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STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of CARTY S. CHANG Interim Chairperson

Before the House Committee on WATER & LAND

Friday, February 6, 2015 9:00 AM State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of HOUSE BILL 1029 RELATING TO THE ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY COMMITTEE

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

Currently, section 195D-25(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes, designates the Director of the University of Hawaii Environmental Center or the Director's designee to be part of the Endangered Species Recovery Committee. Due to the current structural change in name, function, administration, staffing, and operation of the Environmental Center within the Water Resources Research Center, it is evident that other University of Hawaii units now have much greater resources and expertise for the level of commitment and type of analysis the Endangered Species Recovery Committee requires.