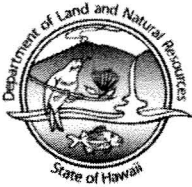


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**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 Committees on
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS,
and
WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES**

**Wednesday, February 3, 2010
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1961
RELATING TO THE KAHOO LAWE REHABILITATION TRUST FUND**

House Bill 1961 would impose a surcharge of \$1 for every customer of an ocean recreation business that operates in or around Molokini Islet, and deposit said funds into the Kahoolawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) opposes this bill.

The existing snorkel/dive tours that use Molokini have already been asked to accept increased costs to their businesses through department permit conditions to reduce damage to coral resources there. Given the state of Hawaii's economy, it would be unfair to ask these businesses to shoulder an additional fee on visitors this year.

The Department believes that any future fees for Molokini visitors should be used to protect the resources of Molokini and coral resources in the State.

LATE TESTIMONY

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

Rep. Maile Shimabukuro

LATE TESTIMONY

From: Randy Coon [trilogy@maui.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 3:19 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Subject: Comments on H.B. 1961

To Whom it may concern: I'm shocked that in the worst economic environment we have seen here in Hawaii in over 30 years anyone would propose a bill such as H.B. 1961. Most companies in our industry are grateful to have single digit profits during good times, but now, when times are really tough and we are having to lay off valued employees, even a modest surcharge like this could represent 100% of our profits and could be the difference between staying in business or shutting down altogether. I would ask you to reconsider this and like legislation and maybe talk to those of us on the front lines out here in the trenches to see what it is really like before you add another onerous burden on a struggling industry.

Mahalo & Aloha,
Capt. Randolph Coon
Trilogy Excursions