

Bill No. 2957

Date 3/8

**Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection and
Committee on Water, Land, & Ocean Resources
Hearing
Tuesday, March 9, 2010 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 325**



**Representative Hermina M. Morita, Chair and
Representative Ken Ito, Chair**

Testimony on SB 2957, SD1 Relating to the Environment

Dear Chairs Morita, Ito and Members of the Committees:

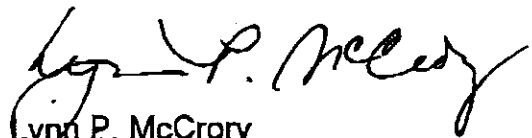
My testimony is in SUPPORT of SB2957 SD1. My name is Lynn McCrory and I am the President of PAHIO Development, Inc. We are a locally owned and operated time share development company on the island of Kauai. I was a member of the Reinventing Government Task Force, and this was one of the concepts coming from the Task Force.

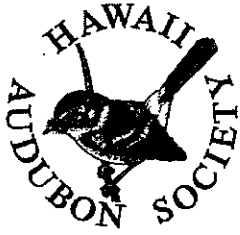
This bill provides a HRS Chapter 343 exemption for projects that protect, preserve, and enhance native species, native habitats, or native ecosystem functions. The concept is clear and the decision making authority resting with the Department of Land & Natural Resources provides the overview that is needed for allowing an exemption. The recommendation from the Task Force was to provide an "exemption" to Chapter 343 for examples such as installation of predator fencing or removal of rocks for safety issues. The addition of timeframes and a public period for review provides clarity.

The time and cost for both government staff and the private sector to complete an environmental assessment will be removed for specific nonimpact projects. This will result in a more efficient government and one that will continue to care for our fragile environment. I humbly ask for your consideration to SUPPORT SB2957 SD1. Mahalo!

Me ke aloha pumehana
With warm aloha,

PAHIO DEVELOPMENT, INC.


Lynn P. McCrory
President



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

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March 9, 2010

Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Representative Hermina Morita, Chair
Representative Denny Coffman, Vice Chair

Committee on Water, Land, & Ocean Resources
Representative Ken Ito, Chair
Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 18, 2010; 2:45 P.M., Conference Rm. 325

Re: SB2957, SD1 – Relating to the Environment

Bill No. SB 2957

Date 3/8

Time 1351

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Testimony in Opposition

Chair's Morita and Ito and members of the joint committees. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition on SB2957, SD1, which if enacted would provide an exemption for projects that protect, preserve, and enhance the environment, land, or natural resources, under certain conditions.

The Hawaii Audubon Society was founded in 1939, and is the Hawaii's oldest conservation organization. For the last 71 years the Society's primary mission has been the protection of Hawaii's endemic birds, wildlife, native habitats, and aquatic resources. One of keys in protecting our Island's unique ecosystems is our environmental review process as outlined in HRS Chapter 343.

Although the environmental review process can be burdensome we believe it is a necessary process that ensures that there is systematic identification and evaluation of the potential impacts (effects) of proposed projects, programs, or policies on the ecological, cultural, and socioeconomic components on the environment.

We would note for the committees that our current environmental review process as outlined in the National Environmental Policy Act and HRS Chapter 343 already provides for exemption of certain projects that are deemed to have little or no impacts on the environment.

Since there are adequate statutory provisions in place that address this issue the Audubon Society would recommend that this bill be deferred.

Sincerely,

George Massengale, J.D.
Legislative Analyst

Cyndi Apana

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 2:00 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: nicoleel@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2957 on 3/9/2010 9:00:00 AM

Bill No. SB2957

Testimony for EEP 3/9/2010 9:00:00 AM SB2957

Date 3/8

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: comments only
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Nicole Lowen
Organization: UH Environmental Center
Address: 2500 Dole Street Honolulu, HI
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Submitted on: 3/8/2010

Time 1400

Cat AF AS AX B

Type 1 2 WI

Comments: