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GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

Wednesday, April 7, 2021
1:30 PM

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 772, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION

Senate Bill 772, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1 proposes to authorize the issuance of special license plates to support forest and ocean conservation, with proceeds from the program to be used to fund conservation efforts at State beaches, nearshore waters, and forests; and increase the initial application and renewal fees for special number plates from \$25 to \$100. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Biennium Budget request.**

Hawaii's unique natural and cultural resources are critical to sustaining life in the islands, and management of these resources needs additional funding inputs, given threats to native ecosystems and the challenges posed by invasive species, population growth, and climate change. As demonstrated over this past year, Hawaii's forests, beaches, and waters are vital to maintaining the health and well-being of our residents.

The Department supports this measure as it would provide dedicated funding to support the management of Hawaii's beaches, nearshore waters, and forests. It would be a completely voluntary way for citizens to contribute to the resources they love. Putting the money directly into the management of natural resources would encourage participation. The forest stewardship and beach restoration special funds are the appropriate funds to support the purposes of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.