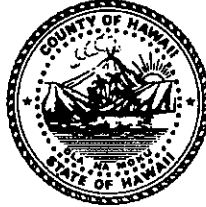


TESTIMONY
HCR 292, HD1

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



William T. Takaba
Managing Director

Walter K.M. Lau
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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(808) 327-3602 • Fax (808) 326-5663

Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture
and Hawaiian Affairs
Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair
Senate Committee on Transportation, International
and Intergovernmental Affairs
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

TESTIMONY ON

H.C.R. 292, H.D. 1, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL
RESOURCES TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO TRANSFER THE MAUNA KEA
STATE RECREATION AREA AND THE HAPUNA BEACH STATE RECREATION AREA
TO THE COUNTY OF HAWAII.

April 15, 2010
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs/
Committee on Transportation, International and Intergovernmental Affairs
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 224, 3:30 p.m.

Aloha, Chair Hee, Chair English, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to strongly support H.C.R. 292, H.D. 1, which will facilitate the transfer of the Mauna Kea State Recreation Area and the Hapuna Beach State Recreation Area to the County of Hawaii.

The seriousness of the economic contraction that the State of Hawaii is experiencing requires consideration of changes that will allow the state and county to cooperate to optimize the deployment of our limited resources for the operation and maintenance of park and recreational facilities.

The Mauna Kea and Hapuna Recreational Areas have the potential to be public treasures, places that can be accessed and enjoyed by far more people than visit those sites today. With the proper public investment, these are places that can offer unparalleled recreational experiences.

Most state parks are primarily passive with minimal services and facilities, which is in keeping with the State Park Program mission. The Department of Land and Natural Resources' State Parks Mission Statement identified Hapuna Beach State Recreation Area as "County Compatible" because it is an active park unlike most state park facilities. Hapuna has more in common with the active county-maintained parks than it does with most state parks, and in fact the State relies on county lifeguards to service Hapuna.

In the State Parks Mission Statement the Mauna Kea State Recreation Area is identified as a facility that is "maintained for others", namely the Division of Forestry. While improving Mauna Kea State Recreation Area is not a high priority for State parks, the County of Hawaii believes that it is an increasingly important recreational facility because of the ongoing reconstruction of Saddle Road.

The federal government has made a large investment in re-aligning and improving Saddle Road, which in turn has caused a substantial increase in the use of the road by residents and visitors. The Road is evolving into an important 50-mile scenic highway. There are not other recreational, restroom or other public facilities anywhere on the entire 50-mile drive, but the growing demand for such services is obvious.

The County of Hawaii is prepared to make the necessary investment in infrastructure and maintenance to allow these facilities to achieve their potential as key outdoor recreational facilities.

The County of Hawaii has met with the Department of Land and Natural Resources and are willing to work with the State to take over the operation, maintenance, and improvement of the Mauna Kea State Recreational Area and the Hapuna Beach State Recreation Area, without the transfer of any state personnel and equipment. The transfer of these facilities to the County will allow the Department to use its limited resources on other parks and state facilities.

This Concurrent Resolution was offered at the request of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. We strongly urge you adopt H.C.R. 292, H.D. 1.

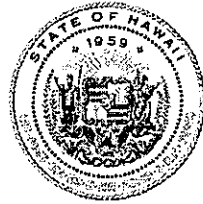
Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William P. Kenoi', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

William P. Kenoi
MAYOR

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

**Testimony of
LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
and
TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**Thursday, April 15, 2010
3:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 292, HOUSE DRAFT 1
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO TRANSFER THE MAUNA KEA
STATE RECREATION AREA AND THE HAPUNA BEACH STATE
RECREATION AREA TO THE COUNTY OF HAWAII**

House Concurrent Resolution 292, House Draft 1 requests: (1) The Department of Land and Natural Resources and the County of Hawaii to enter into an agreement with the County of Hawaii to transfer the title and responsibility for the Mauna Kea State Recreation Area and Hapuna Beach State Recreation Area to the County of Hawaii (County) and; (2) The County to provide a report to the Legislature on the progress of the transfer, including a resource management plan and the financial and administrative resources the County will provide for the operation and management of these areas prior to the 2011 Legislative Session. The Department believes this issue has merit and is willing to discuss this topic further with the County to determine the most efficient and effective means for maintaining these areas. As such, the Department does not support this concurrent resolution in its present form as the Department is unable to commit to entering into an agreement at this time until formal discussions with the County have occurred and both sides are amicable to the terms of the transfer.

TESTIMONY
HCR 292, HD1
(END)