

HB1029 HD1

Testimony

Measure Title: RELATING TO THE ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY COMMITTEE.

Report Title: Endangered Species Recovery Committee; University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Natural Sciences.

Description: Amends the composition of the Endangered Species Recovery Committee by replacing the University of Hawaii Environmental Center's Director with the Dean of the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Natural Sciences. (HB1029 HD1)

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HEA/EET

Introducer(s): YAMANE, CULLEN, C. LEE, Onishi

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
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

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS
and
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Tuesday, April 5, 2016
1:15 pm
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1029, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY COMMITTEE**

House Bill 1029, House Draft 1 proposes to amend the composition of the Endangered Species Recovery Committee by replacing the University of Hawaii Environmental Center Director Species with the Dean of the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Natural Sciences. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources supports this bill with an amendment.**

Currently, Section 195D-25(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes, designates the Director of the University of Hawaii Environmental Center (UHEC), or the Director's designee, to be part of the Endangered Species Recovery Committee (ESRC). Due to reorganization of the UHEC, they are no longer able to provide a representative to serve on the ESRC. The Department has discussed this situation with the University of Hawaii (UH), and it is agreed by all parties that the UH College of Natural Sciences would provide the most appropriate membership for the ESRC.

The Department is requesting an amendment to SECTION 3 to change the effective date of the bill to occur upon its approval to ensure that adequate biological expertise is available to advise the Board of Land and Natural Resources on matters related to endangered, threatened, proposed, and candidate species.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
Senate Committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Technology
Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 1:15 p.m.

By
Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor
And
Darren T. Lerner, Interim Director
University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1029 HD1 – RELATING TO THE ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY COMMITTEE

Chairs Taniguchi and Wakai, Vice Chair Slom, and members of the committees:

House Bill 1029 proposes to amend the composition of the Endangered Species Recovery Committee by replacing the University of Hawai'i Environmental Center Director with the Dean of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Natural Sciences. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa supports this bill.

Currently, Section 195D-25(a), Hawai'i Revised Statutes, designates the Director of the University of Hawai'i Environmental Center (UHEC) or the Director's designee to be part of the Endangered Species Recovery Committee. Due to reorganization of the UHEC, other University of Hawai'i (UH) units now have much greater resources and expertise for the level of commitment and type of analysis the Endangered Species Recovery Committee requires. The Department has discussed this amendment with UH, as well as the Director of the UHEC and it is agreed by all parties, that the UH College of Natural Sciences would provide the most appropriate membership for the Endangered Species Recovery Committee.

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