



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 27, 2020
10:35 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2908, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE PAYMENT OF DEBT SERVICE
ON THE TURTLE BAY REIMBURSABLE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

Senate Bill 2908, Senate Draft 1 proposes to streamline the process for completing the Department of Land and Natural Resources' required annual payment of debt service on the reimbursable general obligation bonds for Turtle Bay. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this Administration measure.**

Section 173A-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), now requires that the Department's Legacy Land Conservation Program (LLCP) complete a cumbersome and prolonged annual grant application and award process before the Department can make an annual debt service payment that is required by this statute's parent authority (Act 121, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005) and sibling statutes (Sections 171-171 and 171-172, HRS). The existing process requires extensive and non-essential effort by the LLCP and its private and public partners, including multiple steps with participants from:

- the Department (several organizational units);
- Department of Agriculture;
- Agribusiness Development Corporation;
- Legacy Land Conservation Commission (Commission);
- the nonprofit land conservation organization that fulfills the existing statutory requirement for filing an application on behalf of the Department and that organizes, with private partners, a field visit by a permitted interaction group from the Commission;
- general public (for public meetings of the Commission);
- Department of Budget & Finance; and

- Office of the Governor.

This proposed measure would provide statutory authority for the Department to simply process the required annual payment from the Land Conservation Fund to the Turtle Bay Conservation Easement Special Fund without intervening and costly bureaucratic steps that provide minimal return on investment to the Legacy Land Conservation Program and to other Department units that have primary management responsibilities for State interests at Turtle Bay.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.