

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

**2335**

Honolulu, Hawaii

**FEB 04 2020**

RE: S.B. No. 2356

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirtieth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2020  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Water and Land, to which was referred S.B. No. 2356 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE LAND CONSERVATION FUND,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to increase the amount available for conservation by removing the monetary cap for the amount of conveyance taxes collected that can be paid into the land conservation fund.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources; The Trust for Public Land; Coastal Planners, LLC; and one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Tax Foundation of Hawaii.

Your Committee finds that greater funding needs to be made available for the public purpose of purchasing and protecting forever, land that shelters exceptional, unique, and threatened resources. In 2015, the legislature set a \$6,800,000 cap on the amount of conveyance taxes paid into the Land Conservation Fund. In the face of escalating real estate prices and persistent development pressure, this funding mechanism for land conservation continues to lose pace with market values and public demand, resulting in deferred and missed opportunities for many worthy and time-sensitive land acquisitions. This measure will remove the



monetary cap on collections and allow for more funding for land acquisition and conservation.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water and Land that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2356 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Water and Land,



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KAITALI KAELE, Chair

The Senate  
Thirtieth Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Water and Land**  
**WTL**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB 2356</b>	Committee Referral: <b>WTL, WAM</b>	Date: <b>01/29/2020</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KAHELE, Kaiali'i (C)	/			
KEITH-AGARAN, Gilbert S.C. (VC)				/
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.	/			
RIVIERE, Gil				/
FEVELLA, Kurt	/			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>			<b>2</b>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align:center;"><i>Clarence K. Nishihara</i></div>				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original     Yellow     Pink     Goldenrod File with Committee Report     Clerk's Office     Drafting Agency     Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes