

Climate Action, Resilience, and Environment Committee on 2022-02-23 9:00 AM

Meeting Time: 02-23-22 09:00

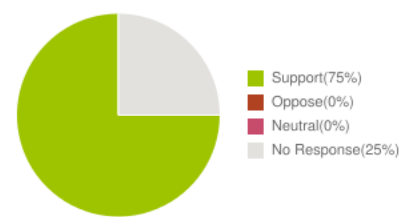
eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Climate Action, Resilience, and Environment Committee on 2022-02-23 9:00 AM	02-23-22 09:00	3	4	3	0	0

Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment

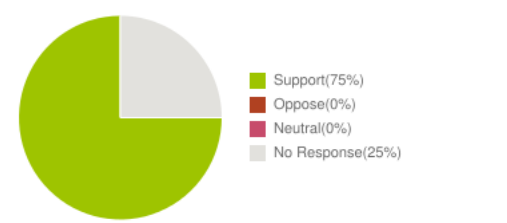


Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
A G E N D A	2	2	0	0
CARE-74 CC 21-546 BILL 21 (2022), SEABIRD AND BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION (CARE-74)	2	1	0	0

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

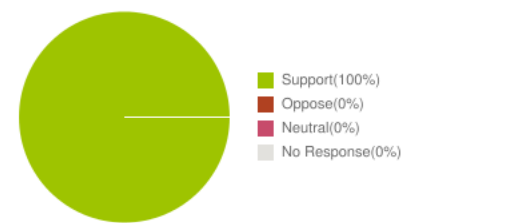
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for A G E N D A

Overall Sentiment



Guest User

Location:
Submitted At: 9:50am 02-23-22

Aloha Kakou,
Elle Cochran here. I was having a hard time logging on to verbally testify. So, I just want to briefly mention that Jay Penniman & Fern Duval were just in West Maui a week ago Working with Hannah Bernard and her new Hawaii Wildlife Discovery Center in Whalers village. They have created a whole section in the Disco. Center all about Birds. This center is a wealth of information and a great outreach opportunity for not just visitors but our local residents too. It is a best kept secret still but the want to change that and have more participation especially with our schools and keiki. Please go by and visit the Center! I was at the soft opening with CARE Chair Kelly King and GREAT Chair Mike Molina.
Soon example of birds will be hanging from the ceiling showing them in flight. At night on the roof tops of the Whalers Village the Seabirds come home to roost. It's an amazing sight to see and hear!
My IEM Committee spent many meetings on the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance and it has always been a work in

progress!
Mahalo for your time,
Elle Cochran

Jeff Bagshaw

Location:

Submitted At: 2:05pm 02-22-22

Light pollution is growing exponentially across Maui County, making life for native seabirds and other marine animals more difficult with each passing night. I am in support of Bill 21 to amend Maui County Chapter 20.35, because it specifies lighting uses that protect wildlife while addressing human needs. It includes a replacement schedule for existing lighting that is problematic as well as prohibitions on new installations of certain bulb types, light wavelengths and direction of illumination.

The specifics regarding shielding and lights used in and around pools or reflective surfaces are especially important too as people build more along the shore, and install more pools, water features and reflective solar panels.

This is not about aesthetics, its about restoring ecosystem functions humans cannot replicate without extensive technology or expense. Seabirds once inhabited all elevations above the waterline throughout Hawai'i nei. For eons they fished out to sea and returned to land to nest, bringing with them the gifts of their guano. Rainy, tropical soils the world over are notoriously lacking in an element critical to plant growth: nitrogen. This is no small matter. In the early 1900's millions of tons of seabird guano were mined from the leeward Hawai'i an Islands and sold the world over. When seabirds poop on land, they complete the nitrogen cycle. Without their deliveries, we cannot repair our native forests and restore our native trees which have proven superior to introduced species for preventing erosion, sequestering carbon and collecting and storing freshwater in forest soils: all necessary ecosystem functions as we face climate change. We can spend countless dollars on technology and labor to mimic these ecosystem functions, or we can focus on the connections these species have to our well-being and make minor changes to get out of the way and let them do their work. The birds are connected to the land, our forests, our water supplies and back again to protecting the reefs from run-off.

My 35 years of working in conservation in Hawai'i doesn't prepare me to speak as someone born and raised in the culture, but I can speak to a conservation concept that needs more emphasis. The modern definition of a cultural landscape is more than an archeological site. It's a place where you can directly experience the sights, sounds and species that your ancestors would have seen and heard generations ago, and sharing those experiences can help us today understand the origins of a culture. Being able to hear seabirds call at night, to see stars used in navigation may not have scientific or ecosystem function/economic benefits, but those priceless resources and experiences are just as important at preserving the language of a culture.

Careless and over-lighting does not protect us, it robs us of these ecosystem functions and diminishes the intangible experiences necessary to understand cultural origins. Bill 21 works to restore the broken links in nutrient cycling and cultural connections.

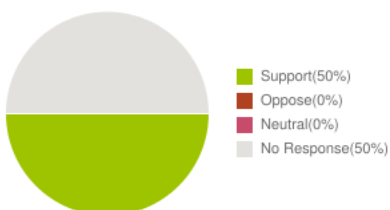
Jeff Bagshaw

Communications and Outreach Specialist

State of Hawaii, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Maui Nui Branch

Agenda Item: eComments for CARE-74 CC 21-546 BILL 21 (2022), SEABIRD AND BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION (CARE-74)

Overall Sentiment



Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 8:55am 02-23-22

February 23, 2022

Climate Action, Resilience, and Environment Committee

Kelly King, Chair

Shane Sinenci, Vice Chair

Committee Members

Regarding Agenda Item: Bill 21 Seabird protection from light pollution

The Staff of Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project thank the chair and members for bringing up Bill 21. If passed, this legislation would be a great step along the path to restoring our seabird populations. Light pollution is a growing concern not just for seabirds, but for other native species as well as humans. Because of the pace of development on Maui, the loss of a dark night sky is a real possibility, but it could be avoided by implementing a stronger outdoor lighting ordinance.

Wildlife appropriate outdoor lighting fixtures should not cause excessive safety issues, which is sometimes a theme of concern with dark night sky initiatives. On the contrary, the recommended changes to outdoor lighting fixtures can improve the lit environment by directing fixtures down, where they are needed, and by reducing the short wave content of the lights.

Our staff respond to seabird fallout, and have many stories of the vulnerable and sometimes grim situations that native wildlife face. The passage of legislation with the goals of Bill 21 would alleviate much suffering of native seabirds. The residents of Maui County would soon see the benefits of more native wildlife. When our natural resources are strengthened around us, we are brought closer to what makes Hawai_i Nei truly special.

Mahalo Nui

Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project Staff

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 2:00pm 02-22-22

February 22, 2022

Climate Action, Resilience, and Environment Committee

Kelly King, Chair

Shane Sinenci, Vice Chair

Committee Members

RE: Comments on Bill 21 (2022) Seabird and Biodiversity Protection

Aloha Chair King and committee members,

The Maui Hotel & Lodging Association (MHLA) is the legislative arm of the visitor industry for Maui County. We represent over 160 property and allied business members and over 12,000 employees.

MHLA would like to offer comments on the proposed amendments made to Chapter 20.35, Maui County Code, relating to outdoor lighting for the protection of seabirds. Section F, listed below, is of great concern. If a pool is a part of an open area and not properly lit prior to approach, it can lead to accidents. Children and non-ambulatory persons would be particularly vulnerable. We ask that this committee consider the removal of this section.

"F. Swimming-pool lighting must be operated by motion detectors to activate when people approach and deactivate five minutes after people depart."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony,

Lisa Paulson

Executive Director

Maui Hotel & Lodging Association