



SCR63

URGING THE STATE TO ESTABLISH AN ANNUAL STATEWIDE CLEAN-UP DAY ON APRIL 22 TO COINCIDE WITH EARTH DAY AND CELEBRATE AND HONOR HAWAI'I'S ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
House Committee on Water & Land

April 14, 2016

10:55 a.m.

Room 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SCR63, which would recognize the importance of our islands' environment to all residents of Hawai'i, highlight the impacts that Westernization has and continues to have on our lands and waters, and promote the responsibility and need for all residents to more consciously steward our natural and cultural resources.

Traditional Hawaiian land tenure and stewardship emphasized the shared responsibility of all, to ensure the conservation, protection, and fair distribution of resources critical to the cultural and physical existence of our islands' inhabitants. This sense of responsibility not only allowed for a thriving Hawaiian population notwithstanding our islands' inherently limited resources, but also greatly informed the cultural values and practices that provided for social stability, family cohesion, and community well-being.¹

Unfortunately, the rapid changes that have taken place over the last 200 years – including the decimation and displacement of Native Hawaiians, the commercialization of natural and public trust resources, and the externalization of environmental costs by corporate entities – have largely diminished this shared sense of responsibility, while significantly degrading the lands and resources that have sustained our islands' inhabitants since time immemorial. Pollution, irresponsible land use practices, habitat degradation and destruction, and the disruption of ecological systems have and continue to result from the Westernization of Hawai'i, and may threaten the well-being of both current and future generations.

The establishment of a statewide clean-up day may be one small step towards restoring the traditional, shared sense of responsibility necessary to mitigate the widespread and growing impacts of Westernization on our islands. The broader exposure of island residents to the visual and physical waste littering our environment may heighten

¹ See DAVIANNA MCGREGOR, NĀ KUA'ĀINA 17-18 (2007).

their consciousness with regards to the true costs of our “modern” way of life. The communal nature of a coordinated clean-up will also demonstrate the greater potential in coordinated action to better steward the places we all share. Finally, the increased awareness of the need to better account for our individual and collective environmental impacts may encourage participants to engage in other organized efforts for systemic change, and truly address the numerous environmental challenges that have and will affect us all.

While a statewide clean-up day, standing alone, will clearly not address the full scope of environmental issues facing our islands, an annual event to consciously and collectively mālama ‘āina may be a first step towards restoring the sense of community and individual responsibility necessary to perpetuate and sustain the islands we call home.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committees to **PASS** SCR63. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2016 11:18 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR63 on Apr 14, 2016 10:55AM*

SCR63

Submitted on: 4/13/2016

Testimony for EEP/WAL on Apr 14, 2016 10:55AM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments:

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To: EEPtestimony
Cc: rezentesc@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR63 on Apr 14, 2016 10:55AM

SCR63

Submitted on: 4/12/2016

Testimony for EEP/WAL on Apr 14, 2016 10:55AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia K.L. Rezentes	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Chairs and Members, I support this initiative as it formally acknowledges the importance of our environment and the need to care for it for the future generations to come. Mahalo, Cynthia

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To: EEPtestimony
Cc: ferrer36@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR63 on Apr 14, 2016 10:55AM

LATE

SCR63

Submitted on: 4/14/2016

Testimony for EEP/WAL on Apr 14, 2016 10:55AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
AFerrer	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support the measure to urge the state to make April 22 an annual clean up day. It would be nice for the awareness to be made regarding the importance of caring for the land that we live on. Hawaii is a beautiful place, however, not all those who live here are willing to contribute to the land in a more natural way. Those who are in power disregard care for the land because all their attention is toward adding more development. It is time we go back to ensuring that the place we call home is properly cared for.

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