water, beaches, coral reefs, agricultural land) that support every person in Hawai'i – residents and visitors – who depend on services from the environment for their livelihoods, health and welfare.

The DLNR's watershed initiative proposes a sound investment in our forests, which are the source of nearly all the islands' supply of fresh water. The watershed protection and invasive species programs supported with state funds and leveraged several times over with matching funds from county, federal and private sources help to ensure healthy, managed natural resources that permit our survival in the middle of the vast Pacific.

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 1:44 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: beverlyzigmond@juno.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: beverly zigmond
Organization: Individual
E-mail: beverlyzigmond@juno.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

This is one of the most important things the DLNR and the legislature can do for our people and generations to come!

We need to take immediate action to secure Hawaii's water supply. Hotter, drier conditions and damaged watershed forests are escalating the costs and conflicts over water.

Freshwater is a finite resource and its high quality, quantity, and sustainability depend upon forested watersheds. Without vegetation, most of our islands' rainfall would quickly run off into the ocean and be unusable. Instead, forests break the impact of heavy rains, reducing flooding and erosion and siltation of reefs and fisheries.

Protecting forest watersheds is the most cost effective and efficient way to absorb rainwater and replenish ground water. Watersheds also reduce impacts from climate change by absorbing greenhouse gases. Additionally, forests sustain irreplaceable cultural and natural values.

Please support this critical bill. aloha, Beverly Zigmond, Lana'i City



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 7:30 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: sewsew@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michelle Gasmen
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sewsew@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

To many fences going up around here. What are our kids going to do in the future? We hunt and gather and enjoy the natural beauty and respect the land. Please don't push us out. Its our culture.

~~Jane Wicks~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 2:49 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: jgriffiths62@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: John Griffiths jr
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jgriffiths62@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Way should we be taxed again in no way should this bill be passed. In this hard times the people of Hawaii should not be taxed more n more ENOUGH

~~Jane Wicks~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 4:49 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: somagrismajer@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Soma Grismaijer
Organization: Individual
E-mail: somagrismajer@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

I would like to comment on the Rain Follows the Forest plan. Senate Bill 2782

When looking at the glitzy presentation of this campaign it is clear that it is being promoted with a big PR campaign and a lot of money. Where is the money coming from and who will directly benefit from this plan? This plan states that invasive species are destroying native ecosystems and must be killed to save our watersheds. How will this killing be done? How many tons of chemicals will be used? Who will profit from this multi-million dollar forest makeover?

And how do we know these plans will succeed? Ecosystem restorations are known to fail in almost all circumstances. Have our tax dollars been used wisely in funding invasive species control? Has there been an evaluation of the millions of dollars that have been wasted on eradications of weeds and pests that can't be eradicated (miconia, coqui, etc.)

In the end, what is being proposed, can 't be done, but a few people and businesses will sure make a lot of money trying.

Please DO NOT support this bill.

Soma Grismaijer
P.O. Box 1880
Pahoa, HI 96778
(808) 640-3836

~~Dane Wicka~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 1:55 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: nanihawaii@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nani KM Pogline
Organization: Individual
E-mail: nanihawaii@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

1.This plan has not considered the cultural and historical practices of the local people of Hawaii in relationship to hunting as a food resource, and back country recreational activities. 2.The shut down of historical public road accesses into the back country is in violation of the law. 3.Native species are often harmed with the removal of non-native species, as they have developed inter-dependencies through the evolution of the last several hundred years (one example among many: native birds are dieing back from the removal of the banana poka nutrient source). 4.Water conservation practices and development control would protect water supplies more than killing non-native species. 5.No one knows if the native vegetation will fill in as hoped, with the complications of global climate change. The removal of non-native vegetation may prove to cause more evaporation and temperature change. 6.Tax payer funds channeled into these areas take away from other serious and essential public needs. The neglected harbors with extravagant fees are driving fishermen, boating businesses and recreational sportsmen out. The shabby conditions of our Parks is shameful. The nationally high numbers of homeless people in Hawaii are left with little to no help. 7.The questionable future of our economy may leave these massive projects unsustainable.

Testimony on SB 2782

Dear Sen. Gabbard, Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and the Environment:

Please support SB2782. We cannot just take our environment and its benefits for granted. It's easy to forget that our water supply depends upon rainwater recharge in our mauka forests, and it's easy to forget that the health of our forests depends upon wise stewardship. In particular, we must protect these forests from invasive species and alien animals. SB2782 is an important initiative by the DLNR to ensure that our water supply is protected, along with the forest. It is the best investment that we can make. If we help the forest, it will continue to sustain us.

Noelie Rodriguez
P.O. Box 5
Ninole, HI 96773

Dane Wicker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2012 8:16 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: coco.needham@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2782 on 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2782

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Charlotte Needham
Organization: Individual
E-mail: coco.needham@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/7/2012

Comments:

Aloha,

I was blessed and fortunate to be born to a special aina that lies within the Forest reserve boundaries. We have partnered with DOFAW in the past regarding watershed inventory and watershed plan. We helped to form the Makiki Valley Watershed Partnership. As stewards of our land it is imperative that efforts be made to protect our watersheds for the future generations.

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply has this in front of their building and you pass it everyday.

"Uwe ka lani ola ka honua"

"When the heavens weep, the earth lives" Please ho`olohe pono.

S.B. 2782 – A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

My name is Clifford W. Smith. I am a retired faculty member of the UH Manoa where I spent much of my career enabling natural resource management in Hawaii's national parks and other natural areas in the state. I retired in 1998 but returned to manage the Oahu Army Natural Resources Program in 2008.

SB 2782 is a landmark proposal, long overdue; a bold attempt to ameliorate a growing problem with a fairly comprehensive plan to manage Hawaii's potable water problems at the origin of the supply. We cannot control rainfall but the capture of the available rain in the watersheds is essential. Without managing the threats to this capture we cannot stabilize or restore recharge and must rely only on increasing efficiency of use and ultimately water rationing. The assured supply of potable water is a fundamental right of the citizens of the state and it is the government's job to ensure that supply.

This bill would go further. If implemented, the watershed program would be an umbrella under which many other natural resource management actions already being conducted or planned could flourish. The proposal will thereby enable synergies above and beyond the bill's current scope that will dramatically improve the status of Hawaii's native biota.

I do not disagree with the initial focus on 'priority' watersheds, the immediate need, but ultimately all watersheds must be similarly protected.

My biggest concern with the bill is its funding. This proposal is for a very long term commitment. It cannot be subject to the vagaries of politics or economic cycles. Water is the medium of life. If it is limited the consequences are potentially catastrophic and politically destabilizing. It would, therefore, be much better to identify a stable source of funding. I suggest that there be a small tax, or fee if that is more politically acceptable, on water usage. The use of the funds would need to be more succinctly defined. The funds should be in a revolving fund to avoid the vagaries of annual budgeting because some of the necessary actions are going to take several years. One very specific need not already addressed in the bill is that 5-10% of the funds should support HDOA's biological control program specifically to target forest weeds. Without this ability managers will be forced to use chemicals to control weeds. In the short term this is acceptable using today's minimal application rates. However, it is a continuous process. Once an effective biological agent(s) is developed the problem is resolved for the long term. This assumes that the state can prevent the introduction of further invasive species.

I urge the committee to support SB 2782.