

**From:** [Zachary Judd](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony for BLNR Agenda item C-1, C-2  
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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

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