

Chairperson and Members
Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i

April 24, 2024

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BLNR AGENDA ITEM C-3:
APPROVAL OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE DIVISION OF
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE AND RESOURCES LEGACY FUND TO ADVANCE A PARTNERSHIP
ON KOA REFORESTATION.**

Friday, April 26, 2024

This testimony is in support of The Department's approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Division of Forestry and Wildlife and Resources Legacy Fund to advance a partnership on koa reforestation.

There is broad support for the collaborative work that the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) and Resources Legacy Fund (RLF) are striving to achieve in reforestation. Many of these stakeholders are actively involved in the [State of Carbon in Hawai'i Hui](#), an ad hoc group dedicated to native reforestation and the use of carbon finance to accelerate the stewardship of Hawai'i's native forests.

Reforestation is complex, and any efforts to scale it must be inclusive of regional perspectives and needs. The establishment of this partnership and the enhancement of our capacity to meet these needs are crucial for the success of our reforestation endeavors. This MOU is a significant step towards the formalization and strengthening of this partnership.

Mālama,
Steph Dunbar-Co, PhD

Hulili Consulting, Founder and CEO
Kainalu Ranch, Moloka'i, owner



RESOURCES LEGACY FUND
CREATIVE SOLUTIONS. LASTING RESULTS.

April 24, 2024

Board of Land and Natural Resources
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809
blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

Re: Testimony in Support of Memorandum of Understanding between the Division of Forestry and Wildlife and Resources Legacy Fund to advance a partnership on Koa Reforestation

Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources:

On behalf of Resources Legacy Fund (RLF), I am writing **in support of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Division of Forestry and Wildlife and Resources Legacy Fund to advance a partnership on Koa Reforestation.**

RLF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that partners with communities, government, science, philanthropy, and business to advance bold solutions to secure a just and resilient world for people and nature. We work to build effective partnerships, grow capacity among on-the-ground partners, advance smart policies, and secure funding to address the intersecting crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental injustice.

Since 2019, RLF has been working in Hawai'i supporting state and partner efforts to improve management of Hawai'i's nearshore waters through the Holomua Marine Initiative. Our efforts have focused on building community advocacy capacity, supporting integration of traditional cultural practices in marine management, fundraising, and supporting policies and public funding measures that prioritize the health and sustainability of Hawai'i's nearshore waters.

Based on this work, the relationships we have cultivated and impact we have demonstrated, we have been asked to help coordinate koa reforestation efforts. We are honored to have the opportunity to apply our skills to help coalesce the people, resources, and strategies needed to successfully restore and sustainably harvest the rich koa forests of Hawai'i.

Recognizing the significant loss of native forests in Hawai'i, and the ecological, cultural, economic, and educational value of landscape-scale reforestation, RLF seeks to collaborate with the State of Hawai'i and partners to enhance coordination, increase public and private funding for reforestation, and expand public and private landowner access to information, tools, services, and other resources to support reforestation activities.

We respectfully urge the Board to authorize the Chairperson to enter into the proposed Memorandum of Understanding and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo,

Jocelyn B. G. Herbert
Senior Program Officer