

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WATER AND LAND**

**Friday, February 1, 2019
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 615
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Senate Bill 615 proposes to appropriate \$1,650,000 for the purchase of heavy equipment for use by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department), Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) to maintain public lands on Kauai. **The Department supports this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

Kauai DOFAW manages eight public and partner roads (86 miles), 30 public trails (78 miles), and a multitude of forestry, wildlife, and natural resource projects. DOFAW is also the primary emergency responder to incidents on lands it manages (100,000 acres) and responds to incidents on private and county lands when requested. DOFAW fulfills Requests for Assistance from the county through the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Support Function structure, including floods, landslides, and other natural disasters.

Emergency response on Kauai is conducted in a coordinated manner with other state and county first responders. Most recently DOFAW responded to a request by Kauai County for heavy equipment to be used on the North Shore for three months to assist with the emergency debris removal and road clearing after the record floods of April 2018. However, due to ten pieces of the DOFAW heavy equipment inventory being older than twenty-five years, DOFAW is often unable to adequately respond to all emergencies as requested. A lack of functioning heavy equipment inhibits ongoing maintenance of public lands and response to emergency needs.

The Department looks forward to working with the Legislature to ensure that Kauai receives the support necessary to adequately manage public lands and respond to emergency needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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

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DIRECTOR

LOIS IYOMASA
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January 31, 2019

The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahale, Chair
Committee on Water and Land
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 213
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Kahale:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 615 Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)

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 SB 615, which appropriates \$1,650,000 for the purchase of heavy equipment to maintain public roads, lands, trails and emergency response needs in Kauai County.

With 17 pieces of heavy equipment, the DLNR's Kauai Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) is a primary emergency responder to incidents on the lands it manages (100,000 acres) and also responds to incidents on private and county lands when requested. While the DOFAW's primary Emergency Support Function (ESF-4) is fire, it also responds to floods, landslides, and other natural disasters. Emergency response on Kauai is conducted in a coordinated manner with other state and county first responders.

Most recently, the DOFAW responded to a request by Kauai County for two of its heavy equipment to be used on the North Shore for three months to assist with emergency debris removal and road clearing after the April 2018 record floods. However, due to 10 pieces of the heavy equipment being older than 25 years, the DOFAW is often unable to adequately respond to all emergencies as requested.

The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahale, Chair
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January 31, 2019

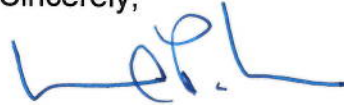
When not responding to emergencies the DOFAW's heavy equipment fleet is used to manage 8 public and partner roads (86 miles), 30 public trails (78 miles), and a multitude of forestry, wildlife, and natural resource projects. A lack of functioning heavy equipment inhibits ongoing maintenance of public lands and response to emergency needs.

Successful passage of SB 615 will help ensure that Kauai receives the support necessary to adequately manage public lands and respond to emergency needs.

The SFC and the HFD urge your committee's support on the passage of SB 615.

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

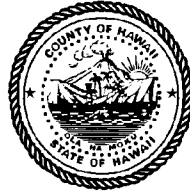
Sincerely,



MANUEL P. NEVES
Chair

MPN/LR:clc

Harry Kim
Mayor



Darren J. Rosario
Fire Chief

Lance S. Uchida
Deputy Fire Chief

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

January 30, 2019

The Honorable Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Committee on Water and Land
State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Kahele:

**Subject: S.B. 615, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**
Hearing Date: Friday, February 1, 2019
Time/Place of Hearing: 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 229

I am Darren J. Rosario, Fire Chief of the Hawai'i Fire Department of the County of Hawai'i (HCFD). The HCFD supports S.B. 615 which proposes to appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife to purchase heavy equipment for use on Kauai.

Although this bill proposes funding for the Island of Kauai, the HCFD works hand in hand with the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry & Wildlife in the mitigation of wildfires in Hawaii County and supports the efforts to mitigate and prevent fire anywhere in our great state. Our great partnership has resulted in the protection of countless homes and businesses during catastrophic wildfires throughout the past years.

The Kauai Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DoFAW) is responsible for the protection of approximately 100,000 acres of land. Any fire within their jurisdiction also affects the Kauai Fire Department (KFD). The KFD also assist DoFAW with the mitigation of these fires, taking away equipment and personnel from instant readiness to respond to other 911 calls within their jurisdiction. Vice-Versa, DoFAW has been assisting Kauai County with its mitigation efforts in restoring damaged roadways and clearing of debris from last year's flooding event.

Prompt prevention, 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. 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 this measure.



**S.B. 615, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

January 30, 2019

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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 of SB 615.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darren", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

DARREN J. ROSARIO
Fire Chief



**KAUA'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I**

**DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR**

**KILIPAKI VAUGHAN
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF**

January 30, 2019

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
Senate President
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Senate President Kouchi:

Subject: SB 615, Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources

I am Kilipaki Vaughan, Deputy Fire Chief of the Kauai Fire Department (KFD). The KFD supports SB 615 which will provide funding up to \$1,650,000 for purchase of heavy equipment (dump trucks, excavators, water tenders, mid-size dozers, etc.) which be utilized to maintain State Public Lands on our island of Kauai. KFD maintains a close working relationship with DOFAW Kauai in providing fire protection to these public lands, tender forest habitat, and neighboring `aina.

Passage of this SB 615 will enhance the capabilities of DLNR DOFAW Kauai to preserve public use and ensure these areas on Kauai are accessible to emergency response.

KFD recommends your committees' support of SB 615 to provide funding DLNR DOFAW Kauai, to maintain public lands, public use, and emergency response access.

Ke aloha nui,

Kilipaki Vaughan
Deputy Fire Chief
Kauai Fire Department, County of Kauai

KV/dag



SB-615

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 7:36:08 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/1/2019 1:15:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Makaala Kaaumoana	Testifying for Hanalei Watershed Hui	Support	No

Comments:

We strongly support this request for equipment needed to address critical watershed work. Makaala Kaaumoana, Executive Director

SB-615

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 3:26:52 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/1/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John R. Gordines	Individual	Support	No

Comments: