

SB

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: amel.s.chun@hawaii.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1126 on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 9:53:32 AM
Attachments: [SB1126_LNR_02-04-15_WTL.pdf](#)

SB1126

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for WTL on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room CR224

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

Comments:

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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GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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LAND
STATE PARKS

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

**Before the Senate Committee on
WATER AND LAND**

**Wednesday, February 4, 2015
2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1126
RELATING TO FOREST STEWARDSHIP**

Senate Bill 1126 proposes to amend Chapter 195F, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), by enabling private landowners and long-term leaseholders on public lands to be eligible for an increased cost-share reimbursement rate for the development of an approved forest stewardship management plan.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this Administration measure.

Senate Bill 1126 seeks to clarify conditions necessary to receive cost-share funds from the State Forest Stewardship Program, as well as increase reimbursement rates for the development of a forest management plan from 50% up to 75%. The proposed amendment will also provide greater involvement from the United States Department of Agriculture through various federal natural resource landowner assistance programs.

With over one-half of the forested area in Hawaii being privately owned or managed, the Department understands the importance of promoting public-private partnerships for the long-term socioeconomic and environmental services that provide public benefits to all. The Forest Stewardship Program provides expert technical and financial assistance to private landowners or long-term leaseholders for the development and implementation of management plans used for sustainable management, protection, or restoration of forested lands. Payments to Program participants are made from the Forest Stewardship Special Fund established pursuant to Section 195F-4, HRS.

Newly established partnerships with the United States Department of Agriculture in Hawaii have enabled more federal cost-share funds to support the implementation of approved forest stewardship management plans. Through modest increased cost-share rates to private landowners for the development of sound forest management plans, the Department hopes to encourage greater program enrollment and participation with federal landowner assistance programs.

Supporting public-private partnerships through the Forest Stewardship Program allows the State to leverage private and federal funds for forest management that benefit the greater public in Hawaii.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: mfox@tnc.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1126 on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM
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SB1126

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for WTL on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room CR224

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. 1126 Relating to Natural Forest Stewardship
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Wednesday, February 4, 2015, 2:45PM, 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. 1126. The DLNR's Forest Stewardship Program is one of several effective tools used by the department to partnering with private land owners and managers to care for the state's forest resources. We support the DLNR's proposal in this bill to provide additional funding to Forest Stewardship Program participants to develop management plans and to clarify that the program is open to holders of long-term leases.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer our support for this bill.

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