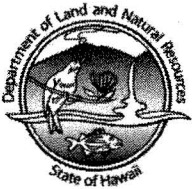


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson**

SUPPORT

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

**Friday, February 5, 2010
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2907
RELATING TO THE STATE PARK SYSTEM**

House Bill 2907 prohibits the use of all terrain vehicles (ATV's) within the State Parks System unless the person uses a safety helmet. The Department of Land and Natural Resources supports this measure.

The Department notes that §13-146-40, Hawaii Administrative Rules, currently prohibits the use of ATV's from all parks within the State Parks System, unless the use occurs on a designated trail or road that is managed for motorized use and that is designated for ATV use by appropriate signage.

The only location within the State Parks System currently designated for off highway vehicle recreational use, which includes ATV's, is the Sand Island State Recreation Area on Oahu. The authorized riding area in this location is managed by a non-profit organization that strictly requires riders to wear helmets and additional safety gear pursuant to insurance and permit requirements. There are no other state parks being considered for authorized ATV use.



THE QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER

SUPPORT

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Rep. Ken Ito, Chair

Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

February 5, 2010 – 9:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In Strong Support of HB 2907, Relating to the State Park System

Chair Ito, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sally L. Jones and I'm the Trauma Program Coordinator at The Queen's Medical Center (QMC). I am speaking on behalf of QMC's Trauma Service in strong support of HB2907 requiring individuals operating an ATV within the state park system to wear helmets and prohibiting minors to ride on or operate ATVs within that same state park system. I am also speaking on behalf of 37 individuals you quite likely don't know.

As with all recreational or sporting activities involving vehicles capable of achieving high speeds, there is an obvious and fundamental risk of injury involved. While we may not be able to eliminate all risk of injury, we are certainly capable of reducing the severity. Training on the use of the vehicle helps, as does the experience the rider gains over time. But, as it states on the ATVSafety.gov web site, "always wear protective gear – especially a helmet – when riding ATVs."

Between 2005 and 2009 (data not yet complete for 2009), QMC treated on average, an ATV accident victim each month. Of the 62 patients treated, 39 (63%) were known to be riding without a helmet; 37 (60%) were treated for some type of head injury and 1 patient died – he was not wearing a helmet.

These numbers may not appear staggering, unless one of them is attached to someone you know and love, or in one case, loved. We would be irresponsible as our State's trauma center if we did not advocate for the use of helmets – something that is known to reduce injury without reducing the fun, thrill, and sport enjoyed by ATV riders.

We urge you to pass this measure and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

A Queen's Health Systems Company