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GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



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

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**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on  
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Tuesday, March 1, 2016  
1:30 P.M.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 2639  
RELATING TO CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

Senate Bill 2639 proposes to extend the one hundred and eighty day processing period for Conservation District Use Applications under Chapter 183C, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), an additional ninety days beyond the time necessary to complete the requirements of Chapter 343 or Chapter 91, HRS. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources supports this measure.**

Section 183C-6, HRS, requires the Board of Land Natural Resources (Board) to make a final decision on a Conservation District Use Permit within 180 days of the application being received and accepted as complete. If the Board fails to do so, the applicant may “automatically” put the land to the use requested, unless the applicant requests a time extension.

The proposed measure ensures that adequate time will be automatically granted if a contested case hearing or environmental impact statement is required in order to avoid an automatic default approval of a Conservation District Use Application.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**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



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 1:30 P.M.  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol**

**RE: SENATE BILL 2639 RELATING TO CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** SB 2639, which requires a ninety day extension of the conservation district permit decision deadline beyond the time necessary to complete an environmental impact statement or contested case hearing.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The Chamber supports this bill as it provides the applicant time to complete requirements of HRS Chapter 341 and 91 and continue its use. We believe that this is helpful both for the applicant and the department in the management of conservations areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.