



**STATE OF HAWAII**

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM  
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
FAX: (808) 587-0600

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Statement of  
**Craig K. Hirai**  
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation  
Before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

March 3, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 308

In consideration of  
**H.B. 1469**  
**RELATING TO DISPOSITION OF TAX REVENUES.**

The HHFDC **opposes** H.B. 1469 to the extent that it caps conveyance tax revenues dedicated to the Rental Housing Trust Fund at \$38,000,000 per fiscal year.

Conveyance tax revenues and the need for affordable rental housing both increase when the real estate market is hot and housing prices increase. The December 2014 Rental Housing Study projected a total statewide affordable rental housing need of 27,224 units over the next 6 years, as specified below.

<b>Projected Affordable Rental Housing Need, 2014-2020</b>					
<b>% Median Income</b>	<b>Honolulu</b>	<b>Maui</b>	<b>Hawaii</b>	<b>Kauai</b>	<b>State</b>
30%	4,076	1,377	2,355	330	8,138
50%	3,808	1,402	2,017	221	7,448
60%	2,415	748	1,003	462	4,629
80%	3,710	1,330	1,657	312	7,009
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,008</b>	<b>4,857</b>	<b>7,033</b>	<b>1,325</b>	<b>27,224</b>

Source: Ricky Cassidy, Rental Housing Study, 12/30/14

The RHTF has been instrumental in the delivery of over 5,000 affordable rental housing units since the program's inception. Accordingly, we respectfully oppose any artificial cap on the Rental Housing Trust Fund's percentage of dedicated funding from the conveyance tax.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID IGE  
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DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of  
CARTY S. CHANG  
Interim Chairperson

Before the House Committee on  
FINANCE

Tuesday, March 3, 2015  
11:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1469  
RELATING TO DISPOSITION OF TAX REVENUES

House Bill 1469 proposes, by amending Section 247-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to establish maximum dollar amounts that shall be distributed among certain non-general funds from the conveyance tax and retains the provision that the general fund receive the remainder after distribution. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) opposes this measure and provides the following comments and concerns:**

The Department has two (2) special funds that receive revenues from the conveyance tax, pursuant to Section 247-7, HRS:

- (1) The Land Conservation Fund (LCF), established pursuant to Section 173A-5, HRS, which receives ten percent (10%). The measure proposes to cap the LCF at 10% or \$7,600,000, whichever is less.

The LCF serves as a source of grant funding for the protection of rare or important natural, cultural, agricultural, and recreational resources through acquisition of fee and conservation easement interests in land. This is accomplished by providing grants to nonprofit land conservation organizations, State agencies, and counties for the acquisition of interests or rights in land having value as a resource to the State, in either fee title or through the establishment of permanent conservation easements. Currently the Legacy Land Conservation Program (LLCP), which administers the LCF, leverages about 66% matching funds and a majority of these matching funds are from federal programs that require dedicated local funds. Since its inception in 2006, the LLCP has awarded 43 grants, providing protection for over 20,000 acres of lands that have important agricultural, natural, cultural, and recreational resource value. These are the resources that support the economic and public health of the State (local food availability,

watershed protection, unique cultural and natural resources, and safe and maintained parks and recreation areas). The use of funding partnerships and an open and transparent grant-making process have been key factors in the success of this program.

Pursuant to Chapter 173A, HRS, the spending cap and annual report requirements applies to the LCF, hence providing Legislative control and public transparency.

- (2) The Natural Area Reserve Fund (NARF), established by Section 195-9, HRS, which receives twenty five percent (25%). The measure proposes to cap the NARF at 25% or \$19,000,000, whichever is less.

The NARF supports a comprehensive suite of conservation programs including the Natural Area Partnership and Forest Stewardship Programs, the Natural Area Reserves, the Watershed Partnerships Program, and the Youth Conservation Corps. These programs protect Hawaii's invaluable ecosystems and forested watersheds.

The Legislature has wisely provided NARF funding for watershed protection and other natural resource conservation programs since 1991 as the development, sale, and improvement of real estate in Hawaii adds additional pressure on natural areas, coastal access, agricultural production, and Hawaii's water resources and watershed recharge areas.

The Legislature has oversight of the NARF by: setting a spending cap for the fund and; pursuant to Section 195-6.6, HRS, requiring the Department to annually report to the Legislature the financial condition of the fund, including: receipts and expenditures for the fund for the previous fiscal year; and plans and management objectives for the next fiscal year.

Special funds are created to provide dedicated revenue streams for particular initiatives. For over 20 years the NARF has consistently and effectively provided funding for these vital conservation programs, hence meeting the stated intended purpose to protect and preserve Hawaii's unique natural resources.

The suite of conservation programs listed above is vital to the economic and public health of the State (local food availability, watershed protection, unique cultural and natural resources, public safety, and nature education and recreation).

To succeed in the long term, most conservation projects require the dedicated funding provided by special funds. Based on that, the Legislature requires the departments to create a 5- year plan for each special fund. The Department's existing plans and flexibility would be compromised if the cap is enacted.

A benefit of the dedicated funding afforded by special funding is the Department can, knowing they have matching State funds, leverage those funds to seek other long term funding from private, federal, and county sources.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

# TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: CONVEYANCE, Disposition of revenue dollar limitations

BILL NUMBER: SB 1299; HB 1469 (Identical)

INTRODUCED BY: SB by Tokuda; HB by Luke

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: This bill would establish maximum dollar amounts of conveyance tax revenues to be deposited into each of the designated funds. If the legislature deems these program areas a priority, then a direct appropriation for these programs would increase transparency and accountability.

BRIEF SUMMARY: Amends HRS section 247-7 to provide that conveyance tax revenue shall be distributed in each fiscal year as follows: (1) ten percent or **\$7.6 million**, whichever is less, shall be paid into the land conservation fund; (2) fifty percent or **\$38 million**, whichever is less, shall be paid into the rental housing trust fund; and (3) twenty-five percent or **\$19 million** whichever is less, shall be paid into the natural area reserve fund.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

STAFF COMMENTS: This measure would establish maximum dollar amounts of conveyance tax revenues to be distributed to the various special funds now being fed. It would, however, perpetuate the earmarking of conveyance tax revenues. As with any earmarking of revenues, the legislature will be giving their stamp of approval for the “automatic funding” mechanism for each of the programs into which the conveyance tax revenues are funneled. Through this system, monies are diverted into these funds without any legislative intervention, expenses from the funds largely avoid legislative scrutiny, and it will be difficult to ascertain the effectiveness of the programs funded. It would also be difficult to ascertain whether or not the fund has too little or too much revenue.

The conveyance tax is one of the least dependable sources upon which to rely for funding with collections rising and falling with the fortunes of the real estate market. Any amount collected under this tax will depend on activity in the real estate market. As the housing market slows down, revenues may not be sufficient to meet the expectations of the fund. If the conveyance tax revenues are not sufficient or another “important” program needs funding, will the conveyance tax rates need to be “adjusted” to generate even more revenue?

If the legislature deems the programs and purposes funded by conveyance tax revenues to be a high priority, then it should maintain the accountability for these funds by appropriating the funds as it does with other programs. Earmarking revenues merely absolves elected officials from setting priorities. If the money were appropriated, lawmakers could then evaluate the real or actual needs of each particular program.

Digested 2/7/15



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

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TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
Members, House Committee on Finance

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW  
Executive Director, PHOCUSED

HEARING: Tuesday, **March 3, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. in Conf. Rm. 308**

**Testimony in Opposition to HB1469, Relating to Disposition of Tax Revenues.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **opposition** to HB1469, which would establish maximum dollar amounts that shall be distributed from the conveyance tax into the Rental Housing Trust Fund (RHTF) and other special funds. PHOCUSED is a nonprofit membership and advocacy organization that works together with community stakeholders to impact program and policy change for the most vulnerable in our community, including homeless individuals and families.

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, Hawaii has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest rate of homelessness per capita in the nation. Because of this, our community needs to adopt policies that will support the transition of homeless households into permanent, stable housing. The RHTF is a critical piece of Hawaii's strategy to end homelessness – Since its inception, the fund has added over 5,000 new rental units to Hawaii's housing inventory, and the RHTF is the only fund that mandates units for the very poor (i.e. households at 30% of Area Median Income or below). Our community needs to maximize every resource at our disposal to effectively be able to address the complex issue of homelessness.

There is a growing momentum to end homelessness and develop truly affordable housing, which has not existed in prior years. For the first time, there is synergy between the City and State in their conversations relating to homelessness and the exploration of micro-units and other innovative housing options. In addition, homeless service providers are gaining valuable data on the specific needs of homeless individuals and families across the state, and this data is being used to inform the development of a statewide plan by the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness, which includes the creation of affordable housing units through partnership with the Hawaii Housing and Finance Development Corporation (HHFDC) and other State housing agencies.

We believe that HB1469 will limit our community's ability to effectively capitalize on this growing momentum by placing a dollar cap on conveyance tax funds distributed into the RHTF. By placing a dollar cap, we are restricting the funds' ability to keep up with rising construction costs, and thereby greatly restricting the number of new affordable rental units that we can produce over the next five years. Historically, there has always far greater demand for the RHTF than there are funds available – In 2013, the RHTF received over \$70.4 million in requests, and available funds could only support a fraction of this demand.



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

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PHOCUSED respects the Legislature's close examination of the RHTF, and we understand the very difficult job you have to balance competing needs across the State. However, we also recognize the critical need to develop affordable rental housing statewide, and the impact that lack of housing has on other social issues – such as child development, education and health. Furthermore, of over 2,100 homeless households assessed by service providers since March 2014, **over a quarter (26%) indicate a need simply for affordable housing** and do not require case management or additional supportive services. Currently, conveyance tax revenues are much higher than in prior years, and our community should take full advantage of this increase in available funding for affordable housing development.

Once again, PHOCUSED respectfully opposes HB1469. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact PHOCUSED at 521-7462 or by e-mail at [admin@phocused-hawaii.org](mailto:admin@phocused-hawaii.org).



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Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
Opposing HB 1469 Relating to Disposition of Tax Revenues  
House Committee on Finance  
Scheduled for Hearing Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 11:00 AM, Room 308

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*Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice is a nonprofit law firm created to advocate on behalf of low-income individuals and families in Hawai'i on legal and policy issues of statewide importance. Our core mission is to help our clients access to the resources and fair treatment they need to realize their opportunities for self-achievement and economic security.*

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1469, which would establish maximum dollar amounts to be distributed from the conveyance tax to certain non-general funds. Hawai'i Appleseed respectfully opposes HB 1469's proposed \$38 million cap on conveyance tax distributions to the Rental Housing Trust Fund. While we are cognizant of the state's need to balance a number of important financial demands, Hawai'i Appleseed believes that the magnitude of Hawai'i's affordable housing crisis necessitates a full 50% of conveyance tax revenues for the Rental Housing Trust Fund.

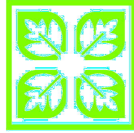
The Rental Housing Trust Fund is a major tool for the creation of affordable housing and has a long record of success. Housing created with RHTF monies must provide at least 5% of their units at rents affordable to those earning 30% or less of the area median income—the population at greatest risk of homelessness.

The time to invest in affordable housing is now, as we are seeing increased collaboration between state and county governments and new opportunities presented by transit-oriented development and lower-cost housing models. Sustaining this momentum requires a long-term, continued commitment to funding affordable housing. A stable source of funding is also needed to encourage developers to submit project proposals and continue the RHTF's track record of successful public-private partnerships.

Conveyance tax revenues are the RHTF's only dedicated source of funding; currently, 50% of the conveyance tax is used to support the RHTF. Maintaining this allocation is critical, particularly during the current upswing in development. Conveyance tax collections are rising, but so are construction costs. Capping the dollar amount distributed could result in a significant reduction in the number of units as costs increase.

We acknowledge that substantial requests have been made for the RHTF this year and appreciate your attempts to balance the many financial needs in our state. However, the Governor's request for a \$100 million appropriation will focus on housing along the rail line; as a result, the conveyance tax allocation will be of particular importance for housing in other communities, including those on the neighbor islands. We know that the need for affordable rentals will exceed what \$38 million can build annually, and therefore respectfully encourage the Legislature to adjust funding for the RHTF by carefully considering any additional funding requests instead of capping the conveyance tax allocation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on HB 1469. We respectfully urge you to continue distributing the full 50% of conveyance tax revenues to the Rental Housing Trust Fund to help meet the state's urgent need for affordable rental housing.



## Testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 1469: Relating to Disposition of Tax Revenues

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair, Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Finance

FROM: Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison, Catholic Charities Hawai'i

Hearing: **Tuesday, March 3, 2015; 11:00 AM; Conference Room 308**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in opposition to** HB 1469, which would establish maximum dollar amounts to be distributed from the conveyance tax to the Rental Housing Trust Fund and other special funds. I am Betty Lou Larson, the Legislative Liaison at Catholic Charities Hawai'i.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 60 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, developmentally disabled, homeless and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable people in Hawai'i. Catholic Charities Hawai'i has a long history of working on housing issues and helping to end homelessness and change lives. One of our highest priorities is to create affordable rental housing to end homelessness.

Hawaii's housing situation is desperate. The newly released 2014 Housing Study projects that over 27,000 affordable rental units are needed by 2020. *Out of Reach 2014* reported that **Hawaii topped the list of most expensive states for housing**. A full time worker would need to make \$31.54/hour to afford a two-bedroom unit at fair market rent. Yet the median wage of a renter in Hawaii is just \$13.86. Hawaii's workers cannot afford market housing and many become homeless. **78 percent of extremely low income households are paying more than half of their income in rent**, and almost half of all households do not live in affordable housing. We need to take action NOW to create thousands of units of affordable rentals.

We truly appreciate the Legislature's decision last year to allocate 50% of the conveyance tax to the Rental Housing Trust Fund (RHTF). We had great hopes that this would jump start creative projects and begin to produce significant numbers of affordable rentals. Conveyance tax collections are rising, but this is offset by the increasing costs of construction in a hot market. Rising funding could offset these higher production costs. We are very concerned that placing a cap on the RHTF will seriously reduce the number of affordable rentals that can be produced over the next 5 years.

The RHTF is an effective and efficient tool to produce new affordable housing. Since inception, over 5,000 units have been produced with funding from the Trust Fund. By utilizing public-private partnerships, HHFDC has the capacity to produce many more units of affordable rentals. They are only limited by the funding. Historically, there has been more demand for RHTF funding than there have been funds available. In 2013, the Trust Fund received \$70.4 million in requests, but only 4 out of 9 projects could be funded due to limited funds. Right now there is great synergy to build more affordable rentals with the City and State's TOD initiatives, interest



Catholic  
Charities  
USA



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Aloha United Way



in micro units and other lower cost options. HCDA recently received 7 proposals for micro units on their Cooke Street property. This initiative could create new models to be replicated on smaller lots (e.g. 10,000 SF lots like Cooke Street). Now is not the time to put a brake on these initiatives. We cannot lose this opportunity to make a huge difference in our inventory of affordable units, on ending homelessness, and on the lives of thousands of people.

We understand that you have the tough job of balancing needs across the State. We urge you to keep 50% of the conveyance tax proceeds as the minimum commitment of the State to create solutions to our affordable housing crisis. With limited funding, we know that additional requests for funding to the RHTF, beyond the conveyance tax proceeds, will be looked at in the context of overall funding to the RHTF and the other needs of the State. We support the Governor's message for \$100 million for affordable rentals, but this will target construction only along the rail transit route. Affordable rentals are need on the Neighbor Islands and in other communities not next to the rail route. The conveyance tax share to the RHTF is the only source of funding for these other projects.

Funding for the Trust Fund is critical to produce new rental housing since without it, development of affordable rental housing projects are not financially feasible. It is also the only fund that mandates units for people at 30% of AMI. These are the clients that are often served by Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Over the years, Catholic Charities Hawai'i has seen many of our clients move into projects funded by the RHTF. This has stabilized their families and given them hope for the future. These often were people at very high risk of homelessness or were homeless already.

**We urge you to maintain the current 50% allocation of the conveyance tax to the Rental Housing Trust Fund as the minimum commitment of the State** to address production of new affordable rental housing. Further allocations still will be required to reach the 27,000 + units needed by 2020. Homelessness and lack of housing for the people of Hawaii will continue to worsen without an ongoing and significant commitment from the State to end homelessness by creating new affordable rental inventory. Funding projects now (via the RHTF) will create a legacy that will continue to house thousands of Hawaii's households for generations to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please contact me at (808) 373-0356 or [bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org) if you have any questions.

March 1, 2015

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair, and Members  
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Rev. Bob Nakata, Co-Chair  
FACE Housing Task Force

HEARING: Tuesday, March 3, 2015 - Testimony in Opposition to  
HB1469 Relating to Disposition of Tax Revenues

Faith Action for Community Equity (FACE) is a twenty year old faith-based community organizing entity. Its purpose is to advocate on quality of life issues affecting those who do not have a voice on such issues. FACE has about 50 units, mainly churches, temples and synagogues on the islands of Oahu and Maui. Affordable housing and homelessness have been core issues for FACE, which helped to create the Rental Housing Trust Fund (RHTF) using a portion of the Conveyance Tax revenues.

At a time of dire crisis on these issues we are strongly opposed to HB1469, which seeks to cap the amount of funding going into the RHTF. One homeless person a week on average is dying, and there is a shortage of tens of thousands of affordable rental units. While we understand the fiscal condition of the State, we cannot support the capping of funds to the RHTF and urge you not to pass HB1469.

Testimony in Opposition to HB 1469  
Before the House Finance Committee  
Tuesday, March 3, 11:00 AM  
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in opposition to HB 1469, RELATING TO DISPOSITION OF TAX REVENUES. The measure establishes maximum dollar amounts that shall be distributed among certain non-general funds from the conveyance tax and retains a provision that the general fund receive the remainder after distribution.

My name is Kehaulani Lum, and I am the President of the Ali`i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club an organization committed to the well-being of the Native Hawaiian people and the people of Hawai`i Nei.

The conveyance tax distribution helps to address the issue of homelessness in Hawai`i by providing significant funds for the creation of sorely needed affordable housing units. A cap such as that proposed in this bill would result in hundreds, if not thousands, of lost units over the next 5 years, thereby exacerbating an already burdensome problem.

Hawai`i has the highest rate of homelessness among the states, with over 14,000 individuals receiving services for homeless programs in fiscal year 2014. Many of these individuals are Native Hawaiian and houseless in their own homeland. In order to address this troubling societal condition, Hawai`i needs a minimum of 13,000 rental units in the next two years for households at 80% of AMI or below. The conveyance tax funds are a critical tool in the State's approach to resolving this matter.

If we are to resolve Hawai`i's homelessness problem, as a matter of public policy, the present approach, which ensures full dedication of the funds towards the creation of more units, would seem the most prudent.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to express our mana`o.

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Opposing H.B. 1469 Relating to Disposition of Tax Revenues  
House Committee on Finance  
Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 11:00AM, Room 308

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*For more than 35 years, The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i has been working closely with government agencies, local businesses, private landowners, non-profit partners, and interested communities across the state to preserve the lands and waters upon which all life in these islands depends. The Conservancy is a private non-profit conservation organization that has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 35,000 acres in 11 nature preserves on Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i, and support 19 coastal communities seeking to co-manage marine resources in partnership with the State of Hawai'i.*

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The Nature Conservancy opposes H.B. 1469. We think this bill is unnecessary because the Legislature has just as much oversight and control over non-general fund appropriations as it does with general fund appropriations in the biennial budget, if it chooses to exercise that authority.

