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

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SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

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

**Tuesday, March 29, 2022
9:00 AM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 430, Via Videoconference

**In Consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 79
REQUESTING A WORKING GROUP TO BE CONVENED TO MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT THE RE-OCCURRENCE OF WILDFIRES ON
WAAHILA RIDGE NEAR THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA.**

House Concurrent Resolution 79 requests a working group to be convened to make recommendations to prevent the re-occurrence of wildfires on Waahila Ridge near the University of Hawaii at Manoa. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers comments on this measure.**

Three fires have occurred in recent history on Waahila Ridge that the Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) firefighters along with Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) have responded to. The first in 2007 burned 36 acres, the second in 2017 burned 1.5 acres, and the third in 2020 burned 54 acres. There was an additional fire in the area in 2015 that HFD responded to without DOFAW's assistance. The landownership of Waahila Ridge is divided between the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM), Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS), DLNR-DOFAW, and various private residents. The Ridge is dominated by nonnative, fire-adapted trees and shrubs. The Ridge is accessed by the public frequently, though technically not legally, from Dole Street. There are hikers and mountain bikers that frequent the area, as well as vagrants that have camps in various sites on the Ridge. Wildland fire ignitions have occurred from these camps. While the Department's staff can serve citations to illegal campers on the Department's land, it cannot enforce trespassing rules on UHM, BWS, or private residential land, where campers frequently move to avoid a citation.

The working group called for in this resolution would convene legislative representation, a Department representative, a member of the community living in the area, and a fire expert from the Pacific Fire Exchange. The Department recommends that representation from UHM, BWS, HFD, as well as a representative of the Department of Human Services be included. In addition, public recreational advocacy interests, i.e., hiking and biking, should be represented. The Department agrees that it should participate in this working group to determine feasibility, advisability, sufficiency, and responsibility when it comes to wildland fire and hazardous fuels management on public lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HCR-79

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:12:46 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/29/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Walker	DLNR-DOFAW	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am available for questions to DLNR. Please allow me Zoom access.

HCR-79

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 10:27:35 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/29/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Azuma Chrupaluk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

All you need to do is plant trees to restore the rain cycle - and not sell the water to development, who uses more water in one day, than an entire ahupua'a can use in a week. You can find the exact proof of what I said in the testimony to the Maui WUDP where it was exposed by environmental agencies and scientists alike.

HCR-79

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 3:01:13 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/29/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Baron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha chair and members,

Please accept this request in support of HCR79 requesting a study group to probe fires in Manoa on the mountain ridge of lower Wa`ahila. If we are to avoid recurring emergencies that threaten the homes and life around the area, we need to find out how to rehabilitate the area to moderate risk.

Thank you very much for your efforts.

Aloha,
Laurie Baron
Kaneohe

Ann H. Kobayashi
2711 Puuhonua Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Email: ann.kobayashi@gmail.com

March 28, 2022

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
House Committee on Water & Land
State Capitol Building
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**SUBJECT: HCR 79 – REQUESTING THAT A WORKING GROUP BE
CONVENED TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT THE RE-
OCCURRENCE OF WILDFIRES ON WAAHILA RIDGE NEAR THE
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA.**

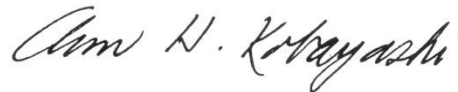
Dear Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

I would like to submit testimony in support of HCR 79. There have been a few fires in recent years, seemingly coming from the UH area and heading past the areas of Mid-Pacific School, towards Noelani Elementary School and some homes. Since the grass seems to grow back and dry at a rapid rate, perhaps recommendations on how to rehabilitate and make it less prone to fire might be beneficial for the safety and welfare of the community.

I respectfully request passage of HCR 79.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,



Ann H. Kobayashi