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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 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**  
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

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.