DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR OF HAWAII





SUZANNE D. CASE CHAIRPERSON BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

> KEKOA KALUHIWA FIRST DEPUTY

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

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

POST OFFICE BOX 621 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of SUZANNE D. CASE Chairperson

## Before the House Committee on ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Tuesday, March 15, 2016 8:30 AM State Capitol, Conference Room 325

## In consideration of SENATE BILL 2773, SENATE DRAFT 2 RELATING TO THE ALOHA+ CHALLENGE

Senate Bill 2773, Senate Draft 2 proposes to appropriate funds for the natural resource, clean energy, and green workforce goals of the Aloha+ Challenge. **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 or any existing Department appropriated funding.** 

This proposal would expand on the Administration's budget request that increases funding for priority natural resource programs. Funds would be eligible for matching funds, typically between 1:1 and 3:1, leveraged from local, federal and private sources.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature's World Conservation Congress (Congress), held once every four years, highlights the hosting countries' excellence in conservation laws and practices. Hawaii's commitment to hosting this global Congress in September 2016, and its commitment to sustainability through the Aloha+ Challenge, could enhance important international collaboration, research and funding opportunities for Hawaii. This Congress will allow Hawaii to showcase the techniques used for natural resource management and the challenges we face, thus highlighting research, new technologies and funding needs.

The following examples of programs and projects that additional Aloha+ funding could enable and support are scalable depending on availability of funds:

## Part II: Access, Easements, Trails, Outdoor Recreation Improvements, Environmental Education

The Department's access and environmental education programs connect residents and visitors to Hawaii's natural areas, iconic scenery, and access to important cultural and management areas. Increased funding for these programs would allow:

- Increase trail and road maintenance. The 2015 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan identified hiking as the #1 land based activity in Hawaii. The Na Ala Hele Trails and Access Program manages 124 trails and roads (855 miles statewide), some of which are potentially hazardous due to overuse from hundreds of thousands of users per year.
- Expand activities to a broad array of stakeholders including: mountain bikers, horseback riders, four wheel drivers, motor cross, etc.
- Create new hunting areas statewide and expand access agreements. This will allow hunters to help keep feral ungulate populations in check, as well as help keep highly flammable vegetation down that reduces wildfire severity.
- Develop stronger educational programs in rural areas through internships, volunteer activities and educational curriculum development.

## Part III: Watershed Protection

Protecting forested watersheds is one of the Department's top priorities. New climate change studies forecast a 10-45 percent decline in rainfall in the mid to late 21<sup>st</sup> century, making forest protection more urgent than ever.

- 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.
- This funding would protect over 110,000 acres and plant over 22,000 trees.

## Part IV: Conservation and Resources Enforcement Program

This funding would build on a successful pilot program on Maui that involves local communities protecting near-shore fishery resources. The lessons learned from this program could be used to expand these efforts statewide. Education and enforcement are essential to preserve Hawaii's threatened fisheries.

## Part V: 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 2016, the legislature provided \$4,750,000 to the HISC that supports important projects, including the work of the UH Invasive Species Committees, little fire ant control, Rapid Ohia Death monitoring, and an interagency response to the coconut rhinoceros beetle infestation.
- The HISC has worked with partners to develop FY17 pre-proposals illustrating what could be achieved depending on available funds. Pre-proposals totaled \$10,000,000 and can found on the HISC website: <u>http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/projects/fy17/</u>

## Part VI: Native Species Restoration

This request will provide capacity to manage endangered species initiatives for which Federal grants are available to match. The recovery of these incredibly unique plants and wildlife is dependent on increased and sustained funding.

- The Alala (Hawaiian crow) has been extinct in the wild since 2002. State funds are needed to leverage non-state funds to support the release of the Alala into the wild in September 2016.
- It is necessary to expand and refurbish aviaries for the Keauhou Bird Conservation Center and the Maui Bird Conservation Center to accommodate two additional forest bird species to the captive breeding program.
- Funds are needed to support a collaborative effort between the Department of Transportation and the Division of Forestry and Wildlife to mitigate bird aircraft strike hazards statewide.
- Due to an increase in size and frequency of wildfires, it is necessary to plan for emergencies by supporting the Wildfire Contingency Fund that is used during any emergency incident.

## Part VII: Forest Reserve Management

Forests are increasingly threatened by invasive species and wildfire. Reducing heavy fuel loads through forest biomass thinning and removal is a cost effective way to lower the risk of catastrophic fires.

- The average annual number of fires that burn over 100 acres in Hawaii has increased five-fold in the past 40 years. These burned areas can be harvested to provide wood for bioenergy and lumbar, and replanted to create productive forests.
- Funds are needed to launch a pilot volunteer carbon market project on Hawaii Island. If successful, this project could not only finance reforestation of a degraded forest area but also provide a long-term revenue source for other natural resource needs.
- Private landowners make up 66% of the forest owners in Hawaii. On average the Department's landowner assistance programs receive 2:1 in match from non-state dollars. Providing modest incentive programs for private forest landowners is important for the overall health and productivity of Hawaii's forest. Any increase in private landowner assistance program funding will produce three times the forest protection, conservation and productivity of the state dollars invested.

## BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

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The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair and Members Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection House of Representatives Hawaii State Capitol, Room 325 415 South Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Lee and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill 2773, SD 2 Relating to The Aloha+ Challenge

We support Senate Bill 2773, SD 2, which provides appropriations to support the natural resources, clean energy, and green workforce goals of the Aloha+ Challenge. We support the protection of watersheds that provides and replenishes freshwater 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 on Senate Bill 2773, SD 2.

Very truly yours,

for ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E. Manager and Chief Engineer





Department of Land and Natural Resources Aha Moku Advisory Committee State of Hawaii Post Office Box 621 Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

> Testimony of Leslie Kuloloio, Chair

Before the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Tuesday, March 15, 2016 8:30 A.M. State Capitol, Conference Room 325

### In Consideration of SENATE BILL 2773 SD 2 RELATING TO THE ALOHA + CHALLENGE

Senate Bill 2773 SD 2 appropriates funds for the natural resource management, clean energy, and green workforce development goals of the Aloha + Challenge. Aha Moku SUPPORTS this measure.

In 2014, the Legislature committed through Senate Concurrent Resolution 69 Senate Draft 1 to endorse statewide sustainability through the integrated approach and targets of the Aloha + Challenge to be achieved by 2030. In 2012, the Legislature committed through Act 288 to formally recognize the aha moku system, a system of best practices that is based upon the indigenous resource management practices of moku (regional) boundaries, which acknowledges the natural contours of land, the specific resources located within those areas, and the methodology necessary to sustain resources and the community.

Both mandates focus on the protection, preservation and sustainability of the natural and cultural resources of Hawaii. Aha Moku includes the use of community expertise. It is attached to DLNR and is able to advise the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources on issues that relate to land and natural resources through the Aha Moku System.

The Aha Moku System brings the generational knowledge of native Hawaiians on traditional resource methodology to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to assist the state in the preservation of natural resources and as such, is dedicated to the stability and health of the natural and cultural assets and resources of Hawaii. We realize that protecting and sustaining the irreplaceable natural wealth of Hawaii can only be realized with the integration of traditional and modern scientific methods, the collaboration of the public trust with government agencies, and the strong support of our legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure and we urge this committee to adopt SB 2773 SD 2.

| From:    | mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov                           |
|----------|--|
| Sent:    | Monday, March 14, 2016 6:40 AM                           |
| То:      | EEPtestimony   |
| Cc:      | brian@hfbf.org   |
| Subject: | *Submitted testimony for SB2773 on Mar 15, 2016 08:30AM* |

