



**The Foundation for Islands of Harmony**  
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**LATE**

**Subject: SB 2999, ILIAHI and Carbon Offset**

Re: SB 2999, Iliahi and carbon offset. February 16 2:45 PM Capitol

Senate committee on Economic development, environment, and Technology  
Senate committee on transportation and the environment

Dear chairs and senators,

We support SB 2999 to be adopted by this state legislature with the hopes that each of the four counties of Hawaii will follow your lead.

Your adoption will show that you care. Care for the roots of Hawaii's past and the future of our world. It increases awareness, prompting our state, the extinction capital of the world, with hope of honoring our heritage of native Hawaiian plants, life, and culture as the foundation of our future. Awaken our awareness to be people of relationships rather than being people of property and individual gain in the Western competitive world.

Iliahi, all six species of endemic native Hawaiian sandalwood, is the case in point, symbolic of what has happened to the plants, land and people of Hawaii. Exploited for cash, neglected from protection, with no government incentive for its restoration. Yet it is the most historic, significant symbol of Hawaii and today's name sake of Honolulu to a 1,000,000,000 people.

Planting and preserving endemic Hawaiian plants through Carbon offset credits is a small start to show that we care to soften the destruction of air plane travel, for which the economy of Hawaii and Honolulu, namesake Sandalwood Mountain, is so depended upon.

What is our vision of Hawaii and the world 25, 50 years from now? Thinking globally but acting locally, you as an individual have a major role in shaping that vision.

Thank you for acting on the concept of SB 2999.

Respect fully submitted,  
Leigh-Wai Doo, Chair  
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**Iliahi, Native Hawaiian Sandalwood:** Facts on its social and spiritual significance.

The roots of Hawaii are the roots of Iliahi: botanically, historically, culturally symbolically intertwined. Some people may say that Iliahi are the origins of modern Hawaii based on these facts:

1. Prehistory Hawaii evidences that sandcastings of Iliahi were found on the northwest Hawaiian Island of Laysan which is 22 million years old. StarAdvertiser 10/2014.

2. The Laysan Iliahi was the species *santalum ellipticum* also known as Iliahi aloe or coastal Sandalwood which could also be found on all of the main Hawaiian Islands in history. It may be Hawaii's oldest tree species surviving today, millions of years old.

3. Through Evolution Iliahi adapted, perhaps over millions of years, to the environment which varied between Kauai, Oahu, Maui's Haleakala, Lanai and the Big Island. At least six endemic species of sandalwood evolved. See Hi legislature 2012 HB 1793, HD2

4. Botanically Iliahi is hemi parasitic needing the nutrients of other native Hawaiian plants, touching their roots as a companion to thrive.

5. A hardwood, Iliahi has chemical properties that wards off mildew, fungus and decay.

To preserve their fine tapa Hawaiians sprinkled Iliahi into their tapa. The body of Chiefs upon death were rubbed with Iliahi. The bones of Hawaiians return to be buried were sprinkled with Iliahi and wrapped in tapa before burial.

6. A grove of sandalwood was where a legendary princess of Manoa, Kahala o Puna, created her home. She was a beautiful daughter of the gods of the wind and the rain of Manoa, the valley of rainbows, as told by King Kalakaua in Legends of Hawaii, 1887.

7. Just 12 years after the discovery of Hawaii, Captain Kendrick on the Lady Washington, an American ship en route to trade in Canton, China, discovered the abundance of native Sandalwood in Hawaii. Iliahi was singularly the resource which Hawaii could supply for profit.

8. Under King Kamehameha the selling and cutting of sandalwood was controlled including the creation of a tax on the cutting of sandalwood. That tax has been said to be the first tax on wood ever anywhere in the United States.

9. The Hawaiian flag, as we see it today, was created then to support the Hawaiian nation in its trade of sandalwood to China.

10. By the beginning of the nineteenth century, Hawaii's previously self sufficient economy based on barter was changed to a market economy based on Sandalwood which for a time was the currency of trade.

11. The Sandalwood Era is the first era of Hawaii's history after discovery and unification of the islands. Later Hawaii periods were often referred to by its Whaling, Sugar and Pineapple.

12. After the death of King Kamehameha island Chiefs were allowed to cut and sell sandalwood. They directed their people to pay taxes by cutting and carrying sandalwood. The island Chiefs acquired many western things, much on credit based on repayment in Sandalwood, including the purchase of ships." By 1819, Kamehameha I had purchased at least six vessels for varying amounts of sandalwood." (Hammatt Journal 1823-25)

Great hardship occurred including famine and weakened health. The native Hawaiian population diminished very rapidly (400,000 to 40,000 in a hundred years). In large measure due to the introduction of diseases for which the Hawaiians had no immunity particularly in their weakened state of health.

13. Due to sandalwood, many firsts occurred. Creation of the Hawaiian flag, the first tax on wood eventually to be in the United States, Port fees and mooring fees, purchase by credit, the start of the market economy in Hawaii and international trade.

14. Boki, governing chief of Oahu acquired 2 ships and with several hundred of his men tried to conquer other South Pacific islands with native sandalwood. They were lost at sea.

15. Hawaiian Purchase of western goods by credit was enormous. Repayment was demanded by threat of force by New Englanders. native Hawaiians were forced to collect Sandalwood to repay the debt of the Chiefs. The sandalwood era ended by 1830 when the depletion of nearly all iliahi in Hawaii had been cut

16. Today very few know what a living sandalwood tree looks like. Most think the tree had become extinct. It has become a forgotten tree, neglected. In the five botanical gardens on Oahu, no Iliahi has yet been identified nor replanted. Similarly so in many botanical gardens in the state.

17. In the Big Island Kona, where old maps have marked "sandalwood forest", the Cutting of Iliahi for international sale began about a half dozen years ago amid several lawsuits. See Environmental Hawaii, Oct, 2010 and Complaints in Courts, State and Federal.

19. Sandalwood Protection. All countries which have naturally growing Sandalwood have government regulation and protections, except Hawaii. With a global market, the Demand is greater than supply everywhere that sandalwood grows, yet Hawaii has no specific regulations for the protection of old growth sandalwood on private lands and the cutting continues.

18. The market price for sandalwood internationally has soared to an all time high.

Eight to ten times higher than Koa wood in Singapore, I have been told.

20. Hawaii Legislative protection of Iliahi was attempted in 2012, HB 1793 and SB 3028, The bills were killed by lobbying from the Iliahi tree cutters who sell the Iliahi internationally. Resolutions were adopted, in 2012. HR 147, SR 93, and HCR 190- directing the Hawaii DLNR to study the sustainability of Iliahi by forming a task force and to report back with recommendations in 2013 and also 2014. DLNR ignored the Legislative Resolutions. Similar measures were introduced in 2014 but were killed. This Year 2015, four bills to protect Iliahi were introduced and will come up for hearing in committees of the Hawaii State Legislature.

21. Sandalwood is prized worldwide. Europeans and Westerners prize the oil of Sandalwood to make perfume and soap. Sri Lankans anoint their body with it after a bath. Hindus wish to add Sandalwood into their funeral fires. Muslims recognize that sandalwood is one of the four woods authorized for their religious services. Biblically, Book of Kings, some say that the Queen of Sheba gave as a gift Sandalwood tree trunks to King Solomon to use as pillars in the Temple of Solomon.

Buddhists say that when Sidhartha Gautama died the air was filled with the scent of Sandalwood and that the Buddha's body was cremated on a funeral pyre of sandalwood.

S.E. Asian Catholics prefer sandalwood in their religious service smoke pots. Taoist with all

Other Eastern religions prize sandalwood for incense. To purify the air and their lungs, to enhance a spiritual state of mind, and to enjoy its sweet scent.

Chinese Wood craftsmen for centuries have prized sandalwood to make treasured keepsake chests to store valuable clothing, tables, chairs, fans, and spiritual icons; there is a museum In Beijing, China that is devoted to the display of the intricate carvings of sandalwood.

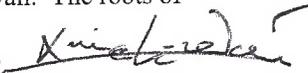
22. Hawaii's sandalwood was so prized and so abundant when shipped to China in the late eighteenth century that the name of the Hawaiian Islands to the Chinese was Sandalwood Mountain. In Chinese characters that name continues to this day as the official Chinese name for Honolulu. Google search the Chinese name for Honolulu or see the Sister City Agreements between Honolulu and cities in China, including Taiwan.

23. Four International conferences and exchanges on Sandalwood's properties, science, species and growth have held with international participants in the past two dozen years. The East West Center held a major Conference in Honolulu, followed by a Conference in Australia, then another at the East West Center, followed by a conference in India. To encourage local

Home growers, a Save Sandalwood Symposium was held at Kapiolani College and its 3 hour Video was shown on Hawaii's public television twice.

24. Efforts are underway this year, as in the past 3 years, to a. Protect Iliahi through the adoption of state legislation, b. Have sandalwood, Iliahi, named the Tree of Honolulu, c. In the Diamond Head Monument Peace Park or elsewhere have a Sandalwood Tree named an Exceptional Tree of Honolulu as an educational example which is accessible to be seen and touched, d. Have sandalwood seedlings planted and nurtured in Honolulu's five botanical gardens, e. Plant sandalwood seedlings between Koa seedlings on programs for tourists and kamaainas' alike. E. Heritage trees of Sandalwood, the Kupuna laau, f. Government acquisition of groves, the last stand, of mature old sandalwood trees that can provide seedlings, the seed banks, of all 6 species of Iliahi Utilize eminent domain legal policies if necessary.

We can now leave a legacy of restoring Iliahi as an iconic symbol of Hawaii's future, the completion of the Hawaiian community renaissance and of honoring our namesake by going green. Iliahi is a small tree that is big in our future. As we plan our future, we must remember our roots. Hawaii's native Hawaiian sandalwood, Iliahi, are the roots of Hawaii. The roots of Aloha.

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