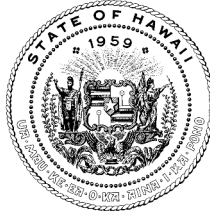


SB740

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
EDUCATION AND HOUSING
and
TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**Monday, February 9, 2009
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 740
RELATING TO HOUSING**

Senate Bill 740 proposes to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) and Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) to identify public lands within one half mile of the City's transit corridor and one-mile radius of any designated transit station suitable for affordable housing and require the Governor to set aside such land for housing development, without the approval by the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board). While the Department has no qualms with working with HHFDC to identify public lands, the Department however does not support setting aside such land for housing development, without the approval by the Board.

For those unencumbered State lands that currently do not have any future development plan, the Department is willing to work with other State agencies, including HHFDC, regarding any proposed uses on those lands. The Department recognizes the importance of providing affordable housing to the residents. In September 2007, the Board authorized the set aside for some unencumbered State parcels in Aiea, Wahiawa, and Honolulu for affordable housing development. The Department is awaiting further response from HHFDC regarding the selection of project developers before further processing of the necessary documentation.

The Department opposes and questions the need for omitting the approval by the Board prior to the Governor setting aside the lands identified as suitable for housing development. The promotion of affordable housing is only one of five public trust purposes that need to be considered when disposing of public lands. The Board is empowered with the authority and

LAURA H. THIELEN
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

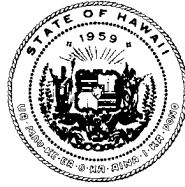
RUSSELL Y. TSUJI
FIRST DEPUTY

KEN C. KAWAHARA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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

entrusted with the fiduciary responsibility to balance the needs of the five public trust purposes to ensure that public lands will be used appropriately. The Department regularly solicits comments from other appropriate agencies for requests for land dispositions presented to the Board to ensure that a fair and informed decision is reached. The current process works smoothly in ensuring the need for public use of State lands, including housing will be met, provided funding is available. The Department believes this bill is unnecessary.

Linda Lingle
GOVERNOR



KAREN SEDDON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300
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IN REPLY REFER TO

Statement of
Karen Seddon
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

February 9, 2009 1:15 p.m.
Room 225, State Capitol

In consideration of
S.B. 740
RELATING TO HOUSING.

The Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) **supports the intent** of S.B. 740. The HHFDC has previously worked with the Department of Land and Natural Resources to identify lands suitable for affordable housing development and would be willing to do so for this purpose. However, we defer to the Department on the implementation of this measure, particularly in light of the Recreation Renaissance Plan.

If the Committees decide to move this bill forward, we suggest that the bill be amended to delete the requirement for the Governor to set aside those identified lands to the HHFDC within 60 days of the receipt of the list. The development of those lands must be closely coordinated and integrated with the development of the City's transit system, as well as the City's upgrades to existing infrastructure including water, sewerage, and drainage systems. Given the timing of development, we could work with the Department on obtaining a right-of-entry to those lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.