

SB

544

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: amel.s.chun@hawaii.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB544 on Feb 6, 2015 14:50PM
Date: Thursday, February 05, 2015 8:43:04 AM
Attachments: [SB0544_LNR_02-06-15_WTL-ENE.pdf](#)

SB544

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for WTL/ENE on Feb 6, 2015 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carty S. Chang	DLNR	Support	Yes

Comments:

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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 Committees on
WATER AND LAND
and
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Friday, February 6, 2015
2:50 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**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.

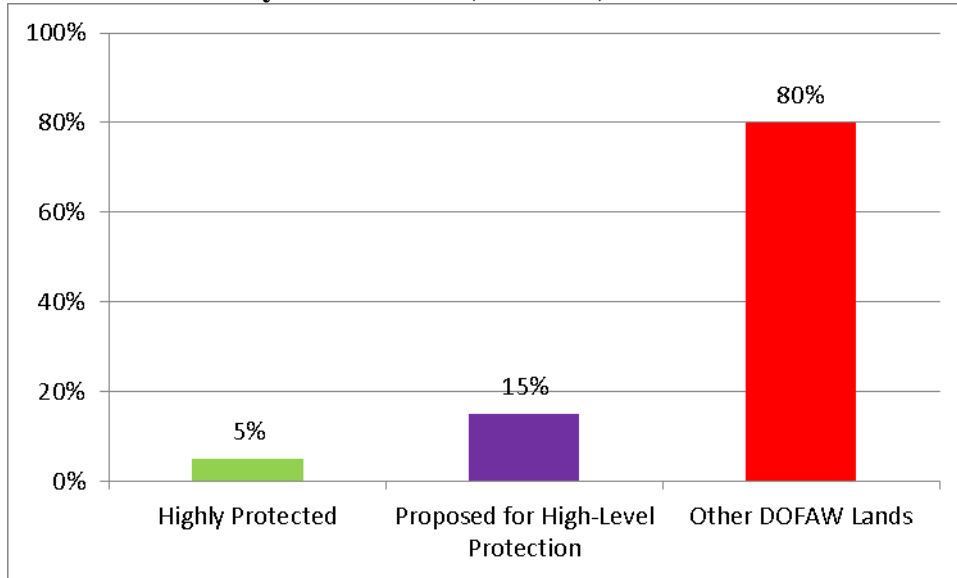
CARTY S. CHANG
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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

