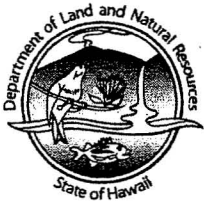


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**TESTIMONY OF THE CHAIRPERSON  
OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**on House Bill 2467 - RELATING TO FIRE PROTECTION**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS**

January 31, 2008

House Bill 2467 amends the state fire code to include road and sign standards, minimum private water supply reserves, fuel breaks, and green belts to improve fire protection. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the intent of improving fire protection and clarifying the standards for fire fighting in urban areas but has concerns about applying those standards to wildland areas and to lands managed by the Department.

For wildland areas, a combination of applying regular road maintenance, community education of how to protect homes (i.e. the community firewise program), and coordination with the Department of county and state planning and permitting efforts to provide comments on wildland fire protection on a case by case basis as developments occur may be a more feasible approach to improving fire protection in wildland areas.

It may be feasible to establish standards in urban areas and subdivisions. Wildland areas vary so greatly in degree of fire danger and appropriate mitigative measures that standard features are difficult to fairly establish and apply statewide across all counties and all environments.