

LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED BY:

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COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND & OCEAN RESOURCES

Rep. Ken Ito, Chair

Rep. Sharon Har, Vice Chair

9 am

Monday, March 30, 2009

Conference Room 325

HCR 250

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES TO
REVIEW ALL BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COUNCILS, COMMITTEES, WORKING
GROUPS AND TASK FORCES
TO DETERMINE WHICH OF THESE CAN BE ELIMINATED

COMMENTS WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

I'm Shannon Wood speaking on behalf of the *Windward Ahupua`a Alliance* on HCR 250. As an organization, we not only interact with the *Department of Land & Natural Resources* but also the *Departments of Agriculture, Health, Transportation, Business & Economic Development*, and just about every other cabinet-level department in the state - even including *Public Safety*.

Because of *WAA*'s wide-ranging mission, I examine every bill introduced in the *House* and *Senate* - this year that's over 3,000 all totaled - and then try to narrow them down to some sort of manageable number. This session, we selected 171 bills to support or oppose of which 154 received at least an initial hearing. Currently, we have 49 still alive.

Based upon my initial examination, more than 200 bills were introduced this year establishing new advisory groups covering all departments & agencies plus confirmation hearings have been or will be scheduled on dozens of individuals who've been nominated to serve on existing entities.

There are still about 90 bills still alive. I predict that the numbers will continue to expand over the next couple of years.

What you have identified as a problem in *DLNR* is replicated in every state agency & department. All of them are faced with budgetary constraints with respect to hiring more staff to do research as well as a stated mandate to encourage public participation in the decision-making process by serving on these working groups, boards, commissions, etc.

For example, last Tuesday & Wednesday, five different bills *WAA* has followed closely would set up task forces/advisory groups to come up with legislation to be considered in

upcoming sessions.

I testified in support of all of these bills because I think the government agencies should call upon people knowledgeable about issues to be covered in proposed legislation.

Still, there is a serious problem about over-working existing staff who must provide needed support services to these citizen groups established in every state agency & department. Therefore, I urge that you amend this resolution by substituting the *Legislative Auditor's Office* as the fact-finding entity and that all state agencies & departments be included in the examination & evaluation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on **HCR 250 - REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES TO REVIEW ALL BOARD, COMMISSIONS, COUNCILS, COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND TASK FORCES TO DETERMINE WHICH OF THESE CAN BE ELIMINATED.**