HB-331-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/11/2021 7:14:54 PM Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am disconcerted to see that the committee wrote: "and show the world that Hawaii is a leader in taking action toward a safe and sustainable climate and future. Your Committee has amended this measure by:(1) Changing its effective date to July 1, 2112, to encourage further discussion" We are in a climate crisis. Activities needed to cope with the crisis are very clear, some of which are included within this bill. Further discussion simply slows our response. There has been sufficient time for discussion. The time to act is NOW (yesterday would have been better.). If we actually were a leader we would have finished the multi-tiered composting bills last year and be covering Hawaii with compost to sequester carbon. If Hawaii was a leader we would be promoting zero emission cars instead of adding more barriers such as increased registration. If Hawaii was a leader, seawalls which encourage erosion would have been removed. The time to act is now!

<u>HB-331-HD-1</u>

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 7:53:23 PM Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Shon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this iniative to improve green infrastructure and quality of life for Hawaii residents. Mahalo,

Jason

HB-331-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 11:27:00 PM Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten and Commitee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

Please support HB331 HD1.

Trees are the carbon sink for the planet and we need to plant more of them in our urban environment. By proactively promoting tree planting, we can create more shade to cool our communities. Urban trees improve the air quality, cool local air temperatures, filter and retain storm water, sequester carbon and contribute to healthier and more beautiful communities.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawaiʻi

То:	House Committee on Energy and Environment Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Chair Representative Lisa Marten, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environment
Re:	HB 331, HD1 – RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN

Meeting: Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 10:00 a.m., room 325 via videoconference

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the Committees on Energy and Environment:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii stands in strong support of HB 331, HD1 as it is designed to improve the quality of life in the State by: (1) establishing objectives and policies for state facility systems in the Hawaii State Planning Act to achieve the use of green infrastructure, vegetation, and trees in state facility systems, infrastructure, and transit projects; and (2) requiring the office of planning, in partnership with the greenhouse gas sequestration task force, to make recommendations for implementing the green infrastructure objectives, policies, and priority guidelines established under the Act.

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i (Party) has adopted at its State Convention in 2018, clear safeguards for our community against the climate crisis found in pages 5-6 of the Party Platform:

"BUILDING A 21ST CENTURY INFRASTRUCTURE

We will protect communities from the impact of climate change and help to mitigate its effects in investing in green and resilient infrastructure."

As an island State, Hawaii is among the first places harmed by the climate crisis, with more intense storms, loss of protective coral reefs, food insecurity, and rising sea levels destroying our shorelines.

Evidence of the climate crisis was felt in the Hawaiian Islands through the loss of East Island a little over two years ago. A piece of the United States has been dramatically wiped off the map after an island in <u>Hawaii</u> was washed away by a powerful hurricane. East Island, a remote spit of gravel and sand that sat atop a coral reef, has vanished after having this misfortune to come into contact with Hurricane Walaka, an intense storm that surged past Hawaii in October 2018.

Chair Nicole E. Lowen Committee on Energy and Environment February 16, 2021 Page 2

East Island played an important role for wildlife, including the critically endangered Hawaiian monk seal, a species that numbers just 1,400 individuals, with many of the seals raising their young on East Island. Green sea turtles, which are also threatened, and seabirds such as albatrosses, which often had their young preyed upon by circling tiger sharks, also depended on the island.

If conditions align, atolls would always be at risk of being erased by a powerful hurricane. But climate change is causing the ocean and atmosphere to warm, making storms fiercer, while there's evidence that hurricanes are moving further north into the latitudes where East Island once lay.

Rising sea levels are also eroding away low-lying islands, with several fragments of land in the <u>Pacific vanishing in recent years</u>. *See*, <u>Hawaiian island erased by powerful hurricane: 'The loss is a huge blow' | Hawaii | The Guardian</u>

Scientists have made it very clear that we are part of the last generation that can stop or at least mitigate the devastating impacts of climate change. Hawaii can and should be a leader in showing the world the way forward towards a safe and sustainable climate and future.

The Party Platform on page 19 describes a way forward and this measure is another step forward for the State, the Pacific, and the World toward our sustainable climate and future:

"CONFRONT GLOBAL THREATS AND GLOBAL CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

Climate change poses an urgent and severe threat to our National Security, and the Party believes it would be a grave mistake for the United States to wait for another nation to take the lead in combating the global climate emergency. According to the U.S. military, climate change is a threat multiplier that is already contributing to new conflicts over resources, catastrophic natural disasters, and the degradation of vital ecosystems across the globe. The Party recognizes the catastrophic consequences facing our State, our country, our planet, and civilization.

We believe that Hawai'i must lead in forging a robust global solution to the climate crisis. We are committed to a national mobilization, and to leading a global effort to mobilize nations to address this threat. Our generation must lead the fight against climate change and we applaud Hawai'i's leadership in joining the historic Paris Climate Accord. We will not only meet the goals set in Paris, we will seek to exceed them and push other countries to do the same by slashing carbon pollution and rapidly driving down emissions of potent greenhouse gases like hydrofluorocarbons. We will support other States and developing countries in their efforts to mitigate carbon pollution and other greenhouse gases, deploy more clean energy, and invest in climate resilience and adaptation."

This measure encourages building green infrastructure by following these sustainability design objectives: (1) minimizing stormwater runoff and replenishing the water table; (2) reducing the urban heat-island effect; (3) encouraging the removal of pollutants from the air; and (4) encouraging the removal, sequestration, and storage of greenhouse gas emissions.

Chair Nicole E. Lowen Committee on Energy and Environment February 16, 2021 Page 3

For these reasons, we urge you to pass this bill as it (1) establishes objectives and policies for state facility systems in the Hawaii State Planning Act to achieve the use of green infrastructure, vegetation, and trees in state facility systems, infrastructure, and transit projects; and (2) requires the office of planning, in partnership with the greenhouse gas sequestration task force, to make recommendations for implementing the green infrastructure objectives, policies, and priority guidelines established under the Act.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify,

/s/ <u>Melodie Aduja</u> Melodie Aduja Co-Chair, Environmental Caucus Democratic Party of Hawai`i

HB-331-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/12/2021 7:46:40 AM Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alec Marentic	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the inclusion of green initiatives wherever possible for the benefit of the community and State.



OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804 DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS DIRECTOR OFFICE OF PLANNING

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(808) 587-2846 (808) 587-2824 http://planning.hawaii.gov/

Statement of MARY ALICE EVANS Director, Office of Planning before the HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION Tuesday, February 16, 2021 10:00 AM State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of HB 331 RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN.

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection:

The Office of Planning (OP) <u>strongly supports</u> HB 331, HD1. The Office of Planning supports the integration of green infrastructure and incorporating vegetation, trees, and sustainable green design in the Hawai'i State Planning Act, Chapter 226, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, and public infrastructure projects to increase overall green space and urban tree canopy throughout Hawai'i.

The Office of Planning is actively working on the sustainable development and climate adaptation of the state to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations of Hawai'i to meet their own needs.

The Office of Planning finds this measure complimentary to the work of the newlyestablished Statewide Sustainability Program, as well as with the objectives and responsibilities of the State's Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force, which is administratively attached to the Office of Planning, pursuant to <u>HRS § 225P-4</u>. Among other objectives, the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force is tasked to: "(5) Identify practices and policies that add trees or vegetation to expand the urban tree canopy in urban areas to reduce ambient temperatures, increase climate resiliency, and improve greenhouse gas sequestration in Hawaii." The Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force is also tasked to submit a preliminary report of the task force's findings and recommendations to the Legislature by December 2022.

The Office of Planning appreciates the opportunity to share its strong support of HB 331, HD 1 to increase Hawai'i's climate resiliency and implement sustainable design practices by improving the availability of green infrastructure, decreasing urban heat, and encouraging greenhouse gas sequestration throughout Hawai'i.



To:The House Committee on Energy and Environmental ProtectionFrom:Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.orgDate:Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 10am

In strong support of HB331 HD1

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Energy and Environmental Protection Committee members,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org strongly supports **HB331 HD1**.

This bill would amend the State Plan to include green infrastructure in state facilities and increase the urban tree canopy. Urban trees improve air quality, cool local air temperatures, filter and retain storm water, sequester carbon, and contribute to healthier and more beautiful communities. Efforts to reduce our environmental footprint and improve quality of life are a win:win for everyone and need to be supported. Trees are the carbon sink for the planet and we need to plant more of them in our urban environment.

HB331 HD1 will set the stage for all public projects in Hawaii to plan for green infrastructure from the start, thus maximizing benefits and minimizing costs.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of this important legislation.

Sherry Pollack Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR OF HAWAII





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

> ROBERT K. MASUDA FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION BUREAU OF CONVEY ANCES COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT EXCINEERING 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, February 16, 2021 10:00 AM State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 325

In consideration of HOUSE BILL 331, HOUSE DRAFT 1 RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN

House Bill 331, House Draft 1 proposes to establish green infrastructure objectives and policies for state facility systems in the Hawaii State Planning Act to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors and require the Office of Planning, in partnership with the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force, to submit a report to the Legislature making recommendations for implementing the green infrastructure objectives, policies, and priority guidelines established by this measure. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill with comments.

The State of Hawaii's commitment to uphold the Paris Climate Accord and progressive move towards zero emissions clean economy by 2045 requires that we actively invest in reducing our emissions and mitigate greenhouse gases (CO2 and CH4). Green infrastructure provides a robust framework for resilience where the co-benefits of carbon sequestration, ecosystem benefits, and economic enhancement come together. Green infrastructure provides critical ecosystem services such as stormwater mitigation by collecting and slowing down and filtering water as it travels from land to sea. Investing in carbon positive actions such as green infrastructure will also help to create a healthier Hawaii as green spaces provide health benefits such as cooling landscapes and improving air quality.

The Department encourages the inclusion of landscape scale practices in the definition of green infrastructure as is identified by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - "Green infrastructure can include site-specific management practices as well as watershed-scale techniques such as land preservation and the restoration of wetlands and floodplains that naturally store water and reduce runoff."

The Department recognizes that the bill aligns with the mission of the Department's Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry program to "support all of Hawaii's communities to cultivate wellbeing and resilience through planting, caring for, and growing relationships with the trees and forests that we live with and that are crucial to the ecosystems on which we rely. We do this for our keiki, our kūpuna, ourselves, our 'āina and everyone's future." The Kaulunani program builds capacity in our communities to plan for, establish, manage and protect all manner of green infrastructure including street-trees, urban forests, green spaces, bioswales and related natural areas where we live, work, and play. The urban tree canopy is declining, and with it, the benefits provided by urban green infrastructure. This measure would help reverse that trend. The Department encourages collaboration with the Office of Planning on this topic. The Department notes that while native trees and vegetation are preferred, it is not always possible to use native species. Where native species are not practical or are unavailable, non-invasive species, as identified weed assessment bv the risk (http://www.botany.hawaii.edu/faculty/daehler/wra/default2.htm), should be used.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



HB331 HD1 RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN

Ke Kōmike Hale o ke Ikehu a me ka Hoʻomalu Ao Kūlohelohe

Pepeluali 16, 2021 10:00 a.m. Lumi 32	Pepeluali 16, 2021	10:00 a.m.	Lumi 325
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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) <u>SUPPORTS</u> HB331 HD1, which seeks to improve the quality of life for Hawai'i residents by amending the State Planning Act to establish green infratructure objectives and policies for state facilities. **OHA supports** efforts to incorporate the use of green infrastructure for state facility systems, particularly with the potential inclusion and integration of Hawaiian plants¹ that reflect Hawai'i's unique cultural and ecological heritage.

Native Hawaiian culture is intimately tied to the land and its resources. Historically, each island, moku, and ahupua'a supported varied and diverse plant life. Such plants were and continue to be essential to perpetuating place-based Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, as well as Native Hawaiian traditional knowledge. The connection between Native Hawaiian culture and Hawai'i's plant life is also evident in other forms: from place names based on regional flora (e.g., 'Aiea, Hau'ula, Kapālama), to mo'olelo (e.g., 'Ōhi'a and Lehua), chants (e.g., the Kumulipo), and hula relating to and inspired by Hawaiian plants. Accordingly, the increased presence of Hawaiian plants in the development of "green infrastructure" projects can help ensure that our cultural heritage is reflected in our public spaces, educating both residents and visitors as to the value and significance of our islands' flora while also providing the environmental and health benefits realized from such projects.

In addition, the increased use of Hawaiian plants in green infrastructure projects will help to reverse the rapid decline of these ecologically important species, as well as other native life that may depend upon them. The displacement and decline of Hawaiian plants, which are integral to our islands' ecological heritage, have contributed significantly to Hawai'i's reputation as the "endangered species capitol of the world." More than 270 of Hawai'i's plant species are now considered threatened or endangered; native animal species have also declined due to the lack of food and habitat historically provided by such plants. As an advocate for our Native Hawaiian beneficiaries, OHA recognizes that the extinction of Hawaiian plant and animal species can result in the extinction of associated traditional and customary practices and indigenous knowledge that have been

¹ Per HRS § 103D-408, "'Hawaiian plants' means any endemic or indigenous plant species, including land, freshwater, and marine plant species, growing or living in Hawaii without having been brought to Hawaii by humans; or any plant species, including land, freshwater, and marine plant species, brought to Hawaii by Polynesians before European contact, such as kukui, kalo, wauke, niu, noni, and kamani."

passed down for millennia. Increasing the use of Hawaiian plants in public landscaping projects can help to reverse this trend, both directly, through the development of Hawaiian plant nurseries and maintenance practices, and through increased local knowledge of these plants' ecological importance.

To facilitate the realization of the added benefits that the incorporation of Hawaiian plants will have in green infrastructure planning, OHA respectfully suggests the inclusion of explicit language regarding the use of Hawaiian plants:

By amending the language on page 4, line 4, to read as follows:

"infrastructure, and green open space as possible, to include as much Hawaiian plants, as defined in section 103D-408(e), as possible; and"

And by adding a new paragraph (9) to page 5, after line 17, to read as follows:

"(9)	Prioritize the use of Hawaiian plants, as
	defined in section 103D-408(e), to
	contribute to Hawaiʻi's historic and
	cultural heritage, sense of place,
	biodiversity, and resilience."

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB331 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-331-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 10:08:00 PM Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Climate Protectors Coalition	Climate Protectors Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

To: The House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

From: Climate Protectors Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 10:00 am

In strong support of HB331 HD1

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Energy and Environmental Protection Committee members:

The Climate Protectors Coalition strongly supports HB331 HD1.

The Climate Protectors Coalition is a group focused on reversing the climate crisis. As a tropical island State, Hawaii will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, loss of protective coral reefs, food insecurity, and rising sea levels destroying our shorelines. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become at least carbon neutral as soon as possible. The planet faces an existential climate crisis and we must act now! Scientists have made clear that we are part of the last generation that can stop or at least mitigate the devastating impacts of climate change. If we are to solve the climate crisis, it will require **all of us** working together. Hawaii can and should be a leader in showing the world the way forward towards a safe and sustainable climate and future. The sooner we inspire others to take action and lead by example, the better off the future will be for our children.

Amending the State Planning Act to to achieve the use of green infrastructure, vegetation, and trees in State facility systems, infrastructure and transit projects would improve the quality of life in Hawaii and help mitigate the climate crisis.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of this very important legislation.

Climate Protectors Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawaiʻi

Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 10:00 am

House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection HOUSE BILL 331 – RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN – Green Infrastructure

Position: Support

Me ke Aloha, Chair Nicole Lowen, Vice-Chair Lisa Marten, and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Hawaii is in something of a race to 1) eliminate carbon emissions, and 2) sequester atmospheric carbon, as part of our obligation to preserve a future for the human project. The rest of the planet is beyond our control, and perhaps beyond hope of control. Our mission is to mitigate and adapt as much as possible for those who may be left. The Democratic Party Platform most recently states its clear mandate to "use green and resilient infrastructure to protect communities from the impact of climate change and help to mitigate its effects."

The Caucus has also signed onto a petition for the President to declare a National Climate Emergency, and it is apparent that the massive support for this exigency has become a priority for this administration. Hawaii wants to prepare to be great partners in this effort, and HB 331 provides a vehicle for thinking as well as funding to forge forward as we emerge from the pandemic. The urgency flows from our unique position in the Pacific, not only as a vibrant constellation of islands that is a gathering place for the Pacific Basin but also as a hub for the U.S. diplomatic and military "pivot to Asia". The military, in fact, has assessed climate change as the greatest disrupter of peaceful relations among nations, and Hawaii as the home of ho'oponopono bears the kuleana of leading where others may follow.

HB 331 calls on the Office of Planning Sustainability Program to incorporate "green" infrastructure guidelines into our State plans, to provide temperature reduction, greater water retention and storm water management, permeable pavements and urban forestation, and to accelerate the implementation of regenerative land management practices to sequester atmospheric carbon. Alongside urban and rural microgrid electrification to wean us off of fossil fuels, and particularly with reference to State facility projects, transit projects and impending Transit-Oriented Development, the human environment becomes, under this bill, a learning center for mitigation and adaptation.

This goes beyond mitigating the heat island effect of urban zones to creating visual and sound barriers to quiet and calm human environments, improving the quality of life. HB 31 specifically calls for protection and enhancement of historic properties, cultural amenities, view planes and vistas, to foster urban green spaces, follow underlying landscape to bring a sense of place, enhancing natural amenities.

The Environmental Caucus fully supports these improvements, and urges strong support for HB 331. We appreciate the opportunity to address this issue.

HB-331-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 4:06:33 PM Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Strong support for HB 331 which I interpret to be a green infrastructure template for all legislation moving forward in this time of climate crisis.



Written Testimony before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION Tuesday, February 16, 2021 (10:00 am)

RE: HB331 HD1 RELATING TO THE STATE PLAN.

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection:

Trees for Honolulu's Future (TFHF) is a non-profit organization with a vision for a tree-filled island that preserves and enhances our quality of life, especially in the face of climate change.

We support the above-referenced bill, which establishes green infrastructure objectives and policies for state facility systems within the State Plan. It also has an important accountability aspect by requiring the the office of planning, in partnership with the greenhouse gas sequestration task force, to submit a report to the legislature making recommendations for implementing the green infrastructure objectives, policies, and priority guidelines established by this measure. That's important because a plan is only a plan, execution is where the "rubber meets the road". We are confident that if all government agencies act in support of mitigating climate change this bill will cause positive change.

In particular, we want to stress that trees create multiple benefits well documented by research and noted in this bill's preamble. Trees create shade and use evapotranspiration to lower temperature. Trees also recharge groundwater and decrease surface runoff protecting our reefs. Trees trap pollutants and store CO2. Trees calm traffic. Sadly though, Honolulu has been losing urban tree canopy over the past years.

The bill implies that trees are urban infrastructure, but the definition should be explicit so that the staff in all state departments understand that trees are just as much infrastructure as roads, storm water drainage systems, and all other parts of urban infrastructure essential to the successful functioning of urban and regional areas. Trees are indeed plants, but we believe an extra callout given their tremendous value in combatting climate change is warranted.

We ask that this bill be amended to strengthen the definition of "green infrastructure" by including "trees" and not only the general "plants" category and passed to the next committee. Thank you.

Daniel Dinell, President

HONOLULU is HOT TREES are COOL Visit us: www.TreesForHonolulu.org Contact us: info@TreesForHonolulu.org Voice/Fax/Text: 808-707-6353 P.O. Box 12051, Honolulu, Hawaii 96828