



STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of SUZANNE D. CASE Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on WATER AND LAND

Wednesday, February 2, 2022 1:00 PM State Capitol, Conference Room 229, Via Videoconference

In consideration of SENATE BILL 2755 RELATING TO THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Senate Bill 2755 proposes to require the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board) to approve all revoked, limited, condemned, removed, or shortened public land leases or revocable permits. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments on this measure.

This measure proposes to require Board approval for any decision relating to the revocation, limitation, condemnation, removal, or modification of land leases and revocable permits. The Department notes that such actions regarding a lease are already subject to Board approval in an open, public meeting. For revocable permits (RP), many of the actions contemplated by this measure already go before the Board in most cases. As an example, any significant modifications to terms and conditions or area of an existing RP are usually accomplished via the cancellation of the existing RP and the issuance of a new RP, which also requires approval from the Board.

Moreover, since RPs are limited month-to-month tenancies, it would be advisable to preserve the Board's authority to delegate approval of certain actions to the Chairperson. An example would be when the holder of an RP requests cancellation of the RP. In many cases the request is due to financial hardship. If cancellation must be delayed until approval by the Board instead of the Chairperson, then the holder may incur additional rent charges. Due to internal review deadlines and public notice requirements in order to place the request on the Board meeting agenda, it would likely take over one month from the date of the request to cancel the permit to obtaining Board approval.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SUZANNE D. CASE CHAIRPERSON BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

> ROBERT K. MASUDA FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER





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