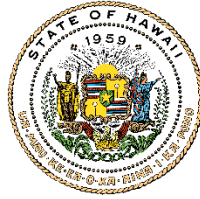
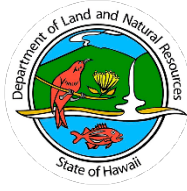


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND**

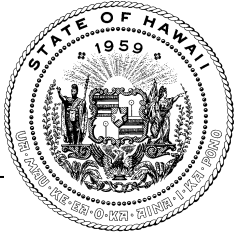
**Tuesday, January 31, 2023
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 430**

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

House Bill 361 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 and helps to further the Department's efforts to protect natural and cultural resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on 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: (808) 587-3807
Web: energy.hawaii.gov

Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Tuesday, January 31, 2023
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 430 and Videoconference

In SUPPORT of
HB 361

RELATING TO THE GREEN JOBS YOUTH CORPS.

Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HB 361 which appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources 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.



Testimony Before The
Senate Committee on Water and Land
IN SUPPORT OF HB 361
January 31, 2023, 9:00AM, Room 430

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 l'ā, 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. 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 co-management, 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.



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

House Committee on Water & Land

Submitted by Kupu CEO John Leong, hearing date January 31, 2023

Aloha e Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, 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, 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 the benefits it is providing to individuals and to the diversification of our economy. We thank the legislature for establishing this program in 2021, and especially thank Chair Ichiyama for introducing H.B. 361 so this program can continue to benefit Hawai‘i’s environment, economy, and young workforce.

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 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 would allow this to continue. Over 140 participants have enrolled in the Green Job Youth Corps, with the vast majority continuing to serve today at 70 different sustainability organizations. 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 O‘ahu.

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**, unamended.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Leong". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

John Leong, CEO
Kupu

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

**Committee on Water and Land
January 31, 2023, 9:00 am
Conference Room 430 and via Videoconference**

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) supports HB 361, 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 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.

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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holomua

COLLECTIVE

OUR MISSION

Make Hawai'i more affordable for all working families.

OUR VISION

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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info@holomuacollective.org

HolomuaCollective.org

Committee: House Committee on Water & Land
Bill Number: HB 361, Relating to the Green Jobs Youth Corps
Hearing Date and Time: January 31, 2023 at 9:00am
Re: Testimony of Holomua Collective in support

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members:

We write in support of HB 361, Relating to the Green Jobs Youth Corps. The purpose of HB 361 is to appropriate funds for the continuation of the Green Jobs Youth Corps program.

Holomua works to find innovative initiatives that help make Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i's attempt to diversify our economy, keep people working in their own communities, and improve the state's environmental resilience.

Cross-sector collaboration: 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 of these employers are involved in sustainable energy, conservation, or sustainable agriculture.

Evidence-based return on investment: 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.

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

January 30, 2023



House Committee on Water and Land

RE: HB361

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe 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,

Quinn Vittum
Executive Director
Re-use Hawai'i



To: The House Committee on Water & Land
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2023, 9:00am

In support of HB361

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the Water & Land committee,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org **supports HB361** that would continue funding for the Green Jobs Youth Corps, a program that provides employment and training opportunities for young adults in conservation, sustainable agriculture, clean energy, and other sustainability-related industries. This serves to employ our youth of Hawaii while building a resilient local economy and a sustainable future.

The Green Jobs Youth Corps is an important part of restoring our economy and environment. This program will help advance Hawaii's clean energy and decarbonization goals, expand the green workforce, and launch a new generation of clean energy leaders. The Green Jobs Youth Corps is a win-win for the environment and a more resilient economy for Hawaii.

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

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



January 30, 2023

Committee: House Committee on Water & Land
Bill Number: HB 361, Relating to the Green Jobs Youth Corps
Hearing Date and Time: January 31, 2023 at 9:00am
Re: Testimony of HPM Building Supply in support

Dear Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members:

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

HPM Building Supply is a 101-year-old company that has been helping Hawaii build better since its founding in 1921. 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 inline 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. I strongly encourage your support and passage of this innovative measure.

Sincerely,

Jason Fujimoto
President & CEO





Hawai'i Energy

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

Before the House Committee on Water & Land
Tuesday, January 31, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

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

Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

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

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.

Sincerely,
Caroline Carl
Executive Director
Hawai'i Energy

HB-361

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 4:54:04 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Suzanne Frazer	Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawaii (BEACH)	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am a current host site supervisor. I will be speaking about the experience.

HB-361

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 1:25:01 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hawai'i Green Fee Coalition	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear legislative leadership,

As we continue to build economic resilience throughout the State of Hawai'i, it is imperative that we continue to invest in successful projects that pave the way for future progress. The Green Job Youth Corps has been a demonstrated, effective program to build employment opportunities for residents for multiple years, as well as a powerful example of the potential partnerships between State, community, and employers. Our residents deserve opportunity to purposeful work that gives back to our home, and this program has created a substantial impact for our environment and economy. This program was an effective strategy during the COVID-19 pandemic, but has potential further serve our communities by diversifying our economy, building capacity for scalable impact in conservation and sustainability, and get us closer to meeting our goals.

Hawai'i Green Fee supports initiatives that create employment opportunities for residents to protect, conserve, and restore our ecosystems. The Green Job Youth Corps is an excellent example of that. **We are testifying in support of HB 361.**

Mahalo for your time,

Hawai'i Green Fee Coalition

HB-361

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 3:38:28 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No such thing as Green Jobs the hole Green thing is all Bullshit and all the proof is now Out.
This Hole Green thing is nothing but a scam to make money and have control over the
People. WAKE UP!!!!

HB-361

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 4:42:29 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I have followed and supported evolution of the Green Job Corps the past four years. There are many reasons to support HB 361 but above all it is to expand on developing an ever larger generation of people dedicated to restoration and dedication of our natural, historic and cultural resources. Various factors are moving in the right direction. Appropriately the program is now housed in DLNR. KUPU is doing a great job of knowledgeably managing and leading while widely involving people and projects from the grass roots up. I have been concerned that KUPU was too dominant but I am impressed that they are playing their role with restraint and professionalism. So let's continue to take advantage of their prescient and visionary groundwork.

The dollar amount needs to keep going up. The harder decision is to invest hard money from the general fund. I suggest we do this in the interest of the long term. Environmental problems do not have budgetary ups and downs. We can expand participation with the Federal money.

Thank you for bringing Green Job Corps this far. Imua, Tom Coffman

Testimony HB361 Support
Hearing of House Water & Land Committee 9am on Tuesday 31st January, 2023
Chair Ichiyama, Vice-Chair Poepoe

Suzanne Frazer, Co-Founder & President
Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawaii (BEACH)

Chair Ichiyama, Vice-Chair Poepoe and Committee Members,

My name is Suzanne Frazer, I am the Co-Founder and President of Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawaii (BEACH) – an award winning 501c3 non-profit organization that brings awareness and solutions to plastic marine debris since being founded in 2006.

I am testifying today on the Green Jobs Bill HB 361. BEACH is currently a host site for the Kupu Aina Corps program and I am the site supervisor. We had a participant complete her year long program on Saturday and we have one more finishing her year at the end of May. BEACH also participated in the 2020 program and had 3 participants who completed that program as well. All have benefitted immensely from training and working with BEACH and BEACH has also benefitted from having paid staff to help with the work and so I thank the legislature for providing the funding for these programs. I have a handout to give you about the work by one of our participants who just finished which shows you some of what she did and achievements with our organization and how she grew during the program.

Covid-19 has caused difficulties for our organization and this green job program is very important to our continued work in the field of marine debris. We are researching the sources of plastic marine debris in order to identify solutions and we have made a lot of progress over the past year but we still have a lot more work to do and it would be very sad if we are not able to continue receiving support through the Kupu Aina Corps program.

The training and education we provide to participants is very unique and not found in any of the university programs. Participants come in not knowing very much about plastic marine debris leave with a lot of knowledge. In addition the training is not just about plastic but also includes skills that important for any job – communication, gratitude, appreciation, work ethics, leadership, how to give feedback and instruction and so much more. Thank you for this opportunity to give testimony in support of HB361.