STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3226

Honolulu, Hawaii

## MAR 1 7 2022

RE: H.B. No. 2446 H.D. 2 S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi President of the Senate Thirty-First State Legislature Regular Session of 2022 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Water and Land, to which was referred H.B. No. 2446, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- Appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to establish positions in parks administration and operation (LNR 806) to implement visitor reservation systems in Hawaii state parks; and
- (2) Appropriate additional funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources from the State Parks Special Fund for purposes of state park management.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Hawai'i Tourism Authority, Kaua'i Visitors Bureau, Historic Waimea Theater and Cultural Arts Center, and Maui Hotel and Lodging Association. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Budget and Finance.



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Your Committee finds that Hawaii has the least staffed state park system in the United States at one hundred twenty-eight positions and in the bottom five in funding. For decades, the Division of State Parks has been struggling financially to deliver quality management and service for a globally patronized park system. In recent years, staffing has decreased, from a peak of two hundred in the 1990s, to the current one hundred twenty-eight, while new park units have been added and are now patronized well beyond management expectations at the inception of the state In addition, despite approval for capital improvement parks. projects aimed for upgrades and new improvements, the Department of Land and Natural Resources currently has a \$42 million backlog in routine repair and maintenance not eligible or subject to capital improvement project funding. The lack of upgrades and new improvements places a continued strain on aging fleet vehicles, equipment, and maintenance for state parks. While the Division of State Parks is posed to achieve relative self-sufficiency, additional, critical funding sources are needed to address the maintenance backlog and staffing shortages.

Your Committee has amended this measure by inserting an effective date of July 1, 2022.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water and Land that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2446, H.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2446, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

> Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Water and Land,

ORRAINE R. INOUYE/ Chai



## The Senate Thirty-First Legislature State of Hawaiʻi

## Record of Votes Committee on Water and Land WTL

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:			Date:	
HB 2446, HD2	WTL, WAM			3/14/2-2	
The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.					
If so, then the previous decision was to:					
The Recommendation is:					
Pass, unamended Pass, with amendments Hold Recommit 2312 2311 2310 2313					
Members		Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
INOUYE, Lorraine R. (C)					
KEITH-AGARAN, Gilbert S.C. (VC)					$\checkmark$
MISALUCHA, Bennette E.					
RIVIERE, Gil		/			
FEVELLA, Kurt					
	<u>.</u>				
	·	er			
TOTAL	·	4			1
Recommendation:					
Chair's or Designee's Signature: Semette Je. Usuluh					
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod   File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy					

\*Only <u>one</u> measure per Record of Votes