



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on  
WAYS AND MEANS

Thursday, February 20, 2020  
10:35 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 2827  
RELATING TO RECORDATION TRANSACTION FEES

Senate Bill 2827 proposes to amend Act 120, Session Law of Hawaii 2009 (Act 120), by: 1) Applying the \$5 transaction fee to all recordings performed in the Office of the Assistant Registrar of the Land Court, which previously was only applied in the Regular System of the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Bureau of Conveyances (Bureau); 2) Expanding the uses of this transaction fee for records management and operational improvements; and 3) Clarifying the repeal date of the Act. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this bill.**

Act 120 intended to provide the necessary funding to correct serious shortcomings at the Bureau identified by the Joint Legislative Investigative committee under Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 226 (2007). To date, as a result of the Act, the Bureau has significantly improved the automation and integrity of the recording process, establishing web and digital access to most of the Bureau's database and records, and created the portal and process for the electronic recording of documents. Future key improvement projects include completing Phase IV and V of our digitization project which include securing and increasing accessibility to the Bureau's records and maps as well as establishing a critical disaster recovery plan that can continue the Bureau's operation in times of an emergency.

This bill proposes to expand the authorized use of these transaction fees to address many of the evolving issues that the Bureau faces such as enhancing technology and digitization, improving workflow processes for both daily and historical records processing and certification, and restoring and preserving physical book records to name a few.

Additionally, this bill proposes to clarify the repeal of the fee on the earlier to occur of a designated sunset date or the date that a similar fee is established in the Bureau's administrative rules.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.