## <u>SB2773</u>

Submitted on: 3/14/2016 Testimony for EEP on Mar 15, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By | Organization       | <b>Testifier Position</b> | Present at<br>Hearing |
|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Randy Cabral | Hawaii Farm Bureau | Support                   | No                    |

Comments:

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ALIEN PEST SPECIES

The House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Environment March 15, 2016 8:30 a.m., Conference Room 325 State Capitol

## **Testimony in Support of SB 2773 SD2**

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is in support of SB 2773 SD2, *Relating to the Aloha + Challenge,* which appropriates funds to support the natural resource, clean energy, and green workforce goals of the Aloha + Challenge.

The influx of invasive species and spread of existing pests, ever-increasing pressures on natural resources, and the urgent need to shift our society from carbon-based energy resources are all linked, as is the need to educate the next generation and engage them in local jobs that protect our islands. CGAPS participates in Hawai'i Green Growth, and we are a strong supporter of cross-cutting initiatives such as the Aloha + Challenge, where many different agencies, businesses, and individuals come together to identify common desires for our islands.

We respectfully ask your support SB 2773 SD2. Mahalo for your consideration. Aloha, Christy Martin

CGAPS



The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i Program 923 Nu'uanu Avenue Honolulu, HI 96817 Tel (808) 537-4508 Fax (808) 545-2019 nature.org/hawaii

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i Supporting S.B. 2773 SD2 Relating to the Aloha+ Challenge House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection Tuesday, March 15, 2016, 8:30AM, Room 325

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 depends. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. We manage 40,000 acres in 14 preserves and work in 19 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs and waters of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnerships with government, private parties and communities to protect Hawai'i's important watershed forests and coral reefs.

The Nature Conservancy supports S.B. 2773 SD2 which would provide core funding support for the Department of Land and Natural Resources' (DLNR) critical forest, invasive species, and marine resources enforcement 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. These forests are also an important storehouse for Hawai'i's globally unique cultural and ecological heritage. However, UH's 2011 Rainfall Atlas catalogues a century of declining rainfall that is worse in recent decades. Last summer, temperature records were broken across the state and a record number of storms took aim at Hawai'i. In 2014, tropical storm Iselle 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. Protecting and enhancing the health and function of Hawai'i's forests from the threats of invasive species and severe weather is one of the most important and effective things we can do to ensure a stable and productive environment for our future.

Invasive weeds, insects, diseases, snakes, and other pests are one of the greatest threats to Hawaii's economy, agriculture, natural environment, and the health and lifestyle of its people. With favorable conditions and limited competition, non-native species arrive in the Hawaiian Islands to find an easy environment in which to thrive. The 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. This effort necessarily results in important coordination, collaboration, and prioritization amongst government agencies and partners based on a variety of issues including human health, safety and well-being, economic and agricultural harm, and the threat to the health and function of the natural environment.

There is widespread agreement amongst a variety of stakeholders that Hawaii's fragile environment is in need of improved compliance, enforcement and prosecution of violations of our State natural resource laws. A 2006 State Auditor's report concludes that DLNR Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) officers are spread too thin and lack the equipment they need to do their jobs. This situation has not substantially improved in the ensuing ten years. Against this backdrop, a number of communities across the state have been organizing themselves to become more directly involved in the care and management of their natural resources, particularly in coastal and near shore areas. Some communities have partnered with DOCARE to raise awareness of natural resource laws and to improve compliance with those laws. This bill offers necessary funds for DOCARE to expand the successful Community Fisheries Enforcement Unit (CFEU) program statewide.

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Testimony of the Oʻahu Invasive Species Committee Supporting SB 2773 SD2 Relating to the Aloha+ Challenge House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection Tuesday, March 15 2016 8:30AM Room 325

The O'ahu Invasive Species Committee supports S.B. 2773 which would support funding for invasive species, watershed protection, community fisheries management, recreation, native species restoration and fire protection. All these goals are part of the Aloha+ Challenge and Hawai'i's commitment to natural resource protection.

Natural resource and watershed protection are vital to the state's economy and its residents' quality of life. Without adequate supplies of fresh water, the state will not be able to support the sustainability goals for the Aloha+ Challenge nor will the chief economic activity in the state, tourism, be able to survive. And without healthy forests, the state's fresh water supply will be at risk. A multi-layered and textured forest is better at directing rain and fog drip into the islands' aquifers than bare earth or single-species stands of invasive trees that have eliminated the understory.

OISC is a beneficiary of grants from the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and we are very grateful for the HISC and the Legislature for being so forward-thinking. OISC aims to eradicate incipient species islandwide before they ever have a chance to move upslope and become a chronic problem for other land managers. Our work is supported and complemented by that of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, the Watershed Partnerships, and other natural resource management activities that would be supported by the funds from this bill.

We hope this bill are part of a long-term commitment on the part of the state to fully support the agencies entrusted with the protection of our natural resources. Although it would seem that nature should be able to take care of itself, we, the citizens that depend on the ecosystem services natural resources provide, put too much pressure on our state's natural systems for them to be able to function without help. Therefore, we urge this bill to pass not only to provide funds for the coming fiscal year, but as part of a long-term commitment to protect the natural resources on which all life in this state depends. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



## House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

## Hawai'i Center for Food Safety Supports SB2773 SD2

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Ashley Lukens and I am the Hawai'i Director for the Center for Food Safety (CFS). CFS is a nationwide public interest, sustainable agriculture nonprofit organization whose mission centers on furthering the public's right to know how their food is produced, through labeling and other means. We have over 750,000 farmer and consumer members across the country, including nearing 10,000 in Hawai'i. On behalf of CFS and our members, I thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today regarding this important bill.

CFS has been dedicated to addressing the human health and environmental impacts of our increased reliance on pesticide use in food production, both in the State of Hawai'i and nationally. We were instrumental in providing legal and communications support in the passage of numerous ordinances relating to pesticide use and disclosure, such as Kaua'i's Bill 2491. Since 2014, as the inaugural director here in Hawai'i, I have worked closely with community members across the state, in all counties, and have played an instrumental role in the passage of Maui's moratorium on GE production until companies submit environmental and public health impact assessments.

I am writing in support of SB2773 SD2, which appropriates funds for the natural resource, clean energy, and green workforce goals of the Aloha+ Challenge. We support this bill due to the focus on protecting local natural resources and community welfare.

A recent study found that humans have caused a reduction of fish populations in the Hawaiian archipelago by as much as 78%<sup>1</sup>. This bill would allocate funds to expand the Maui CFEU pilot project, which has proven to compel participation and compliance. We believe that an increase in community-based regulations will create a more resilient ocean food system, as well as a stronger sense of community and pride in local resources.

In addition to increasing local fishing regulation, we support the allocation of funds to research, protect, and restore local species. As Hawai'i moves farther away from the paradise that the Polynesians once inhabited, we must make an effort to protect and re-establish native and indigenous species, if not for food consumption, but for the balance of our ecosystems that we rely on so heavily.

To achieve the Aloha+ Challenge, Hawai'i would be reinventing paradise for a sustainable future. We support this program and bill due to the reasons above.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

660 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Suite 302 303 Sacramento Street, 2nd Floor Washington, D.C. 20003 T: 202-547-9359 F: 202-547-9429

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T: 415-826-2770 F: 415-826-0507 office@centerforfoodsafety.org

centerforfoodsafety.org

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I am happy to answer any follow up questions or provide additional analysis.

Respectfully,

Ashley Lukens Director, Hawai'i Center for Food Safety

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>i</sup> Williams ID, Baum JK, Heenan A, Hanson KM, Nadon MO, Brainard RE (2015) Human, Oceanographic and Habitat Drivers of Central and Western Pacific Coral Reef Fish Assemblages. PLoS ONE 10(4): e0120516. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0120516



## Kaua`i Watershed Alliance

Ben A. Dyre Limited Family Partnership, Department of Hawaiian Homelands, Department of Water County of Kaua'i, DLNR – Division of Forestry and Wildlife & Land Management Division, Grove Farm Company, Inc., Jurassic Kahili Ranch, Kamehameha Schools, Kaua'i Ranch LLC, Lihu'e Land Company, McBryde Sugar Company, Ltd., National Tropical Botanical Garden, Princeville Development, LLC

> Supporting SB 2773, SD2 Relating to the Aloha+ Challenge Senate Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection Tuesday, February 15, 2016, 8:30PM, Room 325

The Kaua'i Watershed Alliance strongly supports SB2773, SD2 which if passed will appropriate funds for natural resources, clean energy and green work force goals of the Aloha Challenge.

The Kaua'i Watershed Alliance (KWA) has been actively managing portions of the mauka watershed on Kaua'i since 2003. It members which include DLNR (DOFAW and Land Management Div.) make up a diverse group of public and private entities who own land within the mountainous watershed and understand the importance of protecting and preserving the forests that capture the water - our most precious resource. The Alliance also understands the importance of supporting local jobs and contractors.

In the past several years the Alliance has worked on fences, ungulate removal and invasive weed control in Priority One watershed areas in Kauai's mauka forests and watersheds:

2,000 ac., East Alakai Summit Fenced Unit – Feral Ungulates removed; fence, vegetation recovery, ungulate ingress monitored.

- 5,000 ac.; Wainiha valley fenced Feral Ungulate removal in process, vegetation and fence monitored.
- 1,600 ac., Halehaha Fence Project (eastern Alaka'i) Planning, permitting, alignment complete; construction in process; partial funding 2013 CIP money granted by the legislature in 2013.
- 2000 ac., two additional Fence Projects (Drinking Glass, Koaie) Planning, permitting, proposed alignments complete, waiting on available funding; these fences are contiguous with the Halehaha unit.
- 8,000 ac., Wainiha, Lumahai valleys & portions of the Alaka'i Invasive populations primarily of Australian tree fern, strawberry guava, Kahili ginger that threaten Priority One watersheds have been treated.

The watershed protection and invasive species programs supported with state funds can be leveraged with matching funds from county, federal and private sources.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide supportive testimony.

Mahalo.

"The Mission of the Kaua`i Watershed Alliance is to PROTECT, PRESERVE and MANAGE our valuable watershed resources for the benefit of our residents. communities and all future generations through the concerted O efforts of its *members."* O 0

| From:    | mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov                           |
|----------|--|
| Sent:    | Monday, March 14, 2016 12:09 PM                          |
| То:      | EEPtestimony   |
| Cc:      | dylanarm@hawaii.edu                                      |
| Subject: | *Submitted testimony for SB2773 on Mar 15, 2016 08:30AM* |

## <u>SB2773</u>

Submitted on: 3/14/2016 Testimony for EEP on Mar 15, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By    | Organization | <b>Testifier Position</b> | Present at<br>Hearing |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Dylan Armstrong | Individual   | Support                   | No                    |

Comments:

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## Testimony Submitted to the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection Hearing: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 8:30 am Conference Room 325

In Support of SB 2773 SD 2 Relating to the Aloha+ Challenge

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen, and Members of the Committee.

Aloha. Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 2773 SD 2, which appropriates funds for the natural resource, clean energy, and green workforce goals of the Aloha+ Challenge.

We support adequate funding for outdoor recreation trails, the Natural Area Reserves and watersheds, and a permanent Community Fisheries Enforcement Unit. Outdoor recreation, the reserves, watershed protection, and fisheries management are among the most important, yet underfunded programs of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Furthermore, these programs are focused on protecting ceded land (mauka and makai) and public trust resources.

