

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on  
WATER, LAND & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Friday, February 1, 2019  
9:00am  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1501  
RELATING TO MOLOKAI RANCH**

House Bill 1501 proposes to appropriate funds for the acquisition of Molokai Ranch. The measure also proposes to require the lands acquired pursuant to this measure to be held in the public land trust. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) has significant concerns regarding this measure and offers comments.**

Acquisition of the subject property would create an overwhelming management burden that exceeds the capacity of the Department's staff and financial resources. The bill appropriates funds only for the purchase of the land, with no funds to address recurring management costs. According to a real estate listing, the subject property consists of over 55,000 acres. The vast size and remote location of the subject property would make effective management by the Department impossible.

Additionally, the subject property also includes improvements such as hotels and golf courses. The Department has no knowledge of whether the improvements have been regularly maintained over the ten years since Molokai Ranch ceased operations. The unknown condition of these improvements may result in public health and safety issues that would require resolution at significant cost, as well as expose the State to liability upon acquisition. Moreover, given the opposition by the local community against prior proposed developments, it is unlikely that the Department could utilize the lands to generate income to offset the ongoing management costs.

Furthermore, the bill does not provide funds for due diligence. For previous acquisitions, due diligence costs have reached as high as \$500,000, to contract for items such as an appraisal, title reports, land survey maps and descriptions, and environmental hazard studies. Finally, the Department's mission prioritizes natural resource conservation and protection. The bill requires that the lands acquired pursuant to this measure be held in public trust for the betterment of native Hawaiians. As an alternative, the Department suggests that the Office of Hawaiian

**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**ROBERT K. MASUDA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**M. KALEO MANUEL**  
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

Affairs is a more appropriate agency to acquire and manage the subject property in order to effectuate the sole purpose of the measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-1501**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 11:20:15 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/1/2019 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee (HPAC)	Support	Yes

Comments:

**Aloha Chair, Vice Chair & Committee Members. WE STAND IN STRONG SUPPORT OF THIS BILL, WHICH IS HPAC's VERY FIRST, CO-SPONSORED/REQUESTED BILLS, AFTER FIVE YEARS OF ADVOCATING FOR native Hawaiians at the State Capitol.**

**We humbly ask for Ur support for this bill. We stand ready to work with this committee & all parties of interest to ensure hat this bill is perfected, supported & passed. We want to be clear that there is no hidden agenda. This bill seeks to EMPOWER our LÄ• hui on Moloka'i to take control & decide for themselves how best to utilize Moloka'i ranch for their self-sufficiency and self-determination.**

**HPAC IS IN STRONG SUPPORT OF THIS BILL AND HUMBLY REQUEST THAT IT BE PASSED.**

**HB-1501**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 7:46:26 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/1/2019 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nancy Davlantes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-1501**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 9:23:15 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/1/2019 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rachel L. Kailianu	Ho`omana Pono, LLC	Support	Yes

Comments:

In strong support of lands being brought and returned to the KÄ• naka as defined by the Hawaiian Homes Commission's Act...