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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

Monday, February 9, 2015 10:00 A.M. State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of HOUSE BILL 722 RELATING TO LIPOA POINT

House Bill 722 proposes to establish a Lipoa Point management council in the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) for the development of Lipoa Point. The measure also appropriates moneys for land surveyor services, maintenance services and development of master plan for Lipoa Point. The Department supports the portion of the bill that appropriates funds for the planning and maintenance of the Lipoa Point lands provided that it does not adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Biennium Budget request, but opposes the creation of a council for the reasons stated below.

Management of the Lipoa Point parcel requires significant personnel and fiscal resources and general fund support by the Legislature is greatly appreciated. However, the Department is concerned about the costs incurred by the measure's proposed Lipoa Point management council. The Council will be a creature of statute and thus subject to Chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes (i.e., sunshine law), and will require a new position for a council secretary to handle preparing the minutes, agenda, and office equipment and supplies, estimated to exceed over \$100,000 annually. Therefore this bill ought to be amended to either delete the creation of this new council or provide the necessary position (secretarial staff), and funding for office equipment and supplies and funding for the continued operation of the Council as aforesaid.