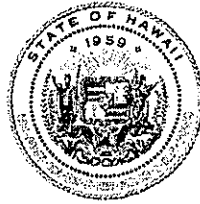
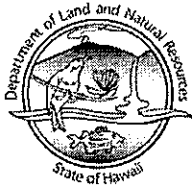


SCR 13

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
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
and
WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Thursday, March 25, 2010
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 13/SENATE RESOLUTION 11
REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAM FOR
VOLUNTEERS TO PICK UP LITTER FROM HAWAII'S BEACHES**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 13/Senate Resolution 11 requests that the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to establish Malama o ke Kahakai, a public service program for volunteers to care for beach areas by picking up litter and debris. The resolutions also requests that the Department coordinate the beach clean-up efforts with community groups, churches or businesses and also requests that the Department provide material support to participating volunteer groups. This measure is unnecessary as it would tie up existing robust decentralized beach cleanup measures with new red tape. Communities are doing well without government interference.

There are many existing avenues to achieve the goal of keeping beaches clean without the creation of another unfunded government program. Since 2008, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ("NOAA") has been implementing the Hawaii Marine Debris Action Plan. The Plan establishes a comprehensive framework for strategic action to reduce the ecological, health and safety, and economic impacts of marine debris in Hawaii by 2020. The plan establishes threat reduction goals and strategies to promote coordinated action to address the significant threats posed by marine debris. Due to the complexity of marine debris issues, the plan incorporates the roles and responsibilities of all affected and interested parties, including government agencies, academic institutions, private sector entities, public interest organizations, and the general community.

**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**

Additionally, Section 46-12, Hawaii Revised Statutes, impose upon the respective counties, the primary responsibility to remove and clear all seaweed, limu, and debris which are likely to create an unsanitary condition or become a public nuisance. Given this statutory directive, the Department believes the Counties are the most appropriate governmental agencies for coordinating the beach clean-up efforts with community groups, churches or businesses and also for providing material support to participating volunteer groups.

Due to the recent severe funding reductions, the Department simply does not have the resources to undertake any new unfunded mandates, despite the meritorious intent of such endeavors. In less than three years, the Department's general fund appropriations have decreased 32%, and the Department's special fund revenues have declined over 35%. In the past year, the Department has lost over 80 positions, which constitutes approximately 10% of the Department's workforce.

TESTIMONY FOR HEARING

Thursday, March 25, 2010
at 3:00 p.m.
in Conference Room 225
State Capitol

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

RE: **SCR-13, REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAM FOR VOLUNTEERS TO PICK UP LITTER FROM HAWAII'S BEACHES**

My name is Linda Starr. I strongly support this resolution for the State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources to establish and maintain a public service program for community minded volunteers to clean up trash and litter from Hawaii's beaches.

I whole heartedly agree that this program would significantly reduce the number of marine animals who otherwise would starve to death because they cannot digest the discarded waste material that they mistake for their natural food. To several sea creatures, a drifting plastic bag looks very much like a tasty jellyfish. To many curious sea creatures, the plastic six-pack circle rings end up trapping or strangling them. In the first "Be It Further Resolved" I would like to add a 6th item that would read:

- "(6) Produce educational material that would educate the public on the various things that can readily be done to plastic and other materials so after they are discarded, they would be less likely to harm the animal wild life."

For example this material could show that tying the plastic bags or wrappers into several knots would lessen the likelihood that they would blow around in the wind, so that if they do end in the ocean, they would not look like food. Another example could show that cutting up the plastic six-pack circle rings would make them less likely to trap small animals. Or another could show that cutting up small plastic cups would make them less likely to lure small critters to put their tiny heads into these cups when they try eat the bits of food in the cups. Thank you for favorably considering my amendment to SCR-13.

Sincerely yours,

LINDA W.L. STARR

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