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GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
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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

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

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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Monday, February 25, 2019
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1359
RELATING TO FISCAL BIENNIUM 2019-2021 BUDGET REQUESTS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

House Bill 1359 proposes to appropriate funds for the Fiscal Biennium 2019-2021 operating budget of the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Bureau of Conveyances' (Bureau) LNR111 – Conveyances and Recordings program. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this bill.**

Overview of Bureau of Conveyances

The Bureau's mission is to serve and protect the public by providing for an accurate, timely and permanent system of recording, maintaining, and preserving land title recordings and related documents and maps. The Bureau's daily operations, revenues and expenses are directly impacted by the volume of recordings which is largely dependent upon real estate market conditions and the overall health of the Hawaii and national economy.

Bureau Funding Structure

The Bureau receives no general fund appropriations. The Bureau of Conveyances Special Fund is the primary source for the Bureau's program, as established by Chapter 502-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The primary source of funding for the Bureau comes from the recording fees assessed to each document brought in for recordation. The Bureau has recorded an annual average of 310,000 documents in the past three fiscal years. Revenues from the document recording fees, certified copies and miscellaneous user fees totaled \$7.01M in Fiscal Year 2018. For Fiscal year 2019, the Bureau is anticipating a nominal increase in revenues based upon best projections of volumes for the various Bureau services.

Bureau Base Budget and “Add-On” Requests

Base Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019: \$6,848,148.

Number of Positions

The Bureau currently has authorization for 58 permanent positions and 3 temporary position, see attached for current organization chart.

Number of Vacancies

The Bureau has nine vacancies. Of those vacancies, three are temporary positions and six are civil service positions. Three of the nine positions have been vacant for six months or less. The Bureau has authority to hire for all the vacant positions.

Requests for FB 2019-2021

The Bureau is requesting an expenditure ceiling increase of \$750,000 in FY 2020 and \$750,000 in FY 2021 to continue the digitization and image enhancement and preservation of recorded documents and to provide secure accessibility of those images for internal users and the public.

The Bureau is also requesting an expenditure ceiling increase of \$500,000 in FY 2021 for partial restoration and preservation of reference books, management system for the map collections and technology improvements to better serve all users of the Public Reference Room resources.

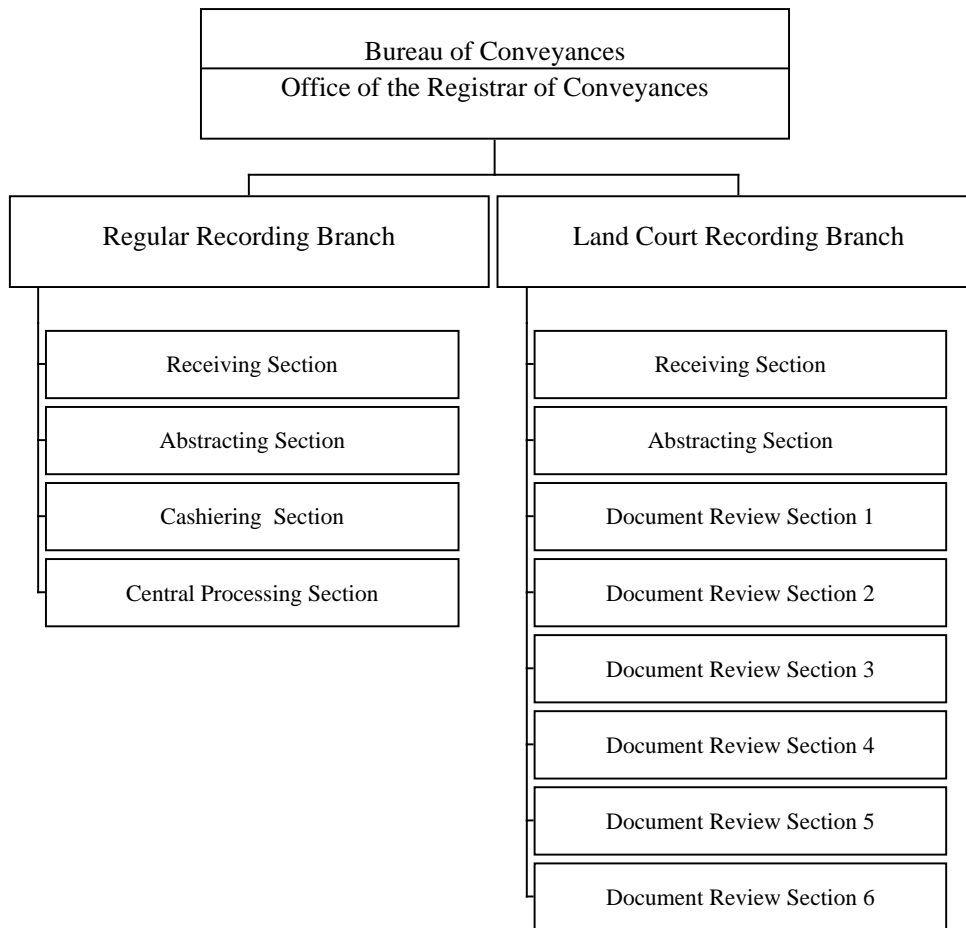
The Bureau is requesting a ceiling increase of \$80,939 in FY 2020 and \$80,939 in FY 2021 for fringe benefit adjustment.

Summary

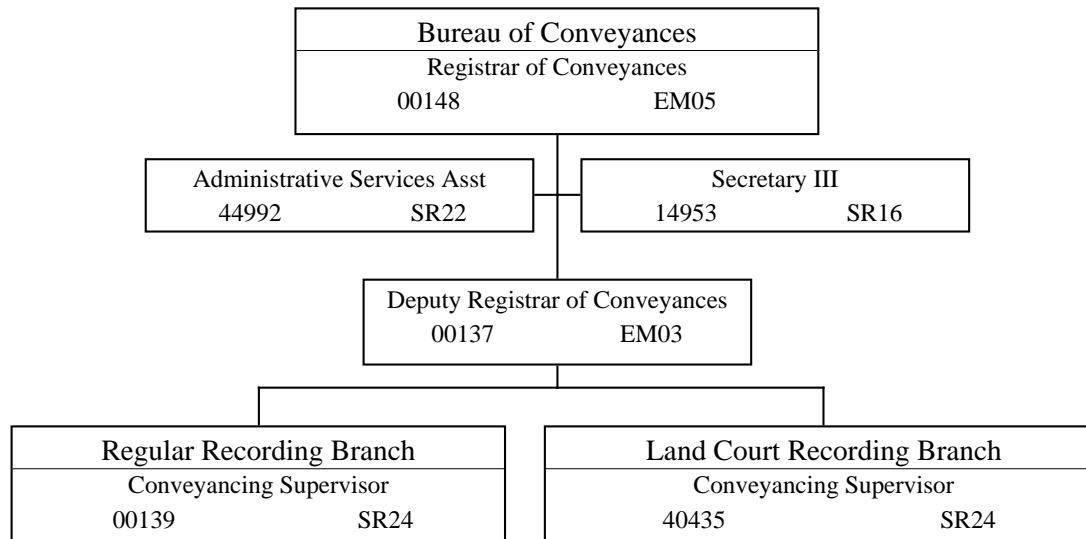
This bill will provide key ceiling appropriation increases so the Bureau can maintain its focus on the multi-phase digitization efforts for the land documents and map collections in its custody. These digitized records will be the building blocks for proper archiving and preservation of these records, increased and secure accessibility to the content by Bureau systems and the Web and ultimately to ensure mobility of this data. This bill will also allow the Bureau to start a multi-year program to restore historical and cultural records in our Public Reference Room while bringing additional technological advances to service the public more effectively.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

