

**HB 586**

# LATE

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**From:** Malamapono@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 02, 2009 12:12 AM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** Sen. Donna Mercado Kim; Sen. Shan Tsutsui; Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland; Sen. J. Kalani English; Sen. Brickwood Galuteria; Sen. Carol Fukunaga; Sen. Clayton Hee; Sen. Gary Hooser; Sen. Michelle Kidani; Sen. Russell Kokubun; Sen. Jill Tokuda; Sen. Fred Hemmings  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* HB586, HD1, SD1 - Relating to the Kaneohe Bay Regional Council

Aloha mai Senators,

Although you will not be accepting testimony for the 9:30 hearing this morning, the Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club strongly urges you to file House Bill 586; and we wish to inform you that we support the continuation of the Kane`ohe Bay Regional Council.

While we understand that the Legislature is seeking ways to reduce the cost of state government, we assure you that this Council has incurred little or no cost to the budget of the DLNR. Moreover, we have the following concerns:

- 1) If the duties and responsibilities of the K-Bay Regional Council are transferred to the DLNR, this will essentially mean that there will be little or no oversight over the activities in Kane`ohe Bay.
- 2) With the budget shortfall, staffing levels in DLNR will be reduced and there will be little or no personnel available to carry out the "duties and responsibilities" of the council.
- 3) The Kane`ohe Bay regional council was formed, years ago, by some of our members and others in the Kane`ohe Bay region to ensure that there was a mechanism for the users of the bay to work together to ensure protection of the bay's resources and a balance among the competing interests in our bay. To dissolve this body now, when the Kane`ohe Bay master plan has not yet been implemented, would essentially eliminate 20 years of hard work by both our community. It is a slap in the face of our grassroots people who both enjoy the bay and also serve as citizen guardians of the bay for future generations.
- 4) While there has been some concern that this council has appeared to be less than effective in recent years, we submit that the problem lies with the fact that the legislature, a few years ago, sunsetted the requirement that the DLNR hold an annual public hearing to ensure implementation of the master plan.

Passage of this bill does not improve protections and safeguards for the resources of Kane`ohe Bay; it does not solve any of the problems or concerns legislators may have. It allows "open season" for anyone to misuse or abuse the resources of Kane`ohe Bay, in light of the fact that the administration has already admitted it cannot afford to provide adequate protection and enforcement of existing state laws regarding the natural resources of Kane`ohe Bay.

We strongly urge your committee to file this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration of our mana`o.

E malamapono,

Mahealani Cypher  
Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club

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