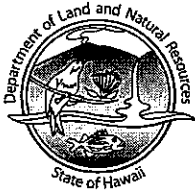


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GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on  
FINANCE**

**Wednesday, March 28, 2012  
10:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 1312  
RELATING TO THE LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Senate Bill 1312 proposes to allow the Chairperson of the Natural Area Reserve System Commission (NARSC) to delegate his or her statutory ex officio membership on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission (LLCC) to another member of the NARSC, and it allows the LLCC to elect a chairperson from among its members. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this Administration measure as a necessary improvement to the structure of these commissions.

Currently, Chapter 173A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires that the NARSC Chairperson also serve 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, and members that serve as chairpersons have additional leadership and representative duties.

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 Department strongly supports Senate Bill 1312 as a measure that 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.

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
CHAIRPERSON  
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATEPARKS

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Supporting S.B. 1312 Relating to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Wednesday, March 28, 2012, 10:00AM, Room 308

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*The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of Hawaii's native plants, animals, and ecosystems. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands for native species in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 32,000 acres in 10 nature preserves on Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i. We also work closely with government agencies, private parties and communities on cooperative land and marine management projects.*

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The Nature Conservancy supports S.B. 1312 to allow the chairperson of the Natural Area Reserve System Commission (NARSC) to appoint a designee to serve on the Legacy Land Commission (LLC) and for the LLC to elect a chair from its members. This amendment will provide important relief to the presently over-burdened volunteer position of NARSC chair.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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March 26, 2012

TO: Chair Marcus R. Oshiro  
Committee on Finance

**RE: Testimony in Support of SB 1312**

As the current Chair of both the Natural Areas Reserve System Commission (NARSC) and the Legacy Lands Conservation Commission (LLCF), I strongly support this administrative measure as a necessary improvement to the structure of these commissions.

The original intent of the Act authorizing the Legacy Lands Conservation Fund that designated the Chair of the NARSC as the Chair of the LLCC was to ensure clear communication between the two Commissions on projects of common interest. While the intent was good, in practice this has placed an excessive burden on the individual chairing these two volunteer commissions and has made it difficult to identify individuals willing to take on the chairmanship of the NARSC. It can also be argued that this provides the opportunity for an undue level of influence by a single person who oversees both Commissions.

Passage of SB 1312 would allow the Chairperson of the NARSC to delegate his or her statutory ex officio chairmanship on the LLCC to another member of the NARSC, and it allows the LLCC to elect a chairperson from among its members. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this Administration measure and it is widely supported by the other NGO conservation organizations within the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

Sincerely,

Dale B. Bonar, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Hawaiian Islands Land Trust, and  
Current Chair of NARSC and LLCC

## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 2:22 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** lea.hong@tpl.org  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1312 on 3/28/2012 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 3/28/2012 10:00:00 AM SB1312

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Lea Hong  
Organization: The Trust for Public Land  
E-mail: [lea.hong@tpl.org](mailto:lea.hong@tpl.org)  
Submitted on: 3/26/2012

Comments: