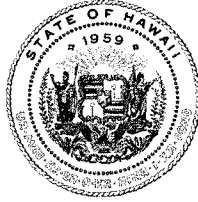
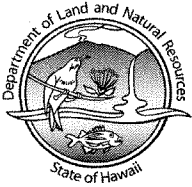


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**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**

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

**In consideration of
Senate Bill 412
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

Senate Bill 412 would amend Section 8-12, Hawaii Revised Statutes, observing Ocean Day on the first Wednesday of June each year, to World Ocean Day, to be observed on June 8 of each year. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources has no objections to this measure, and hopes that it will bring increased awareness to ocean conservation issues.**

LAURA H. THIELEN
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting S.B. 412 Relating to the Environment
House Committee on Water, Land, & Ocean Resources
Friday, March 13, 2009, 10:00am, Rm. 325

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of Hawaii's native plants, animals, and ecosystems. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands for native species in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 32,000 acres in 11 nature preserves on O'ahu, Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i. We also work closely with government agencies, private parties and communities on cooperative land and marine management projects.

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i supports S.B. 412 to establish June 8 of each year as World Ocean Day.

The world's oceans cover 70 percent of the surface of our planet. Yet, less than 1 percent of these habitats are protected.

With the health of these oceans deteriorating at a rapid decline due to irresponsible fishing, pollution, global climate change and unsustainable development, we need to become active stewards in protecting this precious natural resource, which provides food, protection and economic value.

Hawaii's location in the middle of the Pacific Ocean makes our state an ideal participant in World Ocean Day, held every year on June 8.

This day, established in 1992 at the United Nations Earth Summit, is an opportunity to celebrate our world ocean and our personal connection to the sea. It's a chance to education the public about how to conserve and protect our fragile marine environment, which generates more than \$350 million annually to the state's economy.

Hawaii's coral reefs and nearshore waters are homes to more than 7,000 marine life forms – a quarter of them found nowhere else in the world. But land-based pollution, sedimentation, alien invasive species, destructive fishing methods and other threats have degraded our reefs. Scientists estimate that our nearshore fisheries have declined by 75 percent over the last century.

The Nature Conservancy, together with members and conservation partners, has protected more than 200,000 acres of critical natural lands in Hawai'i, including those that directly impact the ocean and its precious ecosystem.

Last year, we partnered with the state's Division of Aquatic Resources to promote International Year of the Reef, a worldwide campaign and call-to-action that raises awareness about the importance of our coral reefs and the various threats to their sustainability. During this yearlong campaign, we spread the message about the state of Hawaii's reefs and what we can do to help preserve and conserve this important natural resource.

The quality of our lives depends on the health of our ocean, reefs and their ecosystems. In this International Year of the Reef, we should come together as stewards of our ocean to preserve this resource for generations to come.

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Hawai'i
Arts
Alliance



A member of
the Kennedy Center
Alliance
for Arts Education
Network

March 11, 2009

Representative Ken Ito, Chair
Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Resources

RE: In SUPPORT OF SB 412 – "RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT."
Hearing Date: Friday, March 13, 2009, 10:00 a.m.

Dear Chairs Ito and Har and Members of the Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Resources:

My name is Marla Momi Musick, Communications Director, Hawai'i Arts Alliance. Hawai'i Arts Alliance is an organization that represents all the arts, in the State of Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 412.

Hawai'i Arts Alliance supports the passage of SB 412 which amends §8-12, HRS, by establishing June 8 of each year as World Ocean Day. Currently the statute recognizes the first Wednesday of June as Ocean Day in our State, however, it is important to increase public awareness throughout the planet. The ocean is one of our greatest resources, and it is imperative that globally we protect this precious commodity. The ocean environments around the world are collapsing, primarily due to over-fishing, pollution, invasive species, and unsustainable coastal development. Therefore the need to promote public awareness, educate communities and increase the understanding of the importance of conserving and protecting our fragile marine environment are essential to preserving it for our children and our children's' children.

Lastly, the ocean plays an integral part in the lives of the people of our great state and around the world, and it is vital that we preserve it for future generations to come - **and is essential to promoting and sustaining our unique cultural heritage.** For these reasons, I humbly ask you to support the passage of SB 412. Thank you once again for the opportunity to submit written testimony on this measure.

Sincerely,

Marla Momi Musick

Communications Director,

Hawai'i State Captain, Arts Advocacy, Americans for the Arts

Hawai'i Arts Alliance

Hawai'i State
Captain -
Arts Advocacy,
Americans for
the Arts



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TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND OCEAN RESOURCES
TWENTY-FIFTH STATE LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 2009

TIME/DATE: 10:00 p.m., Friday, March 13, 2009

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO.412 – “RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.”

TO THE HONORABLE KEN ITO, CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE WATER, LAND AND
OCEAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Kai Makana appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 412. My name is Donna Kahakui, founder of Kai Makana, a non-profit community organization whose purpose is to educate and mobilize the public to better understand and preserve our marine life and the ocean environment throughout Hawaii and the world.

As stated in my prior testimony dated, February 2, 2009, I would like to once again lend my support to Senate Bill 412. The purpose of this bill is to bring international awareness of our planet’s fragile ecosystem and to recognize its role in the well-being and health of each individual. Many of us do not understand the importance of the ocean and how it impacts us in our everyday lives. The world’s oceans encompass approximately 70 percent of the surface of our planet, yet less than one percent of the world’s habitat is protected. In addition, approximately 25 percent of Hawaiian corals

are found no where else in the world. It is our kuleana (responsibility) to perpetuate awareness by preserving and respecting the ocean life with which we coexist.

This bill is a means to inspire and empower each one of us to make a difference and to change our habits, if you will, for the benefit of our ocean. This is a bill to let each individual in the State of Hawaii understand their kuleana to the ocean as being a member of this community, our community, and to know that on this day June 8th, they can make a difference along with other communities, states and countries around the world. Establishing this day as World Ocean Day is a way for the citizens of this earth to come together and realize how one day of the year can make a difference in the future of our oceans.

The time is now to be a part of the global movement to recognize the significance of our ocean. The hope is that one day of ocean awareness will lead into several days and several days will lead into everyday. The goal is simple. Leave the ocean better than when we received it in order for the next generation to have a chance to experience all that we have and more. My greatest fear is that one day I may find myself like my grandmother with tears flowing down my face as I am only left with memories of an ocean long past.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 412, and I respectfully ask that you support passage of this measure.

Nika Kashyap
1720 Perry St.
Honolulu, HI 96819

March 12, 2009

Dear Rep. Ito and Committee Members:

Last year my Girl Scout Troop 401 worked hard to get the Resolution passed by the 2008 Legislature to recognize World Ocean Day. I am writing in support of SB412 to establish June 8th as World Ocean Day in the state of Hawaii.

Last year we obtained over 600 signatures supporting recognition of World Ocean Day. Please pass SB412 so that Hawaii will be the first state in the USA to officially recognize the day.

Protection of the ocean that surrounds us is crucial to preservation of Hawaii. We have already seen the negative effects of climate change and global warming on the Hawaiian waters. By establishing a day that we, as a state, can observe, it will give organizations like the Girl Scout the opportunity to raise awareness through activities for the public.

I regret that I could not make it to the hearing today because of school and tests before spring break. Thank you for having supported SB412 in the past. I hope you will pass the bill this session.

Mahalo nui loa,

Nika Kashyap
Girl Scout Troop 401

Last year my troop and I collected over six hundred signatures in support of the petition for World Ocean Day. Being that Hawaii is the only state surrounded by water, it just makes sense to support something beneficial to the sea. The concept of World Ocean Day was established in 1992 at the United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janiro.

Last year to get World Ocean Day going, our Girl Scout Troop, Troop 401, initiated the Resolution for World Ocean Day. I feel that protecting the ocean that surrounds us is crucial to the preservation of Hawaii and crucial for Hawaii's future. By having World Ocean Day in Hawaii, it would raise awareness and inform the public to the ocean's problems.

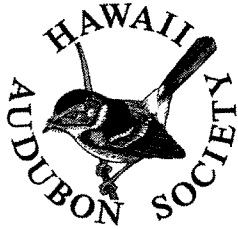
I am not able to make it to this hearing due to school but I would just like to thank Rep. Ito for having supported this in the past and also to everyone who helped along the way. Please pass SB412 so that Hawaii can be the first state to officially recognize World Ocean Day

Thank you very much,
Sabina Van Tilburg

- The concept of World Ocean Day was established in 1992 at the United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, as a way for us to reflect on the ocean's importance in our lives and take time to do something good for our blue planet.
- We need to pay attention the health of the ocean that provides so many resources for native and non-native groups in Hawaii.
- Most of the world's important coastal habitats and coral ecosystems are disappearing due to climate change and man-made pollution.
- The report by Architecture 2030 called "Nation Under Siege" projects a rise in sea level by 1 ¾ meters within 20 years. This means that the newly designated Hawaii Cultural Heritage Area in downtown Honolulu will be submerged.
- It's up to each of us to help ensure that the ocean is protected and preserved for future generations.
- There are currently major efforts encouraging the celebration of World Ocean Day underway at many leading aquariums, zoos, museums, and conservation organizations and agencies.
- The Hawaii Girl Scout Troop 401 requests your support for SB 412 by designating June 8th as World Ocean Day for the State of Hawaii. We hope you will make Hawaii the first in the nation to observe this important day.

Mahalo for your support!

Teri Skillman, Leader
Girl Scout Troop 401



For the Protection of Hawaii's Native Wildlife
HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY

850 Richards Street, Suite 505, Honolulu, HI 96813-4709
Phone/Fax: (808) 528-1432; hiaudsoc@pixi.com
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**TO: Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources
Representative Ken Ito, Chair and Representative Sharon Har, Vice Chair**

HEARING: Friday, March 13, 2009; 10:00 A.M., Conference Rm. 325

Re: SB412, Relating to the Environment

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Chair Ito and Vice Chair Har, and members of the Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources. My name is George Massengale and I am a long time member of the Hawai'i Audubon Society and during session I serve as their legislative analyst. We are happy to be here today to testify in support SB412, proclaiming June 8th, of each year as "World Ocean Day."

The Hawai'i Audubon Society was founded in 1939, and is Hawai'i's oldest conservation group, with over 1,500 dedicated members statewide. The Society's primary mission is the protection of Hawai'i's native birds, wildlife & habitats, our ocean resources, the restoration of ecosystems and the conservation of natural resources through education, science and advocacy in Hawai'i and the Pacific. The Society has an established and proactive partnership with the Pacific Fisheries Coalition, and together we've advocated for various measure that would further protect our oceans and coastal waters from the Big Island of Hawai'i to Kure in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

We would point out that Hawai'i's ocean industries are vital to our economy. They include commercial and recreational fishing, snorkeling and diving, aquaculture, maritime shipping, ocean research, boating, kayaking and surfing. The cultivation of these industries, especially those related to ecotourism, is critical to the health of Hawai'i's economy. To increase diversity and maintain growth in the various ocean industry sectors we need to provide adequate support, and no single sector needs it more than the management of our living marine resources, which play a critical role in our tourist-dominated economy. From restaurants that feature fresh-caught island fish on their menus to charter boats, dive shops, Navitek and the Atlantis submarines, our

tourist economy is tied to the health of our living marine resources, and yet these resources are in trouble. Pollution, over-harvesting, damaging fishing practices, loss of estuaries, reef habitat and inshore nursery areas, alien aquatic species, coastal development, marine debris, and shipwrecks have caused our living marine resources to decline.

The Society believes that proclaiming June 8th as World Ocean Day will garner additional attention on just how economically important and how fragile our ocean environments truly are.

We would urge the committee to pass this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Massengale".

George Massengale, JD
Legislative Analyst