JOSH GREEN, M.D.

SYLVIA LUKE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA





STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I **DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES** KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809 DAWN N.S. CHANG

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ENGINEERING FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE HISTORIC PRESERVATION KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION LAND STATE PARKS

Testimony of DAWN N. S. CHANG Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on WATER AND LAND

Monday, March 13, 2023 1:00 PM **State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

In consideration of **HOUSE BILL 361, HOUSE DRAFT 1** RELATING TO THE GREEN JOBS YOUTH CORPS

House Bill 361, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) and its partner, or partners, for the continuation of benefits of the Green Jobs Youth Corps. The Department supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.

Green Jobs Youth Corps funding previously appropriated by the Legislature has allowed the Department to partner with Kupu, a Hawai'i-based non-profit, to provide roughly 100 workforce or training opportunities per year. This funding provides important opportunities for emerging professionals to gain skills related to natural resource management, builds a pipeline of future local leaders for the Department and a green workforce for a diverse Hawai'i economy, and helps to further the Department's efforts to protect natural and cultural resources.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

MARK B. GLICK CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

235 South Beretania Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804 Telephone: Web:

(808) 587-3807 energy.hawaii.gov

Testimony of MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Monday, March 13, 2023 1:00 PM State Capitol, Conference Room 229 and Videoconference

In SUPPORT of

HB361, HD1

RELATING TO THE GREEN JOBS YOUTH CORPS.

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HB 361, HD1, which appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and its partner, or partners, for the continuation of benefits of the Green Jobs Youth Corps.

HSEO believes that DLNR is well-suited to oversee the corps and to provide training and job experience for the workforce of the future. This program helps advance Hawai'i's clean energy and decarbonization goals, expands the green workforce, and launches a new generation of clean energy leaders. HSEO is in support of this and other green workforce development efforts, working together toward achieving 100% clean energy by or before 2045.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



OUR MISSION

To support and advance public policies that make Hawai'i affordable for all working families.

OUR VISION

Collaborative, sustainable, and evidence-based public policies that create a diverse and sustainable Hawai'i economy, an abundance of quality job opportunities, and a future where all working families living in Hawai'i can thrive.

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Page 1 of 2

Committee: Senate Committee on Water and Land

Bill Number: HB 361, HD 1, Relating to the Green Jobs Youth Corps

Hearing Date and Time: March 13, 2023 at 1:00pm (Room 229)

Re: Testimony of Holomua Collaborative in support

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Committee Members:

We write in support of HB 361, HD 1, Relating to the Green Jobs Youth Corps. The purpose of HB 361, HD 1 is to appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources and its partner, or partners, for the continuation of the Green Jobs Youth Corps.

Holomua works to find innovative initiatives that help make Hawaiʻi affordable to all working families. We are especially interested in fostering cross-sector collaboration and supporting evidence-based policies that have shown or can expect to show a positive return on any taxpayer investment that is made in them.

The Green Jobs Youth Corps is a perfect example of all this.

Innovation: The program was created as an innovative way to connect people with good jobs following the unemployment crisis that was sparked by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, the Green Jobs Youth Corps has become a meaningful part of Hawaii's attempt to diversify our economy, keep people working in their own communities, and improve the state's environmental resilience.

<u>Cross-sector collaboration</u>: With initial federal government funding through COVID relief money and subsequent additional funding provided by the state, the Green Jobs Youth Corps has involved over seventy different employers in both the for-profit and non-profit sectors. And all these employers are involved in sustainable energy, conservation, or sustainable agriculture.

<u>Evidence-based return on investment</u>: The partnership between these private sector employers and the state and federal government has proved to be a wise investment of government resources. It is estimated that the first \$5 million in government funds invested in this program will produce \$18.4 million in positive socioeconomic impact.

We know young adults are unemployed at higher rates than the general population, causing lifelong negative impacts. The Green Jobs Youth Corps has successfully trained over 100 young people. Roughly half of the participants hail from the neighbor islands, over half live in households making less than \$25,000 per year, and almost half are Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.



Page 2 of 2

This is the type of innovative, collaborative, evidence-based and place-based program that can serve as a model for the state and we are proud to support it.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Josh Wisch

President & Executive Director



Testimony in Strong Support of H.B. 361, H.D. 1 Relating to the Green Job Youth Corps

Senate Committee on Water and Land Submitted by Kupu CEO John Leong, hearing date March 13, 2023

Aloha e Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is John Leong, and I am the Chief Executive Officer and co-founder of Kupu, a statewide youth-focused conservation nonprofit. On behalf of Kupu, I am pleased to testify in **strong support** of **H.B. 361, H.D. 1, Relating to the Green Job Youth Corps**.

As written, this measure would continue funding for the State Green Job Youth Corps, a program that provides employment and training opportunities for young adults in conservation, sustainable agriculture, clean energy, and other sustainability-related industries. As a community-based organization that partners with the Department of Land and Natural Resources to administer this program, we have seen firsthand how it is benefitting young workers and diversifying our economy.

We thank the legislature for establishing the State Green Job Youth Corps in 2021, and for considering H.B. 361 H.D. 1 so this program can continue to benefit Hawai'i's environment, economy, and young workforce. Kupu also notes that H.B. 361 H.D. 1 is identical in substance to S.B. 87 S.D. 1, which was introduced by Chair Inouye and passed by this Committee on February 15 with unanimous support.

As background, Kupu was established in 2007, in the early stages of the Great Recession. Today we are a statewide organization, developing youth and young adults through hands-on service training and early-career jobs in conservation and other sustainability professions. Since 2007 we have trained over 5,200 youth in conservation, sustainability, and environmental education. Young adults served by Kupu have provided more than 3 million service hours during this time, which included planting over 1.5 million native plants and removing over 151,000 acres of invasive species. According to a study by Columbia University, the work of Kupu's young participants has generated an estimated \$172 million-plus in positive socio-economic impact for Hawai'i since our founding. We believe more investment in the green economy - as this bill provides - would enable similar economic benefits to our state, create jobs in related fields, and continue to diversify our economy.

We are honored to have played a role in the displaced worker employment and training program that served as the model for the Green Job Youth Corps. In 2020, we partnered with the state to administer the Kupu 'Āina Corps, which helped over 350 displaced workers during the unemployment crisis that characterized the first year of the Covid-19 pandemic. Seeing the potential benefits of a similar program as part of the state's long-term strategy to improve our economy and reach out ambitious sustainability goals, the legislature created the Green Job Youth Corps through H.B. 1176 (Act 181 SLH 2021), and amended the program last year via S.B. 2768 (Act 33, SLH 2022).

The Green Job Youth Corps is currently benefiting young adults and sustainability employers across our state, and H.B. 361 H.D. 1 would allow this to continue. Over 140 participants have enrolled in the Green Job Youth Corps, and have served at 70 different sustainability organizations in the first program year. Participants are gaining hands-on experience in conservation, sustainable farming, and sustainable energy careers. In terms of equitable distribution, Kupu is pleased to see the program reach deep into neighbor island communities, as 48 percent of participants and 51 percent of our host sites are located outside of Oʻahu.

With the support of the Legislature, the Green Job Youth Corps can continue to support our environment and economy from the ground up, focused first on building a workforce of young adults ready to lead Hawai'i into the sustainable and resilient future we want for our state. Please allow for the continuation of the Green Job Youth Corps by passing H.B. 361, H.D. 1.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in strong support of this important bill.

Sincerely,

John Leong, CEO

John Leong

Kupu



45 North King Street, Suite 500 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817 • HawaiiEnergy.com • P: (808) 839-8880 • F: (808) 441-6068

Before the Senate Committee on Water and Land Monday, March 13, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

Testimony in Support of HB361 HD1: Relating to the Green Jobs Youth Corps

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support and provide comments on House Bill 361 HD1.

