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April 4, 2019

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran  
Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

**RE: HB 1219, HD1, SD1 Relating to Public Lands**

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the latest amended version of HB 1219, HD1, SD1, as it would impact the Waiakea Peninsula in Hilo, Hawai'i.

Simply stated, we continue to support any legislation that will help the revitalization of Banyan Drive and the rest of the Waiakea Peninsula. Virtually everyone familiar with this area agrees that it is underutilized and in disrepair. It is the center of tourism in East Hawai'i, but it is a jewel that is quite tarnished at the present time.

Hawai'i County has taken first steps toward revitalizing the peninsula, including the creation of the Banyan Drive Hawai'i Redevelopment Agency (BDHRA); and a conceptual master plan has been created as a starting point. But funds are needed to conduct the environmental impact statements necessary to complete the redevelopment plan and move forward, and those monies are not available.

Under SD1, DLNR would create a new planning committee to oversee Banyan Drive and would require that BDHRA be disbanded. This might mean going back to square one, but the tradeoff is that the bill presumably will provide meaningful funding using current DLNR revenues.

Although we may not agree with all provisions of HB 1219, HD1, SD1, we support a measure that directs resources, both statutory and financial, toward the redevelopment of Banyan Drive while providing some local perspective in decision-making.

Therefore, we ask that you act favorably on the proposed amended version of HB 1219, HD1, SD1, so that a resolution can be hammered out in conference.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim  
MAYOR