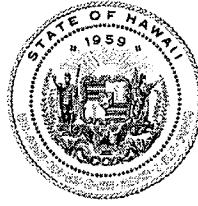
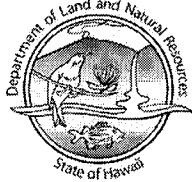


SB 2362

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 Committees on
TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL & INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
and
WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Wednesday, February 3, 2010
1:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2362
RELATING TO CONSERVATION OUTREACH**

Senate Bill 2362 would require the Department (Department of Land and Natural Resources) to work with the Department of Transportation and the Hawaii Tourism Authority to develop and air public service announcements on commercial passenger airline flights to Hawaii to provide information on Hawaii's unique and fragile ecosystems, how to care for these ecosystems, information on the Hawaiian monk seal, and how to behave if one is encountered, and information on endangered species laws. No new source of funding is identified to support these activities. While the Department is concerned with the decline in the population of monk seals and recognizes the need to educate the population about how better to protect this species, the Department nonetheless strenuously opposes any unfunded mandates or distractions from its core public resources management.

The Department's general fund appropriations have decreased more than 32% in less than three years, its special fund income has decreased more than 35% in less than three years, and the Department has lost more than 80 positions, more than 10% of our positions this past year. The Department therefore cannot afford to undertake any new initiatives.

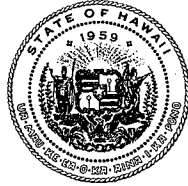
LAURA H. THIELEN
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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
KAOHOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

BRENNON T. MORIOKA
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
MICHAEL D. FORMBY
FRANCIS PAUL KEENO
BRIAN H. SEKIGUCHI
JIRO A. SUMADA
IN REPLY REFER TO:

February 3, 2010

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

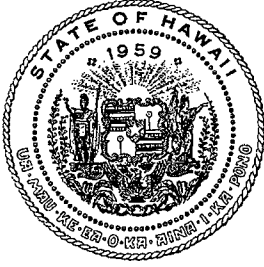
COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

SENATE BILL NO. 2362
RELATING TO CONSERVATION OUTREACH

The Department of Transportation (DOT) opposes this bill that would require DOT to work with the Department of Land and Natural Resources to develop and air, public service announcements on commercial passenger airline flights to Hawaii to provide information on the Hawaii's unique and fragile ecosystem, how to care for these ecosystems, information on Hawaiian Monk seal, and how to behave if one is encountered, and information on endangered species laws. No new source of funding is identified to support these activities. Presently, this educational effort is already being accomplished with inflight videos from the Department of Agriculture, in support of the Invasive Species Action Plan.

While the Department is concerned with the protection of our endangered species and the vital need to educate the population, the Department opposes any further unfunded mandates to support this purpose.

Thank you for considering our testimony.



LINDA LINGLE
Governor

MIKE MCCARTNEY
President and
Chief Executive Officer

Hawai'i Tourism Authority

Hawai'i Convention Center, 1801 Kalākaua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815
Website: www.hawaiitourismauthority.org

Telephone: (808) 973-2255
Fax: (808) 973-2253

Testimony of
Mike McCartney
President and Chief Executive Officer
Hawai'i Tourism Authority

on
S.B. 2362
Relating to Conservation Outreach

Senate Committee on Water, Land Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs
Senate Committee on Transportation, International, and Intergovernmental Affairs
Wednesday, February 3, 2010
1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 224

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) supports the intent of S.B. 2362, which requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to work in cooperation with the HTA to develop public service announcements on commercial passenger air flights to Hawai'i about Hawai'i ecosystems with information focusing on the Hawaiian monk seal.

The HTA would like to make the following points:

- Consistent with its mandate and in line with the Hawai'i State Tourism Strategic Plan: 2005-2015 which includes a Natural Resources Initiative, the HTA has developed a Natural Resources Program to help to improve the visitor experience and resident enjoyment of Hawai'i's natural resources while also ensuring that these resources are protected, respected, and perpetuated.

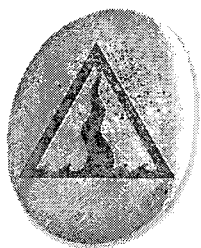
As part of this program, HTA works with others including DLNR to manage, improve, and protect Hawai'i's natural environment and areas frequented by visitors and with its Natural Resources Advisory Group (NRAG) to develop and prioritize the programs in its natural environment initiatives.

Examples of projects funded by HTA through its Natural Resources Program, include, but are not limited to the following: increasing stewardship of the environment by residents and visitors; efforts to remove alien species; projects to re-plant and re-establish native plants and animals; development and installation of interpretive signage to educate visitors about the environmental assets; support for rangers and volunteers to provide information on proper ways to interact with Hawai'i's wildlife; and repair and maintenance of trails, restrooms, parking areas, and other physical amenities at heavily used sites.