Hawai'i Energy works to empower island families and businesses on behalf of the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to make smart energy choices to reduce energy consumption, save money, and pursue a 100% clean energy future. Energy efficiency – the energy we do not use – is the cheapest option to help us achieve our 100% clean energy goal by eliminating waste and being more efficient.

The bill provides necessary funding to ensure the Green Jobs Youth Corps is able to continue its promising efforts for the next two fiscal years. In its short existence already, the Green Jobs Youth Corps has trained over 100 young adults and deployed them to 70 employers or host sites in the areas of conservation, sustainable agriculture, and sustainable energy. As Hawai'i pursues a 100% clean energy future, we are going to need programs like the Green Job Youth Corps to help grow our sustainability-focused workforce.

Hawai'i Energy has had the privilege of working closely with the Kupu 'Āina Corps program, which has provided eight positions to help launch the initial year of the Hawaii State Energy Office Clean Energy Wayfinder program. The Clean Energy Wayfinders share information and opportunities for energy conservation, energy efficiency and clean energy adoption with Hawai'i's schools, community organizations, and households — especially those in low- to moderate-income (LMI), asset-limited, income-constrained, employed (ALICE), and under-resourced communities — to help increase energy conservation and efficiencies, lower monthly energy utility bills, increase access to clean transportation and renewable energy resources, and promote green career training and employment opportunities.

We look forward to supporting efforts to expand the Green Job Youth Corps program and programs like it throughout the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 361 HD1.

Sincerely, Caroline Carl Executive Director Hawai'i Energy



Testimony Before The
Senate Committee on Water and Land
IN SUPPORT OF HB 361 HD1
March 13, 2023, 1:00PM, Room 229

My name is Kevin Chang and I am the Executive Director of Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (or KUA). KUA works to empower grassroots rural and Native Hawaiian mālama 'āina groups -fishers, farmers, families- to celebrate their places and pass on their traditions to better Hawai'i and achieve 'āina momona— an abundant, productive ecological system that supports community well-being.

KUA employs a community-driven approach that currently supports a statewide network of 36 mālama 'āina community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together), 40 fishpond projects and practitioners called the Hui Mālama Loko I'a, and a growing group of over 60 Limu practitioners and supporters called the Limu Hui. Our vision of 'āina momona includes pathways to new economic and environmental regenerative opportunities for present and future generations.

KUA generally supports HB 361 HD1. This bill would continue to support the Green Job Youth Corps program within the DLNR to help address the unemployment impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and support economic diversification. It would also appropriate funds for this purpose

Beyond supporting a stop gap in employment for our state the Green Job Youth Corps are important pathway to meeting the greater systemic needs we as a state identified during this pandemic: new workforce training, economic diversification, caring for our environment, and supporting businesses in Hawai'i as they work to make our state more self-sufficient and resilient

A primary function of KUA includes development of an 'auwai, a stream of resources, tools, bridges, relationships, and networks that help to cultivate and take our communities' work to greater levels of collective impact. A core catalyst for the flow in this 'auwai includes increasing the percentage of our economy which helps to manage and better the condition of the natural resources systems that sustain us. Indeed, the University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization, with input from KUA and a number of partners (DLNR, Kupu, TNC, KS,OHA etc.) now tracks natural resource workforce development as a key part of a "Green Economy."

We are also supportive for what this opportunity could mean for increased environmental comanagement, co-governance and uplifting an ethic of mālama 'āina. Our current state institutions lack in resources but also in institutional ethos and policies that could better bolster citizen stewardship of our home. Key new generation staff members -such as exist within the Division of Aquatic Resources community-based subsistence fishing area and DOCARE Makai Watch programs- that do more work in partnership with communities are the future of environmental stewardship.

A state job corps that can build a conservation workforce for Hawai'i is a necessary pathway toward uplifting the environment which sustains and undergirds the "economy" for our state. It also

further places our island community like others in the Pacific as a leader for environmental leadership and adaptation.

Please pass this bill out of your committee and mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Aloha 'Āina Momona.

Re-use Hawai'i

March 10, 2023

Senate Committee on Water and Land

RE: HB361

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and members of the committee,

Re-use Hawai'i is a non-profit organization working to create a long-term solution to Hawaii's waste management challenges by keeping building materials out of the landfill and cultivating the circular economy in Hawai'i.

HB361 relating to the Green Jobs Youth Corps is an important measure that will support workforce development in the sustainability sector. Re-use Hawai'i has been a host site for participants of the Kupu 'Āina Corps (KAC) program. KAC employs and trains individuals with diverse backgrounds and abilities through well-coordinated partnerships between the state, the community, and various host sites(employers), including Re-use Hawai'i.

The training that we provide to our Kupu 'Āina Corps participants includes specific skills in deconstruction, lumber processing, customer service, non-profit administration, woodworking with salvaged material, and workplace safety. Through a 12-month engagement, individuals come away with a broad understanding of the circular economy and how building material reuse contributes to a resilient future for Hawai'i

HB361 and the continued support of a Green Job Your Corps Program will allow Re-use Hawai'i and other green job providers to expand our impact, reduce unemployment, and contribute to a regenerative economy.

We strongly support HB361 and Re-use Hawai'i is eager to participate again as a host site as we work toward a brighter future for Hawai'i's workforce and industries.

Mahalo nui loa,

A. Zin Vitter

Quinn Vittum Executive Director

Re-use Hawai'i



March 13, 2023

Committee: Senate Committee on Water and Land

Bill Number: HB 361 HD1, Relating to the Green Jobs Youth Corps

Hearing Date and Time: March 13, 2023 at 1:00pm

Re: Testimony of HPM Building Supply in support

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Committee Members:

I would like to submit this letter and written testimony in support of HB 361 HD1, Relating to the Green Jobs Youth Corps. The purpose of HB 361 HD1 is to appropriate funds for the continuation of the Green Jobs Youth Corps program.

HPM Building Supply is a 100% employee-owned company serving Hawaii's home improvement market and building industry for over 100 years since 1921. With 17 locations across Hawaii and Washington State, HPM offers various services and products, including retail stores, building supply and lumber yards, home design centers, drafting and design services, and manufacturing facilities. HPM is dedicated to enhancing homes, improving lives, and transforming communities. The company is guided by its core values of Heart, Character, and Growth, striving to provide top-quality products and build exceptional customer loyalty. HPM has earned recognition as a leader in the industry for its products, services, and commitment to its community.

As a State-wide employer with over 500 employees, we appreciate the initiative to train and prepare the next generation entering the workforce. This bill continues to foster cross-sector collaboration and continue to work with private sector employers. This bill is also in line with HPM's values of Heart, Character and Growth. By creating new jobs and investing in these individuals, we give them the chance to contribute to our communities and set them on a path of professional growth.

Thank you for the opportunity to provided testimony in support of HB 361 HD1. I strongly encourage your support and passage of this innovative measure.

Sincerely,

Dennis Lin

Community Relations Administrator





To: Senate Committee on Water and Land Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair Senator Brandon Elefante, Vice Chair And Members of the Committee

From: Micah Kāne, Chief Executive Officer & President - Hawai'i Community Foundation

Re: Testimony in Support of HB361 Relating to Green Jobs Youth Corps Monday, March 13, 2023, 1:00 P.M.

The Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) strongly supports House Bill 361 (HB361). HB361 is an important part of supporting our youth and statewide workforce while opening the doors to diversifying our economy. This is a key area within HCF's CHANGE Framework under the "C" sector of Community & Economy. We will continue to support ideas and efforts that can bring systemic change to Hawaii for the betterment of our future. HB361 provides a solid investment of government resource, support, and confidence into this area.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB361.

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 9:26:29 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dotty Kelly-Paddoo	Testifying for Hui o Hauula	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hui o Hauula, a small non-profit in Hauula has benefited greatly from having the support of Kupu to provide workforce development through non-profits like ours. we cannot afford full-time workers ro assist us to remove invasive species on land provided by DLNR to build a Community Resilience hub to shelter our residents in times of disasters and on a daily basis as a new Community Center. We are very thankful for the opportunity to teach young people great skills that will benefit them and our community! It is a win-win for all us us!

Mahalo for voting for HB 361!

Dotty Kelly-Paddock

Executive Director, Hui o Hauula

The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i and Palmyra 923 Nu'uanu Avenue Honolulu, HI 96817

Tel (808) 537-4508 Fax (808) 545-2019 nature.org/HawaiiPalmyra

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy Supporting HB 361 HD1, Relating to the Green Jobs Youth Corps.

Committee on Water and Land March 13, 2023, 1:00 pm Conference Room 229 and via Videoconference

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) supports HB 361 HD1, Relating to the Green Jobs Youth Corps.

Hawai'i's natural environment is the engine that drives our state's economy and a natural, recreational, and cultural treasure supporting our island lifestyle and livelihoods. Careful, thoughtful, and intentional conservation, management, and restoration is required to ensure our environment can withstand the increasing impacts of climate change while continuing to fuel our islands' economic engine. TNC is proud of our decades of working in partnership with so many local organizations, agencies, and communities to care for this vital and fragile resource.

The Green Job Youth Corps, based on a 2020 displaced worker training and employment program, is making a meaningful impact on Hawai'i's environment and economy. The program is an excellent example of a partnership between the state, the community, and employers. While this government program was originally established in response to the Covid-19 unemployment crisis, TNC has benefitted from the tremendous work of dozens of Kupu interns since 2011. These interns provide much-needed capacity to help us manage our native forested watersheds and coral reefs. These enthusiastic and committed interns have created positive environmental, cultural, and community impact across the islands while also learning under the mentorship of environmental experts. Through their work, these interns are making a positive difference right now while also paving the way for the next generation of conservationists dedicated to perpetuating our unique island environment and diversifying Hawai'i's economy. HB 361 HD1 would continue this program, which provides the platform and funding for additional Kupu internships and other green jobs across our islands.

As we work together to create a diversified economy, green jobs can and must play a role. We need programs like the Green Job Youth Corps to build our workforce and grow sustainability-focused industries throughout our state. By providing opportunities for local jobs while also paving the way for long-term green jobs, environmental expertise, and local leadership, this legislation is a key step in the right direction, and we urge the committee to pass it unamended.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 361 HD1.

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i and Palmyra is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 40,000 acres in thirteen nature preserves and work in over fifty coastal communities to help protect and restore the nearshore reefs and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnerships with government, private parties, and communities to protect forests and coral reefs for their ecological values and for the many benefits they provide to people.

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<u>HB-361-HD-1</u> Submitted on: 3/12/2023 9:51:32 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 4:15:57 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carissa Cabrera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Commitee,

Please pass HB361 as is to ensure our residents have access to pathways for employment that protect our Hawai'i for future generations. I am testifying in strong support of this measure, as it is a demonstrated success that government, nonprofit, and communities working together can make a huge difference for our home. This initiative helps us build environmental and economic resiliency, creates jobs for local people, and is an essential solution for our communities. Mahalo for hearing my testimony.

Best,

Carissa Cabrera

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 9:30:37 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tom Coffman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stay in touch with several grassroots restoration and ecology organizations. The Green Job Corps program is quietly having a positive impact. It is also training a new generation of natural resource manageers. Please support and consider increasing the funding! Tom Coffman

<u>HB-361-HD-1</u> Submitted on: 3/11/2023 10:15:11 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of HD1. Thank you.

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 10:22:11 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/13/2023 1:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Carl	Testifying for Hawaii Energy	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo!