

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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BOATING AND DELTA REGULATION  
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LAND  
STATE PARKS

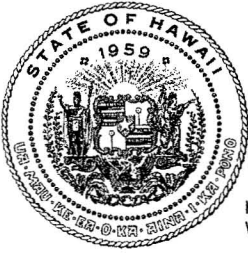
**Testimony of**  
**LAURA H. THIELEN**  
**Chairperson**

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

**Monday, February 2, 2009**  
**9:00 AM**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of**  
**HOUSE BILL 680**  
**RELATING TO TOURISM**

House Bill No. 680 would amend Chapter 184, Hawaii Revised Statutes to authorize the use of the State Parks Special fund to pay the debt service on revenue bonds that may be used to pay for parks construction projects. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this measure as it is consistent with the intent of the Department's Recreational Renaissance initiative. The Department's preference is that the debt service be paid out from the Recreational Renaissance Special Fund proposed in the Administration measures, House Bill 1131/Senate Bill 0949, RELATING TO RECREATIONAL RENAISSANCE that would provide funding and the policy tools which enable the Department to upgrade and maintain the state parks, trails and ocean recreational facilities at world class levels and to protect the precious natural resources of the State.



# Hawai'i Tourism Authority

Hawai'i Convention Center, 1801 Kalākāua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815  
Website: [www.hawaiitourismauthority.org](http://www.hawaiitourismauthority.org)

LINDA LINGLE  
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Chief Executive Officer

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Testimony of  
**Lloyd Unebasami**  
Interim President and Chief Executive Officer  
Hawai'i Tourism Authority

on  
**H.B. 680**  
**Relating to State Parks**

House Committee on Water, Land, & Ocean Resources  
Monday, February 2, 2009  
9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 325

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) strongly supports H.B. 680 which proposes to authorize the State Parks Special Fund to be used for the payment of debt service on revenue bonds.

In 2000, the Legislature passed S.B. 2350, which was enacted as Act 250, Session Laws of Hawaii 2002. This measure provided for the transfer of \$900,000 from the Tourism Special Fund to the State Parks Special Fund to be used for various improvements (i.e., roads, sewage systems, and facilities) at our state parks which are used by large numbers of visitors to our islands. However, for all of these types of improvements, \$900,000 is an insignificant amount.

Bonds are usually sold by governments for capital improvement projects (CIP). When there are specific revenues, such as the transient accommodations tax (TAT) revenues deposited into the State Parks Special Fund, revenue bonds should be issued to finance CIP projects for the parks. For a 20-year bond at 6 percent, with the State's AA-rating, using \$500,000 of the TAT funds for the debt service on revenue bonds, would yield about \$5.4 million in revenue bonds. This is a more significant amount of resources (than the \$900,000) and would increase the level of projects that the department could consider, especially as it relates to addressing the state parks that are used by visitors.

H.B. 680 authorizes DLNR to use the Fund monies for revenue bonds since there is a guaranteed revenue stream.

We urge your support of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**har1-Tammy**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, January 30, 2009 12:31 PM  
**To:** WLOfestimony  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB680 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB680

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: James Coon  
Organization: Trilogy Excursions  
Address: [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED]  
E-mail: [REDACTED]  
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:  
This bill will enable State Parks to leverage their scant funds to borrow money and restore our parks. This may have a pay back by being able to recoup this investment from park revenues.  
Please pass this bill.