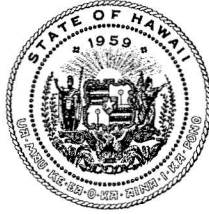


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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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 Concurrent Resolution 68/House Resolution 59 – REQUESTING THE BOARD
OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO LEASE APPROXIMATELY 13.2 ACRES
OF STATE-OWNED PUBLIC LAND NEAR KE'EHU LAGOON**

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

March 24, 2008

House Concurrent Resolution No. 68/House Resolution 59 requests the Board of Land and Natural Resources to lease approximately 13.2 acres of State-owned public land near Ke'ehi Lagoon. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the intent of these resolutions to lease the state property to Pacific Gateway Center for a proposed Ke'ehi Community Resource Center but believes the request is premature due to numerous issues that require resolve prior to proceeding with a disposition of the subject property.

The Administration has met and advised Dr. Tin Myaing Thien preliminary discussions with various state and city agencies should be conducted before proceeding with this project. The state zoning is urban/conservation and the City and County of Honolulu zoning is Preservation – P-1 and P-2, and may need rezoning for development of the subject area. At a minimum, several approvals will be needed: 1) Shoreline Management Area permit, 2) Environmental assessment or environmental impact statement in compliance with Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and 3) Conservation District Use permit. The Department of Transportation, Highways Division, should be consulted for access and egress from the property onto Nimitz Highway. A traffic impact and analysis report will also be required. Lastly, there is an navigation easement in favor of the Department of Transportation, Airports Division, that restricts certain construction and activities on the subject lands.

March 21, 2008

Testimony in support of HCR68/HR59

House Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources and Hawaiian Affairs
Room 312 at 1030 on Monday, 24 March 2008

Chair Ito and Respected Members of the Committee;

My name is Reg White. I am vice president, project development, for Paradise Cruise, Ltd. Paradise Cruise employs about 460 local residents in full time long term jobs working in the transportation and marine excursion areas of our visitor industry. Over the years our growth from 26 employees in 1982 to the present 467 employees has required the hiring and training of several thousands of our local citizens. We are constantly looking for new sources from which to recruit people looking for a way to earn a living. Giving groups such as these under consideration here today a chance to help our local citizens get a fresh start in their lives produces a new and welcome field for businesses like ours to recruit from. It allows us to stay local, which is a must if our visitor industry is to remain an example of island life and aloha. Please do all you can to facilitate the growth of these much needed services in our community. Please do make sure that in giving up these particular parcels of land to this effort that we are not throwing the baby out with the bath water by displacing small businesses that produce tax revenue and provide jobs for more people than we are attempting to help here. Perhaps a look at relocation for those businesses is in order as a part of this total effort so that we don't lessen the advances we are trying to make with this resolution.

Respectfully,

Reg White
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