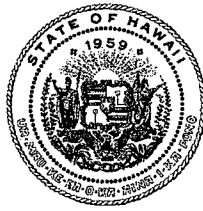
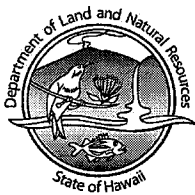


**HB 586**

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  
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Thursday, April 2, 2009  
9:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

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

House Bill 586, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 proposes to: 1) Sunset the Kaneohe Bay Regional Council (Council), 2) Require that the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) continue to exercise full force and effect with respect to all plans, programs, or other policies adopted by the Council, and 3) Delegate to the Department, the functions and duties of the Council. The Department asks that the Legislature 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. As such, the Department prefers the original version of this measure.

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