

DAVID IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
CARTY S. CHANG
Interim Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Thursday, February 26, 2015
9:00AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 544
RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES**

Senate Bill 544 proposes to authorize appropriations for watershed management; invasive species prevention, control, outreach, research, and planning; equipment for fire, natural disaster, and emergency response; and forest and outdoor recreation improvements. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that this appropriation does not adversely impact appropriations for other priorities in the Executive Budget request.**

Part II: Watershed Management

Protecting forested watersheds is one of the Department's top priorities, and an ongoing effort. With climate change accelerating a long-term decline in rainfall, forest protection has never been more urgent.

- Native forests absorb mist and fog, increasing water supply up to 50% more than rainfall.
- The availability and affordability of fresh water is so dependent on Hawaii's forests that economists estimate investments in forest protection have a 50:1 benefit to cost ratio.
- The net present value of the Koolau mountain forests for water supplies is \$8.5 billion.
- Currently only 5% of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife's lands are protected to the highest extent. We plan to increase this percentage to 20% over the next 10 years.

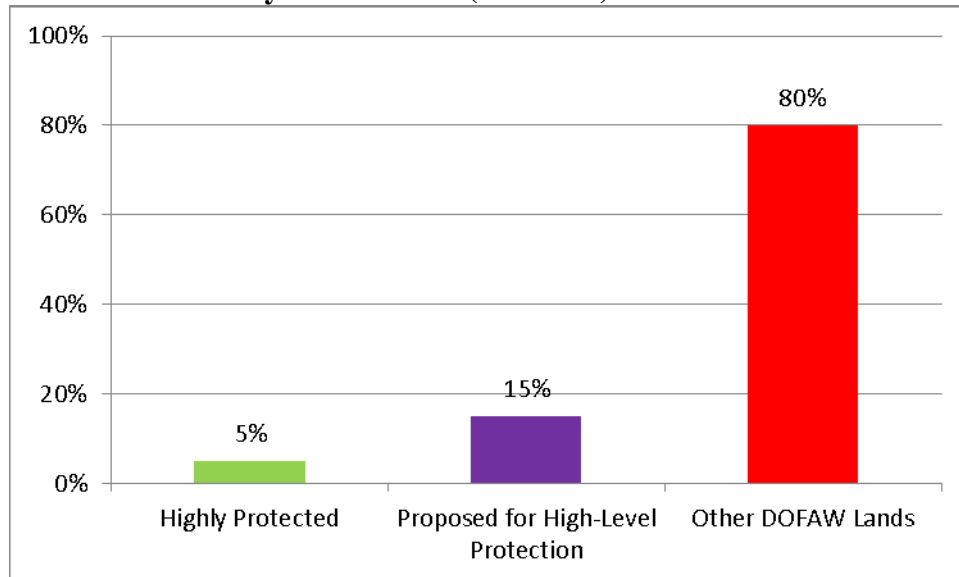
CARTY S. CHANG
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

DANIEL S. QUINN
INTERIM FIRST DEPUTY

W. ROY HARDY
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) Lands

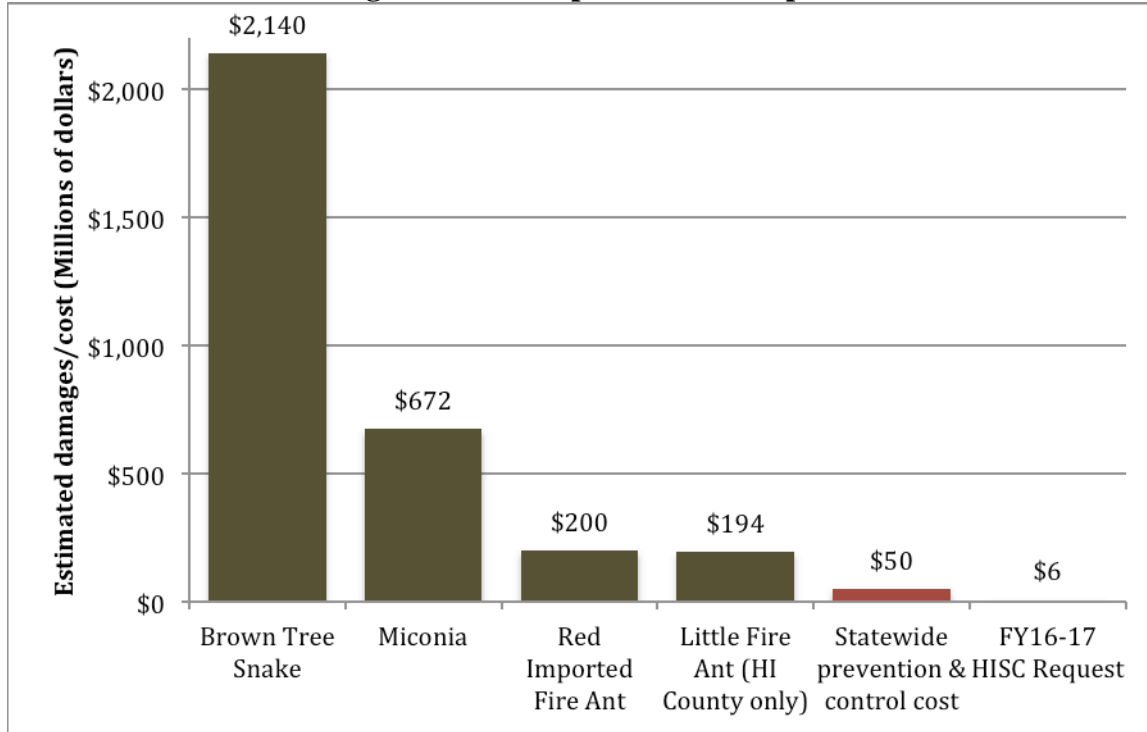


Part III: Invasive Species Control

The Department is the administrative host of the interagency Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC), which funds critical invasive species prevention, control, outreach, and research projects that fill gaps between existing agency programs or develop new tools and methodologies.

- In Fiscal Year 2015, the legislature provided \$5,750,000 to the HISC, supporting 42 projects including the UH Invasive Species Committees, a little fire ant canine detection pilot program, interagency response to the coconut rhinoceros beetle infestation, and biocontrol research.
- FY16 funding is needed to continue these projects and support new research efforts.
- The Legislative Reference Bureau estimates that \$50,000,000/yr is needed to address invasive species in Hawaii.

Estimated economic damages from a sample of invasive species



Part IV: Fire, Natural Disaster, and Emergency Response Equipment

The Department is responsible for preventing and fighting wildfires, and responds to natural disasters from hurricanes to lava flows that threaten life and property.

- Hawaii is on par with the western states for percentage of land area burnt.
- The average annual number of fires that burn over 100 acres has increased five-fold in the past 40 years.
- Forestry crews helped clear fallen albizia trees from roadways after Tropical Storm Iselle.
- Funding will be used for brush trucks, weather stations, and personal protective gear.

Part V: Forest and Outdoor Recreation Improvements

The Department’s trails and access (Na Ala Hele) program connects residents and visitors to Hawaii’s natural areas and iconic scenery, yet is severely underfunded.

- Na Ala Hele maintains 124 trails and roads, totaling 855 miles statewide.
- There is a dramatic increase in visitation to recreational sites. For example, nearly 100,000 hikers per year visit Oahu’s Manoa Falls Trail and Maunawili Falls Trail.
- This funding is critical for improving the safety of trails and roads statewide, which degrade with overuse.



Water has no substitute.....Conserve it

Testimony of
Kirk Saiki, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer
Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, February 26, 2015
9:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

February 25, 2015

The Honorable Senator Jill N. Tokuda
24th Senatorial District
Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

RE: SB 544, RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES

The County of Kaua'i, Department of Water (DOW), respectfully submits this testimony supporting Senate Bill 544 which proposes to provide funding for watershed management; invasive species prevention, control outreach, research, and planning; equipment for fire, natural disaster, emergency response; and forest and outdoor recreation programs.

The DOW is a member of the Kaua'i Watershed Alliance and we recognize the necessity of natural resource stewardship. We understand that the source of our pure water is a system of healthy forested watersheds which capture rain and cloud moisture and deliver it efficiently to aquifers and surface sources for subsequent consumption in our daily lives and for the benefit of our island economy.

This bill proposes to provide additional funding for the protection of our native forests, which are the source of the entire island's supply of fresh water and an essential cultural and recreational resource. 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 are critical for isolated island chains such as Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions feel free to call me at (808) 245-5408 or by e-mail at ksaiki@kauaiwater.org.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kirk Saiki".

Kirk Saiki P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer

CC: Honorable Bernard P. Carvalho, Mayor, County of Kauai
Sherman Shiraishi, Chairperson, Kaua'i Board of Water Supply
Ernest Lau, Manager and Chief Engineer, Honolulu Board of Water Supply
Dave Taylor, Director, Maui Department of Water Supply
Quirino Antonio Jr., Manager and Chief Engineer, County of Hawai'i, Department of Water Supply



23 E. Kawili St, Hilo, HI 96720 • Phone: (808) 933-3340

To: Senate Committee WAM
RE: Support for SB544
Hearing: Thursday 2/26/2015

Aloha,

I would like to begin by thanking the legislators for the funds that was allocated to the HISC last year. In fiscal year 2014, just \$750,000 was provided from the general fund to the HISCs for invasive species control. Last year, however, that amount increased to just shy of \$6 million. Although it is still far from the \$50 million estimated by the 2002 legislative study as necessary to fully address invasive species in Hawaii, that funding has had critical impacts for our state and for our island.

The increase in general fund allocation to the HISC resulted in a 57% direct increase in BIISC's annual budget. Some highlights of the benefits to our program include:

Building capacity. We were able to add more staff, moving from only 8 individuals responsible for the entire Big Island to more than 20, including paid internship positions that provide job training and experience in natural resource management for young people in our community.

Significantly increased productivity in field operations. In 2014 we saw our efforts in on-the-ground identification, control, and eradication of invasive pests **increase by 367%**. This includes the effective eradication of two highly invasive introduced plant species and the control of several others.

Rapid response to Axis Deer. With additional funding, we were able form a rapid response team that surveyed hundreds of acres of land for illegally introduced axis deer and mobilized 40 full-scale responses to deer sightings. This resulted in the elimination of 4 deer, and no confirmed deer sightings on the Big Island in over a year.

Increased ability to prevent the spread of pests into new areas. In 2014 we were able to provide assistance in detection, control, and removal of invasive species to the Kohala Watershed Partnership, the Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance, Three Mountain Alliance, the Hawaii National Guard, the County of Hawaii, Kamehameha Schools, Thirty Meter Telescope and other partners in need of our expertise.

Increased community empowerment. BIISC held more than a dozen community workshops and trained over a hundred people on the safe control and removal of albizia trees, which destroyed homes, cars, and left hundreds without power for weeks after Tropical Storm Iselle. BIISC also began an aggressive outreach program to raise the level of awareness and community response to invasive pests, and to empower citizens with guidance on managing invasions in their own communities.

Leveraging of outside funding. With the additional funding from the state, we were able to double the amount of federal funds brought in to combat invasive pests. BIISC was also able to obtain grant money to expand existing programs once staffing was in place.

Like the management of personal health, which requires daily interventions in the way of a good diet and exercise, management of natural resources is an ongoing endeavor that is most effective when small measures are performed regularly. Maintaining a reliable level of funding for biosecurity from year to year means that ISC's can create strong and ambitious plans that stretch over long periods of time and focus on prevention and early detection. As in health care, preventative measures in invasive species control are significantly cheaper than reactive measures. An investment in healthy foods or a good pair of running shoes is far less than the cost of a hospital stay, surgery, or medications; similarly, an investment in invasive species programs will go far in ensuring that we avoid a "next albizia" that threatens our environment, safety, and economic security.

Watershed funding is estimated to have a 50:1 benefit:cost ratio, meaning that every dollar allocated to watershed funding provides benefits for the communities of Hawai'i far exceeding the expenditure. The dollars allocated today are not "spent"; rather they are *invested* in a healthful future for our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. If you need further information, do not hesitate to contact me.

Springer Kaye, Manager
Big Island Invasive Species Committee



Testimony of the Maui Invasive Species Committee
Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
SB 544 – Relating to Natural Resources
Conference Room 211
February 26, 2015, 9:00 AM

The Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC) supports S.B. 544 which would provide funding for the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC), watershed management, response to natural disasters, and recreation.

Last year, HISC had a budget of \$5.75 million but had more than twice that in requests for funding. Many worthy and needed projects were not able to be funded or projects were funded at less than the requested amount. FY15 funding is helping the Invasive Species Committees (ISCs) return to a functional level after years of cutbacks. The ISCs continue to provide island-wide rapid response functions for species that make it past our quarantine system, including coqui frogs, and little fire ants, working in close partnership with state, local and federal agencies. Some ISCs, such as the Molokai Invasive Species Committee have finally been able to add staff. It would be a huge step backward to lose trained staff and momentum with a decrease in funding. Over the last 12 months, Maui has seen a significant increase in new detections of little fire ant infestations on the island, including the largest wildland site outside of Hawaii Island. MISC is diverting much of its existing capacity to help work on these new infestations. It would be disastrous to suffer a loss in capacity at this critical juncture.

The state's eleven Watershed Partnerships help ensure protection of our life-giving watersheds, working across more than 2 million acres. The State has provided funding to help install new fences but more funding is needed to complete that work and to ensure ongoing maintenance of such fences in some of the most challenging terrain on the islands. This bill will help ensure this crucial work continues.

Other provisions of the bill are also worthy of support including funding for response to natural disasters and needed improvements for access to recreational trails.

Respectfully submitted,

Teya M. Penniman
Manager, Maui Invasive Species Committee



Testimony of the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee
Supporting S.B. 544 Relating to Natural Resources
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, February 26, 2015, 9:00 AM, Room 211

The O'ahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC) supports S.B. 544 that would provide funding to the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council, DLNR Watershed programs, forest fire and emergency response and outdoor recreation. Invasive species damage Hawai'i's agriculture and food security and the native forests that ensure Hawai'i's water supply. The funding from S.B. 544 will be critical to ensure that incipient invasive species can be quickly controlled and that established species can be successfully managed.

The O'ahu Invasive Species Committee works island-wide to remove incipient invasive species from O'ahu before they become so abundant that they begin to damage ecosystems. OISC employs 17 people that conduct early detection, systematically survey and remove incipient invasive plants, assist the Department of Agriculture to survey and control for vertebrates and invertebrates and educate the public about how special Hawai'i's biota is and how to protect it. We have benefitted from HISC funds for many years and we thank the Legislature for their continued support in the fight against invasive species. The state money OISC receives is highly leveraged with county and federal funds.

OISC has stopped the spread of miconia on O'ahu; since 2008 mature trees have declined to five or less each year. However in the past five years, new species such as Cape ivy and devil weed that are known to disrupt ecosystem function have been discovered. Little fire ant continues to spread and coconut rhinoceros beetle has arrived on O'ahu. Adequately funding the fight against invasive species so that state agencies and organizations like OISC can rapidly respond to new incursions will keep Hawai'i's unique biota intact for future generations and protect the natural resources that support Hawai'i's economy.

OISC is a partner organization of the Ko'olau and Wai'anae Watershed Partnerships and we recognize that healthy forests provide the ecosystem services on which Hawai'i citizens depend. OISC recognizes that the ability to respond to natural disasters such as forest fires are also critical to forest health. We also support the funding for recreation in this bill as we believe it is important for Hawai'i's citizens to be able to connect with their forests.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
The O'ahu Invasive Species Committee



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 26, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 544
RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES

Room 211
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,932 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports SB 544. Our farmer and rancher members across the islands have been significantly impacted by the many destructive invasive species that plague our state.

Although not specifically mentioned in the bill, we hope that the necessary resources will be allocated to assist our farmers and ranchers by ensuring that these menacing invaders are kept out of our fields, pastures, and nurseries, preferably before they even get to the State.

We have noticed that there are other bills being considered this session that would also allocate significant funding for invasive species control. Given the limited pot of money, HFB trusts that due consideration of each of these worthy proposals will be given and that the difficult task of prioritizing the needs will result in an equitable division of the available budgetary resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.



COORDINATING GROUP ON
ALIEN PEST SPECIES

The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means
February 26, 2015
9:00 a.m., Conference Room 211
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB 544

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

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **supports SB 544**, *Relating to Natural Resources*, which appropriates funds to support watershed management, invasive species work, and the protection of forested areas.

The influx of invasive species and spread of existing pests, ever-increasing pressures on watershed and recreational forest lands must be met with increasing budgets to care for these important resources. In addition, changing climate patterns further underscore the importance of DLNR's responsibilities to protect natural resources, and enhance the resilience of our forests.

We respectfully ask your support SB 544. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,
Christy Martin
CGAPS

SB544

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Z. Arakawa	Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii SUPPORTS SB 544, relating to Natural Resources, which authorizes appropriations for watershed management; invasive species prevention, control, outreach, research, and planning; equipment for fire, natural disaster, and emergency response; and forest and outdoor recreation improvements.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Hanalei Watershed Hui

February 25, 2015

Testimony in support

SB 544

Ways and Means

Hearing: 9:00 am February 26, 2015 Rm. 211

RELATING TO NATURAL
RESOURCES.

Report Title:

Department of Land and Natural Resources; Watershed Management; Invasive Species; Emergency Response; Recreation; Appropriation (\$)

Description:

Authorizes appropriations for watershed management; invasive species prevention, control, outreach, research, and planning; equipment for fire, natural disaster, and emergency response; and forest and outdoor recreation improvements.

