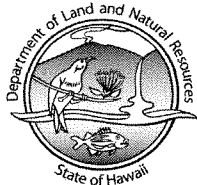


LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
LAURA H. THIELEN  
Chairperson**

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

**Friday, March 13, 2009  
10:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 96/HOUSE RESOLUTION 75  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES,  
DIVISION OF CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT, TO  
CONTINUE TO PROVIDE LIMITED ENFORCEMENT AT KANEOHE BAY**

House Concurrent Resolution 96/House Resolution 75 requests that the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department), Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE), provide limited enforcement services at night on a regular basis and to continue to provide enforcement services on weekends and holidays at Kaneohe Bay. The Department acknowledges the intent of these resolutions and will continue to provide law enforcement services to the Kaneohe Bay areas as manpower and funding permits.

DOCARE like most other private and government agencies has been hard hit by the current international financial crisis. This means that the Division has been forced to make necessary cuts to our operating budget and adjustments to all aspects of daily operations. DOCARE's holiday and regular overtime budgets are fixed and once spent, the Division does not have any other sources of funds to draw upon. At this time DOCARE has overspent its allotment for overtime and has no choice but to restrict activities that would constitute overtime hours. The Department notes that this is not new practice, as DOCARE has had to restrict overtime in the past, although never discussed publicly.

The DLNR-DOCARE hotline (643-3567), however, continues to receive complaints after-hours and on all holidays. Complaints that are received on holidays are screened by the Division's administrative staff; and depending on the circumstances, staff will call a DOCARE officer back to duty to respond as necessary. This is less than the Division would prefer, but the best that the Division can provide at this time.

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  
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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

At the current time, DOCARE's Oahu Branch, has assigned one field supervisor and six conservation and resources enforcement officers to patrol Oahu's windward coast designated as District IV. Makapuu Lighthouse sits at the southern boundary of this district and Kawela Bay on Oahu's north shore marks the northern most boundary of this diverse district. The seven officers assigned to this District are responsible for all activities both onshore and offshore. Patrol of Kaneohe Bay is included in this scheduling of coverage for the District.

Periodically, the Oahu Branch marine patrol unit augments the District's staffing levels with on the water patrol and enforcement activities. Please note that District IV like the rest of Oahu is comprised of a variety of locations where natural, cultural and historic resource interactions occur seven days a week, twenty-four hours daily, each day of the year. Weekend patrol however limited, has not been eliminated. When time off for training, report writing, court attendance, sick, injury, vacation and other authorized leave is taken into consideration, the Division's overall patrol time within District IV becomes very limited. Oahu patrol District IV manpower staffing is not unique and is no different from all of our many other patrol districts throughout the Hawaiian Islands.

In the past, restrictions on overtime were implemented and rescinded as funding allowed. DOCARE intends to approach it in the same manner in this situation.