# LATE TESTIMONY SB 2926

LINDA LINGLE GOVERNOR OF HAWAII





## STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

RUSSELL Y. TSUJI

KEN C. KAWAHARA DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONNEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WAITER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILD LIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

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

### On Senate Bill 2926– RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS

# BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

February 13, 2008



Senate Bill 2926 proposes to make the operation of motor vehicles on unencumbered lands, other than on roads, trails, or tracks designated or provided by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) for vehicular use, a petty misdemeanor and imposes mandatory fines. The Department supports the intent of the bill and offers the following comments.

While the Department supports any measure that facilitates or enhances the enforcement of its statutes and rules, we believe that it is a better and more efficient practice to address any perceived deficiencies in enforcement capabilities in a global manner rather than a case-by-case, subject matter driven approach.

The Department notes that its Administration bill, Senate Bill 3100 and its companion measure House Bill 3178, would provide greater fines for the violations addressed by the bill. The Department believes that the Administration bill is a preferable vehicle for addressing the enforcement matters that are the subject of this bill since it not only addresses those specific violations but also increases the Department's overall effectiveness for enforcing all violations on unencumbered lands.

LATESTMONY

### testimony

From: Nicholas Tanaka [Nicholas T@leisinc.com]

Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 12:57 PM

To: testimony

Subject: WTL Committe - SB 2926 02-13-08 hearing at 2:45 pm in conference room 414. Motor Vehicles;

**Unencumbered Lands** 

WTL Committe - 02-13-08 hearing at 2:45 pm in conference room 414

SB-2926

Measure Title:

**RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS.** 

Report Title:

Motor Vehicles; Unencumbered Lands

Description:

Makes operation of motor vehicles on unencumbered lands, other than on roads, trails, or tracks designated or provided by the department of land and natural resources for vehicular use, a petty misdemeanor and imposes mandatory fines.

Package:

None

Companion:

Introducer(s):

GABBARD, Espero, Nishihara

**Current Referral:** 

WTL, JDL

**Date Status Text** 

1/23/2008 S Introduced.

1/23/2008 S Passed First Reading.

1/25/2008 S Referred to WTL, JDL.

2/11/2008 S The committee(s) on WTL added the measure to the public hearing scheduled on 02-13-08 at 2:45 pm in conference room 414.

### To the hearing committee:

This is wrong and unnecessary. The state has not provided enough places to which recreational vehicle enthusiasts have access to. Kahuku motocross track is one place and only caters to one group. And the Sandbox project at Sand Island has been stalled. There is also no race track on O'ahu and now you plan to impose further insult by making this law. You give us nowhere to go and then tell us it's illegal to go anywhere that you don't designate. Open places for us first! You are also closing off the hunting trails, how are we supposed to access the hunting areas, some don't have marked trails, and are only accessible practically by vehicle. To take on part of the bill per say:

"The use and operation of these vehicles has the potential to desecrate sacred burial grounds, further threaten already endangered species, and harm the natural ecosystem on public lands. However, many people have expressed concerns about the ongoing use of off-road vehicles in Hawaii's most sensitive areas."

Construction does more damage to burial grounds than anything else. And if the state would take better action against this it would be better for all involved considering the recent problems with burials and construction sites. What natural eco-system on public lands, no all unencumbered lands are in their natural eco-system, some of us use the access to clear invasive species, and illegal marijuana growers patches (reporting them to police). As far an endangered species this is more a problem of education, use of the tread lightly principals, and

awareness of where certain species are is more paramount then just telling someone they can't go there.

I am very culturally sensitive and care about what happens here in Hawaii. I am born and raised here in the islands. I am from Maui, currently living on O'ahu. I am a Hawaiian activist, and have my B.A from UH Manoa in Hawaiian Language, and I am a Masters Candidate in Hawaiian Studies now. I am not ignorant when it comes to Hawaiian plants, protocol, or practices. Some areas used for gathering rights is only accessible by 4wheel drives.

Also in light of the supreme court's ruling on the OHA vs. the State of Hawaii, you have no right to sell or transfer ceded lands. By right that would also mean that you can not remove any Hawaiian (Kanaka Maoli) or Hawaiian Citizen (Kingdom Subject or National) from any ceded lands. So if I happen to be somewhere that is state land it would first have to be proven that it is NOT ceded land for your to have proper jurisdiction. As of right now there is no ceded lands inventory, there is a beginning at the UH Hawaiian Studies department but it is not yet complete, so this law would not be valid until such a study is completed.

I wish to also reference RTP funds with the state is supposed to use for recreational vehicle use, the state has not provided any new or more places. Kahuku, is one place and there are few other throughout the state. OHA has taken suit against the state, and maybe it will take another lawsuit, class action by recreational vehicle users to take back the money the state has ill-appropriated from the RTP fund. I ask that the committee please realize that our sports using off-road areas is not a crime and need not be if you would provide the proper places and/or facilities for them.

Nicholas Tanaka 1928 Waimano Home Road Pearl City

### testimony

From:

4x4 BOYZ [4x4boyz@gmail.com]

Sent:

Wednesday, February 13, 2008 2:40 PM

To:

testimony

Subject:

This is for S.B NO. 2926 for hearing today at 2:45!!!

Attachments: forhawaiisoffroad.com report.csv

This is for S.B NO. 2926 for hearing today at 2:45.

Attached is over 400 signatures from the website www.forhawaiisoffroad.com of responsible 4x4 drivers and enthusiast that would not want this bill not to pass!!

DO NOT PASS THIS BILL!! We've been trying to work with the State on opening more trails for us and allowing areas that's been used for generations to the Hawaii 4x4 community.

(a) No person shall operate a motor vehicle on land governed by this chapter except on roads, trails, or tracks designated or provided by the department for vehicular use. Any person who violates this section shall be guilty of a petty misdemeanor and shall be sentenced as follows:

DESIGNATED AREAS??!!!! THERE IS ONLY ONLY 2 LEGAL PLACES HERE ON OAHU -KAHUKU AND PEACOCK FLATS. HOW DO YOU EXPECT A COMMUNITY OF THOUSANDS TO JUST USE THESE AREAS?? HAWAII HAS SO MUCH TRAILS WHY ARE WE NOT ALLOWED TO USE THEM...ESPECIALLY PLACES THAT HAS BEEN USED FOR YEARS!

- (2) For a second offense within five years of a previous conviction under this section, by a mandatory fine of not less that \$1,000 or imprisonment of not more than thirty days, or both; and
- (3) For a third or subsequent offense within five years of a second conviction under this section, by a mandatory fine of not less than \$2,000 or imprisonment of not more than thirty days, or both.
- (b) Any criminal action against a person for any violation under this section shall not be deemed to preclude the State from pursuing civil legal action to recover administrative fines and costs against the person. Any civil legal action against a person to recover administrative fines and costs for any violation of chapter 171 and rules adopted thereunder shall not be deemed to preclude the State from pursing any criminal action against that person pursuant to this section.
- (c) For purposes of this section, "motor vehicle" means every vehicle that is self-propelled, or propelled by electric power but not operated on rails, including but not limited to automobiles, trucks, go-carts, motorcycles, motor scooters, mopeds, all-terrain vehicles, and dune buggies

whether the vehicle is licensed or unlicensed."

THIS IS RIDICULOUS!! I KNOW YOU GUYS WANT TO CATER TO THE ENVIORNMENTALIST IF SO WHY NOT JUST REMOVE EVERY CAR LOT ON THIS ISLAND THAT SELLS 4X4 VEHICLES. DON'T YOU THINK PEOPLE BUY THESE VEHICLES TO USE THEM??

We are fully aware that there are some of us who irrisponsibly wheel on private land as well as certain public beaches however you cannot place ALL OF US under this bill because of a few bad apples!!

My name is Marc A. Ebalaroza and I am the Owner and Founder of <u>4x4boyz.com</u> AND I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE IN THE 4X4 COMMUNITY IS GOOD PEOPLE AND DOES NOT DESERVE A BILL LIKE THIS!!!

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######################################	Don	Arter	dakona30@204.213.78	1	
<i>#####################################</i>	james	walters	nudejamie: 66.65.204.!	1	
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                     Steele
                               dhr@hawa 70.95.52.11
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####### Kimo
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####### Peter
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####### Kimo
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######## Regina
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######## brendan
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######### skate
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                              kekoa m@24.165.59.
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######## Marc
                     Mahelona
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                     Rhoades I\tirhoades@72.253.2.11
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                     Chov
                               m2cxzibit@70.95.70.2:
######## Shingo
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####### Kyle
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######## Shawn
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########## Robert
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####### Shawn
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                                zx7rr 56@ 70.254.219
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####### Kendall
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#########	carrie	tudor	c m tudor 72.130.192	1
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###########	David	Zeitz	david zeitz 67.49.134.	1
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##########	•	yim	branony@( 165.248.24	1
#######	Alex	Johnson	neversat80 66.8.134.2I	1
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######################################	Welly	Escalona	chamopino 202.151.84	1
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<i>#####################################</i>	Philip	Guerrero	guerrero96 70.95.69.9 <sup>,</sup>	1
#######################################	Jesse	Ramos	jesse.a.ran 66.193.159	1
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<i>#####################################</i>	Mike	Evans	mikees87y 137.9.100.	1
#######################################	David	Hatada	oakley198775.80.216.:	1
<i>#####################################</i>	Kanoi	D.	kanoi@cle: 74.61.174.I	1
#######################################	Larena	Clifton	Honus1us(24.25.253.:	1
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######################################	Vashon	Ferguson	vashon.fer(81.85.243.;	1
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######################################	Rodney	Balais	Bisaro94@ 165.248.24	0
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#######################################	kuuipo	kapule	honus81@ 24.25.251.	1
<i>#####################################</i>	Michael	Kaylor	kaylorinhi@66.91.43.2	1
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######################################	gomez	Steven	SGomez@ 152.121.19	1
######################################	Michael	Doherty	vortech4x4 128.128.25	1
<del>#############</del>	Richard	puu	ouufourks@132.160.19	0
######################################	sean	lopes	klo@hawai 67.53.32.6;	1
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######################################		Goodwin	goodwint0(66.91.8.10	1
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######################################	walter	ching	walterching 66.91.222.	1
######################################	Justin	lge	J.ige@hotr 70.95.64.1:	0
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######################################	Chris	Hudnall	chudnall@124.165.43.	1
######################################	Rachael	Howard	rachaelmw 66.91.111.	1
#######################################		Smiddy	troy@tksm 24.94.92.1	1
######################################	Nicholas	Tanaka	tanakan@ł 75.80.215.4	1
######################################	Chass	Thuresson	chasst@ha 70.58.176.;	1
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	Tori-Leigh	Ryan	tlryan5479(76.83.159.	1
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######################################	trey	even	treyeven70 76.92.3.37	0
######################################	Shannon	Hall	hallass5@l 76.92.16.2;	1
#######################################	keoni	hall	keoni_hall(72.234.220	1

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### Committee on Water and Land Senator Clayton Hee, Chair Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

2:45 pm Wednesday, February 13, 2008 Conference Room 414

### SB 2926 - RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS STRONGLY SUPPORT

Good afternoon, M. Chair. My name is Shannon Wood, the president of the *Windward Ahupua`a Alliance*, based in Kane`ohe, HI. We either sponsor or work with other organizations on a wide range of community service projects all across Hawai`i.

So many times we've run across damaged lands with huge chunks of soil dug out by over-sized tires. On several occasions, we've been threatened by the owners/users of these vehicles when we've asked them to discontinue their activities. One time, our work party was "escorted" out of the area at gunpoint. By the time this was reported to the police department and **DOCARE** officials, the "perps" were long gone.