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and committee members,

The Hanalei Watershed Hui has worked to better understand and steward the Hanalei Bay watershed since 1999. We are keenly aware of the importance of a healthy watershed to our culture, environment and economy. A watershed “sheds” water to our agricultural and coastal areas and provides a “shed” for the storage of this water for future needs.

Our native forests are key to the health of our coastal resources. In Hanalei we have experienced reduced rainfall, increased temperatures and many other challenges to the management of these resources. You are all aware of the recent bleaching and disease outbreak of the reefs on Kauai and elsewhere. These conditions did not originate in the ocean alone. Many of the impacts threatening our reefs begin on land. Control of invasive species provides vital support for the reduction of erosion of our beaches, mitigates mudding of our shorelines and bays, and helps to prevent our coral reefs from being smothered under mud and destroyed.

We urge your passage of this legislation as it addresses many of the impacts we are experiencing.

As some of our communities, Hanalei included, are planning for the next disaster and longer range resilience, we need the support of funding as is proposed here to make this work matter and our future possible.

Me ka pono,

Makaala Kaumoana
Executive Director

E malama kumu wai ~ Protect the source

5299C Kuhio Hwy, P. O. Box 1285, Hanalei, Kauai, HI 96714

Telephone/Facsimile (808) 826-1985 E-mail: hanaleiriver@hawaiian.net

www.hanaleiwatershedhui.org

The Hanalei Watershed Hui is an equal opportunity employer and provider.



Testimony of Hawai'i Green Growth In Support of SB 544
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
26 February 2015, 9:00am, Room 211

Audrey Newman
Hawai'i Green Growth
P.O. Box 535 Ho'olehua, Hawai'i 96729

Hawai'i Green Growth is a voluntary partnership of more than 70 state, county, federal, business, and non-governmental leaders from energy, food production, natural resources, waste reduction, planning, green jobs, and other sectors who have come together to support a shared statewide commitment and tangible actions toward sustainability and a model green economy.

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) strongly supports SB 544 to authorize appropriations for watershed management; invasive species prevention, control, outreach, research, and planning; equipment for fire, natural disaster, and emergency response; and forest and outdoor recreation improvements.

HGG supports invasive species management and watershed protection with annual funding to strengthen natural resource management, food security, and climate resilience:

- ◆ \$6M annually in general funds to maintain interagency project funding by the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) to manage priority invasive species threats on all the islands. Invasive species are a cross cutting issue that threatens the health of Hawai'i's people, economy and ecosystems. They also reduce our ability to withstand impacts from climate change. State leadership and funding are essential for rapid, coordinated and cost-effective response to current and future threats. The recent spread of the Little Fire Ant is just one example of the severe consequences that invasive pest species can have on us all.
- ◆ \$7.5M annually to protect forests that recharge freshwater supplies, reduce climate change impacts such as flooding and other disasters, and provide other benefits to the health of Hawai'i's people and economy. Watershed protection and restoration significantly increases water availability by ensuring that our forests function to effectively absorb rain, deliver it into streams and aquifers, and decrease erosion and siltation, which also benefits our reefs and fisheries. This is especially urgent in the face of climate change and projected long-term decline in rainfall.

SB545 will help advance action on the *Aloha+ Challenge: A Culture of Sustainability – He Nohona 'Ae'ōia*, a joint leadership commitment to achieve six sustainability targets by 2030 in the areas of clean energy, local food production, natural resource management, solid waste reduction, smart growth and climate resilience, green jobs and education. The *Aloha+ Challenge* was unanimously endorsed by the 2014 Legislature (SCR 69) and signed by Hawai'i's Governor, Mayors and Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

As a partnership representing Hawai'i's leaders in environment, food and energy, HGG asks for your support of **SB 544**, which is an important investment in Hawai'i's future.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Audrey Newman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Audrey Newman

Senior Advisor, Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG)

Bringing leaders together to achieve sustainability in Hawai'i & be a model for a green economy

<http://www.hawaiigreengrowth.org>



TO: Senate Committee on Ways & Means

FROM: Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance Coordinator, Cheyenne Perry

RE: Supporting S.B. 544 Relating to Natural Resources

I am writing to urge the legislature to make protection of our forests and watersheds a top priority in our state. As we move into an era of increasing drought and continued impacts from climate change, it is more critical than ever that we ensure that these resources will exist and be plentiful for the generations to come.

2014 marked the publication of the National Climate Assessment by the U.S. Global Change Research Program, a report compiled with input from over 300 experts from 13 government agencies, including NOAA, NASA, and the National Academy of Science. It made this statement about our state: "In Hawai'i, average precipitation, average stream discharge, and stream baseflow have been trending downward for nearly a century, especially in recent decades...increased temperatures coupled with decreased rainfall and increased drought will reduce the amount of freshwater available for drinking and crop irrigation."

Coupled with expected population growth, the stress on our freshwater supplies makes clear the need for strategic management and a strong commitment to protection of our watersheds. Effective management includes the aggressive control of invasive animals and plants, which have been shown in study after study to negatively impact our watersheds' ability to collect, absorb, filter, and store our fresh water.

Watershed funding is estimated to have a 50:1 benefit:cost ratio, meaning that every dollar allocated to watershed funding provides benefits for the communities of Hawai'i far exceeding the expenditure.

We know that:

1. In east Hawaii alone, 85 million gallons of groundwater recharge a day are lost daily, due to disruption of the ecosystem by non-native plants;
2. Only 10% of the area identified as “priority” watersheds in the state are currently protected;
3. Soil runoff from degraded forests degrades our coastlines, smothering coral reefs and destroying habitat for economically important fish species and tarnishing the iconic coastal scenery upon which our tourism industry depends;
4. Ensuring a food-secure future for Hawai'i requires the availability of plentiful freshwater for our farmers and communities.

It is no coincidence that the Hawaiian word for “wealth” is waiwai: the ancestral and current stewards of these islands recognize the value of fresh water. For over a century land managers have recognized the close relationship between healthy upland forests and water supplies. We ask for your support in continuing the tradition of protecting Hawaii's most precious natural resource.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CHERRY', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cheyenne Hiapo Perry
Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance Coordinator
160 Baker Avenue, Hilo, HI 96720
mobile: (808) 937-5170
office: (808) 933-0622

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting S.B. 544 Relating to Natural Resources
Senate Committee on Ways & Means
Thursday, February 26, 2015, 9:00AM, Room 211

For more than 35 years, The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i has been working closely with government agencies, local businesses, private landowners, non-profit partners, and interested communities across the state to preserve the lands and waters upon which all life in these islands depends. The Conservancy is a private non-profit conservation organization that has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 35,000 acres in 11 nature preserves on Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i, and support 19 coastal communities seeking to co-manage marine resources in partnership with the State of Hawai'i.

The Nature Conservancy supports S.B. 544 to provide funding support for forest management and invasive species programs.

Healthy Hawaiian forests that are not overrun by invasive species act like a sponge, collecting rain and moisture, slowly delivering fresh water into streams and aquifers, absorbing greenhouse gases, and reducing runoff and siltation into near shore waters. Hawai'i is already exhibiting all the telltale signs of climate change. UH's 2011 Rainfall Atlas catalogues a century of declining rainfall that is worse in recent decades. September 2014 was the second-hottest in Hawai'i since the 1940s. Three hurricanes took aim at Hawai'i last summer and Iselle, though downgraded to a tropical storm, hit Hawai'i island hard. Fallen albizia trees left Puna a quagmire of damaged houses, blocked roads and downed power lines. At the same time, native 'ōhi'a and koa forests in the area were virtually undamaged. These same native forests are also showing that they are better at capturing rain water and recharging aquifers than invasive species. Clearly, protecting and enhancing the health and function of Hawai'i's forests from the threats of invasive species, severe weather and fire is one of the most important and effective things we can do mitigate some of these impacts and ensure a stable environment.

Beyond Hawai'i's forests, invasive insects, diseases, snakes, weeds and other pests are one of the greatest threats to Hawaii's economy, agriculture, environment, and the health and lifestyle of its people. With favorable conditions and limited competition, non-native species find an easy environment in which to thrive here. A strong and consistent response is needed to stop vectors for malaria, dengue and other diseases; prevent pests that poison, bite, and sting; and protect local agriculture from insects and pathogens that cause major crop losses. The multi-agency Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) provides a comprehensive, statewide approach to invasive species policy and funding including prevention, early detection, control, research and education programs.

With dependable base funding, these programs take advantage of many millions of dollars of non-state funds and work by non-state personnel to help ensure the resilience, sustainability and continued health of our islands' natural environment, economy, and quality of life.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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February 24, 2015

Testimony of Tom H. Shigemoto
Supporting S.B. 544 Relating to Natural Resources
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, February 26, 2015, 9:00 AM, Room 211

I am writing in support of S.B. 544 to provide funding for watershed management; invasive species prevention, control, outreach, research, and planning; equipment for fire, natural disaster, and emergency response; and forest and outdoor recreation improvements.

Our company is a member of the Kauai Watershed Alliance and we recognize the necessity of natural resource stewardship. We understand that the source of our pure water is a system of healthy forested watersheds which capture rain and cloud moisture and deliver it efficiently to aquifers and surface sources for subsequent consumption in our daily lives and for the benefit of our island economy.

McBryde Sugar Company owns approximately 13,000 acres of Conservation lands on the island of Kauai and approximately 6,000 acres agricultural property primarily in coffee production. A variety of other truck crops and ranching activity encumbers a portion of these lands. A&B Properties, Inc. is also involved in real-estate development so we recognize the importance of preserving our watersheds to ensure the availability of this most precious resource not only for domestic consumption but for non-potable, irrigation purposes as well.

This bill proposes to provide additional funding for the protection of our native forests, which are the source of nearly all the islands' supply of fresh water and an essential cultural and recreational resource. 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 are critical for isolated island chains such as Hawai'i.

Thank you for your support.



Tom H. Shigemoto
Vice President

SB544

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Brosius	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This funding to support natural resource programs is sorely needed. Management of watersheds, invasive species, fire and recreation will benefit all of our people, our economy and future generations. Without it our natural ecosystems will continue to decline.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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To all concerned members/STAFF/State Representatives working on SB 544 wording/readings/Passage of SB544

My name is Chris Wickman and I am on the Board of the Halawa Valley Foundation and a resident landowner residing in Halawa Valley on the Island of Molokai'

Please enter my following statements/testimony/concerns into the record for the Hearing on SB 544 to be held on Thursday February 25, 2015,
Mahalo.

SB544 FUNDING must be approved. As I have testified in the past, the lifeblood of our State is now at a critical juncture. Everything that happens in all aspects of our lives will cease to exist if we lose our ability to have our Natural Watersheds in functioning order. The DLNR, DOFAW and other Agency's priorities all depend on the functional watersheds that are unique to our special home..Hawaii! These watersheds have been taking it on the chin for many years now. The problems are well documented. Invasive species both PLANT and ANIMAL have been attacking and doing a good job working to destroy what nature developed over millions of years. Now we are also facing the reality that the Climate is also changing. All these factors are working in concert to speed the loss of the most precious resource ALL of us/our unique plants and wildlife depend upon, the lifeblood of everything our Watersheds!. From the Mountains to the Sea and in the Ocean around our State one of the most unique places on the earth has been created. Without our Watersheds there would be no life. It is that simple. We have been blessed as the caretakers of this Aina/Land and as such we must do everything in our power to stop the destruction. This is ALL of our Kuleana! It is our responsibility to make sure that we put the needs of our Watersheds at the very top of our priorities. Currently there are Watershed partnerships throughout the State in one form or another. These groups must be helped whenever possible by the State funding process. The DLNR needs to be allotted the funds that can and must be put to work to help those who have dedicated their lives to the saving of the watersheds! I know funds are limited and priorities must be decided upon by you, our Representatives. That is why I am asking that in your wisdom you insure the DLNR will be able to squeeze, where ever possible, the budget sponge monies to help the Agencies and people who are hard at work doing whatever they can to save our Watersheds. Without our unique Watersheds there is no STATE to manage. To not do this would be folly.

Mahalo for your time and consideration of my testimony on this matter.

I am also requesting that I be kept informed of the movement of SB544, and the final wording of the bill.

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Halawa Valley Molokai

Testimony of Daniel Eisenberg

Supporting S.B. 544 Relating to Natural Resources

Senate WAM Committee

Thursday, February 26, 2015, 9:00AM, Room 211

I support S.B.544 to provide funding support for forest and watershed management invasive species programs, wildfire and emergency response, and recreation.

I am an employee of the East Maui Watershed Partnership, and have seen first-hand how destructive threats to the watershed, such as feral hooved animals and invasive plants like miconia, can be. The forested watersheds of Hawaii are the source of almost all of our islands' drinking water supply. Fresh water is a finite resource, and it is one of the most important resources for our health, well-being, economy, and way of life. The native forests of Hawaii have evolved over millions of years to become the most efficient water collection system for our unique weather and topography. To help protect these native forests, Hawaii has invested in long term infrastructure through fence construction. State funds were also leveraged over 1:1 to protect these forests from invasive species and other threats. To maintain these investments, continued support is necessary to protect this vital resource.

Support for invasive species control outside of the forested watersheds is an important part of this bill. In our increasingly globally connected world, there is no easy solution for the introduction of invasive species to Hawaii. Prevention and early control will continue to be the most economical way to address this problem.

The emergency and natural disaster response in this bill is also worthy of support. With increasing extremes of weather due to climate change, longer periods of drought and more severe storms, Hawaii will benefit from better preparedness.

SB544

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erik Vuong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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RE: SB544
WAM Committee
Hearing Thursday, February 26, 2015

SUPPORT THIS BILL

Aloha Senators,

I am writing in support of SB544, which provides funding for the Invasive Species Committees and Watershed Partnerships. I very emphatically support this funding. I know that many other groups with knowledge of the ecology of the islands will write to you on the critical importance of the work these groups do, but I wanted to present a slightly different view of the work they do.

In my time as a high school and middle school science teacher at Laupahoehoe Community PCS, I was so fortunate to be able to work with all three WPs and the ISC on Hawaii Island, and the opportunities and experiences they provided to students cannot be overstated. I have listed some examples below, but these examples are actually only a fraction of the educational support I received from these groups over the last several years, including professional educator development, international visitors in the classroom, guest presenters, individualized student support, guest “judges” for science showcases, and so much more!

For 3 years, Melora Purell of the Kohala Watershed Partnership worked with my Chemistry students to help them do real, hands-on field work in the acidic bog of Kohala. Of all of the assignments these classes were given, their bog research project was by far, consistently, the project students worked hardest on each year: doing field research, compiling data, and presenting results on research questions they prepared. KWP’s willingness to provide this unique educational opportunity, and their support in helping me develop as a teacher, truly changed the way that my students and I engaged in the learning process.

Similarly, for 3 years I took a small group of students, beginning in their 8th grade year, to work in the Kanakaleonui Bird Corridor (KBC). KBC is a project of the Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance, led by Cheyenne Perry. Over a two day period every spring, students learned the ecology of the watershed that supplied their own homes. They planted trees and experienced first hand some of the harsh conditions of fieldwork – yet despite the hardships, each year there were more and more students who begged to participate in this trip. Cheyenne presented the students not only with information, but with a cultural perspective and history that really resonated with my kids.

The Big Island Invasive Species Committee worked with a of Special Education students considered to be our most “hard-case”, students unlikely to graduate from high school. They trained them in invasive species identification and control, and gave these students skills that could be used to pursue jobs after of high school. During the time that this program was implemented, the attendance of those at-risk students improved significantly.

Students who 3 years ago could not have told you what a watershed was now can name multiple native species of plants and animals under threat in those very watersheds. They can explain what an invasive species is, and why invasive species control is critical. In short, they care about and value their natural resources – a value that could not have been instilled without the support of these groups and the caring people who run them. I am currently helping students who participated in these programs to apply for KUPU internships in natural resources that are a path to college. I can say absolutely – without a doubt- that these students would not have understood nor considered opportunities like KUPU or the HCC Forest Team program if it had not been for their exposure through the work of these entities. Without sufficient funding, these opportunities will not be available for

other students. As a teacher, I have stood multiple times with a lump in my throat after watching a light go on in the eyes of a formerly unmotivated student, working hard in the sun or rain all day digging holes for trees, yet suddenly turning to me and saying, " Miss, you mean I could do THIS for a job?"

When you support the ISCs and the WPs, you are protecting our natural resources in so many ways.

Thank you for your time,

Franny Kinslow Brewer
PO Box 942
Mt. View, HI 96771

808-987-0620
franny234@gmail.com

SB544

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gregory Suares	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Committee on Ways and Means, I strongly support increased funding for protecting Hawaii's nature - preventing fires, invasives, and restoring our forests. This is important for our kupuna - protecting the birds, plants, landscapes that are part of Hawaiian culture. This is important for our keiki - we must make sure they live in a healthy environment, and have clean, plentiful fresh water. Thank you.

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SB544

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Please support SB 544 which provides critical funding for watershed protection, control of destructive invasive species, wild land fire control, trails and other forest recreation.

Without these funds Hawaii's important resources will continue to degrade and we will have to answer to future generations for our neglect.

Mahalo nui,

Lisa Ferentinos
Waimanalo, HI 96795

SB544

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Ikagawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Please pass SB544. Watershed protection, preventing the introduction of invasives, fighting fires and outdoor recreation are important. Especially watershed protection. Our groundwater provides most of our drinking water. On Oahu, groundwater provides nearly 100% of our drinking water. We must protect the forests which act as our watersheds. Thank you.

Randy Ching

Honolulu

makikirandy@yahoo.com