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

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

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Friday, February 16, 2018
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2443, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO AN ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUNDS PILOT PROGRAM FOR
DISABLED CHILDREN**

House Bill 2443, House Draft 1 proposes to establish a 3-year accessible playgrounds pilot program under the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) and appropriates moneys as well as requires a report to the Legislature. **The Department would like to offer the following comments.**

The Department appreciates the intent of this bill and supports efforts to provide additional recreational opportunities to disabled children. The Department's Division of State Parks (State Parks) manages the most unique and attractive natural and cultural resources.

State Parks staffing and management mandates do not include the construction, maintenance, and operation of recreational playground equipment. For many state parks, the insertion of playground equipment could be detrimental to the natural and cultural experience that our residents and out of state visitors seek to obtain.

The management, maintenance, and operation of playground equipment has historically or typically been a county parks and recreation or Department of Education related function.

The Department suggests that there may be other agencies such as the Counties that have more expertise and suitable land for community planning and management, maintenance and operation of accessible playgrounds.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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February 16, 2018

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

House Bill 2443, HD1 - Relating to An Accessible Playgrounds Pilot Program for Disabled Children

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports the intent of House Bill 2443, HD1, whose purpose is to establish a three year accessible playgrounds pilot program under the Department of Land and Natural Resources. However, we offer comments.

In its original form, the bill appropriated an unspecified amount of money for the implementation of a three year accessible playgrounds pilot program pursuant to this Act. DCAB did not testify at the first hearing. However, in House Draft 1, the expending agency was changed to the Department of Land and Natural Resources with a specific request that the playgrounds to be established in each county or state park.

DCAB supports the development of accessible playgrounds as a means to increase socialization. We would point out that current law, the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, and state law, §103-50, Hawaii Revised, require that any new construction and alteration of playgrounds must comply with accessibility provisions. DCAB already reviews any new playground installation to ensure compliance. If the purpose of this bill is to appropriate monies to enhance the installation of more playgrounds than currently exist, but while we support the effort, are state parks the most appropriate location for playgrounds. Currently, schools and county parks are the location of most playground equipment. State parks typically have no onsite management or monitoring for this type of equipment and may thus be more prone to poor maintenance.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2018 2:19:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/16/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Louis Erteschik	Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Support	No

Comments:

This is an excellent proposal. It would go a long way towards providing social and community integration for children with disabilities. Many other communities around the country and around the world have playgrounds of this nature. it would be wonderful for Hawaii to join them and provide this inclusive opportunity for these people.

HB-2443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2018 8:52:29 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/16/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018
Friday, February 16, 2018
2:00 p.m.**

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 308

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2443 HD1 RELATING TO AN ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUNDS PILOT PROGRAM FOR DISABLED CHILDREN.

To the Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair; the Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair and the Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

Good afternoon. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No.2443 HD1 relating to a Pilot Program for Accessibility Playgrounds for Disabled Children.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No. 2443 HD1 and supports its passage.

House Bill No.2443 HD1 is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it establishes a 3-year accessible playgrounds pilot program under the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The DPH Platform states that "[w]e seek programs that prepare people with disabilities for independent and productive lives.." (Platform of the DPH, P. 3, Line 143 (2016)).

We support community health initiatives that provide opportunities for the overall health of communities through strategic projects and programs focusing on increased interaction and physical activities among all age groups, as well as on better nutrition. (Platform of the DPH, P. 7, Lines 378-380 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No. 2443 HD1 establishes a 3-year accessible playgrounds pilot program under the Department of Land and Natural Resources, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/**Melodie Aduja**

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

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