

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 Senate Bill 933, Senate Draft 1, Proposed House Draft 1 –
RELATING TO LAND ACQUISITION**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE**

April 1, 2008

Senate Bill 933, Senate Draft 1, Proposed House Draft 1 provides for an additional extension of time to acquire lands that are designated to become part of the South Kona Wilderness Area. The wilderness park designation in South Kona includes portions of the coastal areas within the ahupuaas of Honomalino, Okoe, Kaulanamauna, and Manuka, most of which are State-owned. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) notes that the privately owned lands that are the subject of the bill are located in Kapua, which is situated between Kaulanamauna and Manuka. While the Department appreciates the intent of this measure, the Department nonetheless has doubts on whether a land exchange can be consummated.

On May 30, 2007, the Department met with representatives for the Kapua landowners ("Landowner"). The purpose of this meeting was to identify acceptable public lands for purposes of a land exchange pursuant to Act 59, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003. Following subsequent analysis of Department files, however, the Landowner did not identify any public lands as being acceptable for purposes of a land exchange. Consequently, although the Department supports the designation of the South Kona Wilderness Area, it is unlikely that a land exchange is feasible.

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting S.B. 933 Proposed HD 1 Relating to Land Acquisitions
House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, April 1, 2008, 2:30PM, Room 308

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of Hawai'i's native plants, animals, and ecosystems. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands for rare and endangered native species in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 32,000 acres in 11 nature preserves on O'ahu, Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i and also work closely with government agencies and private landowners on cooperative land and marine management projects.

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i supports S.B. 933 Proposed HD 1.

The proposed South Kona Wilderness Area will protect important cultural resources as well native dry land forest cover which is becoming increasingly rare throughout the state. The Conservancy looks forward to continuing to work with the State, the landowner, and other interested parties to achieve a successful land acquisition and establishment of this important conservation land area.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

S. Haunani Apoliona Peter D. Baldwin Christopher J. Benjamin Zadoc W. Brown, Jr. Carl A. Carlson, Jr. David C. Cole Samuel A. Cooke
Peter H. Ehrman Kenton T. Eldridge Guy Fujimura J. Stephen Goodfellow Thomas Gottlieb James J.C. Haynes Ron Higgins Peter Ho
Stanley Hong J. Douglas Ing Mark L. Johnson Dr. Kenneth Kaneshiro Bert A. Kobayashi, Jr. Faye Watanabe Kurren Duncan MacNaughton
Bill D. Mills Wayne Minami Michael T. Pfeffer H. Monty Richards Jean E. Rolles Scott Rolles James Romig Eric Yeaman