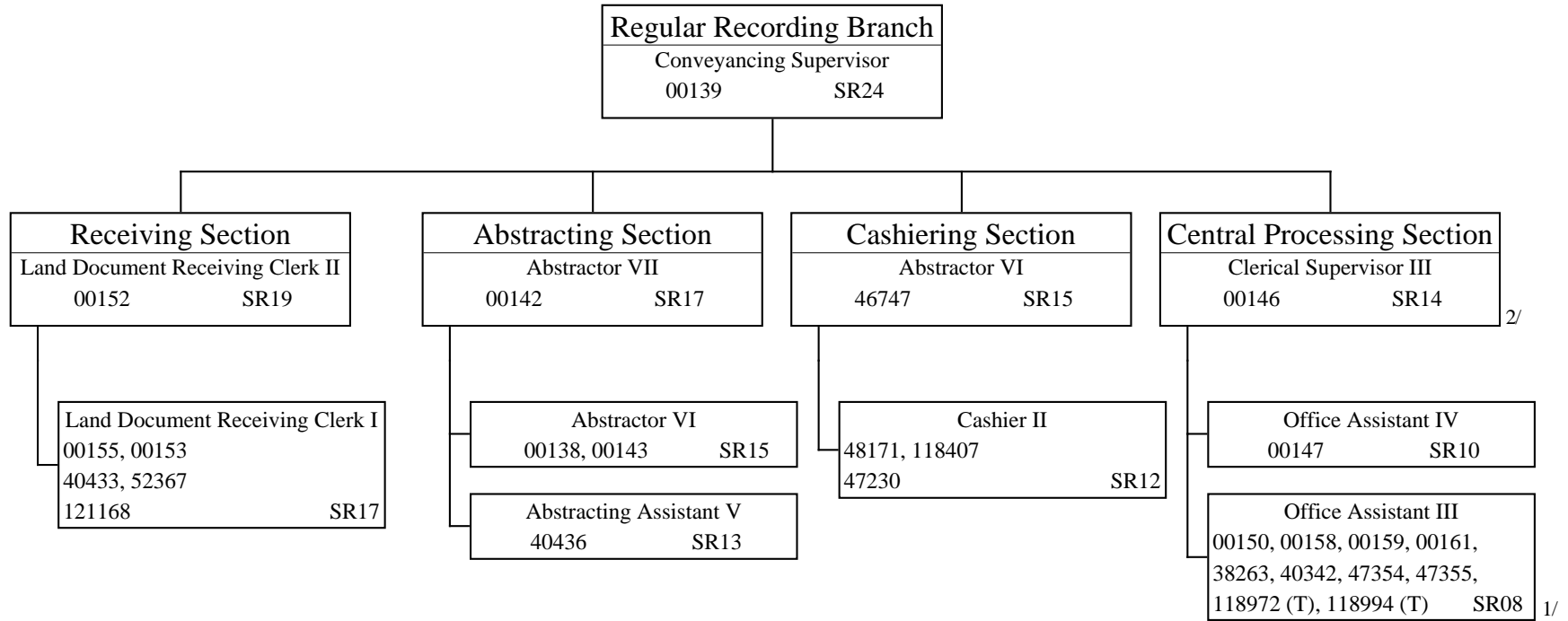
State of Hawaii
Land and Natural Resources
Bureau of Conveyances
Position Organization Chart



State of Hawaii
 Department of Land and Natural Resources
 Bureau of Conveyances
 Position Organization Chart

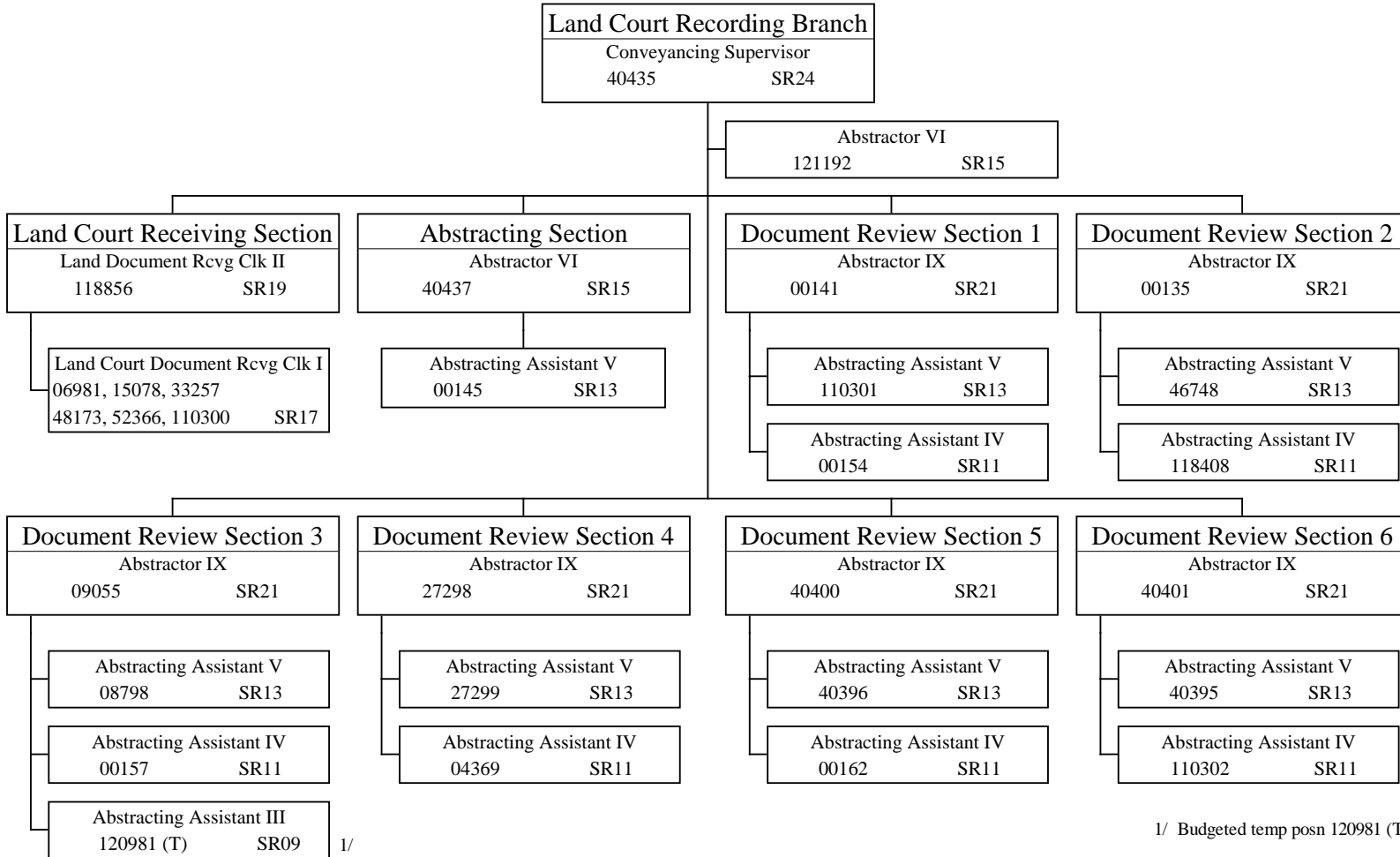


State of Hawaii
 Department of Land and Natural Resources
 Bureau of Conveyances
 Regular Recording Branch
 Position Organization Chart



1/ Budgeted temp posns 118972 (T), 118994 (T) NTE 06-30-17.
 2/ Redesc posn 00146 effective 03-31-17.

State of Hawaii
 Department of Land and Natural Resources
 Bureau of Conveyances
 Land Court Recording Branch
 Position Organization Chart



1/ Budgeted temp posn 120981 (T) NTE 06-30-17.