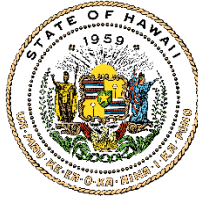
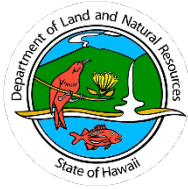


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DAWN N.S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND

Thursday, February 1, 2024
9:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 430, Via Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1955
RELATING TO THE SPECIAL LAND AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

House Bill 1955 proposes to authorize the use of special land and development fund moneys to eradicate or mitigate invasive species and install and maintain safety improvements on improved lands that provide lease revenue to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) and that have significant cultural or historic value. The measure also proposes to appropriate moneys out of the special land and development fund (SLDF). **The Department opposes this measure.**

This measure effectively provides for the use of public funds for the benefit of private entities, specifically lessees of State land. Pursuant to the standard terms and conditions of the State's standard form lease, the lessee is required to maintain the leased premises and improvements. Using SLDF moneys to mitigate invasive species and install and maintain safety improvements inappropriately alleviates an obligation that should be placed on the private lessee. Currently, the lease form does not explicitly require invasive species removal or mitigation. Therefore, as an alternative to legislation, the Department proposes to work with the Land Board on adding a provision on invasive species removal or mitigation in leases and revocable permits going forward.

Additionally, the Department supports greater recurring funding for the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other related programs under the Division of Forestry and Wildlife, who can work with partner stakeholders in supporting projects for invasive species management on non-

State owned lands. Therefore, the Department encourages the passage of House Bill 2104, and its companion measure Senate Bill 2358, which proposes to increase the HISC budget to \$10 million annually.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-1955

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:32:57 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Uilani Naipo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.

-U'ilani Naipo