**The Legislature has the capability to ensure that the conveyance tax revenue allocated to the DLNR is closely monitored, spent on priorities identified by the Legislature and not “automatically” available for distribution. Each and every year, the Legislature requires the DLNR to provide detailed annual reports and justifications on non-general fund expenditures and the programs they support. With that information, the Legislature sets a spending ceiling for the following year in the budget. The Legislature often gives directive in the annual budget to the department on how it expects non-general funds within that ceiling to be spent, and even provides specific directives for expenditures of revenues above the spending ceiling to address additional priorities of its choosing. This process seems like it allows the Legislature to exercise more regular oversight and direction over the department's use of non-general funds than setting a fixed dollar allocation in permanent statute.**

HRS §247-7 authorizes a portion of conveyance tax revenue to be appropriately used for land preservation and forested watershed conservation. The development and sale of real estate helps drive Hawaii's economy, but it also puts pressure on our natural resources like fresh water. Several locations in the state have experienced ongoing drought, climate change is likely to produce more severe storms but overall less rainfall, and the UH's 2011 Rainfall Atlas catalogues a century of declining rainfall that is worse in recent decades. Fresh water is not a limitless resource that can forever be tapped to support our developed real estate. It makes sense to spend a portion of conveyance tax revenue on protecting forests which are the source of all our fresh water.

**The Legislature recognized this clear nexus in Act 156 (HB 1308 CD1, 2005), stating:**

The legislature has also determined that there is a clear nexus between the source of the conveyance tax and providing funding for watershed protection and other natural resource preservation programs. The development, sale, and improvement of real estate in Hawaii adds additional pressure on natural areas, coastal access, agricultural production, and Hawaii's water resources and watershed recharge areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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**Conservation Council  
for Hawai'i**

*Hawai'i's voice for wildlife*

*Kō Hawai'i / leo no nā holoholona lōhiu*



Testimony Submitted to the  
House Committee on Finance

Hearing: Tuesday, March 3, 2015 11:00 am, Room 308

In Opposition to HB 1469 Relating to Disposition of Tax Revenues

Aloha, Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i opposes HB 1469, which establishes maximum dollar amounts that shall be distributed among certain non-general funds from the conveyance tax, and retains a provision that the general fund receive the remainder after distribution.

HB 1469 is unnecessary. The legislature already has the authority and flexibility to revise the percentage of the conveyance tax that goes into each dedicated fund up or down in any given year. We urge you to allocate 25-50% of the conveyance tax for the Natural Area Reserve Fund, which helps protect our essential watersheds, native species habitats, forests, and recreation areas. The legislature does not give the Department of Land and Natural Resources enough money as it is to protect forest, native species habitats, and watersheds (including controlling invasive species) on ceded land. Please resist reducing this amount even further.

Here are photos of three Natural Area Reserves and key watersheds on ceded land – the best of the best – and all supported by the Natural Area Reserve Fund. Please kokua.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

*Marjorie Ziegler*

Marjorie Ziegler



*Conservation Council for Hawai'i is a nonprofit, environmental membership organization dedicated to protecting native Hawaiian plants, animals, and ecosystems for future generations.*

*Established in 1950 and based in Honolulu, CCH is one of the largest and most effective wildlife organizations in Hawai'i with more than 5,000 members and supporters, including concerned citizens, educators, scientists, government agencies, and elected officials.*

*Through research, education, service, organizing, and legal advocacy, CCH works to stop the destruction of native wildlife and wild places in Hawai'i.*

*Since 1973, CCH has served as the Hawai'i state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation.*

Telephone/Fax: 808.593.0255 | email: [info@conservehi.org](mailto:info@conservehi.org) | web: [www.conservehi.org](http://www.conservehi.org)  
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**FIN-Jo**

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**HB1469**

Submitted on: 3/2/2015

Testimony for FIN on Mar 3, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Robert Joseph	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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