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STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on  
WATER, LAND & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Friday, January 25, 2019  
10:35 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 423

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 448  
RELATING TO LAND RECORDATION

House Bill 448 proposes to specify that the data requirements for land recordation by the Bureau of Conveyances (Bureau), on land other than fee simple timeshare interests deregistered by the land court, shall include a map and description prepared by a licensed surveyor. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources appreciates the intent of this measure and offers the following comments.**

Although the Bureau understands and supports the need for better map data for deregistered land parcels, we raise some questions on the statutory accuracy and the actual flow of this re-described process and the confusion it could create for the public as well as Bureau personnel. These questions have been shared with the Hawaii Land Surveyors Association and we look forward to the appropriate revisions of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**HB-448**

Submitted on: 1/24/2019 10:30:01 AM

Testimony for WLH on 1/25/2019 10:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Meyer Cummins	Hawaii Land Surveyors Association	Support	Yes

Comments:

The Honorable Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Chris Todd, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Water, Land & Hawaiian Affairs.

Re: Hearing Date: Friday, January 25, 2019 at 10:35am  
Testimony in support of House Bill 448

From: Karl Nishio, President, Hawaii Land Surveyors Association

I am writing in support of H.B. 448. It will allow a means to rectify some of the inadequacies set forth in HRS 501-261.5, helping provide more oversight and a check of correctness of information when de-registering Land Court properties. It provides a means for the State Survey office to have a current status of the lands as they are the purveyors of such information for registered lands.

Our members of the association have been opposed to de-registration at its onset but have accepted it is the current state of being although it presents challenges to the land surveying profession. As it appears now, more burden has been placed upon the survey professional to ascertain title/ownership of a subject property and complicates matters in mapping and descriptions.

This bill will help keep the information necessary for land matters in an organized and traceable manner to be more beneficial for the public and professional community.

Thank you for your time and consideration with this.

Karl Nishio  
President  
Hawaii Land Surveyors Association

**HB-448**

Submitted on: 1/24/2019 8:28:11 AM

Testimony for WLH on 1/25/2019 10:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chrystal Yamasaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have been a practicing licensed professional land surveyor in the State of Hawaii since 1978. I am the chief surveyor and president of a small 12 person firm on the Island of Hawai'i. We have four licensed professional land surveyors, including myself, on staff. We are very familiar with the lack of guidance in the mapping of land court property for deregistration. HB448 will provide a roadmap for consistency in the mapping and recording process for the deregistered lands.

We are in support of the clarifications made to the process by HB448. We encourage you to support HB448.

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Representative Chris Todd, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs

Friday, January 25, 2019, 10:35 AM, House Conference Room 423

Support for House Bill No. 448 – Relating to Land Recordation

By: Jeffrey Sato, P.L.S., P.E., EMBA (Phone 368-1514)

I am writing in general support of House Bill 448. I have been following the development of this bill since 2017 in its prior draft as House Bill 617 with the Judiciary Committee.

I am licensed in the State of Hawaii as both a land surveyor and civil engineer and have worked at two local civil engineering and land surveying firms over the past 30 years. Additionally, I am also a Land Court Surveyor and member of the Hawaii Land Surveyors Association. The primary focus of my career has been working with land developers subdividing residential, commercial and industrial land on Oahu.

While I am encouraged with what I have read of the current version of this bill, I would appreciate additional time for our local Land Surveyors Association, which includes employees of the Land Survey Division, to discuss and concur with the proposed requirements outlined in House Bill 448.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment on this bill.

**HB-448**

Submitted on: 1/24/2019 9:17:34 AM

Testimony for WLH on 1/25/2019 10:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ross Sakauye	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill and the changes to deregistration of Land Court lands. I especially like the change in terminology from "Registered" professional surveyor to "Licensed" professional surveyor. You may even go further by saying "licensed professional surveyor registered in the State of Hawaii". I thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ross Sakauye

Licensed Land Surveyor

Water and Land Committee  
Chair  
Representative Ryan Yamane  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 420  
415 South Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Andy Harada, Professional Licensed Land Surveyor

Ph. 808 492-4814

Thursday January 24, 2019

Support for H.B. 448, Relating to Land Recordation, Deregistered Land

I am a Professional Licensed Land Surveyor with forty eight years of experience in land surveying. Licensed to practice in the State of Hawaii since 1987. I am also certified to practice in the Land Court. I retired from the City and County of Honolulu after thirty years of service. Last position, Survey Branch Chief, Department of Design and Construction, Division of Land Survey and Acquisition. I am currently working for a local Engineering and Surveying company. Affiliations: National Society of Professional Surveyors and Hawaii Association of Lands Surveyors.

I support the changes to Section 501-261.5. Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The changes are necessary to ensure the transition of land, registered with the Land Court and to unregistered land, will be done in a proper manner.

Currently, unregistered land maps and descriptions are filed under 502-17, unregistered land, being the lands not registered within the land court system. Hawaiian Land Titles by Robert D. King, he wrote "*Land Court title does not annul or cancel out the original titles derived by a Land Commission Award, a Royal or Land Patent (Grant) or a Kamehameha Deed.*" Thus, when Land Court lot(s) are deregistered, the underlying original land title(s), must be used for the mapping and included in metes and bounds descriptions for said lot(s) and recorded in the State of Hawaii Bureau of Conveyances.

Sincerely,

Andy R. Harada, LPLS