

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND**

**Thursday, February 3, 2022
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Via Video Conference**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2016
RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA**

House Bill 2016 proposes to appropriate moneys to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to prepare a master plan for the Sand Island State Recreation Area. **The Department supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

The Department recognizes the importance of providing outdoor recreational opportunities, safe and well-maintained park infrastructure and facilities, and the protection of cultural and historic resources. The previous Sand Island State Recreation Area plan was completed in 1973 but never fully implemented – the focus was on water sports at that time and comprehensive development of shoreline pathways and passive recreational sites. Since then, the Sand Island State Recreation Area has become a diverse use park unit, and provides opportunities for day use, camping, fishing, surfing, softball play, canoe paddling, non-motorized BMX bicycle use with additional areas of open grass fields that can accommodate a variety of passive recreation and general open space for picnic and family gatherings.

However, the Park is in a deleterious condition with aging infrastructure, irrigation deficiencies, and is currently undergoing a new sewer line repair. Other challenges include constant homelessness, invasive kiawe in the undeveloped area, an entrenched feral cat population and the shoreline is now subject to the impacts of climate change and sea level rise (SLR). Most of the Sand Island State Recreation Area is dredged material from the adjacent sea lanes and has been impacted by the recent King Tides that are now eroding the shoreline. The shoreline itself has

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BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

remnants of wartime materials and object and there is a current CIP to identify and clean up these unnatural features that are now more exposed due to SLR impacts.

The Sand Island State Recreation Area's location in the urban core and adjacent a densely populated resident community makes the demand and popularity of developing an urban flagship park more optimized as a "People's Park" warrant another funded planning effort. An updated master plan for the Sand Island State Recreation Area would help to address the weathered and antiquated facilities, create increased outdoor recreation opportunities, plans for underutilized spaces of the Park and guide the Department in adaptive management and resilience to the impact of SLR on coastal recreational land.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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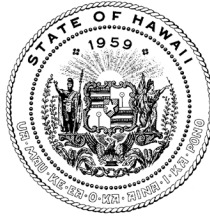
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CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2016

February 3, 2022
9:30 a.m.
Room 430 and Videoconference

RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 2016 requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to prepare a master plan for the Sand Island State Recreation Area and appropriates an unspecified sum of general funds for FY 23 for the DLNR to prepare a park master plan.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.