

Name: Robin Knox
Agenda Item: B.1 Goal 2.4 | Mauka to Makai Watershed Management
Date Received: 2/1/23 via email



From: "Robin S. Knox"
To: Rob Weltman, wearesouthm aui <wearesouthm aui@mauicounty.gov>
Date: 2/1/2023 5:04 PM
Subject: Fwd: GOOD BILL


FYI the state legislature is considering adding a definition of natural stormwater infrastructure

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **David Dorn** <daviddorn808@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Feb 1, 2023, 2:47 PM
Subject: Fwd: GOOD BILL
To:

This is interesting..

 Share This Email  Share This Email  Share This Email



Hawaii's Thousand Friends

Donna Wong
Executive Director
Phone/fax: 808-262-0682
EMAIL: htf3000@gmail.com

2023 Legislative Bills

GOOD BILL

SB 507 RELATING TO WETLAND PRESERVATIONS

The purpose of SB 507 is to protect waterways and wetlands from mauka to makai.

HEARING: Friday February 3 at 2:05 pm
SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT & WATER AND LAND
https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2023/hearingnotices/HEARING_AEN-WTL_02-03-23_DEFER_.HTM

SB 507 RELATING TO WETLAND PRESERVATIONS
Signers on the bill: GABBARD, Kidani, Shimabukuro
https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2023/Bills/SB507_.pdf

SB 507 adds new definitions to the State Environmental Impact Statements law HRS 343 to encourage the preservation of wetlands.

- **“Floodway”** means the channel of a river or stream, including any adjacent floodplain areas.
- **“Natural stormwater infrastructure”** means all naturally occurring streams, ephemeral streams, gulches, drainage corridors, wetlands, floodways, and other areas where water naturally collects or drains to the ocean.

- **"Wetlands" are defined as** land that is transitional between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems where water is the primary factor controlling the environment and the associated animal and plant life, where for any duration of time, including non-consecutive years, the water table is at or near the surface and the land is covered by water or saturated by: subsurface water, well or ditch influent water, marsh, peatland, marine water, riparian zone, coastal zones adjacent to wetlands,

Including these definitions in HRS 343 means that anyone conducting an EIS must consider impacts from the proposed development on floodways, natural stormwater ways, and wetlands.

Statewide, more than 31% of coastal wetlands have been lost.

Wetlands protect beaches against erosion, recharge aquifers, protect against flooding, provide habitat for endangered species, filter sediment and nutrients from stormwater runoff before reaching the ocean and coral reefs. Surface water, ground water, floodplains, and wetlands do not function as separate isolated components of a watershed but is a single, integrated natural system.

To submit testimony on proposed bills and access information on the legislature, go to <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>. The website is self-explanatory and has labeled bars you can click on to "Participate" or "Submit Testimony," read hearing notices, track measures, find info on legislators, and contact the Public Access Room.

- For lists of Senators and Representatives and lists of House and Senate committee chairs and members, click the far-left bar on the first website page.
- To submit testimony on a proposed bill, click on the **Participate** bar on the first page of the website, or the **Submit Testimony bar** on the second website page. Then click a button at top right to **register** (if it's your first time on the website) or **sign in** (if you are already registered). Then fill in the bill number in the space provided and follow the instructions to submit testimony on it.
- Contact the Public Access Room at <https://lrh.hawaii.gov/par/> if you need help or information.

If you would like to be removed from our ACTION ALERT email list, please click the word Unsubscribe at the bottom of this page.

If you know someone who would like to be on our 2023 Legislative Session emailing list, ask them to email us at htf3000@gmail.com

Thank you for your involvement and work on behalf of a better Hawaii.

Share on social media above

If the people lead, the leaders will follow
Mahatma Gandhi

Try email marketing for free today!