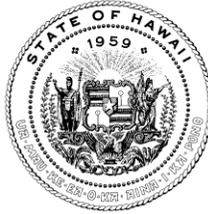


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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AQUATIC RESOURCES
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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committees on
WATER & LAND
and
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Wednesday, February 14, 2018
10:45 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1974
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

House Bill 1974 proposes to transfer \$1,000,000 from the Natural Area Reserve Fund to the Department of Land and Natural Resources' (Department) Firefighter's Contingency Fund to be expended to upgrade firefighting equipment to be used jointly by the State and counties. **The Department supports this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

The Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) is the primary responder for wildland fires across 1,368,002 acres of the State's forested watersheds and supports federal and county responders on the remaining area of the State. Due to climate change and associated droughts, the annual area burnt in Hawai'i has grown in past decades. In fact, the percentage of land area burned annually in Hawai'i exceeds the national average and some years it surpasses the 12 most fire-prone western states.¹

DOFAW's fire and emergency response mandates require specialized equipment. Much of DOFAW's existing equipment is on loan from the federal government and is outdated. Resources are needed to modernize DOFAW's fleet of response vehicles and equipment. The

¹ Pacific Fire Exchange Wildfire in Hawaii Factsheet

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54825edae4b0426dc2c78f10/t/5696b96c0ab377d4c95fd307/1458772891261/Wildfire+in+Hawaii+fact+sheet+-+Pacific+Fire+Exchange+2014.pdf>

Department also assists counties during natural disasters, such as hurricanes and lava flows. Much of DOFAW's equipment used for fire response is also used in such disasters.

1. The Department supports the use of the Natural Area Reserve Fund for upgrading firefighting equipment as fire suppression protects native ecosystems.
2. It appears that the Department's Firefighter's Contingency Fund is appropriate for purchase of equipment.
3. Using equipment "jointly" with the counties is a viable concept as it pertains to the State's assistance to county response. Although renegotiating agreements to include joint equipment usage is possible, the current policy assigns trained DOFAW staff with equipment to assist the counties.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Harry Kim
Mayor



Darren J. Rosario
Fire Chief

Renwick J. Victorino
Deputy Fire Chief

County of Hawai'i
HAWAII FIRE DEPARTMENT
25 Aupuni Street • Suite 2501 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
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February 13, 2017

The Honorable Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Committee on Water & Land
State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Representative Chris Lee, Chair
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chairs Yamane and Lee:

Subject: H.B. 1974, Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources
Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 14, 2017
Time/Place of Hearing: 10:45 a.m., Conference Room 325

I am Darren J. Rosario, Fire Chief of the Hawai'i Fire Department of the County of Hawaii (HCFD). The HCFD supports HB 1974, which proposes to appropriate funds from the natural area reserve fund in the sum of \$1,000,000 or so necessary to be deposited into the firefighter' contingency fund.

The HCFD works hand in hand with the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry & Wildlife in the mitigation of wildfires in Hawaii County. Our great partnership has resulted in the protection of countless homes and businesses during catastrophic wildfires throughout the past years. Currently, our partnership is working on mitigating a large wildfire on the West side of Hawaii Island in the vicinity of Waikoloa Village.

Prompt response and mitigation efforts are key to the saving of open area spaces that are also used for agriculture or reserve functions. Mitigation efforts are further enhanced with serviceable equipment, apparatus, and proper personnel manning. This measure would greatly enhance the DLNR's ability to assist local County Fire Departments with the protection of its mutual communities, open rangelands, and forest reserves. The HCFD strongly urges you to support this measure.

Please do not hesitate to call me at 932-2903 or darren.rosario@hawaiicounty.gov should you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2044.

Respectfully, 
DARREN J. ROSARIO
Fire Chief



HB-1974

Submitted on: 2/9/2018 4:38:25 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2018 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Ho`omana Pono, LLC	Support	Yes

Comments:

HB-1974

Submitted on: 2/9/2018 8:57:39 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2018 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacqui Hoover	Hawaii Island Economic Development Board	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1974

Submitted on: 2/10/2018 9:53:03 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2018 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	Yes

Comments:

HB-1974

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 10:29:30 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2018 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee	Support	No

Comments: