

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Friday, February 26, 2016
1:00 pm
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1839, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO DIAMOND HEAD STATE MONUMENT**

House Bill 1839, House Draft 1 proposes to support the Diamond Head State Monument by authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds for the planning, design, and construction of a Diamond Head State Monument Visitor and Interpretive Center. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this measure.**

The Department needs to clarify SECTION 1 of the bill

Page 1, line 10: The Diamond Head Citizens' Advisory Committee was organized by the Department in October 1977 to assist the Department in the development of a plan for Diamond Head State Monument (DHSM) established under Section 6E-32(c), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). The DHSM Plan of 1979, and the Committee, having completed its duties, was disbanded. The Committee was reactivated in 1993 to again assist the Department with updating the Master Plan, which was subsequently completed in 2003.

Current Visitor Kiosk at Diamond Head State Monument

The Department's Division of State Parks (Parks) is in a 3 year partnership with Pacific Historic Parks (PHP), a non-profit organization that is also a cooperating association with the National Park Service at Valor in the Pacific National Monument (including the USS Arizona Memorial).

PHP has a concession lease with Parks to run the small Interpretive Kiosk in the DHSM crater that sell's DHSM merchandise and provides visitor information. There is also a memorandum of agreement between Parks and PHP to collaborate on a variety of other interpretive and fund raising opportunities. The current kiosk, while effective for visitor information distribution and the sale of merchandise related to DHSM, is very small and only a temporary and somewhat

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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AQUATIC RESOURCES
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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
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ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

inadequate feature due to DHSM patronage (3,000 per day) and is the only feature serving as a visitor center until such time that an actual visitor center, as envisioned in the Master Plan, can be constructed within the crater.

There are lands that will be returned to the Department for Parks use from the State Department of Defense (DOD), as set forth in Section 6E-32, HRS. A DOD building is being decommissioned and once removed, the vacant space will be available for repurposing. As such, it is now timely to request CIP funding of \$1,000,000 for the planning, design and permitting of a new interpretive visitor center in DHSM crater. The DHSM Master Plan Update (2003) projected a total cost of \$25,000,000 based on a visitor interpretive center conceptual plan, which the Department would use as a framework to move forward on the planning elements, which include permitting and possible additional chapter 343 compliance, along with the architectural designs that would be the basis of determining the cost of construction. As a change in the center's proposed location may require an update to the master plan, DSP would consult with the Diamond Head Citizens' Advisory Committee in moving forward on the project.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Testimony In Support of HB 1839 HD1 for a Diamond Head Monument Visitor and Interpretative before the House Finance (FIN) Committee Land on February 26, 2016

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Representatives Cachola, DeCoite, Johanson, Jordan, Keohokalole, Kopbayashi, LoPresti, Lowen, Onishi, Tokiooka, Yamashita, Pouha, and Ward, I am submitting testimony in support of HB 1839 HD1 providing funding for planning, design and construction of a visitor and interpretative center at the Diamond Head monument. This center will add to the experience of millions of our kama'aina and visitors that visit Diamond Head every year. In addition, it will preserve the history of and provide educational opportunities for the Diamond Head monument. The Department of Land and Natural Resources has been working on a public-private partnership which would follow the highly successful model of the U.S. Arizona Memorial National Park. I ask for your consideration in passing HB 1849 HD1.

I thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Dean I. Hazama

LATE

(Draft testimony for Sid Snyder, Chair DH CAC – e mail to
FINtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

To: Hon Sylvia Luke, Chair & Members of the

House Committee on Finance

From: Sidney Snyder, Chair, Diamond Head Citizens Advisory Committee

Re: Written Testimony in Favor of HB 1839 HD 1

The Diamond Head Citizens Advisory Committee is in strong support of HB 1839 HD 1 which would authorize unspecified General Obligation funds for the planning, design and construction of an interpretive center in the crater of the Diamond Head State Monument (DHSM). Such a center is described in the 1979 Master Plan for Diamond Head.

The CAC is an advisory group that advises the State Parks Division of the DLNR on policies and activities in and around Diamond Head. Members are appointed by the Chair of the Board of Land & Natural Resources.

The CAC believes that an interpretive center would enhance the crater experience and benefit residents and tourists alike. Many residents are frequent if not daily hikers and joggers, and would bring visiting friends and relatives to enjoy the landmark. A center would provide the tourism industry with another venue for visitors to enjoy. Students could learn about the flora and fauna, the Hawaiian and military history of Diamond Head as well as the geology of this important symbol of Hawaii.

The CAC suggests that the DLNR seek a private entity to assist with the construction and operation of this center. With 800,000 yearly visitors, the State Parks Division can derive increased revenues through this educational facility. We urge the Finance Committee to act favorably on this measure, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 9:24 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1839 on Feb 26, 2016 13:00PM*

HB1839

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2016 13:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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LATE

Testimony of Support in Consideration of HB 1839

From: Richard J Boersema (as an individual)

My name is Richard Boersema, and I writing testimony on behalf of myself as an individual. I am currently the Director of Human Resources at Pacific Historic Parks (PHP), a non-profit organization working with the DLNR with a concession lease to run a small Interpretive Kiosk at the Diamond Head State Monument (DHSM). I have had the personal experience of working at DHSM quite a bit in my official duties for PHP. While I am only speaking for myself, I also know PHP is a proud partner of the DLNR and is always working with them strategically to enhance the visitor experience at DHSM.

HB 1839 proposes to expand the sources of funds for the DHSM sub-account of the Division of State Parks Special Fund to help for the design and construction of a visitor and interpretive center at DHSM.

I am writing testimony in support of the intent of the bill to expand the sources of funds for the planning, design, and construction of a visitor and interpretive center at Diamond Head State Monument. I am not speaking to specific Sections of the bill as the prior testimony of Suzanne Case, Chairperson of the DLNR, goes into this analysis very well although I will state that I am in alignment with the scope of her recommendations and concerns.

Diamond Head Crater is a true Hawaii treasure and an international icon symbolizing all of Hawaii. Its scenic, cultural, and historical value has caused the site to correctly be recognized an important State Monument, and it's value to visitors and kama'aina is immense. The concept of a fantastic Visitor Center for the education and enjoyment of visitors and kama'aina alike has been supported by numerous organizations, including the Diamond Head Citizen's Advisory Committee. It is an idea that will transform Diamond Head into an even greater site of significance impacting many more lives positively. Diamond Head can truly grow into an even greater crown jewel of Hawaii than it is today.

The DHSM Master Plan Update also aims for the preservation of historical values and new recreational opportunities. If the intent of this bill is realized, it help facilitate this Master Plan more effectively and will allow DHSM to impact many more lives and create more powerful learning and recreational opportunities to a greater numbers of visitors and kama'aina.

I support the intent of this bill to providing a strategic plan for the long-term goal of building a Visitor Center for the interpretation of historical, natural, and cultural resources. This type of center would truly transform the site into an even greater treasure of Hawaii, one which all of us can be rightly proud of for generations to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.