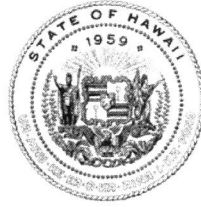


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on  
FINANCE**

**Thursday, April 7, 2016  
2:01 PM**

**State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 3071, SENATE DRAFT 1, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO THE ACQUISITION OF  
MAKAI LANDS OF KAPUA IN SOUTH KONA  
ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAI'I**

Senate Bill 3071, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1 proposes that the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) engage in negotiations to acquire certain lands located at Kapu'a, Island of Hawai'i. **The Department supports this measure and provides the following comments.**

The Department's consultation with The Trust for Public Land and the late Senator Gilbert Kahele's office indicates that the proposed acquisition includes four parcels that cover over 7,780 acres of land within the Agricultural and Conservation State Land Use Districts, including two parcels that sit next to the Manukā Natural Area Reserve (NAR), which is the State's largest natural area reserve and is part of the South Kona Wilderness Area that the Legislature created in 2011 (Act 178). The County of Hawai'i's current assessment of the fair market value of these four parcels, for tax purposes, is \$9,580,500. The Department is updating a 2007 appraisal that concluded the fee value of the four parcels to be \$13,900,000.

The Kapu'a makai area contains significant historical, archaeological, and cultural resources (including a hōlua slide, ancient coastal trail, and village sites) and superb biological resources including native dryland forest and associated common and rare native Hawaiian plants. The site is remote and not easily accessed and contains extensive uninterrupted coastal and lowland open space. The coastal waters are pristine and in excellent condition. However, the land area is degrading due to feral goats, invasive fountain grass, inappropriate human use, and a lack of management at this time.

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

**KEKOA KALUHIWA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.**  
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  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

The Department recognizes that the property's significant natural and cultural resources should be protected from threats, yet the Department lacks current financial and personnel resources to properly steward these lands. If placed under the Department's jurisdiction, the Department respectfully requests funding in the amount of \$1,600,000 to address immediate management needs (i.e. fencing, access improvements, and enforcement) and approximately \$500,000 annually for the next ten years to manage the area effectively and reduce existing and future threats to the treasured historical, archaeological, cultural, and biological resources of the area.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in support of this measure.