

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
WATER AND LAND
And
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Monday, February 11, 2019
2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 949
RELATING TO CONSERVATION**

Senate Bill 949 proposes to appropriate funds for a state civil service position to draft rules that implement and clarify the intent of Chapter 195D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, work with applicants for incidental take licenses to develop their projects to minimize and mitigate incidental take of threatened and endangered species to the maximum extent practicable, and track and monitor funds and expenditures related to individual habitat conservation plans. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

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. The Department currently manages 10 habitat conservation plans and six safe harbor agreements to protect endangered species and their habitats; 13 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.

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
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
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DAVID Y. IGE
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MIKE MCCARTNEY
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DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Monday, February 11, 2019
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in consideration of
SB 949
RELATING TO CONSERVATION.

Chairs Kahele and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Ruderman, and Members of the Committees.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports** SB 949, which appropriates funds for a state civil service position to draft rules that implement and clarify the intent of chapter 195D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, work with applicants for incidental take licenses to develop their projects to minimize and mitigate incidental take of threatened and endangered species to the maximum extent practicable, and effectively track and monitor funds and expenditures related to habitat conservation plans and perform other tasks to benefit the recovery of threatened and endangered species.

Five existing wind energy facilities in Hawaii currently utilize habitat conservation plans and incidental take licenses to regulate the taking of protected wildlife species during normal facility operations while providing a mechanism to help conserve and increase the impacted species. Additional wind energy facilities being proposed and other future renewable energy projects in Hawaii with potential to harm protected species may also require habitat conservation plans overseen by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). Sufficient staffing at DLNR is necessary to handle the growing number of projects with habitat conservation plans.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

SB-949

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 8:04:00 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

SB-949

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 2:32:48 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB949. Hawaii is known as the “endangered species capital of the world” due in large part to invasive species. We must take measures to do what we can to limit the entry of non-native species to protect Hawaii's fragile ecosystem.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Sincerely,

Andrea Quinn

Kihei

LATE

SB-949

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 6:48:06 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dain Christensen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: