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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 AND LAND  
and  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND THE ARTS**

**Tuesday, February 14, 2017  
3:15 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 847  
RELATING TO THE DIAMOND HEAD STATE MONUMENT**

Senate Bill 847 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 (DHSM) and requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to seek funds. **The Department supports this measure and offers the following comments.**

Diamond Head State Monument (DHSM) is one of the icons that represent Hawaii around the world. DHSM is a branded image that appears in countless advertisements, photos, social media, and products. It is the definitive and most recognizable backdrop to Waikiki. Visitation in 2015 was at 901,136 and in 2016 up 10% to 1,025,318 visitors, which averages to about 3,000 per day.

The Department, through the Division of State Parks, has been engaged in discussions regarding the critical need for a visitor interpretive center at DHSM for a number of years. More recently, due to new opportunities, there have been robust discussions with the Department of Defense, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, the DHSM Citizens Advisory Council and other agencies that utilize DHSM for a variety of management functions. There is an existing framework via the DHSM Master Plan Update (2003) to move forward on the planning elements, which include permitting and Chapter 343 HRS compliance, along with architectural designs that would be the basis of determining the cost of construction. The Updated Master Plan identified a couple of key interior locations as desirable for the construction of a visitor center.

Currently, the Department of Defense has plans and funding to demolish two existing and primary buildings on the crater floor within DHSM. While the Department may be interested in retaining one for park management, it is now timely and prudent to begin the planning and design elements to provide one of Hawaii's most premier and recognized destinations a state of the art facility to allow for enhanced interpretation, services and management of how people experience this heavily used attraction.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 7:17 PM  
**To:** WTL Testimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB847 on Feb 14, 2017 15:15PM\*

**SB847**

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for WTL/IAA on Feb 14, 2017 15:15PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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