

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Wednesday, February 20, 2019
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1326, PROPOSED HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO WATER RIGHTS**

House Bill 1326, proposed House Draft 2 proposes to allow for ten consecutive one year holdovers of water permits under Section 171-58(c), Hawaii Revised Statutes. The measure also proposes to make conforming amendments to the reporting requirement in Act 126, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016, and proposes to extend the repeal and reenactment provision for Act 126 by seven years, from June 30, 2019 to June 30, 2026.. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

The Department acknowledges the need for additional time to convert existing water revocable permits to long term leases. As the State's public trust obligations are integral in the management of its water resources, the water leasing process is appropriately complex and time consuming, requiring oversight and approvals from several state agencies. Within the Department, staff from the Land Division, the Division of Forestry and Wildlife, and the Commission on Water Resource Management are working in collaboration with the Department of the Attorney General and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to establish and implement a water leasing process that is fair, transparent, compliant with statutory requirements and consistent with the public trust. Additionally, the permittees are working with the agencies to obtain long term leases.

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

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
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LAND
STATE PARKS