

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

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

**Friday, February 1, 2019
1:15 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 922
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Senate Bill 922 proposes to appropriate funds from various means of financing to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) for six capital improvement projects (CIP) statewide. **While the Department appreciates the overall intent of this measure as it includes a portion of our CIP requests, we respectfully ask for consideration of all of the Department's Executive Budget CIP requests as indicated in Senate Bill 126.**

The Department offers the following comments.

- The Department's mission is to enhance, protect, conserve, and manage Hawaii's unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of the people of Hawaii nei, and its visitors, in partnership with others from the public and private sectors.
- A list of all of the Department's CIP requests is attached.
- Projects were selected and prioritized based on public safety, compliance and public trust resource protection, in accordance with statutory mandates that guide the Department's vision, mission, goals and objectives to manage resources for the benefit of the public, and to protect the resources and the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Department of Land and Natural Resources
Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Requests

Table 15

<u>Prog ID</u>	<u>Prog ID Priority</u>	<u>Dept- Wide Priority</u>	<u>Senate District</u>	<u>Rep. District</u>	<u>Project Title</u>	<u>MOF</u>	<u>FY20 \$\$\$</u>	<u>FY21 \$\$\$</u>
LNR153	1	1	14	29	ANUENUE FISHERIES RESEARCH CENTER SEWERLINE, OAHU	C	550,000	-
LNR101	1	2	12	22	ROYAL HAWAIIAN GROIN REPLACEMENT, OAHU	C	1,250,000	-
LNR101	1	2	12	22	ROYAL HAWAIIAN GROIN REPLACEMENT, OAHU	R	1,250,000	-
LNR141	1	3			ROCKFALL AND FLOOD MITIGATION, STATEWIDE	C	3,000,000	3,000,000
LNR806	1	4			STATE PARKS HAZARD MITIGATION IMPROVEMENTS, STATEWIDE	C	1,000,000	1,000,000
LNR806	2	5	23	47	MALAEKAHANA STATE RECREATION AREA, KAHUKU SECTION, OAHU	C	1,000,000	2,200,000
LNR806	2	5	23	47	MALAEKAHANA STATE RECREATION AREA, KAHUKU SECTION, OAHU	N	500,000	500,000
LNR172	1	6			DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE HAZARDOUS TREE MITIGATION, STATEWIDE	C	200,000	200,000
LNR806	3	7	15	30	SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA, OAHU	C	1,250,000	500,000
LNR172	2	8	8	15	PUA LOKE BASEYARD, KAUAI	C	100,000	100,000
LNR172	3	9	4	6	PUU WAAWAA FOREST RESERVE, HAWAII	C	50,000	150,000
LNR172	4	10	1	1	PUU O`O SADDLE HOUSE, UPPER WAIAKEA FOREST RESERVE, HAWAII	C	103,000	-
LNR407	1	11			WATERSHED PROTECTION AND INITIATIVES, STATEWIDE	C	5,583,000	4,992,000
LNR101	2	12	1	2	DEMOLITION AND REMOVAL OF EXISTING IMPROVEMENTS, HILO, HAWAII	C	2,000,000	4,000,000
LNR101	3	13	3	5	HALOA AINA CONSERVATION EASEMENT ACQUISITION, HAWAII	B	1,000,000	-
LNR802	1	14	1	2	STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION, HILO OFFICE, HAWAII	C	50,000	-
LNR101	4	16	12	22	WAIKIKI MASTER PLAN IMPROVEMENTS, OAHU	B	-	1,500,000
LNR101	4	16	12	22	WAIKIKI MASTER PLAN IMPROVEMENTS, OAHU	C	-	1,850,000

Department of Land and Natural Resources
Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Requests

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LNR101	4	16	12	22	WAIKIKI MASTER PLAN IMPROVEMENTS, OAHU	R	-	3,000,000
LNR101	4	16	12	22	WAIKIKI MASTER PLAN IMPROVEMENTS, OAHU	T	-	4,000,000
LNR101	5	17	9	18	PIA VALLEY ACQUISITION DUE DILIGENCE, OAHU	B	100,000	-
LNR802	2	19	1	1	EAST HAWAII HISTORIC PRESERVATION CENTER, HAWAII	C	250,000	-
LNR804	1	20			NA ALA HELE PROGRAM PLAN REVISION, STATEWIDE	C	450,000	-
LNR402	1	22	7	13	COQUI FROG ERADICATION CONTAINMENT BARRIER, MAUI	C	650,000	100,000
LNR801	1	23	3	6	KAILUA-KONA WHARF, HAWAII	C	150,000	-
LNR402	2	25	6	4	MAUNA KEA FENCE, HAWAII	C	500,000	500,000
LNR801	2	26	1	2	WAILOA SMALL BOAT HARBOR, HAWAII	C	500,000	-
LNR806	4	27	9	19	DIAMOND HEAD STATE MONUMENT, OAHU	C	250,000	750,000
LNR402	3	28	7	12	KANAIO RESOURCE PROTECTION, MAUI	C	-	800,000
LNR407	2	30	7	12	KANAIO DRY FOREST FENCE, MAUI	C	300,000	-
LNR804	2	32	4	7	POLOLU TRAIL, HAWAII	C	-	500,000
LNR407	3	34	16 17	34	INVERTEBRATE AND PLANT PROPAGATION FACILITY, OAHU	C	-	200,000
LNR402	4	37	4	7	NORTH KONA GAME MANAGEMENT HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN FENCING, HAWAII	C	200,000	200,000
LNR402	5	39	1	2	HILO BASEYARD BULK FUEL TANK INSTALLATION, HAWAII	C	150,000	-
LNR402	6	40	5	9	KANAHA POND STATE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY FENCE REPLACEMENT, MAUI	C	300,000	-
LNR402	7	41	5	9	DOFAW MAUI BASEYARD RESTROOM RENOVATION, MAUI	C	-	55,000
LNR402	8	42	5	9	DOFAW MAUI BASEYARD GENERATOR, MAUI	C	-	55,000
LNR402	9	43			KURE MARINE DEBRIS CRUISE, OAHU	C	200,000	245,000

Department of Land and Natural Resources
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LNR407	4	44	23	45	KAENA POINT PREDATOR PROOF FENCE RETROFITS, OAHU	C	22,000	20,000
LNR407	5	45			NURSERY AND FACILITY RENOVATION, KAUAI	C	75,000	75,000
LNR906	1	48			ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS, STATEWIDE	C	1,000,000	-
					SUBTOTALS BY MOF	B	1,100,000	1,500,000
						C	21,133,000	21,492,000
						N	500,000	500,000
						R	1,250,000	3,000,000
						T	0	4,000,000
					TOTAL - ALL MOF		23,983,000	30,492,000

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting S.B. 277, 922, 923, 924, 1140 and 1490 Relating to the Dept. of Land & Natural Resources
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Friday, February 1, 2019, 1:15PM, Room 229

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 40,000 acres in 13 nature preserves and work in over 30 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs, waters and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnership with government, private parties and communities to protect forests and coral reefs for their ecological values and the many benefits they provide to people.

The Nature Conservancy supports the Department of Land and Natural Resources' operational and capital budget requests for:



WATERSHED MANAGEMENT (LNR172, 402, 407): Base general funding for forest management programs, plus \$5.583m in FY20 and \$4.992m FY21 in CIP funds for animal management fencing that provides long-term protection for watershed forests statewide.

INVASIVE SPECIES (LNR402): Base general funding, plus an additional \$1,000,000/year to the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and 10 additional departmental positions to address pest threats to Hawai'i's economy, environment and quality of life, and an additional \$800,000/yr. to address the critical threat of Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death.

LEGACY LAND PROTECTION (LNR101): Requested spending ceiling increase of \$2,364,905 to help protect priority coastal, agricultural, historic, cultural, forest, and recreational resources.

AQUATIC RESOURCES (LNR153, 401, 805): Base general funding and staff support to address the health and productivity of Hawai'i's marine resources, including an aquatic resources program manager and three aquatic biologist positions.

CONSERVATION ENFORCEMENT (LNR405): Funding for the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement to convert temporary positions to permanent to operate the successful community fisheries enforcement units on four islands.

These budget items contribute to the resilience, sustainability and continued health of our islands' environment, economy, and quality of life. Thank you for appreciating the critical importance of protecting our limited and exhaustible natural resources so that they will continue to support us with fresh water, productive fisheries and farmlands, cultural treasures, and a healthy lifestyle.



Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Water and Land

February 1, 2019 at 1:15pm

Conference Room 229

Hawai'i State Capitol

By

Rick Egged, President

Waikiki Beach Special Improvement District Association

SB922– RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Chair: Kahele, Vice Chair: Keith-Agaran, and members of the committees:

The Waikiki Beach Special Improvement District Association (WBSIDA) supports SB922 with amendments. SB922 appropriates funds for capitol improvement projects of the Department of Land and Natural Resources but requests consideration of an additional capital improvement project in Waikiki. SB922 also appropriates funds for the Waikiki Beach Master Plan of which the WBSIDA is identified as a private contributing partner we strongly support this project. **The WBSIDA requests inclusion of an appropriation of \$2,500,000 for the Royal Hawaiian Groin replacement as identified in the Capital Improvement Projects of the Executive Budget.**

The replacement project for the Royal Hawaiian Groin has been identified as a top priority for Waikiki Beach and has undergone nearly 5 years of regulatory permit review. Pending final permits, the project is planned to begin in the Winter/Spring of 2020. **The WBSIDA is committed to serving as a project partner with the DLNR and is prepared to cost-share up to 50% of the project costs estimated at \$2,500,000 total.** WBSIDA has therefore committed \$1,250,000 to the Royal Hawaiian Groin Replacement. This project serves as a critical repair and maintenance project in order to maintain a continuous stable beach in Waikiki and for public access along the Waikiki waterfront. There is a very real possibility the existing Royal Hawaiian groin which is failing at 90 year old, could collapse unexpectedly and result in rapid and catastrophic erosion of Waikiki Beach.

Hawaii's beaches have become increasingly threatened by coastal erosion. According to the United States Geological Service (USGS) National Assessment of Shoreline Change for the Hawaiian Islands, 70% of Hawaii's beaches are eroding and 13 miles of beach have been lost over the last century. Beach erosion effects shoreline access, recreation and cultural activities, coastal ecosystems and environments, and our economy. Beaches are the backbone of Hawaii's \$15 Billion tourism industry and are central to Hawaii's unique culture and lifestyle. With sea-level rise and chronic coastal erosion, the state is challenged to find effective and efficient ways to preserve and maintain our naturally occurring sand beaches. We believe the proposed

replacement for the Royal Hawaiian Groin will support the long-term maintenance of Waikīkī Beach as we know it today.

Waikīkī Beach is a globally recognized icon of Hawai‘i and is the state’s largest tourist destination. Waikīkī generates approximately 42% of the state’s visitor industry revenue and is responsible for 8% (\$5 billion) of the Gross State Product¹. Beaches are a primary attraction for visitors to Waikīkī. It has been estimated that Waikīkī Beach accounts for over \$2 billion in annual income for the local economy². However, a 2008 survey found that 12% of visitors would not return to Waikīkī due, in part, to limited beach area and resulting overcrowding². Waikīkī Beach also has tremendous cultural significance as a former playground of Hawaiian royalty and the birthplace of the sport and culture of surfing. The beaches and myriad of world-renowned surf breaks and reef ecosystem located offshore are valuable natural resources that support the culture and lifestyle of Hawai‘i, and the idyllic image of Waikīkī.

WBSIDA is a non-profit which has the ability to partially support beach improvement projects in the Waikīkī district as a public-private partnership. The WBSIDA supports the intent of SB922 with amendments. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

¹ <http://www.waikikibid.org/>

² Waikīkī Improvement Association (2018) *Economic Impact Analysis of the Potential Erosion of Waikīkī Beach, A 2016 Update*.