

Honolulu, Hawaii

April 5, 2012

RE: S.B. No. 2378
S.D. 1
H.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Sixth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2012
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Finance, to which was referred S.B. No. 2378, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LEGACY LANDS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to focus conservation efforts under the Legacy Lands Program. Specifically this measure, among other things:

- (1) Requires as a condition of receiving state funds that state and county agencies provide a conservation easement, an agricultural easement, or a deed restriction to an appropriate land conservation organization, or natural resource conservation government agency that runs with the land, is recorded, ensures the long-term protection of the land, and preserves the interest of the State. Further the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) must be at least a partial owner of the conservation easement;
- (2) Requires, as a condition of public funding, that nonprofit land conservation organizations receiving funds provide full or partial ownership of the conservation easement to an appropriate natural resource conservation government agency and the BLNR;



- (3) Allows the BLNR to grant exemptions from the easement requirements; and
- (4) Requires applications for land conservation funds to include the project's public benefit and the results of the consultations with specified state departments and agencies regarding the maximization of public benefits of the project, if practical.

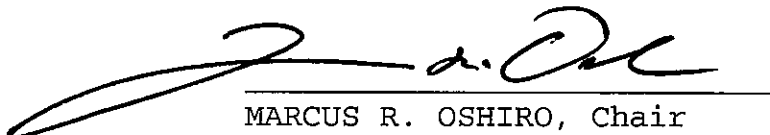
The Department of Land and Natural Resources supported this measure. The Nature Conservancy and The Trust for Public Land commented on this measure.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2030, for the purpose of facilitating further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Finance that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2378, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2378, S.D. 1, H.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Finance,



MARCUS R. OSHIRO, Chair



