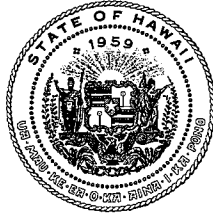
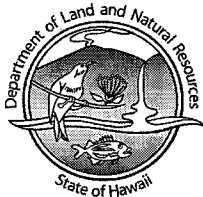


TESTIMONY
SCR 59 & SR 31

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 Concurrent Resolution 59/Senate Resolution 31 - REQUESTING
THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES IN
COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO
CONDUCT A STUDY AS TO THE FEASIBILITY OF PROVIDING A PERMANENT
PORT AND DOCK FACILITY FOR THE VOYAGING CANOES HOKULE'A,
MAKALI'I, HOKULAKA'I, NANAHOE, AND MO'OKIHA.**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
WATER AND LAND,
AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS,
and
TRANSPORTATION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS,**

March 28, 2008

Senate Concurrent Resolution 59/Senate Resolution 31 proposes that the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department), with the cooperation of the Department of Transportation, study the feasibility of providing a permanent port and dock facility for the voyaging canoes Hokule'a, Makali'i, Hokualaka'i, Nanahoe, and Mo'okiha. The Department does not support these resolutions because the State small boat harbors are currently at maximum capacity with wait lists for mooring in excess of several years.

Further, the Department does not have the resources to create a new harbor or expand existing facilities to accommodate the voyaging canoes, which is exceedingly expensive, and would disrupt the maintenance and renovations of existing boating facilities. The Department instead, respectfully requests the Legislature support the Department's Boating Capital Improvement Project proposals in the Executive Supplemental Budget so that the Department can bring its existing facilities up to standard and will allow the Department the ability to accommodate the voyaging canoes on a case by case basis should mooring space become available.



Legislative Testimony

**SCR 59, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL
RESOURCES IN COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION TO CONDUCT A STUDY AS TO THE FEASIBILITY OF
PROVIDING A PERMANENT PORT AND DOCK FACILITY FOR THE
VOYAGING CANOES HOKULE'A, MAKALI'I, HOKUALAKA'I, NAMAHOE,
AND MO'OKIHA**

Senate Committees on Water and Land, Agriculture and
Hawaiian Affairs, and Transportation and International
Affairs

March 28, 2008
Room: 414

2:45 p.m.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SCR 59, which would require a study potentially pointing toward non-profit, traditional Pacific Island voyaging canoe organizations with dedicated berthing areas for all of the traditional voyaging canoes on all islands that would be exempt from State mooring fees, just as sailing schools now receive.

Please note that the title and text of this concurrent resolution refer to "Nanahoe" on Kaua'i, which is actually spelled "Namahoe." Namahoe means "twins" in Hawaiian, for the voyaging canoe's twin hulls and as the Hawaiian name for the constellation Gemini.

Thirty-two years ago, Hōkūle'a set sail with the dreams and hopes of a renaissance of Hawaiian and Pacific Island culture and heritage. She continues to sail today, and the success of her educational and traditional voyages throughout the Pacific is partly represented in the growing number of traditional Polynesian voyaging canoes now sailing to, from and around Hawai'i, including those predominantly focusing on educating young Hawaiians.

Hōkūle'a, her crews and her progeny, have breathed life and pride into a Hawaiian knowledge base of navigational skills, natural resource protection, and cultural knowledge. These voyaging canoes continue to bridge generations, hopes, faiths, nations and history. Hawaiians have redefined their role as navigators, educators, students and ambassadors. Pacific Island voyaging canoes have helped script those roles.

When Hōkūle'a sailed into Hanalei Bay in 2004 for the start of her 1,250-mile sail through the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, in an effort to educate Hawai'i about the string of environmental and cultural gems in our archipelago, someone attempted to assess mooring fees on her. This was an insult to what has become an icon

of Hawaiian culture and knowledge. Most moorings have been granted to Hōkūle'a and other voyaging canoes without charge out of proper respect and courtesy, but apparently we have reached a time where respect and courtesy must be statutorily mandated.

OHA urges the Committees to PASS SCR 59 and urges the departments of Land and Natural Resources, and Transportation to undergo the study recommended by the resolution. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY
SCR 59 & SR 31
(END)