

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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**Testimony of
LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES**

**Friday, January 30, 2009
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

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

House Bill 586 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) supports this measure and 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
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
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TO: Committee on Land and Ocean Resources
Representative Ken Ito, Chair & Representative Sharon Har, Vice Chair

HEARING: Friday, January 30, 2009; 9:00 A.M., Conference Rm. 325

Re: HB586, Relating to Kaneohe Bay Regional Council

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

Chair Ito and Vice Chair Har, and members of the Committee on Land and Ocean Resources. My name is George Massengale, I am member of the Hawai'i Audubon Society and during session, I serve as their Legislative Analyst. I appreciate the opportunity to submit our testimony in opposition of HB586 which would sunset the Kaneohe Bay Regional Council, while permitting DLNR to exercise policies, plans and programs currently in effect.

The Hawaii Audubon Society (HAS) was founded in 1939, and is Hawaii's oldest conservation group, with over 1,500 dedicated members statewide. The Society's primary mission is the protection of Hawaii's native wildlife and habitats including protecting our aquatic resources.

In the past we have questioned the effectiveness of the Kaneohe Bay Regional Council, however removing the council would restrict further, independent oversight, as well as diminish any meaningful planning structure. **HAS would recommend that the Kaneohe Bay Regional Council be retained and strengthen with additional powers to ensure effective planning and management of the bay.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer testimony on this measure.

Respectfully,
/s/
George Massengale, JD
Legislative Analyst



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Legislative Testimony

HB 586 RELATING TO THE KĀNE'ŌHE BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL

House Committee on Water, Land, & Ocean Resources

January 30, 2009

9:00 a.m.

Room: 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs OPPOSES HB 586, which would repeal Chapter 200D, Hawai'i Revised Statutes and sunset the Kāne'ōhe Bay Regional Council, effective June 30, 2011.

The Kāne'ōhe Bay Regional Council (Council) was formed to facilitate the implementation of the Kāne'ōhe Bay Master Plan as it relates to ocean use activities, advise and make recommendations to the State and County on matters regarding the use of Kāne'ōhe Bay and to serve as a public advocate for Kāne'ōhe Bay by establishing and maintaining communication with public, private, county and state organizations and individuals with interests in Kāne'ōhe Bay. The members of the Council represent wide and diverse interest groups who all must work together to ensure that the resources within Kāne'ōhe Bay are protected for generations to come.

OHA believes that the Council serves as an effective advocate for the protection of the resources within Kāne'ōhe Bay and the quarterly meetings held by the Council provide a regular forum where the public can express their concerns on issues affecting Kāne'ōhe Bay.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to HOLD HB 586. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.