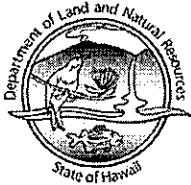


TESTIMONY
SB 2340

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 Senate Committee on
WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Monday, February 22, 2010
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2340
RELATING TO THE KANEOHE BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Senate Bill 2340 proposes to: 1) Repeal the sunset of the Kaneohe Bay Regional Council (Council) scheduled for 7/1/2010; and 2) Require the Council to meet annually instead of quarterly and to report on its activities annually instead of semi-annually. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) does not support this measure.

The Department appreciates the passion that the Council has for protecting the resources under its care. The Department notes that the Council been instrumental in developing the Kaneohe Bay Master Plan (Plan) as well as addressing other controversial issues. The current economic conditions however, make it essential that the Department focus on its core departmental mission of protecting and preserving the State's natural resources and diminish its role with the Council. The Department's general fund has been cut 32% over the past three years, special fund revenues have declined 35% over the past three years, and the Department has lost 80 positions in the recent Reduction-in-Force this past year. As a result, the Department's personnel and fiscal resources are being spread thin.

The Department, through the Divisions of Aquatic Resources and Boating and Ocean Recreation, is capable of addressing any concerns relating to Kaneohe Bay as they pertain to vessel activity and marine ecosystems. Should any issues arise, the public may contact the Department and the appropriate division will be assigned to investigate and take appropriate action that may include enforcement and/or administrative rule amendments. The public may also raise issues through the Kaneohe Bay Neighborhood Board as Department staff attends these meetings. The Department would further note that the Plan has been established and the draft administrative rules that will implement the Plan are currently being finalized by the Department of the Attorney General and will go to public hearing in the near future.

**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**

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2010 8:22 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: bob.gould@stanfordalumni.org
Subject: Testimony for SB2340 on 2/22/2010 3:00:00 PM

Testimony for WTL 2/22/2010 3:00:00 PM SB2340

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robert Gould
Organization: Individual
Address: 44-365 Kaneohe Bay Dr. Kaneohe, HI
Phone: 808-254-5242
E-mail: bob.gould@stanfordalumni.org
Submitted on: 2/19/2010

Comments:

The Kaneohe Bay Regional Council was established pursuant to recommendations of the Kaneohe Bay Task Force, of which I was a member. The Regional Council is an excellent example of community based planning, and its value has been proven over the years and supported by the legislature. The unfortunate bill passed in the 2009 legislature by apparently misinformed legislators driven by special interests needs to be overturned, and this bill will do that. Even though the DLNR has only grudgingly provided support, the job is not yet done, because the boating rules envisioned by the Task Force and fine tuned by the Regional Council have yet to be enacted fully by DLNR and DOBOR. Keep the Regional Council running!

TESTIMONY
SB 2340
(END)