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

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

On House Concurrent Resolution 60 – Requesting the Department of Land and Natural Resources to Provide an Inventory of Camping Facilities and Campsites Available Statewide and Report on the Conditions of, and Problems Associated with, Existing Camping Facilities and Campsites in the State

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
WATER, LAND, OCEAN RESOURCES, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

March 24, 2008

House Concurrent Resolution 60 requests the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to conduct a statewide inventory of existing private and public camping facilities and campsites and submit a report to the 2009 Legislature that identifies strategies for increasing camping facilities and campsites, the public-private partnerships related to camping, the conditions and current problems related to state camping facilities and campsites, and the extent of illegal camping activities. The Department requests that this resolution be held for the following reason.

Every five years, the Department updates the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). This plan is a requirement of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program which provides federal grant funds to state and county agencies to promote outdoor recreation through the acquisition and development of parks, boating facilities, fishing areas, hiking trails, walking paths, and bikeways. The most recent SCORP for Hawaii was prepared in 2003 and the Department's Division of State Parks will be updating the SCORP in 2008.

The SCORP inventories recreational facilities and opportunities throughout the state, identifies recreational demands, needs, and conflicts through various means of public input, and develops an action plan to meet the recreational demands and resolve conflicts. Camping facilities and campsites were not specifically inventoried in the 2003 SCORP, but can be addressed in more detail in the 2008 Update. In a 2007 survey of State Parks users conducted by the Hawaii Tourism Authority, only 1% of the visitors indicated that their main reason for their park visit was camping. Based on focus groups and public meetings, and recreational user surveys conducted as part of the 2003 SCORP, additional camping was identified as one of the recreational demands, although it did not fall into the high priority needs that included more sports facilities, biking and jogging paths, ocean recreation, hiking, and skateboarding facilities.

The Department believes that the SCORP update can be designed to meet the objectives of this resolution. A copy of the SCORP document can be made available to the Legislature next year since the Plan is scheduled for completion by April 2009.

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Kanani Kaaiawahia Bulawan

**To: Rep. Ito, Chair
Rep. Karamatsu, Vice-Chair
Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources and Hawaiian Affairs**

**Fr: Kanani Kaaiawahia Bulawan,
Kanaka Maoli, Part Hawaiian and a Private Citizen**

Date: March 23, 2008

**Re: Hearing Date: March 24, 2008
Time of Hearing: 10:30am
Place of Hearing: Rm 312**

FULL SUPPORT OF HCR60
DLNR provide an inventory and conditions of all Campsites in the State

Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair and members of the committee:

I'm Kanani Kaaiawahia Bulawan, a Kanaka Maoli, a long time resident, property/homeowner of Maili and a very concerned private citizen of Hawaii. I am also a staff member of Rep. Karen Awana. However, my views, opinions and statements are of my own personal experience and preference. I'm testifying in **Full Support of HCR 60** relating to DLNR providing an inventory and conditions report of all Campsites in the State.

As a Kanaka Maoli, a long time resident of the area (Maili), a homeowner and a user of the public beaches and parks for picnic parties and Ohana (cultural) campouts, I'm concerned that the current conditions of our inventory or lack to know what is available and what the conditions of the facilities are in for the safety and wellness of using it continues to prevent me or my Ohana from accessing these resources. More importantly without this report, we are not able to address the concerns of those that need to depend on using these resources on temporary bases because of the lack of housing resources. Also, we need to get a better idea and clarity as to what is available for public use and how that is maintained.

I'm in full support of this measure and ask for your favor of support. Thank you for allowing me this time to submit my testimony. For more information I can be contacted at 696-1654.

Mahalo,