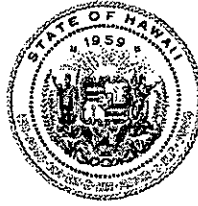


**TESTIMONY**  
**SB2738**  
**LATE**

# LATE TESTIMONY

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of  
LAURA H. THIELEN  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Wednesday, February 17, 2010  
2:45 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 2738, PROPOSED SENATE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO THE LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Senate Bill 2738, Proposed Senate Draft 1 (1) Allows the Chairperson of the Natural Area Reserve System Commission (NARSC) to delegate his or her ex officio membership of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission (LLCC) to another member of the NARSC; (2) Enables the LLCC to elect a chairperson from among its members; (3) Adds the protection of lands and the environment from harmful invasive species infestations and the costs related infestations to the LLCC's responsibilities; and (4) Authorizes the use of the Land Conservation Fund to pay grants to state and county agencies for harmful invasive species prevention and eradication efforts. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports only SECTIONS 1 and 2 as this Administration measure was originally intended and submitted and strongly opposes SECTIONS 3 and 4 of the proposed Senate Draft 1.

Currently, Section 173A-2.4, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), designates the NARSC Chairperson as the ex officio Chairperson of the LLCC. This arrangement places a disproportionate amount of responsibility on the NARSC Chairperson. Members of state boards and commissions are unpaid and commit a large amount of time and attention toward serving the State. A chairperson has additional duties as a leader and representative.

This bill would distribute the workload more evenly and fairly between the members of these commissions, befitting these volunteers and allowing them to better serve the public. This bill would give the NARSC Chairperson the flexibility to either serve on the LLCC or select a designated representative from among the NARSC members, depending on the Chair's interest, workload, and capacity to serve on both commissions.

The portion of this bill amending Section 173A-5, HRS, proposes to expand the uses of the LCF to include invasive species control and reforestation. The revenue going into the LCF has declined 50% over the past 3 years and estimated amounts currently going into the fund will allow the Legacy Land Conservation Program to continue at a scaled back level for Fiscal Year 10 and Fiscal Year 11. This fund supports civil service staff, program administration and operations, and the actual acquisition costs to purchase and protect important lands as a legacy for our children. The Department approach is to continue this worthwhile program to acquire important conservation, agricultural, cultural, recreational and open space lands at a scaled back level, only funding those projects that are ready to close. Department is opposed to redirecting these funds from the current purpose of protection and acquisition of important resources value lands because it would largely dismantle the program when it is at a reduced maintenance level now.



# LATE TESTIMONY

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## TESTIMONY

RE: SB2738 SD1 RELATING TO THE LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION  
COMMISSION

Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

HFBF on behalf of our member farm and ranch families and organizations **supports** SB2738, expanding authority of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission to the control of invasive species and **provides the following comments.**

2010 is an year in which creative solutions to address Hawaii's needs is needed. This measure is an example which seeks to separate the "nice to do" from the "must do". The measure provides authority to the Commission to provide grants to State, County or nonprofit Land Conservation organizations for the control of invasive species. While this is a major step to address the shortfalls in the HDOA budget, we feel there needs to be further structure to ensure that the most critical areas are given priority consideration.

We recommend that a representative from HDOA, qualified to identify critical invasive species control needs be added to the grant review process.

We appreciate this creative concept to address invasive species control needs and respectfully request support of this measure including an amendment to include an HDOA representative in the grant review process. If there are any questions, please contact Luella Costales at 848-2074. Thank you.

**TESTIMONY**  
**SB2738**  
**LATE**  
**(END)**