- In the February 1, 2010 article in the Honolulu Advertiser reported that the biggest problem in the decline of the monk seal population is poor juvenile survival. According to the article, this is because, in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument where most of the monk seal population is, juveniles are starving to death. Other threats to the seal population cited in the article were entanglement in marine debris, loss of haul-out and pupping beaches, disease outbreak, low genetic diversity, and other causes. The HTA believes that development of public service announcements to be shown on in-bound flights may do little to enhance the monk seal population.

Therefore, while the HTA supports the intent of this measure to educate visitors about Hawai'i's fragile ecosystems, we believe that it does not need to be legislated. We would be willing to work with interested parties including DLNR, DOT, NRAG and others on such efforts and we also recommend that the education should be expanded to include broader environmental message than just focusing on monk seals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.



Hanalei Watershed Hui

February 2, 2010

Testimony in support: SB2362

Aloha Chair Hee, Vice Chair Tokuda, Chair English and Vice Chair Gabbard,

The Hanalei Watershed Hui supports and protects the natural, cultural and economic resources of the Hanalei Bay watersheds and provides water quality testing and culturally guided education on Kauai.

We strongly support requiring DLNR to work with DOT and HTA to develop appropriate in flight programming about Hawaii's fragile ecosystem and how to protect it.

Every year, unenlightened visitors damage our resources, both mauka and makai, out of ignorance. Many would be good stewards had they been informed. Some would enjoy helping to protect and preserve this place they all want to visit.

Please pass this bill and utilize the tools we have to support the work of organization's like ours and help our visitors do the right things.

Me ka pono,

Makaala Kaaumoana
Executive Director

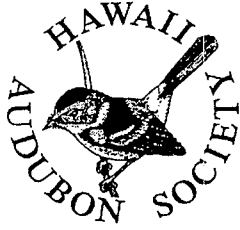
E malama kumu wai ~ Protect the source

5299C Kuhio Hwy, P.O. Box 1285, Hanalei, Kauai, HI 96714

Telephone/Facsimile (808) 826-1985 Email: hanaleiriver@hawaiian.net

www.hanaleiwatershedhui.org

The Hanalei Watershed Hui is an equal opportunity employer and provider.



For the Protection of Hawaii's Native Wildlife

HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY

850 Richards Street, Suite 505, Honolulu, HI 96813-4709

Phone/Fax: (808) 528-1432; hiaudsoc@pixi.com

www.hawaii-audubon.com

February 2, 2010

Committee on Transportation, International and Intergovernmental Affairs
Senator J. Kalani English, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 3, 2009; 1:30 P.M., Conference Rm. 224

Re: SB2362 – Relating to Conservation Outreach

Testimony in Strong Support

Chair's English and Hee, and members of the Committee on Transportation, International and Intergovernmental Affairs, and the Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs. SB2362 if enacted would require the Department of Land and Natural Resources to work in cooperation with the Department of Transportation and the Hawaii Tourism Authority to develop and air on incoming commercial flights to Hawai'i public service announcements about our fragile ecosystem and how to protect it.

The Hawaii Audubon Society was founded in 1939, and has over 1,500 members statewide. The Society's primary mission is the protection of Hawaii's native birds, wildlife and habitats. We would like this brief opportunity to reiterate how fragile our State's ecosystem is. Hawaii is both the endangered species capital of the world and the extinction capital of the United States with over 70% of our country's extinct species. Unless steps are taken now, our islands are headed towards an ecological catastrophe and the world will have lost one of its great biological masterpieces.

Many factors have contributed to this great environmental destruction. These include habitat loss due to agricultural, residential and commercial development; predation of native species by introduced cats, rats, and mongooses; severe forest damage by non-native pigs, goats, sheep, cattle and deer; competition from alien plants and birds, hunting, collecting and avian diseases such as malaria and pox. **However the most regrettable factor contributing to this lethality is widespread public apathy and the lack of understanding on how to care for our environment.**

In reviewing SB2362 the Society believes that it is well crafted and will do two things, if properly funded. **First – educated visitors about the Hawaiian Monk seal, stressing the guidelines on what to do if you come across monk seals during the course of their visit in Hawaii.**

Second – it would provide conservation education on how truly unique and fragile our island ecosystems are.

We would urge the committee's to past SB2362 onto the Committee on Ways and Means. Thank you for opportunity to offer our testimony here today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Massengale', written in a cursive style.

George Massengale, JD
Legislative Analyst