

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 Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Tuesday, February 15, 2022
10:30 AM**

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 211

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 3134, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE PAYMENT OF DEBT SERVICE
ON THE TURTLE BAY REIMBURSABLE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS**

Senate Bill 3134, Senate Draft 1 proposes to streamline the process for the Department of Land and Natural Resources to complete required annual payments of debt service on the reimbursable general obligation bonds for Turtle Bay. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this Administration measure that eliminates an unnecessary extra administrative process and frees up resources in the Legacy Land Conservation Program (LLCP) for its core functions.**

Section 173A-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), directs the LLCP to complete a cumbersome and prolonged annual grant application and award process before the Department can make an annual debt service payment that is required by this statute's parent authority (Act 121, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005) and sibling statutes (Sections 171-171 and 171-172, HRS). The existing process requires extensive and non-essential effort by the LLCP and its private and public partners, including multiple steps involving several Department organizational units, five other government entities, and three public meetings of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission (for investigating the application).

Senate Bill 3134, Senate Draft 1, if enacted, would provide statutory authority for the Department to simply process the required annual payment from the Land Conservation Fund to the Turtle Bay Conservation Easement Special Fund without intervening and costly bureaucratic steps that provide no return on investment to the LLCP and to other Department units that have primary management responsibilities for State interests at Turtle Bay.

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

Streamlining the debt service payment process as a strictly fiscal transaction would continue to fulfill the purpose of Act 121 "to establish a method to use . . . money from the land conservation fund to reimburse the general fund for debt service . . ." and to meet the requirements of Sections 171-171 and 171-172, HRS, as follows:

The reimbursable general obligation bonds issued to acquire the conservation easement and other real property interests shall be payable . . . from moneys from the land conservation fund.

Section 171-171(c)

[M]oneys from the land conservation fund shall be deposited into the [Turtle Bay conservation easement] special fund.

Section 171-172(b)

Enactment of this bill would relieve numerous entities of these extra steps in the grant application and award process, thus freeing up more time and resources for performing their other important activities and functions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.