



February 25, 2020

To: The House Committee Members on Ways and Means
The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Re: Strong Support of SB3171 SD1, Relating to the Green Environment

Hrg: February 25, 2020 at 12:40 PM at Capitol Room 211

The Hawaii Public Health Association (HPHA) is a group of over 600 community members, public health professionals and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. HPHA also serves as a voice for public health professionals and as a repository for information about public health in the Pacific.

HPHA strongly supports SB3171 SD1, which would include objectives and policies and implementation guidelines for planning for the lei of green in the Hawaii State Planning Act. This bill also appropriates funds for costs associated with researching, compiling, and submitting the status report on the Lei of Green policy. The addition of these objectives, policies, and implementation guidelines will add clarity and greater focus to the existing law.

The intent and content of SB3171 SD1 is in line with Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Section 226, which establishes guidelines for the protection of scenic resources, shorelines, and historical and cultural sites. This bill will allow for the continued benefit and maintenance of the quality of life of our residents ensuring the perpetuity of our green physical environment that supports our natural and scenic resources. The maintenance of natural resources has mental and physical health benefits. Green spaces provide places to gather with friends and relatives, exercise, play and relax. They can also contribute to improved air quality and reduction of harmful greenhouse gases. Green spaces may filter air, remove pollution, attenuate noise, cool temperatures and replenish groundwater. The World Health Organization states that having access to green spaces can reduce health inequalities, improve well-being and aid in treatment of mental illness.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on important issues affecting the health of people in Hawaii.

Respectfully submitted,

Tenaya Jackman, MPH
Climate Change Legislative Sub-Committee Chair
Legislative Committee Chair
Hawaii Public Health Association