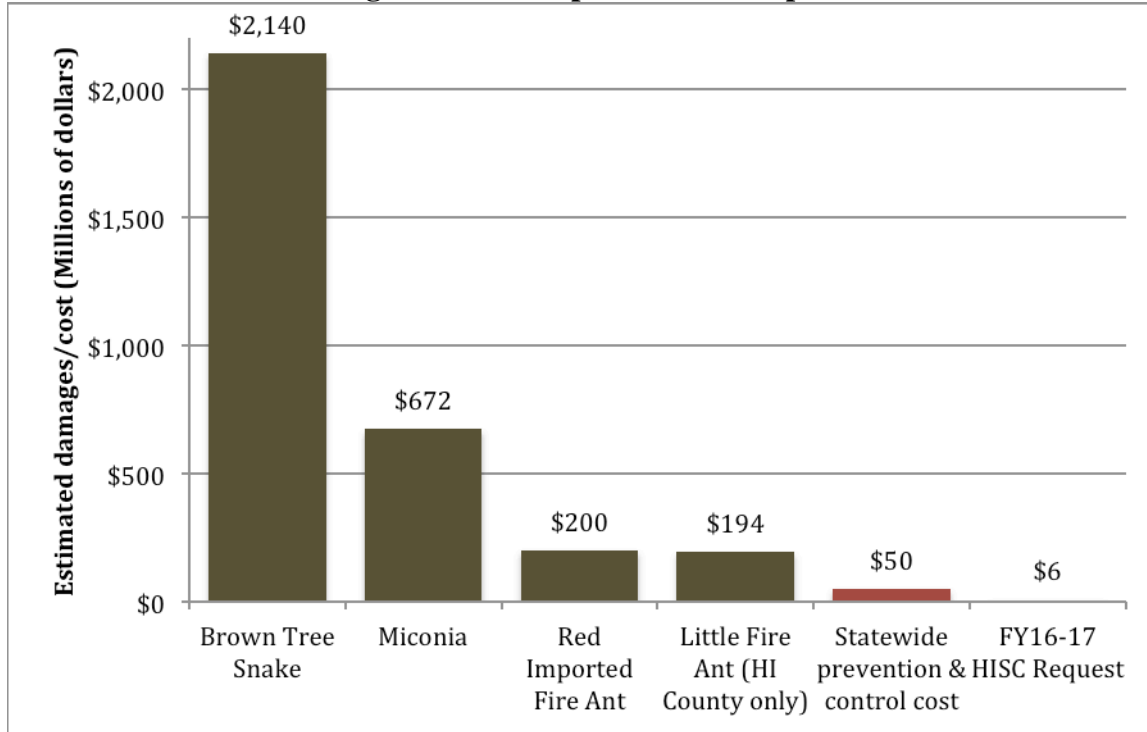


Part III: Invasive Species Control

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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: herman.tuiolosega@doh.hawaii.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB544 on Feb 6, 2015 14:50PM
Date: Thursday, February 05, 2015 3:40:32 PM
Attachments: [SB544_HTH_02-06-15_ENE-WTL.pdf](#)

SB544

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

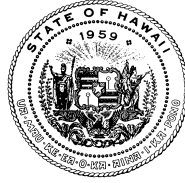
Testimony for WTL/ENE on Feb 6, 2015 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Herman	OEQC	Support	No

Comments: Submitting testimony supporting intent for SB544, on behalf of Jessica E. Wooley, Director, Office of Environmental Quality Control.

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STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL
235 S BERETANIA ST., SUITE 702
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
Tel. (808) 586-4185
Fax. (808) 586-4186
oeqchawaii@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony Supporting the Intent of SB 544
RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES**

SENATOR LAURA H. THIELEN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Hearing Date: February 6, 2015

Room Number: 224

1 **Office Testimony:** SB 544 authorizes appropriations for watershed management; invasive
2 species prevention, control, outreach, research, and planning; the bill provides funding for fire
3 fighting equipment, natural disaster, and emergency response; and forest and outdoor recreation
4 improvements. All of these activities are critical to provide adequate protection to our valuable
5 watersheds, environmental resources, public health, and economy, and deserve support. The
6 Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) supports the intent of SB 544.

7 **Fiscal Implications:** OEQC takes no position on the appropriations request, deferring to the
8 Governor's Executive Budget Request for fiscal priorities.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: chris@hbf.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB544 on Feb 6, 2015 14:50PM
Date: Friday, February 06, 2015 9:52:53 AM
Attachments: [SB 544 watershed invasive species funding WAL ENE feb6.pdf](#)

SB544

Submitted on: 2/6/2015

Testimony for WTL/ENE on Feb 6, 2015 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Manfredi	Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	Yes

Comments:

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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 6, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
WATER AND LAND
and
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 544
RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES

Room 224
2:50 PM

Aloha Chairs Thielen and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Galuteria and Green, and Members of the Committees:

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.

From: [Chris Wickman](#)
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Subject: sb544 FUNDING
Date: Thursday, February 05, 2015 6:06:05 PM

[A look inside how you're using Inbox](#) - 1/29



SB544



Chris

Wickman <wickwah@gmail.com> 5:31 PM (32 minutes ago)



to ENEstestimony



To all concerned members/STAFF/representatives who will be or are working on SB 544

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 Friday February 6, 2015

Mahalo

SB544 must be passed for 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 and other Agency's priorities all depending 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 even in the waters around our State have developed one of the most unique places on the earth. 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 top of our priorities. There are currently Watershed partnerships on every Island in one form or another and they must be helped whenever possible by the State. The DLNR is the Agency at our State level that control 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 for use of these funds. That is why I am asking that in your wisdom that you insure that 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. 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 this bill and it final wording and result

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: darakawa@lurf.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB544 on Feb 6, 2015 14:50PM
Date: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 11:48:37 PM

SB544

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for WTL/ENE on Feb 6, 2015 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

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 the appropriation of general funds to DLNR, in an amount to be determined by the Legislature, 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.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: hawaiigreengrowth@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB544 on Feb 6, 2015 14:50PM
Date: Thursday, February 05, 2015 12:03:44 PM
Attachments: [HGG Testimony in Support of SB544 2.6.15.pdf](#)

SB544

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for WTL/ENE on Feb 6, 2015 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hawai'i Green Growth	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Testimony of Hawai'i Green Growth
In Support of SB 544 Relating to Natural Resources
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
6 February 2015, 2:50pm, Room 224**

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 Chairs Thielen & Gabbard, Vice Chairs Galuteria & Green, 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'oa*, 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 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>

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: mz@conservehi.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB544 on Feb 6, 2015 14:50PM
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 3:52:45 PM
Attachments: [CCH testimony SB 544 appropriation watersheds.pdf](#)

SB544

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for WTL/ENE on Feb 6, 2015 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marjorie Ziegler	Conservation Council for Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

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**Conservation Council
for Hawai'i**

Hawai'i's voice for wildlife

Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu



Testimony Submitted to the
Senate Committees on Water and Land and Energy and Environment
Hearing: Friday, February 6, 2015 2:50 pm, Room224
In Support of SB 544 Relating to Natural Resources

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 544 (and the similar SB 545), 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.

Millions of dollars are spent by large corporations fighting over water, yet the state protects only 5% of the essential watersheds we need to live on these islands. Perhaps it is time to get a little more serious about water security. We need to protect a lot more than 5 percent, and we need to appropriate a lot more than \$4 million annually to do so.

We urge the legislature to appropriate at least \$11 million dollars annually for watershed protection alone. This is a relatively small amount of funding for something as essential as water. The value of one watershed alone far exceeds the amount we are asking you to appropriate. We should also raise the price of water to include watershed management.

Along with adequately funding invasive species programs, this is one of the most important investments we can make for our people, native wildlife, and economy. Watersheds are essential to supporting life on these islands, native wildlife and habitats, traditional and customary Hawaiian practices, recreational activities, and the economy.

Ka wai ola – The water of life. Please kokua. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Ziegler

Marjorie Ziegler



Conservation Council for Hawai'i is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting native Hawaiian plants, animals, and ecosystems for future generations. Established in 1950 and based in Honolulu, CCH is one of the largest and most effective wildlife organizations in Hawai'i with more than 5,000 members and supporters, including concerned citizens, educators, scientists, government agencies, and elected officials.

Through research, education, service, organizing, and legal advocacy, CCH works to stop the destruction of native wildlife and wild places in Hawai'i.

Since 1973, CCH has served as the Hawai'i state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation.

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

President: Hannah Kihalani Springer | Vice-President: Julie Leialoha | Treasurer: Bianca Isaki | Secretary: Wayne Tanaka

Directors: Rick Barboza | Ryan Belcher | Maka'ala Ka'aumoana | Koalani Kaulukukui

Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler | Administrator: Jonnetta Peters



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: stangonan@tnc.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB544 on Feb 6, 2015 14:50PM
Date: Thursday, February 05, 2015 9:59:26 AM
Attachments: [SB 544 TNC testimony 02 06 15.pdf](#)

SB544

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for WTL/ENE on Feb 6, 2015 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Fox	The Nature Conservancy	Support	Yes

Comments:

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Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting S.B. 544 Relating to Natural Resources
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Friday, February 6, 2015, 2:50PM, Room 224

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which life in these islands depends. The Conservancy 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. We also work closely with government agencies, private parties and communities on cooperative land and marine management projects.

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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To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: ohia_forest@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB544 on Feb 6, 2015 14:50PM
Date: Thursday, February 05, 2015 11:46:02 AM
Attachments: [OISCTestimonySB544.pdf](#)

SB544

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for WTL/ENE on Feb 6, 2015 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel Neville	Oahu Invasive Species Committee	Support	No

Comments:

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Testimony of the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee
Supporting S.B. 544 Relating to Natural Resources
Senate Committees on Water and Land and Energy and Environment
Friday, February 6, 2015, 2:50PM, Room 224

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 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 on which Hawai'i's economy depends.

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 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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: misc@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB544 on Feb 6, 2015 14:50PM
Date: Thursday, February 05, 2015 10:07:07 AM
Attachments: [MISC Testimony on SB 544.pdf](#)

SB544

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for WTL/ENE on Feb 6, 2015 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teya Penniman	Maui Invasive Species Committee	Support	No

Comments: Many thanks for your consideration, Teya M. Penniman

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Testimony of the Maui Invasive Species Committee
Before the Committee on Water and Land
Committee on Energy and Environment
SB 544 – Relating to Natural Resources
Conference Room 224
February 6, 2015, 2:50PM

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: lauale19@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB544 on Feb 6, 2015 14:50PM
Date: Friday, February 06, 2015 11:57:14 AM
Attachments: [SB544_20150206.docx](#)

SB544

Submitted on: 2/6/2015

Testimony for WTL/ENE on Feb 6, 2015 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexander	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB544

Aloha,

I am a professional working to protect Hawai'i's natural resources through research and experience in the prevention and early detection of invasive plants. I have been working at this in Hawai'i since 2006. I have firsthand knowledge of the challenges of finding these invasive species early enough in their stage of invasion where control is even feasible, given the level of funding currently, and in recent years. I am also intimately familiar with the costs and challenges associated with controlling them once invasive species are found. I support this bill, and hope that this level of state support will be able to increase in the future. Studies on the economic costs of invasive species indicate we are appropriating too little to deal with this threat. I can say from experience that more will be needed in future years to appropriately address the threats of invasive species, particularly given the added dimension brought by climate change. I appreciate the opportunity for input.

Alex Lau

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: jkimof@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB544 on Feb 6, 2015 14:50PM
Date: Thursday, February 05, 2015 10:35:15 AM

SB544

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for WTL/ENE on Feb 6, 2015 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
james Kimo Falconer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: {Please vote in support of SB 544. Watershed protection needs to remain a priority. Mahalo James K Falconer

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From: [Jill LaBram](#)
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Subject: Support for S.B. 544
Date: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 9:36:17 PM

Testimony of Jill LaBram
Supporting S.B. 544

I support S.B. 544 to provide general funds to DLNR watershed, HISC invasives, forest fire and emergency response, and outdoor and forest recreation programs

I am an employee with the West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership and I know how crucial it is to monitor and control invasive species. They are a huge threat to our native forested watersheds, which are the source of fresh drinking water to all the people of Hawai'i. Healthy and diverse Hawaiian forests that are not degraded by invasive species act like a sponge by collecting rain and cloud moisture and delivering it to our aquifers and streams. The native forests are also an essential cultural and recreational resource for locals as well as tourists. Nature is the foundation of Hawai'i's tourism industry. If we don't support invasive species programs and response, this could have a huge effect on our economy. Native forests also help prevent erosion. Without these forests intact, erosion can increase thereby allowing more runoff into our streams and ocean, which in turn can smother coral reefs and affect all organisms living in that ecosystem. Our diverse ocean life provides jobs, livelihoods, recreation and food for our families.

If there are little fire ants on all of our beaches, who would want to come visit? If the little fire ants spread to our farms, this will be devastating to our entire agriculture community. If the ocean is constantly clouded with sediment, who would want to swim or snorkel? Everything is connected and invasive species can and will have a huge detrimental effect on all of us who are proud to call Hawai'i home as well as all those visitors that plan their whole lives to come to Hawai'i. Preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species is our first line of defense, and it is our kuleana to protect these beautiful islands.

Outdoor and forest recreation programs are a way for the people of Hawai'i to stay connected to the land, and it is so important to maintain these programs to enable our keiki to feel that connection. Maintaining that connection also empowers local residents to want to conserve and protect these areas.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Jill LaBram
Natural Resource and GIS Technician
West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership

--

Jill LaBram
Natural Resource/GIS Technician
West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership

(808) 661-6600

labram@westmauiwatershed.org

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: lynhowe1946@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB544 on Feb 6, 2015 14:50PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 4:08:32 PM

SB544

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for WTL/ENE on Feb 6, 2015 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lyn Howe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: mikagawa@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB544 on Feb 6, 2015 14:50PM*
Date: Friday, February 06, 2015 9:01:17 AM

SB544

Submitted on: 2/6/2015

Testimony for WTL/ENE on Feb 6, 2015 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: morris.haole@mauicounty.us
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB544 on Feb 6, 2015 14:50PM
Date: Friday, February 06, 2015 10:28:12 AM

SB544

Submitted on: 2/6/2015

Testimony for WTL/ENE on Feb 6, 2015 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Carroll	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass SB 544 so that invasive species that were unfortunately introduced into our state can be dealt with in an efficient and successful manner. Presently, we have a dire issue with Fire Ants in East Maui, I believe this measure will be the start of eradicating this dangerous pest. Thank you.

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