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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
Acting Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
and
WATER, LAND, CULTURE, AND THE ARTS

Tuesday, February 10, 2026
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1654
RELATING TO LAND TRANSFERS

Senate Bill 1654 proposes to authorize the transfer of certain lands under the jurisdiction of certain state agencies to the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL). **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) provides the following comments.**

As written, this measure is overly broad and does not specify which state agencies nor which lands are contemplated for transfer.

Furthermore, while the Department appreciates the intent of facilitating land transfers that may benefit DHHL, the Department is already actively working with DHHL through ongoing administrative coordination to identify lands that may be appropriate for transfer or exchange as both agencies have acknowledged that such actions would be beneficial for long-term alignment of jurisdiction and stewardship responsibilities.

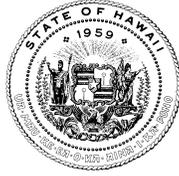
The Department is concerned that the prescriptive nature of a statutory mandate to transfer parcels that have yet to be identified does not account for the careful, parcel-specific considerations that must occur in practice. The process of identifying and transferring lands requires consideration of existing land use plans, stewardship responsibilities, encumbrances, and other prior commitments.

Most importantly, DLNR and DHHL are already engaged in active discussions to ensure that any transfers are deliberate, mutually coordinated, and consistent with the long-term needs and responsibilities of both agencies.

Mahalo for opportunity to comment on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
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Hawaii*

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*Ka Hope Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina
'o Hawaii*



KALI WATSON
CHAIRPERSON, HHC
Ka Luna Ho'okele

KATIE L. LAMBERT
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TESTIMONY OF KALI WATSON, CHAIR
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HAWAIIAN
AFFAIRS AND WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
ON FEBRUARY 10, 2026 AT 1:00PM IN CR 224

SB 1654, RELATING TO LAND TRANSFERS

February 10, 2026

Aloha Chairs Richards and Lee, Vice Chairs Lamosao and Inouye, and Members of the Committees:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) submits **comments** on this bill which authorizes the transfer of certain lands under the jurisdiction of certain state agencies to DHHL.

DHHL remains in negotiations with pertinent State agencies regarding lands related to completing the purposes of Act 14, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 1995. This collaborative work will likely lead toward the completion of a memorandum of agreement outlining the transaction properties and terms. At this time, DHHL would like to gain more information from other pertinent State agencies to identify more lands appropriate for homestead development.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.