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**Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

**Before the**  
**Senate Committee on Water and Land**  
**Tuesday, March 28, 2023**  
**9:30 a.m.**  
**Conference Room 430 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:**  
**H.R. 30, REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO STUDY**  
**POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A LONG-TERM**  
**MANAGEMENT PLAN, FOR SUNSET MEMORIAL PARK**

Chair Ichiyama and Members of the Committee:

My name is Chelsea Fukunaga, and I am the Executive Officer of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department), Professional and Vocational Licensing Division's, Cemetery and Funeral Trusts Program. The Department appreciates the intent of this measure and offers comments.

The purposes of this resolution are for the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) to: (1) study potential solutions for the legal and physical situation at Sunset Memorial Park; (2) make recommendations for a long-term management plan; (3) follow up with the Department on any developments since the enactment of Act 193; and (4) submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024.

The Department appreciates the Legislature's continued leadership and support and the leadership of area legislators – finding both short- and long-term solutions to the issues affecting Sunset Memorial. While the Department continues to work on locating a viable candidate to take over the cemetery, we fully support the provisions of this measure that will assist in studying potential solutions and developing a long-term management plan.

The Department is committed to continue to work with area legislators, the affected community and businesses, and all others interested in finding a practical and sustainable way forward for Sunset Memorial. The Department would only ask the Legislature to give careful consideration when exploring certain long-term options that may not be practical or appropriate for the State, namely a possible State takeover of Sunset Memorial and the utilization of perpetual care funds for purposes other than what is authorized by law. The Department believes it is best to focus on finding solutions that would leave the State's current private cemetery operator licensing model in place without creating the need for significant intervention in cemetery operations by the State, excepting the State's current abandoned cemetery care program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.