

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 Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Thursday, March 31, 2016
9:05 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2036, HOUSE DRAFT 1 SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

House Bill 2036, House Draft 1 Senate Draft 1 proposes to extend the one hundred and eighty day processing period for Conservation District Use Applications under Chapter 183C, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), an additional ninety days beyond the time necessary to complete the requirements of Chapter 343 or Chapter 91, HRS. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources supports this measure.**

Section 183C-6, HRS, requires the Board of Land Natural Resources (Board) to make a final decision on a Conservation District Use Permit within 180 days of the application being received and accepted as complete. If the Board fails to do so, the applicant may "automatically" put the land to the use requested, unless the applicant requests a time extension.

The proposed measure ensures that adequate time will be automatically granted if a contested case hearing or environmental impact statement is required in order to avoid an automatic default approval of a Conservation District Use Application.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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



**Testimony to the House Committee on Ways & Means
Thursday, March 31, 2016 at 9:05 A.M.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol**

RE: HOUSE BILL 2036 HD 1 SD 1 RELATING TO CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 2036 HD 1 SD 1, which establishes an automatic ninety day extension of the conservation district permit decision deadline beyond the time necessary to complete an environmental impact statement or contested case hearing, if required.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The Chamber supports this bill as it provides the applicant time to complete requirements of HRS Chapter 341 and 91 and continue its use. We believe that this is helpful both for the applicant and the department in the management of conservations areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**KONA-KOHALA
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**

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March 30, 2016

**Testimony to the Ways and Means Committee
March 31, 2016 at 9:05 A.M.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol**

RE: HOUSE BILL 2036, HD1, SD1 RELATING TO CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee,

The Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce (KKCC) ***strongly supports HB 2036, HD1, SD1.***

The KKCC is West Hawai'i Island's leading business organization, representing over 540 businesses. Over 70% of our members represent small businesses. As the largest business organization on Hawai'i Island and fourth largest chamber in the State, the KKCC exists to provide leadership and advocacy for a successful business environment in West Hawai'i.

Time is often the key to successful business and community development in Hawaii and all too often the State of Hawaii misses out on tremendous economic opportunities because of the lengthy permitting process.

While I understand that the permit process needs to be fair, it also needs to be efficient. HB 2036 HD1, SD1 will improve the process and timely decision making at the start of a contested case or an environmental impact statement instead of allowing decision making to potentially go on for years. Businesses need to have a structured timeline in order to financial prepare for this process.

The KKCC supports the intent of this bill but would like to ***request an amendment to delete the following language in Section 1, lines 15 and 16: "beyond the time necessary to complete the requirements of chapter 343 or chapter 91."***

The positive outcomes of this bill, besides attracting more business and community development are the following:

- More jobs equals the ability for citizens to be able to afford to live in our state
- Increased GE Tax revenue
- Potential to attract more sustainable industries outside of tourism

On behalf of over 540 businesses on the Hawai'i Island, I urge you to pass HB 2036 HD1, SD1.

Sincerely,

Kirstin Kahaloa
Executive Director
Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce