

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE  
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE  
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

Testimony of  
DAWN N.S. CHANG  
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on  
HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS

Thursday, January 30, 2025  
9:35 AM

State Capitol Conference Room 329 and Videoconference

In Consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1140  
RELATING TO HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS ON DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES LANDS

House Bill 1140 is an Administration bill authored by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) requesting \$2.5 million for FY25-26 and \$2.5 million FY26-27 to continue clean-up of homeless encampments on Department-managed lands. **The Department strongly supports this bill.**

This bill will ensure that the Department does not have to divert limited operating funds to address the significant challenges posed by homeless encampments on Department lands.

The Department regularly cleans about 22 sites, the majority of which – 20- are on O‘ahu, with two sites on Maui. In addition, Kaua‘i has scattered sites that are not on a regular rotation as the camps are not always occupied. Hawai‘i Island is also not cleaned regularly, although complaints about the areas around Wailoa River are increasing. In general, campsites on Department lands are difficult to access, and labor-intensive to clean.

Last year, the Department spent 129 days conducting homeless campsite cleanups, representing 61% of available cleanup days. Currently the Department shares both funding and crews with the Department of Transportation, which allows for the efficient use of resources.

The Department employs a 0.4 FTE Homeless Coordinator and 1 FTE DOCARE officer assigned to homeless clean-ups. The Department follows state guidelines for notification that an encampment will be cleared and for storage of personal possessions. Department staff work with outreach workers

throughout the state to ensure those who want services have access to outreach workers. The Department has also provided land throughout the state for ‘Ohana Zones and Kauhale.

Despite our efforts, homelessness remains a persistent challenge. It is important to note that the staffing costs for cleanup activities are currently funded through operational funds and are not part of this request.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of House Bill 1140.