

CARE Committee

From: County Clerk
Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2022 7:38 AM
To: CARE Committee
Subject: FW: Office of Hawaiian Affairs letter in support of BILL 21(2022), SEABIRD AND BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION (CARE-74)
Attachments: Bill 21(2022) Seabird Protection Testimony 060122 copy.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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From: Kealoha Pisciotta <keomaivg@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 7:14 PM
To: Kimberly "Kealoha" Pisciotta <kealohap@oha.org>; Na'unanikina'u Kamali'i <nauk@oha.org>; County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Office of Hawaiian Affairs letter in support of BILL 21(2022), SEABIRD AND BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION (CARE-74)

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Aloha,

Please find attached the Office of Hawaiian Affairs letter in support of BILL 21(2022), SEABIRD AND BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION (CARE-74) to be considered before the **Climate, Action, Resilience and Environment Committee Council of the County of Maui, on June 1, 2022.**

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

**Kealoha Pisciotta
Public Policy Advocate
Office of Hawaiian Affairs**



**Climate, Action, Resilience and Environment Committee
Council of the County of Maui
Public Meeting**

BILL 21(2022), SEABIRD AND BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION (CARE-74)

June 1, 2022

9:00 a.m.

Virtual

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following **SUPPORT** for Bill No. 21(2022) CD1 for an ordinance that would amend Chapter 20.35, Maui County Code, relating to protecting seabirds from outdoor lighting. The amendment will better help to achieve the goal of the ordinance to protect native Hawaiian seabirds from becoming disoriented by artificial lights by requiring that all new outdoor lighting fixtures, except for neon: 1) be filtered light emitting diode (LED) fixtures that limit short wavelength content to no more than two percent of blue light content; 2) down directed with no light shining above the horizontal; 3) mounted as low as possible while still complying with existing lighting and safety standards to limit light trespass and reflection on ground surfaces. As Hawaii has the unfortunate distinction of being the endangered species capital of the world, OHA believes this is a good step in providing the necessary protections for our beloved Na Manu Kai (seabirds). As such, OHA commends the Maui County Council's efforts to support and protect our Na Manu Kai.

Na Manu Kai are our guides, our messengers... and for some Hawaiians, 'Aumakua (family guardians). They are believed to have entered the world in the early Wa (Age or Epoch) of the Kumulipo (Hawaiian Chant of Creation) and are sacred beings:

"They have flown here in flocks,
Lining the seashore,
Crowding in settlement the beaches, Clutching the land of Kanehuna-Moku;
The land gives birth to birds,
The sea gives birth to birds."

-Kumulipo Ka Wa Ekalu (365 at p.13)

Their sacred feathers adorned the Kahili's (feather standards) of Ali'i. They have guided and still guide the Ho'okele (ancient and modern Navigators of our transpacific voyages). They assist our fisher people by helping them find where the fish schools dwell. More importantly, they continue to be apart of our genealogy, cosmology and world. An unchecked modern human footprint can indeed be harmful to our native Na Manu Kai. More specifically, the use of excessive lighting that utilizes frequencies that can confuse, exhaust and make them vulnerable to predation. To rebalance our ecosystem and to restore Aina Momona (abundance) to Hawai'i, this kind of protection as proposed in the Bill 21(2022) is needed and necessary.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this agenda item.