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March 24, 2008

The Honorable Russell S. Kokubun, Chair

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and
Affordable Housing
State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: S.C.R. 231 Urging the Department of Land and Natural Resources to Develop and Implement a Comprehensive Plan to Assist the Bureau of Conveyances in Becoming a More Efficient, Effective, and Accountable Operation, and Develop Strategic Initiatives for the Bureau

Hearing Date: March 25, 2008 @ 9:00 a.m., Room 229

Dear Chair Kokubun and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and & Affordable Housing,

On behalf of our 10,000 members in Hawaii, the Hawaii Association of REALTORS® (HAR) **supports** S.C.R. 231.

HAR supports efforts to develop a comprehensive plan to become more efficient, effective, and accountable in the Bureau of Conveyances. In September, HAR was involved in an advisory group whose purpose was to consider an automated paper processing system at the Bureau of Conveyances. It was determined that it would take much more time and effort than originally planned. We look forward to working with interested parties again.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



American Resort Development Association
c/o PMCI Hawaii 84 N. King Street Honolulu, HI 96817 (808) 536-5688

March 24, 2008

TO: Senator Russell Kokubun, Chair
Senator David Ige, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing

FROM: ARDA-Hawaii
Contact: Donalyn Dela Cruz, PMCI Hawaii

RE: **CPH HEARING**
Tuesday, March 25, 2008
Room 229, 9:00 a.m.
SCR 231; Urging the DLNR to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to assist the Bureau of Conveyances in becoming a more efficient, effective, and accountable operation, and develop strategic initiatives for the Bureau.

Dear Chair Kokubun, Vice-Chair Ige, and members of the committee:

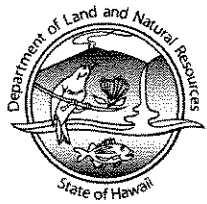
ARDA-Hawaii is the local chapter of the national timeshare trade association. Hawaii's timeshare industry currently accounts for over eight percent of the State's lodging inventory.

ARDA-Hawaii **supports SCR 231**, because it recognizes the need for a more effective process within the Bureau of Conveyances. SCR 231 would urge the Department of Land and Natural Resources to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to assist the Bureau in becoming more efficient, effective, and accountable.

Further, ARDA-Hawaii strongly supports any effort that would help to streamline the registration process for timeshare owners. Currently every timeshare owner is issued a certificate of title to each timeshare unit owner, which amounts to thousands of individual owners. The Land Court System was not created nor designed to handle multiple ownership conveyances in bulk and all the compliance issues that are required in the timeshare registration process. ARDA-Hawaii believes that one way to assist in streamlining the Bureau of Conveyances is to deregister fee simple timeshare interest from the Land Court system. Doing such would eliminate that process while maintaining adequate protection of ownership.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this measure.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

PETER T. YOUNG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

LATE

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

On Senate Concurrent Resolution 231 - URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO ASSIST THE BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES IN BECOMING A MORE EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE, AND ACCOUNTABLE OPERATION, AND DEVELOP STRATEGIC INITIATIVES FOR THE BUREAU

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

March 25, 2008

Senate Concurrent Resolution 231 urges the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to assist the Bureau of Conveyances (Bureau) in becoming a more efficient, effective, and accountable operation, and develop strategic initiatives for the Bureau. The Department has already developed such a plan and begun implementation, and therefore, this concurrent resolution is unnecessary.

The Department has already entered into a contract with Hawaii Information Consortium LLC to develop the process of online filings that will benefit the general public in transferring real property under an enhanced and secure process. The Department notes that the Hawaii Information Consortium LLC has implemented similar programs for other jurisdictions in the United States

This contract is to implement suggestions from the Working Group created in October 2007 consisting of representatives from the title industry, lending, realtor and bar associations, Judiciary, Hawaii Government Employees Association and the Department of the Attorney General. For the first time in over a decade, we have agreement in proceeding with an automation plan to enhance the Bureau's ability to service the public and introduced three administrative bills to address various concerns that were raised within the group.

Automation through electronic filings is currently being utilized by the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. This has resulted in increased benefits to the public as well as hundreds of recording offices throughout the United States.

The Department strongly supports contents of the Administration's proposal, House Bill 3172 (RELATING TO ELECTRONIC FILINGS IN THE BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES AND THE OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGISTRAR) that addresses the recommendations of the Working Group to automate the recording process. The Department strongly urges agreement by the Senate and the House of Representatives to change the law to accept electronic filings on line.



Working Together for Hawaii

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Hawaii Government Employees Association
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

The Twenty-Fourth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Senate

LATE

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association – HGEA/AFSCME, Local 152
March 25, 2008

SCR 231 – URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO ASSIST THE BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES IN BECOMING A MORE EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE, AND ACCOUNTABLE OPERATION, AND DEVELOP STRATEGIC INITIATIVES FOR THE BUREAU.


The Hawaii Government Employees Association supports the passage of SCR 231.

HGEA certainly agrees that the Bureau of Conveyances can and should be a more efficient, effective, and accountable government operation. Our past experience and involvement in the various issues affecting our union members are certainly a strong indication that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is in need of assistance if they are to properly address the problems that exist in the Bureau of Conveyances.

We welcome the opportunity to participate on the proposed advisory council and would ask that line staff employees also be included on the committee. Despite the various operational, administrative, and personnel issues that have added to the inefficiencies of the Bureau, the employees tasked with the day to day work of the Bureau continue to do their best and do a tremendous job given the situation. Their participation and input is important and they should have representation on this advisory council.

We urge your support of SCR 231 and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

 Nora A. Nomura
Deputy Executive Director