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

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LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
PUBLIC SAFETY, VETERANS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**Wednesday, February 13, 2019
10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 430**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1178
RELATING TO FISCAL BIENNIUM 2019-2021 BUDGET REQUESTS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

House Bill 1178 proposes to appropriate \$199,300 and \$229,300 in fiscal years 2020 and 2021, respectively, in other federal funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources' (Department) Prevention of Natural Disasters (LNR 810) program. **The Department strongly supports this Administration measure.**

The Department's LNR 810 program performs coordination activities to minimize the risks for loss of lives and property damage through the oversight of National Flood Insurance Program, the Dam and Reservoir Safety Program and General Flood Control Plan. The federal fund ceiling increase is requested to account for anticipated higher grant amounts awarded by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency to support activities to protect public health and safety by promoting dam safety, mitigation against flood losses, and increasing floodplain management expertise. The federal grants involved and their respective goals are: (1) Community Assistance Program-State Support Services Element awarded under the National Flood Insurance Program (\$139,300/\$139,300) to provide technical assistance pertaining to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), to evaluate county performance in implementing NFIP floodplain management activities, build state and county floodplain management expertise and capability, and leverage state knowledge and expertise in working with the counties; (2) National Dam Safety Program (\$0/\$10,000) to reduce risks to life, property and the environment from dam failures and dam related hazards; and (3) Cooperating Technical Partners Program (\$60,000/\$80,000) to collaborate and maintain up-to-date flood hazard maps and other flood hazard information.

The Department intends this federal fund ceiling increase at the \$229,300 level to be recurring in FY 2022 and beyond.

This is a summary of this operating budget adjustment within the overall LNR 810 budget:

Prog ID/Org	Description	MOF	FY 20			FY 21		
			FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
810/GD	Special	B	8.00	-	2,373,653	8.00	-	2,376,401
810/GD	Other Federal Funds	P	-	-	311,154	-	-	311,154
	Total - Base Budget		8.00	-	2,684,807	8.00	-	2,687,555
810/GD	Federal Fund Ceiling Adjustment	P	-	-	199,300	-	-	229,300
	Total - Adjustments		-	-	199,300	-	-	229,300
810/GD	Special	B	8.00	-	2,373,653	8.00	-	2,376,401
810/GD	Other Federal Funds	P	-	-	510,454	-	-	540,454
Total - Base Budget +Adjustments			8.00	-	2,884,107	8.00	-	2,916,855

We note that House Bill 2, House Draft 1 reduced the LNR 810 base budget by one position count and its corresponding funding for the vacancy of position number 118292, which is in the Department's Dam and Reservoir Safety Program. The program successfully filled this position effective January 23, 2019. Therefore, we respectfully request the restoration of the position count and funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.