

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



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

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**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

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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 Committees on  
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
and  
WATER AND LAND**

**Friday, February 7, 2020  
1:30 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 3050  
RELATING TO CONSERVATION**

Senate Bill 3050 proposes to establish a habitat conservation program manager position to be funded from fees charged to applicants for assistance provided to habitat conservation plan (HCP) applicants. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill and offers the following comments.**

Hawaii has the unenviable distinction of being the endangered species capitol of the nation. With continuing land development throughout the state impacting habitat for endangered species, safe harbor agreements and habitat conservation plans play a critical role in the process of recovering the State's endangered species while supporting economic development opportunities, bringing in over \$32.3 million dollars in conservation funds. The Department currently manages eleven habitat conservation plans and six safe harbor agreements to protect endangered species and their habitats; seven more habitat conservation plans and safe harbor agreements are in various stages of planning or approval. These plans, agreements, and associated take licenses span decades, represent hundreds of millions of dollars of economic impact, and support such initiatives as making Hawaii energy self-sufficient by 2045.

To effectively manage an increasing inventory of habitat conservation plans and safe harbor agreements to help recover Hawaii's endangered species while supporting economic development opportunities, a new civil service position is an essential addition to Department staff.

Additionally, Subsection (b) on page 3, establishing an hourly fee of \$50 for all assistance provided to applicants by the habitat conservation program manager, seems to be redundant when Section 195D-23(d), Hawaii Revised Statutes, which already authorizes the establishment of a habitat conservation technical assistance program to assist landowners in developing, reviewing, or monitoring habitat conservation plans and establishes a fee at an hourly rate of \$50.00 an hour.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**SB-3050**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 6:47:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a native Hawaiian conservationist, I have seen an increase in the publication of Habitat Conservation Plans which require State of Hawai'i review. This bill will provide needed resources to assist in the review and completion of good HCP's. Please pass SB3050.

Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.