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**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA**

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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Friday, February 24, 2023
11:30 AM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 308 and Videoconference

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1254, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

House Bill 1254, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate moneys to establish two (2) full time homelessness coordinator positions, one each for the Islands of Maui and O'ahu. The bill also proposes to establish two (2) half time (.5 FTE) positions, one each on the Islands of Kauai and Hawaii. **Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill.**

The Department notes that it is supported in its statewide clean-ups by the Department's Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) and the Department of Transportation (HDOT), who holds the statewide contract for storage and debris removal. Thus, any homeless clean-up schedules are coordinated with these agencies, as well as local outreach agencies. More Homeless Coordinators could likely address the problem areas more frequently but would be dependent on both DOCARE and HDOT's contractor's availability, unless funding for specific island based contracts are included in HDOT budgets.

The Department requests that the physical location of the Coordinators on Kaua'i and Hawai'i be removed from this bill. Since it may be difficult to hire part-time people, we request flexibility with these two positions, including the ability to hire one person who would service both Kaua'i and Hawai'i.

We estimate the cost for one FTE Homeless Coordinator to be \$200,000. This includes start-up costs, including office supplies, a vehicle and other necessary equipment and personal protective gear. So, the total cost for two (2) full time and (2) part-time homeless coordinators would be \$600,000. In addition,

should the legislature wish to provide additional funding for homeless clean-ups, we estimate the cost would be \$720,000 for Maui and \$360,000 each for Hawai'i and Kaua'i, for a total of \$1.44 M. O'ahu would still be covered under HDOT's contract. Second year funding would be less, at \$164,000 per FTE, which would total \$492,000 for two (2) full time and (2) part-time homeless coordinators.

We estimate the cost for one FTE Homeless Coordinator to be \$200,000. This includes start-up costs, including office supplies, a vehicle and other necessary equipment and personal protective gear. So, the total cost for two (2) full time and (2) part-time homeless coordinators would be \$600,000. In addition, should the Legislature wish to provide additional funding for homeless clean-ups, we estimate the cost to be \$720,000 for Maui and \$360,000 each for Hawaii and Kauai, for a total of \$1.44 M. O'ahu would still be covered under HDOT's contract. Second year funding would be less, at \$164,000 per FTE.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.



Democratic Party of Hawai'i Supports H.B. No. 1254, HD1

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports H.B. No. 1254, HD1, to appropriate funds to establish homelessness coordinator positions on Maui, Oahu, Kauai and Hawaii islands within the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i speaks to economic justice, as follows:

We believe that all people have the right to live a dignified life free from poverty and poor health.

We broadly support measures that are designed to promote a *right to a dignified life* free from poverty and poor health. We ask for the *right to a dignified life* to be considered in all relevant measures enacted by our Legislature.

Mahalo.

Dennis W. Jung
State Party Chair
Democratic Party of Hawai'i

HB-1254-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 11:15:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jo Anne J Winer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure since many of our beach and public areas under the control of DLNR are being utilized in a manner that is unsafe for both those who are establishing the areas for housing and those who wish to use the areas for recreation. The conflicts need to be managed and done in a respectful manner to all parties. Coordinator positions within the DLNR are needed to address each county's specific needs.