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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

LATE

Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

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

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1364, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
BUDGET

House Bill 1364, House Draft 1 proposes to provide funding for the operations of Department of Land and Natural Resources' (Department) LNR405 – Conservation and Resources Enforcement program for the Fiscal Biennium 2019-2021. **The Department supports this measure with amendments.**

The Department respectfully requests that this measure be amended to include the following Program ID base budget (derived from House Bill 2) with adjustments (budget requests):

LNR 405 - Conservation and Resources Enforcement

The Department's Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) has primary responsibility for the enforcement of laws created to manage, protect and conserve Hawaii's unique and limited, natural, cultural and historic resources.

- Transfer-out 1 Accountant position and funds to LNR 906 (-\$46,140 / -\$46,140 A).

The Administrative Services Office (ASO) is responsible for the fiscal management, integrity and accountability of the Department. The mission of the ASO is to provide guidance and oversight of the Department's budget, financial management, and financial operations for all of the Department's divisions' various funds, grants and other awards to ensure that funds necessary to carry out the Department's mission are obtained, allocated, and properly expended in accordance with the Department's priorities and relevant laws and policies. Given the significant amount of federal grants received and

administered by the Department and to address the desire of the Department to institute standardized accounting procedures and processes, we deem it necessary to request the transfer of the above positions under the direct supervision of the ASO. By doing this, the Department believes the ASO will be in the best position to provide the most thorough fiscal oversight and supervision available as well as ensure that the implementation of policies and procedures is done in a transparent, timely and effective manner and in accordance with state and federal guidelines. This will afford the Department improved efficiency resulting in the better use of its time and resources. The transfer of the positions will give the Department the opportunity to institute better compliance, and to enhance internal controls. Additionally, the Department is confident that this change and/or transfer request will address the auditor's recommendations brought about by various audits. It will also address the federal auditor's concerns of potential disallowance of costs, assessment of penalties, loss of credibility, and diminished future grant opportunities due to insufficient data documentation and the Department's deficiency on the overall management of federal funds. The request will be cost neutral and there will be no additional funds needed on the transfer.

- Convert 6 Community Fisheries Enforcement Units (CFEU) positions from temporary to permanent positions.

The Department finds that the current temporary status of some of its Conservation and Resources Enforcement Officer III positions hinders the recruitment of the best and most qualified applicants. Many prospective candidates for these positions may not apply. These candidates may not be attracted to applying for these positions due to the temporary status where funding is uncertain. Conversion will allow the Department to attract more candidates and increase the applicant pool. DOCARE academy attendance will rely on these positions.

- Add 1 Program Specialist IV permanent position and general funds (\$77,956 / \$69,456 A).

DOCARE does not have an established civil service position for the scope of work that the current makai watch coordinator performs. The current position is non-civil service and is solely reliant upon grant funding and as such, there is a high degree of uncertainty for this position and the program. Funding to establish the Program Specialist IV position and operational costs related to the position will allow DOCARE to maintain coordination of its makai watch program. This position will also serve as a crucial community liaison dealing with enforcement issues and education of the public relating to the enforcement of department rules and laws. It will also assist with current DOCARE program administration and initiatives.

Prog ID/Org	Description	MOF	FY 20			FY 21		
			FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
405/HA	General	A	131.25	12.00	10,127,297	131.25	12.00	10,150,875
405/HA	Special	B	-	-	1,344,671	-	-	1,344,671
405/HA	Federal Funds	N	3.75	-	1,319,046	3.75	-	1,319,046
405/HB	Other Federal Funds	P	-	-	900,000	-	-	900,000
405/HA	Revolving	W	-	-	32,671	-	-	32,671
	Total - Base Budget		135.00	12.00	13,723,685	135.00	12.00	13,747,263
405/HA	Transfer-out Accountant IV, Position #52375, from LNR 405 to LNR 906	A	(1.00)	-	(46,140)	(1.00)	-	(46,140)
405/HA	Convert Community Fisheries Enforcement Unit's (CFEU) temporary positions to permanent, and provide additional funding to cover full-year salaries (\$268,620) and related operating expenditures (\$90,000)	A	6.00	(12.00)	-	6.00	(12.00)	-
405/HA	Add positions and funds for personal services for one (1) Program Specialist V (\$59,616) and one (1) Program Specialist IV (\$52,956) position to support the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement's administrative programs, operations and Makai Watch Program and operational cost (\$50,000)	A	1.00	-	77,956	1.00	-	69,456
	Total - Adjustments		6.00	(12.00)	31,816	6.00	(12.00)	23,316
405/HA	General	A	137.25	-	10,159,113	137.25	-	10,174,191
405/HA	Special	B	-	-	1,344,671	-	-	1,344,671
405/HA	Federal Funds	N	3.75	-	1,319,046	3.75	-	1,319,046
405/HB	Other Federal Funds	P	-	-	900,000	-	-	900,000
405/HA	Revolving	W	-	-	32,671	-	-	32,671
	Total - Base Budget + Adjustments		141.00	-	13,755,501	141.00	-	13,770,579

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

LATE

HB-1364-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 12:55:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2019 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support HB1364. Coral reefs are dying in large part to warming oceans, and valuable coastline is eroding due to sea level rise. Climate change is already occurring. By protecting our environment we protect our tourism dollars.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei