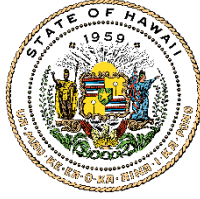


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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on  
WATER AND LAND

Tuesday, March 19, 2024  
9:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 430 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of  
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4  
REQUESTING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO AMEND THE  
WILDLAND FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT TO ALLOW HAWAII TO JOIN AS  
A MEMBER.

House Concurrent Resolution 4 requests Hawai'i's congressional delegation to amend the wildland fire protection agreement to allow Hawai'i to join as a member. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

With an annual area burned that exceeds the national average, Hawai'i needs enhanced capabilities to effectively manage and mitigate the threat of wildland fire to lives, communities, agriculture, and forested watersheds. Despite the commendable efforts of the fire service during the tragic fires of August 8th, 2023, Hawai'i remains at a significant disadvantage due to limited access to the critical resources, technology, training, and support systems available to states within the contiguous United States.

The Northwest Wildland Fire Protection Agreement offers a proven framework for collaboration and mutual aid among member states, provinces, and territories. Through this agreement, members benefit from sharing critical information, technologies, and resources, empowering them to respond more effectively to wildfires and undertake measures that significantly reduce the risk of such events.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.