

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

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

**Friday, January 31, 2020
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2033
RELATING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

House Bill 2033 proposes to appropriate \$1,000,000 to be expended for forest resource management and development (LNR 172) for the Division of Forestry and Wildlife to purchase firefighting equipment. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

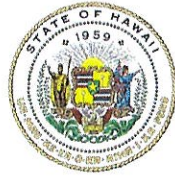
The Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) is the primary responder for wildland fires across 1,368,002 acres of the State's forested watersheds (or 25% of the land area in Hawai'i) and supports federal and county responders on the remaining area of the State. Due to climate change and associated droughts, the annual area burnt in Hawai'i has grown in past decades. In fact, the percentage of land area burned annually in Hawai'i exceeds the national average and some years it surpasses the 12 most fire-prone western states.

DOFAW's fire and emergency response mandates require specialized equipment. Resources are needed to modernize DOFAW's fleet of response vehicles and equipment to ensure timely response to wildfires. State crews currently rely on outdated vehicles, some of which are on loan from federal agencies, are incurring costly repairs, and have broken down while crews were en route to fires. The Department also assists counties during natural disasters, such as hurricanes and lava flows. Much of DOFAW's equipment used for fire response is also used in such disasters.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



SCOTT T. MURAKAMI
DIRECTOR

ANNE EUSTAQUIO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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Email: dlir.director@hawaii.gov

January 30, 2020

The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair
Committee on Water, Land,
and Hawaiian Affairs
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 420
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Yamane:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 2033 Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources

I am Manuel P. Neves, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The SFC and the HFD support HB 2033, which appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) to purchase fire fighting equipment.

The DOFAW is the primary responder for wildland fires across 1,368,002 acres of the State of Hawaii's forested watersheds (or 25% of the land area in Hawaii) and supports federal and county responders on remaining areas in the State. Due to climate change and associated droughts, the annual area burned in Hawaii has grown in past decades. In fact, the percentage of land area burned annually in Hawaii exceeds the national average and, in some years, it surpasses the 12 most fire-prone western states.

The DOFAW's fire and emergency response mandates require specialized equipment. Financial resources are needed to modernize the DOFAW's fleet of response vehicles and equipment to ensure timely response to wildland fires. State crews currently rely on outdated vehicles, some of which are on loan from federal agencies, are incurring costly repairs, and have malfunctioned while crews were en route to fires. The Department also assists counties during natural disasters, such as hurricanes and lava flows. Much of the DOFAW's equipment used for fire response is also used in such disasters.

The DOFAW's expertise and collaboration with the county fire departments has been invaluable in protecting residences, buildings, and critical infrastructure from the encroachment of wildland-urban interface fires throughout Hawaii.

The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair
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January 30, 2020

The SFC and the HFD urge your committee's support on the passage of HB 2033.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Lloyd Rogers at 723-7176 or lrogers@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. P. Neves', with a stylized flourish at the end.

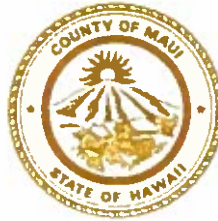
MANUEL P. NEVES
Chair

MPN/LR:gl

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
Mayor

DAVID C. THYNE
Fire Chief

BRADFORD K. VENTURA
Deputy Fire Chief



DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY

COUNTY OF MAUI
200 DAIRY ROAD
KAHULUI, HI 96732

January 29, 2020

The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair
Committee on Water, Land,
and Hawaiian Affairs
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 420
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Yamane:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 2033 Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources

I am David C. Thyne, member of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Maui Fire Department (MFD). The SFC and MFD support HB 2033, which appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) to purchase firefighting equipment.

The DOFAW is the primary responder for wildland fires across 1,368,002 acres of the State's forested watersheds (or 25% of the land area in Hawaii) and supports federal and county responders on the remaining area of the State. Due to climate change and associated droughts, the annual area burnt in Hawaii has grown in past decades. In fact, the percentage of land area burned annually in Hawaii exceeds the national average and some years it surpasses the 12 most fire-prone western states.

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The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair

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January 29, 2020

The SFC and MFD urge your committee's support on the passage of HB 2033.

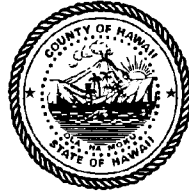
Should you have any questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Lloyd Rogers at (808) 723-7176 or lrogers@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,



DAVID C. THYNE
Fire Chief

Harry Kim
Mayor



Darren J. Rosario
Fire Chief

Lance S. Uchida
Deputy Fire Chief

County of Hawai'i
HAWAI'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
25 Aupuni Street • Suite 2501 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 932-2900 • Fax (808) 932-2928

January 29, 2020

The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair
Committee on Water, Land, & Hawaiian Affairs
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Yamane:

Subject: H.B. 2033, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Hearing Date: Friday, January 31, 2020
Time/Place of Hearing: 9:00 a.m., Conference Room 325

I am Darren J. Rosario, Fire Chief of the Hawai'i Fire Department of the County of Hawai'i (HCFD) and Vice Chairman of the State Fire Council. The HCFD supports HB 2033, which proposes to appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Division of Forestry & Wildlife (DoFaW) for the purchase of firefighting equipment.

The HCFD works hand in hand with the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry & Wildlife in the mitigation of wildfires and Search and Rescue incidents in Hawai'i County. Our great partnership has resulted in the protection of countless homes and businesses during catastrophic wildfires and successful search and rescues throughout the past years.

Prompt response and mitigation efforts are key to the saving of open area spaces that are also used for agriculture or reserve functions. Mitigation efforts are further enhanced with serviceable equipment, apparatus, and proper personnel manning. These same factors are critical in the prompt rescue of lost or injured patrons of various state properties. This measure would greatly enhance the DLNR's ability to assist local County Fire Departments with the protection of its mutual communities, open rangelands, and forest reserves. The HCFD strongly urges you to support HB 2033.

Please do not hesitate to call me at 932-2903 or darren.rosario@hawaiicounty.gov should you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support.

Respectfully,

DARREN J. ROSARIO
Fire Chief



HB-2033

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 7:15:33 PM

Testimony for WLH on 1/31/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: