

**From:** [Bridget Judd](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Supportive Testimony for Agenda Item C.1 - BLNR Nov 14. 2025  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 8:17:15 AM

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Supportive Testimony for Agenda Item C.1 – Division of Forestry and Wildlife  
Board of Land and Natural Resources Meeting – November 14, 2025

Aloha,

My name is Bridget Judd, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of the proposed Forest Stewardship Agreement between the Division of Forestry and Wildlife and the Waikōloa Dry Forest Initiative, as well as the accompanying Declaration of Exemption under Chapter 343, HRS.

I have been working at Waikōloa Dry Forest for over two years and have witnessed the success of our community-supported conservation and education efforts. Continued support through the Forest Stewardship Program will build on these achievements by expanding native forest restoration and protecting cultural and natural resources.

The proposed cost-share agreement represents a sound investment in ecological resilience, wildfire mitigation, and climate adaptation on Hawai‘i Island. The commitment to active management, community involvement, and measurable outcomes is well aligned with DOFAW’s goals and the priorities of the Forest Stewardship Program. The declaration of exemption is also appropriate, as the proposed actions are consistent with prior management activities and fall within the Department’s existing exemption list.

Mahalo for your continued recognition of the importance of dryland forest conservation and for supporting this partnership that sustains both the land and the community that cares for it.

Respectfully,  
Bridget Judd  
Project Coordinator, Waikōloa Dry Forest Initiative  
[bridget@waikoloadryforest.org](mailto:bridget@waikoloadryforest.org)  
808-896-9479

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Bridget Judd  
Project Coordinator  
Waikōloa Dry Forest Initiative  
808.494.2208  
[waikoloadryforest.org](http://waikoloadryforest.org)

**From:** [Zachary Judd](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony for BLNR Agenda item C-1, C-2  
**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2025 8:11:37 AM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-siydpx3n.png](#)

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Aloha,

I am writing in **support of agenda items C-1 and C-2** in the November 14<sup>th</sup> Board of Land and Natural Resources Meeting.

Agenda item C-1:

Approval of a Forest Stewardship Agreement with Waikoloa Dry Forest Initiative for cost-share support to implement the Waikoloa Dry Forest Management Plan.

Waikoloa Dry Forest Initiative has a tremendous track record of stewarding the dry forest resources surrounding Waikoloa including some of the rarest dry forest native species in Hawaii. Their commitment to stewardship, community engagement, and education is reflected in the numerous community programs offered, as well as the public access opportunities for people to see, feel, and engage with the land. We are in support of WFDI's Forest Stewardship Management Plan and voice our support to BLNR for agenda item C-1 to provide cost-share support to this program.

Agenda item C-2:

Delegation of authority to the Chairperson to declare management actions in Forest Stewardship Program agreements exempt from the preparation of EA's if the actions are included in the Department-wide exemption list.

The Forest Stewardship Program provides numerous community and regional benefits by supporting private landowners in the management and stewardship of privately held forests. The opportunity to reduce the requiring of environmental assessments for forest stewardship projects in alignment with Department-wide exemption lists makes sense, and will greatly reduce the burden on private landowners who are seeking to improve the quantity and quality of their forest resources and will reduce the financial and regulatory barriers to see FSP projects being implemented. We are in support of this effort.

Mahalo

Zachary Judd  
VP Regional Planning and Long-term Strategy  
PARKER RANCH INC.



*Home of the Paniolo since 1847*

67-1349 Ala Ohia Road, Kamuela, Hawai'i 96743  
Office: 808-885-2301 | Cell: 808-825-2127 | Fax: 808.885.5602

Email: [julz@pri-hi.com](mailto:julz@pri-hi.com) | Website: [www.parkerranch.com](http://www.parkerranch.com)