

March 14, 2023



Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair  
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair  
Committee on Water and Land  
Wednesday, March 15, 2023  
1:00 pm  
Via Videoconference

RE: **HB1385 HD2** Relating to Public Lands (**Oppose**)

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante & Committee Members,

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce (CSC) testifies in strong opposition to HB1385 HD2, which establishes a framework for designating certain public lands for redevelopment, amends generally applicable lease requirements for public lands to promote redevelopment, designates the public lands on the Waiakea peninsula on the island of Hawaii as the Waiakea peninsula redevelopment district and appropriates funds.

As business owners who believe we can strengthen our economy without hurting workers, consumers, or the environment, we urge this committee to vote down HB1358, because privatizing public lands for generations takes needed resources away from Hawaii residents who have other needs that can be better served by keeping public land for the public good - not for private profit.

The greater Hilo lawmakers all know of how much their Hilo community needs affordable housing and how local employers need workers who can afford to live in Hilo and support other local businesses. All public lands should be used to provide a public good - merely creating more jobs is not the best end use of public lands. There is private land already available for private developers to profit from.

Handing over public lands to developers for generations so that corporations can use public resources to pad their profit margins does not serve a public good. Furthermore, lawmakers should not use public land leases and extensions as bait to raise campaign contributions from private developers; this would be a form of publicly financing elections that unfairly advantages certain incumbents.

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<b>Hawaii Legislative Council</b>	Maile Meyer Na Mea Hawaii Honolulu	Russel Rudderman Island Naturals Hilo / Kona	Tina Wildberger Kihei Ice Maui	Joell Edwards Wainiha Country Market Kauai	Kim Coco Iwamoto AQuA Rentals, LLC Honolulu
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