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LAND  
STATE PARKS

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  
FINANCE

Monday, February 24, 2020  
12:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 2739, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO THE KA IWI COAST

House Bill 2739, House Draft 1 proposes to transfer lands to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) and establishes that land adjacent, state-owned land as the Ka Iwi coast state park and appropriates funds. **The Department supports the intent of this measure and offers the following comments.**

The Department supports the continued protection and expansion of undeveloped open space in East Oahu. The Department's Division of State Parks (State Parks) currently manages the heavily used Kaiwi State Scenic Shoreline which includes the Makapuu Lookout. It is absolutely critical before accepting the management responsibility of new public trust resources that an increase in both staffing and the state park operating budget must occur in order to adequately manage the current new additions to the park and as of yet undetermined additional amounts of new acreage. As such the Department appreciates the Legislature's understanding and support in that this measure provides additional staff and funding to increase State Park's capacity to expand management responsibility.

The Department suggests amendments and comments to the measure:

- a) SECTION 2 (a) – page 2, line 9  
Refers to the Kaiwi Coast State Park, however, the current designation is the Ka Iwi State Scenic Shoreline. Prior to the proposed lands being transferred, the Department must request of the Board of Land and Natural Resources an executive order and set aside to State Parks with the ancillary new TMKs and the revised name of the park unit, hence, this designation within the bill could be deleted.

- b) SECTION 2 (a) – page 2, lines 4-6  
Refers to a set of tax map keys (TMK) and portions thereof for the proposed transfer to the Department.

The Department is willing to implement the transfer of some of these TMK with the exception of TMK 1-3-9-015:001 (part of Sandy Beach park grassed area) or 1-3-9-015:019 (driveway easement for Sandy Beach Access road) which is an integral part of the City & County of Honolulu (City) park at Sandy Beach. The Department does not see any net improvement for the general public or the natural or cultural resources by accepting this TMK. The other proposed TMK contain native shoreline vegetation and habitat for monk seals and therefore the transfer is more within the programs of the Department for the protection of resources.

Currently, the City has given no indication at this time that they would be willing to transfer these lands. Further clarification and discussions would be needed on the portions of these TMKs that ultimately go to the Department.

- c) SECTION 2 (a)  
The TMKs appear to include a portion of Sandy Beach, and as already stated, the Department is not interested in taking on this additional responsibility and this would interfere with optimal management and current public recreation of Sandy Beach by the City.
- d) SECTION 2 (b)  
This SECTION could be deleted since the Department checked the TMK listed in this measure and all areas are currently designated as Conservation Lands. Furthermore, it is the Departments understanding that the State Land Use Commission may be a process that will still have to occur to achieve the zoning change, as listed in the bill.
- e) SECTION 3  
The Department respectfully requests an additional position (1.0 FTE) park caretaker III to augment current management at Kaiwi State Scenic Shoreline and to have staff capacity to offer quality management and maintenance to the additional properties.
- f) SECTION 4  
The appropriation out of general funds needed for planning is \$50,000.

The appropriation out of general funds for construction is \$250,000 for elements such as barriers, signage, parking, and other related improvements to better management the public's use of these designated properties.

The appropriation out of general funds will be needed in the future for operation and maintenance once the subject properties have been clearly identified and transferred.

Additionally, in assuming more jurisdiction, the Department must be always be cognizant of natural hazards associated with rockfall, fire, and flooding. For these proposed properties, consideration must be given to ocean related hazards and the future implications of climate change and sea level rise. While the bill currently specifies a coastal section of land under City and County jurisdiction, future planning and community effort associated with potential mauka expansion needs to address both natural hazards and associated liabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



**Website**  
[www.hawaiiikaihui.org](http://www.hawaiiikaihui.org)  
[www.kaiwicoast.org](http://www.kaiwicoast.org)

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A COMMUNITY DRIVEN, VOLUNTEER-BASED RESTORATION PROJECT.  
*Hāna Heiau Complex  
& Keauāuna Wetland*  
CELEBRATE THE CULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF YOUR COMMUNITY!

Livable Hawaii Kai Hui is a 501c(3) non-profit, community organization serving East Honolulu since 2004. We strive to promote sensible growth, respect for cultural & natural resources and upholding the integrity of the East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan.

February 22, 2020

Committee on Finance

Hearing on February 24, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.

Conference Room 308, Hawai'i State Capitol

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and respected Committee Members,

Livable Hawaii Kai Hui proudly stewards the Ka Iwi Coast Mauka Lands with the help and support of communities not only in East Honolulu, but across Southeast O'ahu and the entire island.

As an organizing member of the Ka Iwi Coalition and contributor to the Maunaloa-Makapu'u State Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan, the Hui takes particular interest in HB 2739 regarding the proposed "Ka Iwi Coast State Park."

The Hui is excited to see the State taking up such an initiative that aims to protect and preserve the cultural and natural resources of Ka Iwi Coast, particularly one that mindfully seeks to engage community members and stakeholders in the planning process and beyond.

Livable Hawaii Kai Hui appreciates this Committee's time and consideration in support of HB 2739.

Mahalo nui loa,

Elizabeth Reilly

President, Livable Hawaii Kai Hui

**HB-2739-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2020 12:34:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 12:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT with the stipulation that the DLNR is closely watched. We have too many lands now that are under their "watch" which are not being taken care of responsibly. The people who fought hard to save the Ka Iwi Coast did not do so to have it lost by careless DLNR watch.

**HB-2739-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2020 8:57:32 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 12:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Malia Marquez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Welina mai,

I continue to support HB2739 HD1. It is crucial to protect our Ka'iwi coast from any kind of development. The open space here on the Kona coast is a site for all to enjoy. I am not fond of our DLNR and we need to stay alert to how they are managing this priceless coastline. I support this bill and mahalo you for your time on this important matter.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Malia Lum-Kawaihoa Marquez

(Daughter of the late Shirley Lum, Ka'iwi coastline protector)

**LATE**

**HB-2739-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2020 6:34:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 12:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments: