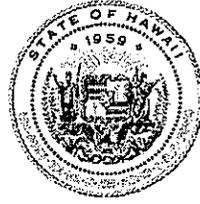


TESTIMONY
SCR 216

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
KAIHOLAWE 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**

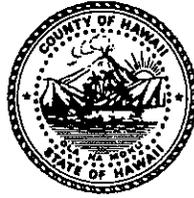
**Monday, March 22, 2010
2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 216
REQUESTING A REPORT AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION
FOR THE TRANSFER OF THE MAUNA KEA STATE RECREATION
AREA AND THE HAPUNA BEACH STATE RECREATION AREA
TO THE COUNTY OF HAWAII**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 216 requests the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) and the County of Hawaii (County) cooperate on the transfer of Mauna Kea State Recreation Area and Hapuna Beach State Recreation Area from the State to the County and provide a report to the Legislature prior to the 2011 session.

The Department believes this issue has merit and should be explored further. The Department will discuss this topic with the County, and will inform the Legislature of the status of these discussions prior to the 2011 session. However, due to staffing limitations, production of a formal report to the Legislature and a resource management plan as outlined in this measure would likely not be achievable.

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



William T. Takaba
Managing Director

Walter K.M. Lau
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 75-5722 Hanama Place, Suite 102 • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 327-3602 • Fax (808) 326-5663

March 22, 2010

Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on Water,
Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation,
International and Intergovernmental Affairs
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 229, 2:45 p.m.
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**RE: S.C.R. 216 REQUESTING A REPORT AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION FOR
THE TRANSFER OF THE MAUNA KEA STATE RECREATION AREA AND THE
HAPUNA BEACH STATE RECREATION AREA TO THE COUNTY OF HAWAII**

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

Thank you for this opportunity to strongly support S.C.R. 216 and to propose amendments that will facilitate the transfer of the Mauna Kea State Recreation Area and the Hapuna Beach State Recreation Area to the County of Hawai'i.

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.

The County of Hawai'i has met with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), and we 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 DLNR to use its limited resources on other parks and state facilities.

The challenging economic climate today requires that we work together to adjust State and County responsibilities in ways that lead to the best possible deployment of our limited resources to improve the operation and maintenance of park and recreational facilities.

Honorable Clayton Hee
Honorable J. Kalani English
Page 2
March 22, 2010

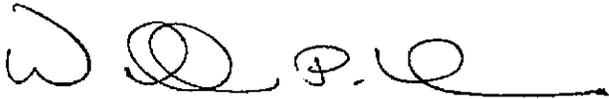
Park maintenance and operations are core County services, and the County maintains other parks in South Kohala near Hapuna including Spencer Beach Park and the County parks at Waikoloa. The County is in an excellent position to take advantage of economies of scale to minimize its maintenance and personnel costs.

I believe this proposal will achieve greater government efficiency and taxpayer savings, and will also result in greater utilization of these areas by larger numbers of people. This is a smart way to realign State and County responsibilities while enhancing the outdoor experience of people who visit these two important public recreational facilities.

We strongly urge you adopt S.C.R. 216 with the proposed amendments.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

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

William P. Keno
MAYOR

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

~~REQUESTING A REPORT AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION FOR THE
TRANSFER OF THE MAUNA KEA STATE RECREATION AREA AND THE
HAPUNA BEACH STATE RECREATION AREA TO THE COUNTY OF HAWAII.~~

**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES ENTER
INTO AN AGREEMENT TO TRANSFER THE MAUNA KEA STATE
RECREATION AREA AND THE HAPUNA BEACH STATE RECREATION AREA
TO THE COUNTY OF HAWAII.**

WHEREAS, the Hapuna Beach State Recreation Area is a 61.8 acre area including a beach park, picnic and shelter lodging opportunities, and hiking along a coastal trail; and

WHEREAS, the Mauna Kea State Recreation Area is a 20.5 acre area with picnic and lodging opportunities at 6,500 foot elevation and pig, sheep, and bird hunting; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources is facing increased fiscal constraints that have resulted in deferred maintenance and infrastructure improvements; and

WHEREAS, with the economic downturn, the State and counties are interested in finding ways to optimize use of limited financial resources to cooperatively manage recreation sites used by the general public; and

WHEREAS, a cooperative relationship may result in less deferred maintenance, thus preventing major repairs or replacement in the future; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the County of Hawaii have expressed a mutual interest in transferring the Mauna Kea State Recreation Area and the Hapuna Beach State Recreation Area to the County of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, this transfer would allow the Department of Land and Natural Resources to use its limited resources on other

parks, and may be a model for future cooperation between the State and counties; now, therefore,

~~BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the County of Hawaii are requested to provide a report and supporting documentation for the transfer of the Mauna Kea State Recreation Area and the Hapuna Beach State Recreation Area to the County of Hawaii; and~~

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the County of Hawaii are requested to include with the report:~~

~~(1) A resource management plan, describing how the County of Hawaii will provide the financial and administrative resources to manage the conservation districts, hunting areas, and other resources; and~~

~~(2) A draft memorandum of understanding between the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the County of Hawaii to delineate the transfer of responsibilities between the government entities; and~~

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Department the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested to enter into an agreement with the County of Hawaii to transfer the responsibility for the Mauna Kea State Recreational Area and the Hapuna State Recreational Area to the County; and

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Hawaii is requested to provide the report with supporting documentation to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2011 Regular Session; and~~

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Hawaii is requested to provide a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2011, on the progress of the transfer, including the resource management plan and financial and administrative resources the County will provide for the operation and management of the recreational areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the

Board of Land and Natural Resources and the Mayor of the County
of Hawaii.

TESTIMONY
SCR 216
(END)