

**TESTIMONY**  
**HB586, HD1**

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
LAURA H. THIELEN  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Friday, March 20, 2009  
3:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 586, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO THE KANEOHE BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL**

House Bill 586, House Draft 1 proposes to repeal Chapter 200D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as it pertains to the Kaneohe Bay Regional Council (Council). The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) support the intent of this measure, but prefers the original version with the effective date of June 30, 2011.

The Department appreciates the passion that the Council has for protecting the resources under its care. The Department notes that the Council been instrumental in developing the Kaneohe Bay Master Plan as well as addressing other controversial issues. The current economic conditions however, make it essential that the Department focus on its core mission of protecting and preserving the State's natural resources and diminish its role with the Council.

The Department, through the Divisions of Aquatic Resources and Boating and Ocean Recreation, is capable of addressing any concerns relating to Kaneohe Bay as they pertain to vessel activity and marine ecosystems. Should any issues arise, the public may contact the Department and the appropriate division will be assigned to investigate and take appropriate action that may include enforcement and/or administrative rule amendments. The public may also raise issues through the Kaneohe Bay Neighborhood Board as Department staff attends these meetings. The Department would further note that the Kaneohe Bay Master Plan (Plan) has been established and the draft administrative rules that will implement the Plan are currently being finalized by the Department of the Attorney General and will go to public hearing in the near future.

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



Legislative Testimony

**HB 586, HD 1, RELATING TO THE KĀNE'OHE BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian  
Affairs

March 20, 2009

3:00 p.m.

Room: 229

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB 586, HD 1, which would repeal Chapter 200D, Hawaii Revised Statutes and sunset the Kāne'ohē Bay Regional Council effective January 1, 2020.

While OHA opposed this bill initially, we now believe that the HD 1 provides an adequate amount of time for the Kāne'ohē Bay Regional Council (Council) to facilitate the implementation of the Kāne'ohē Bay Master Plan as it relates to ocean use activities. It will also allow the Council to continue to advise and make recommendations to the State and County on matters regarding the use of Kāne'ohē Bay and serving as a public advocate for Kāne'ohē Bay.

OHA notes that if passed, HB 586, HD 1 would require the Department of Land and Natural Resources to exercise all plans, programs and other policies adopted by the Council prior to the effective date of this Act.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to PASS HB 586, HD 1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**TESTIMONY**  
**HB586, HD1**  
**(END)**