

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



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

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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on  
HUMAN SERVICES**

**Tuesday, February 9, 2016  
9:00 AM  
State Capitol Conference Room 329**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 2417  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS**

House Bill 2417 proposes to amend the statute creating the Interagency Council on Homelessness to include the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) and the Department of Transportation. **The Department opposes this bill because addressing the issue of homelessness is outside the scope of the Department's mission.**

While the Department seeks to address homeless living on public lands, it does so through the lens of its mission to protect the resources and public enjoyment of public lands. The Department does not provide services that directly benefit the homeless (such as social work or housing), and as such it is a supporting agency that is called to the table on an "as needed" basis. At all other times, the Department is represented by the Governor's coordinator on homelessness.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**KEKOA KALUHIWA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS



**EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS**  
HONOLULU

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR

February 9, 2016

**TO:** The Honorable Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services

**FROM:** Scott Morishige, MSW, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

**SUBJECT: HB 2417 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 9, 2016, 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

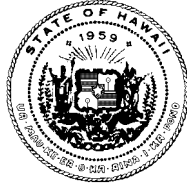
**POSITION:** The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent of the measure, and offers written comments.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to add the Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources and Director of Transportation as members of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH).

The Coordinator serves as the chair of the HICH, and was appointed to this position in August 2015. The Coordinator is in the process of soliciting feedback from current membership to make recommendations to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of this council. Due to the fact that this process is still underway, it may be premature to make specific recommendations for additional membership at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



RACHAEL WONG, DrPH  
DIRECTOR

PANKAJ BHANOT  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339



February 9, 2016

TO: The Honorable Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Rachael Wong, DrPH, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2417 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL OF ON  
HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 9, 2016; 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) provides comments.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this bill is to add the Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources and the Director of Transportation as members of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH).

The DHS appreciates the Legislature's interest in the membership of the HICH, however, at this time, the proposal of new members is premature as the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, the HICH chair, is in the process of developing strategies to become a more effective council.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.