Conservation Council for Hawai'i

Testimony Submitted to the House Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs
Hearing: Thursday, March 13, 2008
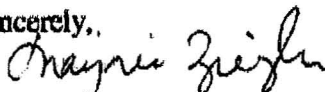8:30 am
Room 309

Late Testimony

Re: Support for SB 2189 SD 1 Relating to Mākua

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 2189 SD 1, which establishes the Mākua reserve commission to oversee preservation and restoration activities at Mākua. We are very concerned about the dozens of endangered species and their habitat at Mākua. In the old days, when ordnance went beyond the firebreak road, the military range managers would let the fires burned. This is why, when you look mauka, the many gullies and cliffs are now covered with alien grasses that come in after the native vegetation is burned. Yet, Mākua still provides habitat for many rare and endangered species.

The community wants to help take care of this land and the near shore marine environment. They don't just talk about it, they spend their time, energy, and resources to try and do so. Rarely, do you find a community that is so committed to taking care of their land and resources. I can think of only two other situations where the community rallied behind a protection and preservation effort in this way: the Waiāhole-Waikāne situation in the 1970s for land and more recently for water for stream ecosystems and small family farms, and the Protect Kaho'olawe movement.

Please help the community take care of Mākua, and pass this bill out of committee. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Ziegler

Working Today for the Nature of Tomorrow!

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