

GOV. MSG. NO. 1090

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE

July 11, 2007

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President and Members of the Senate Twenty-Fourth State Legislature State Capitol, Room 409 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Madam President and Members of the Senate:

Re: Senate Bill No. 138 SD1 HD1 CD1

On July 10, 2007, Senate Bill No. 138, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Diamond Head State Monument" became law without my signature, pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

This bill creates a sub-account of the State Parks Special Fund into which fifty-five percent (55%) of the proceeds of the admission fees for the Diamond Head State Monument will be allocated to be used for the maintenance, repair, and operations of the Monument.

This bill raises concerns because it could have an adverse impact on the maintenance and upkeep of our statewide system of parks.

The establishment of a sub-account within the State Parks Special Fund may set a precedent for other revenue generating parks to request sub-accounts for their use. The State Parks Special Fund is used to support the maintenance and operation of all parks statewide. This will be the first sub-account for a special purpose in this fund. Earmarking moneys within the fund will make it difficult to allocate funds where they are needed for the operations of park facilities. The Department of Land and Natural Resources estimates funding available for other parks will decrease by approximately \$250,000, based upon fiscal year 2006-2007 revenues as a result of this measure.

It should be pointed out that Diamond Head State Monument also receives general fund money and capital improvement funds from the State Treasury, in excess of the amounts it generates. Isolating its admission fees and making it impossible to use these fees for other recreational needs will make it harder to justify using general taxpayer dollars for this particular facility.

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Diamond Head State Monument is a universally recognized landmark. Providing a funding stream for this monument is an understandable objective but, unfortunately, this approach may jeopardize other natural assets within our state.

For the foregoing reasons, I allowed Senate Bill No. 138 to become law as Act 292, effective July 10, 2007, without my signature.

Sincerely,

LINDA LINGLE

THE SENATE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 2007 STATE OF HAWAII

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ACT 292 S.B. NO. 5.D. 1 H.D. 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DIAMOND HEAD STATE MONUMENT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Section 184-3.4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is 2 amended to read as follows:

3 "\$184-3.4 State parks special fund. (a) There is
4 established within the state treasury a fund to be known as the
5 state parks special fund, into which shall be deposited:

- (1) All proceeds collected by the state parks programs involving park user fees, any leases or concession agreements, the sale of any article purchased from the department to benefit the state parks programs, or any gifts or contributions; provided that proceeds derived from the operation of Iolani Palace shall be used to supplement its educational and interpretive programs; and
- 14 (2) Transient accommodations tax revenues pursuant to
 15 section 237D-6.5; provided that these moneys shall be
 16 expended in response to a master plan developed in
 17 coordination with the Hawaii tourism authority.

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1	(b)	The department shall expend the moneys from the state
2	parks spe	ecial fund for the following purposes:
3	(1)	Permanent and temporary staff positions;
4	(2)	Planning and development of state parks programs,
5		including the aina hoomalu state parks program;
6	(3)	Construction, repairs, replacement, additions, and
7		extensions of state parks facilities;
8	(4)	Operation and maintenance costs of state parks and
9		state parks programs; and
10	(5)	Administrative costs of the division of state parks.
11	<u>(c)</u>	There is established within the state parks special
	fund, a D	iamond Head State Monument sub-account, into which
13	shall be	deposited fifty-five per cent of all proceeds collected
14	from the admission fees charged at the Diamond Head State	
15	Monument.	The department shall expend the moneys from the
16	Diamond H	ead State Monument sub-account for repair, maintenance,
17	and operating costs incurred by the State in the management of	
18	the Diamond Head State Monument."	
19	SECTION 2. New statutory material is underscored.	

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

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