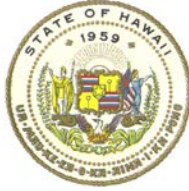


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND

Friday, February 3, 2017
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 619
RELATING TO CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT

House Bill 619 proposes to reestablish and revitalize the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement's Volunteer Officer Program in a cost effective manner by appropriating funds for the recruitment and training of Volunteer Conservation and Resources Enforcement Officers.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) generally supports this measure.

The Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement's (DOCARE) Volunteer Officer Program is a valuable resource because it provides a force multiplier for the Department's law enforcement efforts. This Program allows volunteers who serve without compensation and who are trained to the same standards as full-time DOCARE Officers to provide essential law enforcement services for the Department.

The Department notes that the training of Volunteer Conservation and Resources Enforcement Officers is a significant investment of both time and funds. Current language in this bill proposes to appropriate the sum of \$500,000, or the amount necessary thereof from the general revenues of the State to reestablish and revitalize the program. The Department is concerned of the impact that this may have on the Governor's Executive Budget Request.

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

KEKOA W. KALUHIWA
FIRST DEPUTY

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

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



**Conservation Council
for Hawai'i**

Hawai'i's voice for wildlife

Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu



Testimony Submitted to the House Committee on Water and Land
By the Conservation Council for Hawai'i
Hearing: Wednesday, February 3, 2017 9:00 am
Room 325

Support for HB 619 Relating to Conservation and Resources Enforcement

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and Members of the Committee,

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports HB 619, which re-establishes and revitalizes the DOCARE Volunteer Officer Program by recruiting and training new officers, and appropriates funds.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources is grossly underfunded and its mandate is huge. The DLNR is a stewardship agency. Everyone wants the department to do more. Please appropriate more funds for its critical mission. In addition to funding this volunteer program, please fund permanent DOCARE positions and operations.

Save our Department of Land and Natural Resources. Please pass HB 619. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Marjorie Ziegler

Marjorie Ziegler

Telephone/Fax: 808.593.0255 | email: info@conservehi.org | web: www.conservehi.org
P.O. Box 2923 | Honolulu, HI 96802 | Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 215 | Honolulu, HI 96814

President: Wayne Tanaka | Vice President: Koalani Kaulukukui | Secretary: Rachel Sprague
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kong2 - Crystal

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 8:53 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: rnvfishing@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB619 on Feb 3, 2017 09:00AM

HB619

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 3, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roy N Morioka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Yamane, VC Gong and Members of the House Committee on Water and Land: I oppose this bill as there is little definition and details on the duties and authorities to be vested in these "volunteer" officers. As we have experienced in the past even fulltime enforcement officers are challenged with understanding and enforcing the broad and diverse duties assigned to DOCARE Officers. Assigning such responsibilities to laypeople creates the potential for confusion in addition to unnecessary liabilities and litigation upon the division and DLNR. Such responsibilities remain best in the hands of individuals vested by rule or statute to officially represent the DOCARE/DLNR. Thank you for allowing me to share my great concern with regard to relegating enforcement duties to laypersons. Respectfully yours, Roy Morioka

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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LATE

kong2 - Crystal

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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To: waltestimony
Cc: shyla.moon@ymail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB619 on Feb 3, 2017 09:00AM

HB619

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 3, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shyla Moon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I have my concerns about assigning volunteer "officers" to do DOCARE's job. DOCARE volunteer program to receive \$500,000 from the general fund for 1017-2018 is a lot of money. Any chance we could hire more real officers instead? This volunteer program sounds great, but because I know a few locals who think they own the island, I'm discouraging this type of management and enforcement. Let's keep our trust in our officers and promote more funds to what they need to do their job. Allocate the \$500,000 to DOCARE not this side program. Thanks

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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