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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
WATER & LAND

Thursday, March 18, 2021
8:30 AM

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 430

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

Senate Bill 772, Senate Draft 2 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.**

The Department recognizes the importance of Hawaii's unique natural and cultural resources to sustaining life in the islands, and that 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.

SB-772-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 11:36:29 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/18/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Representative David Tarnas, Chair

The Honorable Representative Patrick Pihana Branco, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Water and Land.

From: HAWAI'I REEF AND OCEAN COALITION – HIROC (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing SB772 SD2 RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION

Hearing Date: [Thursday, March 18, 2021, 8:30 am, by videoconference](#)

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco, and Members of the House Committee on Water and Land:

The HAWAI'I REEF AND OCEAN COALITION – HIROC – **supports SB1173 SD2**. HIROC was formed in 2017 by coral reef scientists, educators, local Hawaii environmental organizations, elected officials, and others to address the crisis facing Hawaii's coral reefs and other marine life.

Our reefs and oceans are under great stress and need funding for protection! Coral bleaching, polluted runoff, unsustainable fishing, invasive species, certain petrochemical sunscreens, and abandoned or grounded vessels are all degrading our coral reefs and oceans that are critical for protecting our aquatic life and shorelines and maintaining our tourism and recreational economy. Much more funding is needed to protect our forests, beaches, nearshore environments, ocean, and aquatic life.

The purpose of this Act is to establish special number motor vehicle license plates that commemorate the importance of forest and ocean conservation, and to use proceeds from the special number plate program to fund conservation efforts for the State's beaches, nearshore environments, and forests. The bill would increase the initial application and renewal fees for special number plates from \$25 to \$100.

This bill will provide the counties with some additional funding for conservation efforts, and so **the Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition asks that you pass this bill.** Mahalo!

SB-772-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:52:24 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/18/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaitlyn Jacobs	Surfrider Foundation Hawai'i Region	Support	No

Comments:

On behalf of Surfrider Foundation Hawai'i Region, we strongly support this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-772-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:25:36 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/18/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bryce johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I support bill SB772. I would like to see added in the future the ability for other State entities such as the parks department create custom plates to garner funds for there budget. Gives people of Hawaii a way to identify and support places they care about in a monetary way. This Bill is a good start but more is needed in the future.

Aloha

Bryce Johnson

SB-772-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:27:08 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/18/2021 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

Please support SB772.

Thank you,

Andrea Quinn