

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DENISE ISERI-MATSUBARA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

Statement of
DENISE ISERI-MATSUBARA
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

February 10, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 225

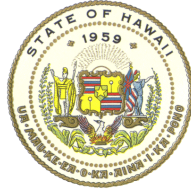
In consideration of
S.B. 2583
RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS.

HHFDC **supports** S.B. 2583, which exempts non-ceded lands set aside by the Governor to the Hawaii Housing and Finance Development Corporation from classification as public land subject to Department of Land and Natural Resources management.

[Chapter 171](#) of the Hawaii Revised Statutes already exempts lands that HHFDC hold title to from the definition of public lands. If this definition was broadened to include non-ceded lands set aside to HHFDC, then the agency would be able to treat all non-ceded lands under its control in a consistent manner. This action would streamline the approval process and facilitate the delivery of affordable housing on state-owned lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
HOUSING
and
WATER AND LAND**

**Thursday, February 10, 2022
1:00 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 225, Via Videoconference

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2583
RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS**

Senate Bill 2583 proposes to clarify that non-ceded lands set aside to the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) by the Governor or leased to HHFDC by any state department and agency are exempt from the definition of “public lands”. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments on this measure.**

The bill proposes to exempt non-ceded lands set aside or leased to HHFDC from the definition of public lands under Section 171-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), and require legislative approval of any sale of said non-ceded lands under Section 171-64.7, HRS. Lands to which the HHFDC in its corporate capacity holds title are already exempt under Section 171-2, HRS. As a result, if Senate Bill 2583 were to become law, HHFDC would no longer need to secure the approval of the Board of Land and Natural Resources for land dispositions or projects on non-ceded lands set aside to HHFDC under Section 171-11, HRS, or leased to HHFDC under Section 171-95, HRS. Any non-ceded lands no longer needed for housing, finance, and development purposes should be returned to the public trust administered by the Department. The Department recommends amending SECTION 171-2, beginning at page 4, line 3 of the bill, as follows:

provided that, except as otherwise limited under federal law and except for state land used as an airport as defined in section 262-1, public lands shall include the air rights over any portion of state land upon which a

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

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

county mass transit project is developed after July 11, 2005; provided further that if the lands pursuant to paragraph (6) are no longer needed for housing, finance, and development purposes, the lands shall be returned to the public land trust administered by the department; provided further that if the lands pursuant to paragraph (14) are no longer needed for the stadium development district or related purposes, the lands shall be returned to the public land trust administered by the department."

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.