Environmental protection, including watershed management and invasive species control, are of cultural and economic concern; they are not only "environmental issues." As such, these programs should receive the highest level of support.

With all due respect, the State is not doing enough to protect and properly manage ceded land (mauka and submerged) and public trust resources. And the legislature is not providing enough money to protect these resources. We are concerned about the condition of ceded and other lands held in trust by the State for the people of Hawai'i, including future generations.

Please support SB 2773 SD 2 and perhaps even increase the appropriations.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Mayrie Ziegla

Marjorie Ziegler

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: Julie Leialoha | Vice President: Koalani Kaulukukui | Secretary: Wayne Tanaka Treasurer: Ryan Belcher | Directors: Rick Barboza | Anne Huggins Walton Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler | Administrator: Jonnetta Peters





Jawai'i Green Growth is a public-private partnership that coordinates across government, non-governmental and cultural organizations, business, cademia and philanthropy to achieve Hawai'i's Aloha+ Challenge 2030 sustainability goals.

| Steering Committee  | Testimony of Hawai'i Green Grow   |  |  |
|---------------------|---|--|--|
|                     | In Support of SB2773 SD2 Relating to The Alo  |  |  |
| Deanna Spooner      | House Committee on Energy & Environmen  |  |  |
| June Matsumoto      | 15 March 2016, 8:30am, Room 32  |  |  |
| Matt Lynch          | 15 March 2010, 8.50am, Room 5.  |  |  |
| Mark Fox            | Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen, and Members of the Com   |  |  |
| Mike Hamnett        |   |  |  |
| Piia Aarma          | Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) strongly supports SB2773 SE  |  |  |
| Pono Shim           | funding for the Department of Land and Natural Resources' p<br>protection, invasive species control, public access and educat |  |  |
| Scott Enright       | enforcement, and wildfire prevention and native plant and w   |  |  |
| Scott Seu           | HGG public-private partners identified annual funding for na<br>an important shared 2016 legislative priority to advance one  |  |  |
| Ulalia Woodside     |   |  |  |
| William J. Aila Jr. | Aloha+ Challenge - a statewide commitment by the State I<br>Mayors and Office of Hawaiian Affairs to achieve six sustai       |  |  |

vth oha+ Challenge tal Protection 25

mittee:

to provide critical, increased rograms on watershed tion, community fisheries ildlife restoration.

tural resource management as component of the broader islature (SCR 69), Governor, bility goals. In addition to natural resource management, the Aloha+ Challenge outlines ambitious 2030 goals in clean energy, local food, solid waste reduction, smart growth and climate resilience, and green jobs and education. Statewide HGG public-private partners are identifying shared measures to track progress and provide accountability with the online Aloha+ Challenge Dashboard, while developing an annual policy and action agenda to advance all of Hawai'i's shared 2030 sustainability goals.

Annual funding for natural resource management is essential to protecting Hawai'i's unique environment, improving the quality of life for residents and visitors, and maintaining important revenue streams in Hawai'i's economy. Watershed protection and invasive species management 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. Investment in freshwater security is especially urgent in the face of climate change and projected longterm decline in rainfall.

As a public-private partnership, Hawai'i Green Growth supports SB2773 SD2 to help drive implementation on Hawai'i's natural resources 2030 goal, and demonstrate the state's commitment to sustainability and conservation to national and international partners at the IUCN World Conservation Congress this September.





March 14, 2016

Representative Chris Lee, Chair Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

# Support of SB 2773, SD2 Relating to the Aloha+ Challenge. (Appropriates funds for the natural resource management, clean energy, and green workforce development goals of the Aloha+ Challenge.)

## EEP Hearing: Tuesday, March 15, 2016, 8:30 a.m., Conf. Rm. 325

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. One of LURF's missions is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage wellplanned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **SUPPORT** for SB 2773, SD2, which appropriates funds for the natural resource management, clean energy, and green workforce development goals of the Aloha+ Challenge, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this matter.