

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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**Testimony of
LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
Water, Land and Ocean Resources**

**Monday, February 2, 2009
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 679
RELATING TO STATE PARKS**

House Bill 679 would exempt the State Parks Special Fund from the 5% central service expenses fee. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) understands the intent of this measure but recognizes that any curtailment of the central service fee moneys would have to be made up elsewhere due to these difficult economic times. The Department defers to the Department of Budget and Finance on the impacts this measure will have on the State Financial Plan.

There is some confusion in the bills if the exemption would apply only to the revenues received from the Transient Accommodation Tax (TAT) or to the entire State Parks Special Fund. There are currently two accounts in the special fund. One account consists of the revenues generated by fees, leases, and concessions in the state park system and these revenues totaled \$2.2 million in Fiscal Year 08. The other account is for the deposit of the TAT funds that total \$900,000 annually. Based on both accounts, the 5% central service expenses fee for the State Parks Special Fund is around \$150,000 annually.

To better manage and maintain the facilities and resources in the State Park System, the Department respectfully ask for your support of its Administrative measures, House Bill 1131/ Senate Bill 0949, RELATING TO RECREATIONAL RENAISSANCE that would provide funding and the policy tools which enable the Department to upgrade and maintain the state parks, trails and ocean recreational facilities at world class levels and to protect the precious natural resources of the State.

With a new fee structure in our parks and an infusion of capital improvement project funds, the Department will be able to improve public health and safety by repairing aging facilities, enhance the visitor experience with expanded recreational and interpretive opportunities, and

LAURA H. THIELEN
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

RUSSELL Y. TSUJI
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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

manage the natural and cultural resources that make our parks important places for both residents and visitors.

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND OCEAN RESOURCES
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 679

February 2, 2009

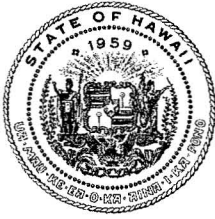
RELATING TO STATE PARKS

House Bill No. 679 proposes to exempt the State Parks Special Fund from the five percent transfer of central service fees.

The Department of Budget and Finance opposes this bill. The bill will further reduce the amount of funds available for the State's General Fund.

Although we support the Department of Land and Natural Resources' efforts at self-sufficiency, State Parks should pay its fair share of central service costs; therefore, we do not support exemptions from this assessment.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



Hawai'i Tourism Authority

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LINDA LINGLE
Governor

LLOYD I. UNEBASAMI
Interim President and
Chief Executive Officer

Testimony of
Lloyd Unebasami
Interim President and Chief Executive Officer
Hawai'i Tourism Authority
on
H.B. 679
Relating to State Parks

House Committee on Water, Land, & Ocean Resources
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Conference Room 325

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) strongly supports H.B. 679, relating to State Parks, which proposes to exempt the State Parks Special Fund from transfer of funds for central services.

In 2000, the Legislature passed S.B. 2350, which was enacted as Act 250, Session Laws of Hawaii 2002. This measure provided for the transfer of \$900,000 from the Tourism Special Fund to the State Parks Special Fund to be used for various improvements (i.e., roads, sewage systems, and facilities) at our state parks which are used by large numbers of visitors to our islands.

At present, the central services fee, which deducts 5 percent of all receipts of a special fund, currently reduces the amount of transient accommodations tax (TAT) revenues which can be used for parks improvement by \$45,000. Exempting the State Parks Special Fund from this fee would allow the entire amount of revenues in the fund to be used for improvements to our parks.

We urge your support of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 12:20 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED] testimony for HB679 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB679

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: James Coon
Organization: Trilogy Excursions
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

This is an important measure to provide the necessary funding protecting and maintaining our State Parks.
Please pass this important bill.