Currently, WAA, along with private landowners and DLNR, tries to control these types of activities in and abutting Kawainui Marsh.

Although I recognize that off-roading can be fun and enjoyable, the activity needs to be conducted in appropriate areas, not isolated spots where endangered species – both plant and animal – grow and live.

We urge that you pass out **SB 2926**.

Shannon Wood *Windward Ahupua`a Alliance* P.O. Box 6366 Kane`ohe, HI 96744

Phone: 808/247-6366; Cellular: 808/223-4481 or 808/224-4496

E-Mail: info@waa-hawaii.org



To the honorable committee members:

My name is Michael Elliott. I came on very short notice to speak today on behalf of a growing concern over off-road activities here in Hawaii. I have only lived here for four years yet I have many Hawaiian friends who have helped me learn why this place is so special. One of the things that are of great concern is the access to areas of the islands via 4 wheel drive vehicles. Your bill wants to fine people for being on non-DLNR approved land that is designated by the state. I ask you? Where are these lands? Where are these trails that are approved? The only one listed on the www.hawaiitrails.org site is the road up to Peacock Flats. Have any of you been there? Have you see the beauty of this island from a mountain top. Why is it that there are numerous trails that could be used for recreational off-roading that already exist on state land? Just look at Google Earth. Why can't those trails be opened for 4x4 vehicles? They used to be open before everyone tried to gate off access through their property to these state lands. The state has not made any attempt to secure right of ways to allow access and let people close off areas that were once used. Some of you might have a bad image of four wheeling but I have been numerous places back on the mainland and I see that some of the people that care about the land the most are the ones who wheel. I would like to site the cleanup efforts of numerous island 4x4 clubs at K'aina Point and Habush Beach Park. These are area the state ignored and the trash was thick to include vehicles, tires and a construction dumpster full of trash on the Habush cleanup. We contacted people in the media both times but it wasn't a good enough story for them.

There is land that is being transferred from the Navy that was part of Barbers Point Naval Air Station and some of this land would be a perfect area for a 4x4 vehicle park. One area is approx. 180 acres and cannot be built upon. Why is it that by DLNR's own annual report they admit they do not spend the proportional amount of federal RTP funds for four wheel trails? The state should look at putting its efforts into addressing the problem by providing a solution instead of trying to criminalize four wheeling, that has become part of Hawaii. I ask on behalf of the four wheeling clubs here in the Hawaiian Islands that this bill be voted down and the true issue be addressed by the state in a manner that will promote safe, responsible and legal four wheeling for Hawaii.

### To the honorable committee members:

My name is Michael Elliott. I came on very short notice to speak today on behalf of a growing concern over off-road activities here in Hawaii. I have only lived here for four years yet I have many Hawaiian friends who have helped me learn why this place is so special. One of the things that are of great concern is the access to areas of the islands via 4 wheel drive vehicles. Your bill wants to fine people for being on non-DLNR approved land that is designated by the state. I ask you? Where are these lands? Where are these trails that are approved? The only one listed on the www.hawaiitrails.org site is the road up to Peacock Flats. Have any of you been there? Have you see the beauty of this island from a mountain top. Why is it that there are numerous trails that could be used for recreational off-roading that already exist on state land? Just look at Google Earth. Why can't those trails be opened for 4x4 vehicles? They used to be open before everyone tried to gate off access through their property to these state lands. The state has not made any attempt to secure right of ways to allow access and let people close off areas that were once used. Some of you might have a bad image of four wheeling but I have been numerous places back on the mainland and I see that some of the people that care about the land the most are the ones who wheel. I would like to site the cleanup efforts of numerous island 4x4 clubs at K'aina Point and Habush Beach Park. These are area the state ignored and the trash was thick to include vehicles, tires and a construction dumpster full of trash on the Habush cleanup. We contacted people in the media both times but it wasn't a good enough story for them.

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# LATE TESTIMONY SB 2926 (END)