

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS

Wednesday, February 17, 2021
10:00 AM

State Capital, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 221

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 999, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO FORESTRY

Senate Bill 999, Senate Draft 1 proposes to authorize general obligation bonds for the Forest Stewardship Program of the Department of Land and Natural Resources to renovate and update the equipment and facilities of the state tree nurseries. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Biennium Budget request.**

The Department is committed to helping Hawaii meet its integrated sustainability and carbon neutrality goals through landscape-scale tree planting. To meet these goals, we need a scalable source of clean and reliable planting stock. The Department currently operates a state tree nursery in Waimea on Hawaii Island, and multiple district nurseries servicing both public and private forestry, agroforestry, and restoration projects. These nurseries focus on plants that are difficult to find in private nurseries, are rare or endangered, and/or that need to be grown in large quantity, such as for restoration projects.

The Department's plant nurseries are aging and need efficiency and structural upgrades. Most are open air with limited enclosed greenhouse space, making it difficult to maintain sanitation (i.e.: keeping the planting pots clear of weed seeds, pests and diseases). Some of our nurseries, such as the one in Kahului, are jury-rigged, temporary, and periodically damaged by strong winds. Recent vandalism at the Oahu rare plant nursery demonstrates the need for security improvements.

Plant nursery upgrades will increase capacity for landscape-scale tree planting and carbon sequestration projects and increase program efficiency within nursery operations. The infrastructure improvements will allow the Department to improve quality and output and to scale up further as resources become available, so that we can continue to contribute towards the State's sustainability, agriculture, watershed, and carbon neutrality goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LATE



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

ROBERT YU
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
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FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 999, S.D. 1

February 17, 2021
10:00 a.m.
Room 211 and Videoconference

RELATING TO FORESTRY

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 999, S.D. 1.

S.B. No. 999, S.D. 1, authorizes the Director of Finance to issue \$1,380,000 in general obligation (G.O.) bonds to renovate the equipment and facilities of the State tree nurseries of the Forest Stewardship Program.

B&F has concerns with the use of G.O. bond funds for expenditures that should be funded with operating funds. B&F notes that tree nursery equipment and facility renovation may not be capital improvement program-eligible costs.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.