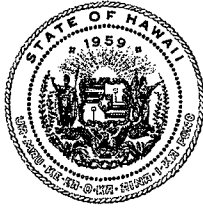


**HB 1552**

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
LAURA H. THIELEN  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Monday April 6, 2009  
9:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1552, HOUSE DRAFT 2, SENATE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS**

House Bill 1552, House Draft 2, Senate Draft 1, authorizes the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to enter into residential leases for living parks, which would include Kahana Valley and creates living park planning councils. The Department requests that the Legislature consider and understand that given the budgetary cuts the Department has had to absorb this fiscal year and further cuts proposed in the Executive Biennium Budget request, the Department's personnel and fiscal resources are being spread thin, and already impacting departmental priorities. Thus, given its current fiscal difficulties, the Department does not feel it has the capacity to support the new programs contained in this measure.

As the Legislature considers a variety of ideas for Kahana Valley (Valley), the Department asks that the solution be guided by the original purpose for which the Valley was purchased: as a public park. The Valley was acquired for the benefit and enjoyment of all, and it is important that, as a public park, the Valley should provide a welcoming environment for all who visit. The Valley was purchased to protect it from development, and any solution should limit future development.

**LAURA H. THIELEN**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**RUSSELL Y. TSUJI**  
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**KEN C. KAWAHARA**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
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TESTIMONY OF MAHEALANI WENDT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IN SUPPORT OF  
HOUSE BILL 1552, HOUSE DRAFT 2, SENATE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS

April 7, 2009

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 1552, House Draft 2, Senate Draft 1, which authorizes the Department of Land & Natural Resources to issue long-term residential leases to qualified persons in state living parks. It also establishes living park planning councils to develop state living park master plans to ensure the living park achieves its purpose and goals.

As the Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs reports, the Kahana Valley State Park residents have demonstrated the success of interpretive programs in living parks for the enjoyment of visitors and school groups. They provide an invaluable resource to the community by maintaining the Kahana ahupua`a. The problems encountered with administering the park since state acquisition have also demonstrated the need for a clear master plan based on the input of the park residents for long-term management solutions.

Accordingly, NHLC is in strong support of House Bill 1552, House Draft 2, Senate Draft 1.