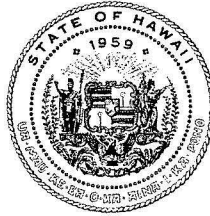
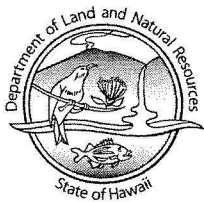


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Laura H. Thielen
Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources
Commission on Water Resource Management

Russell Y. Tsuji
First Deputy

Ken C. Kawahara
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

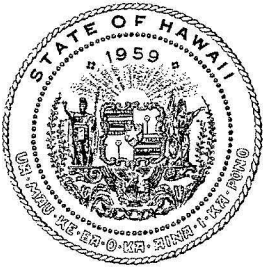
**TESTIMONY OF THE CHAIRPERSON
OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

on House Bill 2373 – Making An Appropriation For Mookini Heiau

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE**

February 21, 2008

House Bill 2373 appropriates the sum of \$150,000 out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii to install a full sprinkler system at Mookini Heiau, and the nearby Kamehameha birthsite, that are used for education and cultural practices. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) is aware of the need for a sprinkler system. The Department however is unable to support this measure due to the budgetary implications it will have on the Executive Supplemental Budget request.



Hawai'i Tourism Authority

Hawai'i Convention Center, 1801 Kalākaua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815
Website: www.hawaii-tourism-authority.org

LINDA LINGLE
Governor

REX D. JOHNSON
President and Chief Executive Officer

Telephone: (808) 973-2255
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Testimony of
Rex Johnson
President and Chief Executive Officer
Hawai'i Tourism Authority

on
H.B. 2323, H.D. 1
Relating to Beaches

House Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 21, 2008
1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308

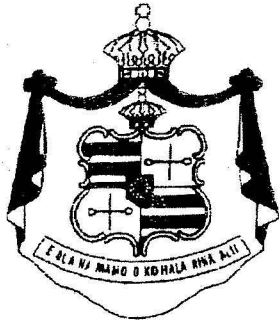
The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) supports the intent of H.B. 2323, H.D. 1, which establishes a Resort Beach Restoration sub-account within the Beach Restoration Special Fund that authorizes HTA to transfer up to \$2,000,000 from the Tourism Special Fund beginning on July 1, 2008 and ending on June 30, 2010.

H.B. 2323, H.D. 1, as drafted, however, creates confusion by providing that no funds shall be released unless matched by non-state funds on a one-to-one basis, and unless fifty per cent of the funds released are transferred from the Tourism Special Fund. It is not clear what triggers the release of funds. We request that the bill be amended to provide that state funds, whether funds from the Beach Restoration Special Fund or general funds appropriated by the Legislature, be released at the same time funds are transferred from the Tourism Special Fund.

The HTA's legislation provides that "[a]t least \$1,000,000 ... to support the efforts of other state and county departments or agencies to manage, improve, and protect Hawai'i's natural environment and areas frequented by visitors." The HTA believes strongly in supporting the state's natural environment and as such, the HTA Board has budgeted \$5 million for its Natural Resources Program this year. Among its many policy decisions, the HTA Board decided to make this allocation of funds after taking into account, as required by the HTA law, "... the economic, social, and physical impacts of tourism on the State and its natural resources infrastructure." In addition, the HTA has established a Natural Resources Advisory Group (NRAG) which is comprised of individuals in the public and private sectors who provide assistance and advice to the Authority in its Natural Resources efforts.

While the HTA also believes that addressing beaches is an important issue, the responsibility for beach lands lies with the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). Additionally, if this is a project looking for revenues from visitors for the restoration of beaches, an alternative funding source would be the general excise tax (GET) rather than that the transient accommodations tax (TAT). According to the Report of the 2005-2007 Tax Review Commission, 38 percent of the GET is borne by nonresidents, our visitors.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

**LATE**

Mo'okini Quakini, Inc.

A 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Foundation Dedicated to the Preservation of the Mo'okini Complex

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2373

House Committee on Finance

February 21, 2009

Chairman Oshiro . . .

and members if the House Committee on Finance . . .

I am Leimomi Mo'okini Lum, Kahuna Nui of the Mo'okini Heiau located in North Kohala on the Island of Hawaii. I am a direct descendent of Kahuna Nui Kuamo'o Mo'okini, the first Kahuna Nui and director of the building of this artifact, some 1,500 years ago.

I concur with proposed House Bill 2373, the intent of which is to make an appropriation for the installation of a sprinkler system to cover the grassy area of the Mookini Heiau, and the nearby Kamehameha birthsite.

I noted that Bill 2373 indicates that this appropriation will be expended by the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I assume that the subject executing department will be required to follow the requirements of ACT 59 regarding the consultation of all matters with the Kahuna Nui of the Mookini Heiau, such as design and methods used for the installation of this sprinkler system.

I fully support the intent of House Bill 2373.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.