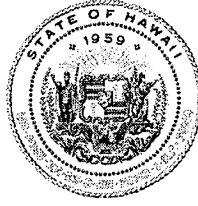
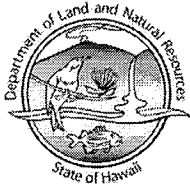


SB 2363

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 2363
RELATING TO CONSERVATION OUTREACH**

Senate Bill 2363 would require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to work with the Department of Transportation to establish and maintain airport kiosks to provide conservation information on the Hawaiian monk seal, and how to behave if one is encountered, information on Hawaii's unique and fragile ecosystems, how to care for these ecosystems, print and video information sources, and 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
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
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MICHAEL D. FORMBY
FRANCIS PAUL KEENO
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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. 2363
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 establish and maintain airport kiosks to provide conservation information on the Hawaiian monk seal, and how to behave if one is encountered; information on Hawaii's unique and fragile ecosystem, how to care for these ecosystems; print and video information sources and endangered species laws. No new source of funding is identified to support these activities. Presently, this educational effort is already being undertaken with informative and educational agricultural/nature displays at the Kahului Airport. With the assistance from the Department of Agriculture and the Federal Aviation Administration this educational project is in direct support of the Invasive Species Action Plan.

While the Department is concerned with the ultimate protection of our endangered species and the state's pristine ecosystems with the fundamental need to educate the population, the Department opposes any further unfunded mandates to support this ongoing objective.

Thank you for considering our testimony.