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STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of LAURA H. THIELEN Chairperson

Before the House Committee on WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

Monday, February 2, 2009 9:00 AM State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of **HOUSE BILL 47** RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS

House Bill 47 proposes to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to notify existing lessees of public lands of its intent to dispose of the lands in a subsequent transaction not less than 120 days prior to the expiration of the existing lease term. The Department opposes this bill.

Section 171-33(9), Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires the Department to notify the lessee two (2) years prior to the expiration of the existing lease term regarding the Department's intentions concerning the future use of the demised premises. The two (2) year notification period was originally established to provide the Department sufficient time to inspect the premises to ensure that the lessee is in full compliance with the terms of the lease and to address any existing conditions that may require construction, demolition, remediation or repairs to prepare the property for the future intended use. Such inspection, evaluation and preparation work often requires significant time, resources and expense. The two (2) year notification period also provided the lessee with sufficient opportunity to consider relocation alternatives or participation in the planned auction process. Reducing this requirement from two (2) years to 120 days would not preclude the department from pursuing its planning activities for the property at an earlier date, however, it would place unnecessary anxiety and tension on the current lessee to find a suitable replacement property on short notice. As prudent land managers, it behooves us to provide as much notification as possible to our lessees.

LAURA H. THIELEN

CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEN C. KAWAHARA

AQUATIC RESOURCES AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
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restimony for HB47 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB47

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: James Coon

Organization: Trilogy Excursions

Address: |

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Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

I support the intent of this bill but do not think 120 days is adequate time for the tenant.

It should be at least 180 days. Please amend and pass this bill.