

**HB 1839,
HD1**

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
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LAND
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on
WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE
and
TOURISM AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

3:15 pm

State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1839, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO DIAMOND HEAD STATE MONUMENT

House Bill 1839, House Draft 1 proposes to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds for the planning, design, and construction of a visitor and interpretive center at Diamond Head State Monument. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this measure.**

The Department needs to clarify SECTION 1 of the bill

Page 1, line 11: The Diamond Head Citizens' Advisory Committee was organized by the Department in October 1977 to assist the Department in the development of a plan for Diamond Head State Monument (DHSM) established under Section 6E-32(c), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). The DHSM Plan of 1979, and the Committee, having completed its duties, was disbanded. The Committee was reactivated in 1993 to again assist the Department with updating the Master Plan, which was subsequently completed in 2003.

Current Visitor Kiosk at Diamond Head State Monument

The Department's Division of State Parks (Parks) is in a 3 year partnership with Pacific Historic Parks (PHP), a non-profit organization that is also a cooperating association with the National Park Service at Valor in the Pacific National Monument (including the USS Arizona Memorial).

PHP has a concession lease with Parks to run the small Interpretive Kiosk in the DHSM crater that sell's DHSM merchandise and provides visitor information. There is also a memorandum of agreement between Parks and PHP to collaborate on a variety of other interpretive and fund

raising opportunities. The current kiosk, while effective for visitor information distribution and the sale of merchandise related to DHSM, is very small and only a temporary and somewhat inadequate feature due to DHSM patronage (3,000 per day) and is the only feature serving as a visitor center until such time that an actual visitor center, as envisioned in the Master Plan, can be constructed within the crater.

There are lands that will be returned to the Department for Parks use from the State Department of Defense (DOD), as set forth in Section 6E-32, HRS. A DOD building is being decommissioned and once removed, the vacant space will be available for repurposing.

As such, it is now timely to request CIP funding of \$1,000,000 for the planning, design and permitting of a new interpretive visitor center in DHSM crater. The DHSM Master Plan Update (2003) projected a total cost of \$11,000,000 based on a visitor interpretive center conceptual plan, which the Department would use as a framework to move forward on the planning elements, which include permitting and possible additional chapter 343 compliance, along with the architectural designs that would be the basis of determining the cost of construction. As a change in the center's proposed location may require an update to the master plan, DSP would consult with the Diamond Head Citizens' Advisory Committee in moving forward on the project.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.



DIAMOND HEAD STATE MONUMENT FOUNDATION

A Volunteer Non-profit Organization

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Date : March 16, 2016
To : Sen. Mike Gabbard, Chair
Sen. Clarence Nishihara, V. Chair
Members of the Committee Water, Land & Agriculture
Sen. J. Kalani English, V. Chair
Members of the Committee on Tourism & International Affairs
From : Barbara Marumoto
Re : HB 1839 HD 1 RELATING TO DIAMOND HEAD - IN FAVOR

The Diamond Head State Monument Foundation strongly favors the development of an interpretive center in the crater of the most famous landmark in Hawaii. This facility is in accordance with the Diamond Head Master Plan.

Residents and tourists alike will learn much about Hawaii's history, the crater's endemic flora, the heiau that once existed on the summit, its military use, and a great deal about volcanology. They could hike its many trails and take in the exhilarating views from Koko Head to Ewa.

A visitor center could service the 800,000 people who visit the crater each year. The State can expect to realize revenues from lease rent, sales of snacks and drinks, books and gifts. Currently admission fees add \$1.2 million to the Diamond Head Sub-account of the DLNR.

The DHSMF is a private non-profit that assists the DLNR in improving the Monument. The Foundation installed the irrigation and naupaka planting and assists in its maintenance along Diamond Head Lookout. Recently, thanks to a donation from Past President Clark Hatch, exercise machines were installed along the jogging trail on Monsarrat Avenue.

Please support the creation of this educational facility and visitor attraction on our beloved Diamond Head.

O'ahu Island Parks Conservancy

**Senate Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture
Senate Committee on Tourism and International Affairs
Joint Committee Hearing
Wednesday, March 16, 2016
State Capitol Conference Room 224
3:15 PM**

**HOUSE BILL 1839, HD1
RELATING TO THE DIAMOND HEAD STATE MONUMENT**

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chairs Nishihara and English, and Committee Members:

The O'ahu Island Parks Conservancy strongly supports House Bill 1839 HD1, Relating to the Diamond Head State Monument. This measure authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds for the construction of the long-planned Diamond Head Visitor's Interpretive Center, in accordance with the State's adopted 2003 Diamond Head State Monument Master Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Diamond Head's volcanic crater promontory is an iconic and world-renowned symbol of Hawai'i Nei. From the outset, and upon designation of Diamond Head as a State Historic Monument in 1965 and a National Natural Landmark in 1968, great care has been taken to preserve and protect Diamond Head's public lands and plan for their future as a State recreational area. This planning began with the establishment of the Diamond Head Citizens Advisory Committee, a community-based advisory council comprised of key representatives from environmental and preservation organizations as well as knowledgeable individuals, who have worked closely with the Department of Land and Natural Resources and its Division of State Parks to develop the Diamond Head State Monument Master Plan and its protective policies for Diamond Head's scenic, historic and recreational resources.

The Diamond Head Visitor's Interpretive Center has been carefully planned and sited within Diamond Head crater to enhance and ensure an optimum recreational and educational experience for our residents and visitors alike. The Diamond Head Monument Plan of 1979 called for a Visitor's Interpretive Center to inform and educate our residents and visitors about the crater's scenic points of interest and historic sites to benefit their unique experience of Diamond Head. The 2003 Diamond Head State Monument Master Plan and EIS expanded on the initial plan by defining the single-level Visitor's Interpretive Center to be sited on the crater's interior slope near the Kahala Tunnel to provide panoramic views of the crater and its summit, with educational exhibits of the geological formation of the Hawaiian Island chain and Diamond Head's cultural history from ancient Hawaiian times to today, highlighted by periodic cultural events within the center's open architecture.

Because of the comprehensive planning process successfully culminating in the Diamond Head State Monument Master Plan, as deliberated and advised by the Diamond Head Citizens Advisory Committee in accordance with Chapter 6-E, Section 32(c) of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, the O'ahu Island Parks Conservancy has wholeheartedly supported the introduction and passage of House Bill 1839. Thus we respectfully request that the State Senate continue this effort to ensure funding for the construction of the Diamond Head Visitor's Interpretive Center in accordance with the 2003 Diamond Head State Monument Master Plan and EIS.

Mahalo nui loa,
Michelle Spalding Matson
President, O'ahu Island Parks Conservancy