

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND**

**Friday, March 23, 2018
10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 238/HOUSE RESOLUTION 206
ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF
HONOLULU TO COLLABORATIVELY WORK WITH COMMUNITY
STAKEHOLDERS TO IDENTIFY AND ESTABLISH OFF-LEASH DOG PARKS ON
THE WINDWARD SIDE OF OAHU.**

House Concurrent Resolution 238/House Resolution 206 urges the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) and the Department of Parks and Recreation of the City and County of Honolulu to collaboratively work with community stakeholders to identify and establish off-leash dog parks on the windward side of Oahu. **The Department provides the following comments.**

While the Department supports increased opportunity for any form of managed public recreation, the function of identifying canine pet stakeholders and suitable dog park areas -- is not a Departmental function.

The Department is willing to work with others where relevant with respect to inquiries regarding state lands over which it has jurisdiction. Beyond that, Department staff lack any experience in what constitutes a suitable dog park, and then establishing a park of this theme and function. This type of recreational activity, as is playgrounds and ball playing fields, have always been more appropriately a municipal function. At the Department's Division of State Parks, all dogs must be leashed or are prohibited by signage if warranted. That is the extent of experience staff have -- it is in regulating the use on leash -- very contra to how a dog park may function to match the pet owner's desired experience.

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

ROBERT K. MASUDA
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

The Department, if tasked with this development, would require the concurrence and commitment of the City and County of Honolulu to assume possession and manage the park in perpetuity.

It also seems that the Hawaiian Humane Society would be the most experienced entity for the Department of Parks and Recreation of the City and County of Honolulu to partner with for the implementation of this initiative.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these measures.

HCR-238

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 7:06:02 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/23/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa Parsons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this resolution. The windward side needs an off leash dog park!

HCR-238

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 10:04:14 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/23/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathryn Kaknes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Water and Land Committee,

I'm writing in strong support of HCR238, the proposal to work collaboratively with community stakeholders to identify and establish an off-leash dog park or parks on the Windward Side of Oahu.

I live in Kailua, and currently, there aren't any parks in which I can legally walk my dog, except Kailua Beach Park, and then, only if we are heading directly to the beach. My dog doesn't love the beach, and for some dogs, being off-leash at the beach isn't a great option.

I understand that when different constituent groups (dog owners, adults, children, sports teams, etc.) are trying to utilize the same space, there may be conflicts and challenges. Having a separate, off-leash dog park would help alleviate this challenge and provide recreational and social space for Windward Oahu residents and their dogs. Recently, my daughter and I drove our dogs to the Hawaii Kai Park. This is a terrific park, but is too far for us to utilize often. Having a park in Kailua or Kaneohe would be great!

The Windward Dog Park Hui has been working diigently for the last several years and is committed to providing the necessary support for this long-standing dog park project.

Please pass this measure for the benefit of the entire Windward community.

Thank you!

Kathryn Kaknes

Kailua

781-443-4445

LATE

WINDWARD DOG PARK HUI

DATE: March 22, 2018

TO: Chair Ryan I. Yamane – Committee on Water & Land
Committee Members

FROM: Janine Tully, president
Windward Dog Park Hui

SUBJECT: IN SUPPORT of HCR 238 – Establishing an Off-Leash Dog Park in
Windward Oahu

Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair and committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Windward Dog Park Hui (WDPH) in support of this measure. The WDPH is a 505©(3) nonprofit organization committed to opening an off-leash park in Windward, Oahu.

For nearly two decades Windward residents have tried to open a dog park without success. But the increase in dogs in our neighborhoods and lack of areas to walk them prompted a group of volunteers to take matters to city hall and the Legislature.

For the last three years the group has canvassed potential sites, collected nearly 4,000 signatures, and garnered the support of state and city officials, as well as the community.

We appreciate the initiative taken by our Windward legislators in introducing HCR 238 and remain committed to working in partnership with the city or state in seeing this project come true.