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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 Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS

Wednesday, April 7, 2021
9:45 AM

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 95, HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES FOR NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill 95, House Draft 2 proposes to authorize the issuance of special license plates for recognition and protection of the State's natural resources. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) support 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 is substantially underfunded, especially when considering the challenges we face with climate change and the current economic crisis. Further, as demonstrated over this past year, Hawaii's natural resources are vital to maintaining the health and well-being of our residents.

Similar fundraising license plates are utilized across the country, to great success, in states such as Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Georgia, and California, to name a few. Even here in Hawaii, National Parks are utilizing this creative and effective fundraising tool.

The Department supports this measure as it will provide the opportunity for dedicated funding to support the Department's Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement. As shown in other localities, people are more willing to support initiatives if they know their contributions will be put directly into the management of the resources. The Conservation and Resources Enforcement Special Fund is the appropriate fund to support the purposes of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HB-95-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2021 9:19:05 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/7/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jenny Yagodich	Testifying for Malama Pupukeya-Waimea	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

We support HB95 HD2 authorizing the issuance of special license plates for recognition and protection of the State's natural resources. This is a good bill and will help bring much-needed funds to DOCARE.

Mahalo

HB-95-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/1/2021 9:27:49 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/7/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darrell Tanaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this bill, just about every state in our country has wildlife plates to fund their enforcement programs, hawaii needs to be brought up to par. This is not a tax, its completely voluntary.