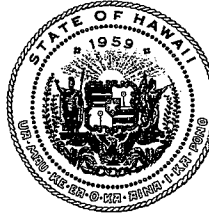
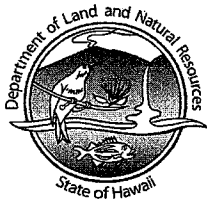


TESTIMONY

SB 2485

LATE

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LATE TESTIMONY

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

**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**

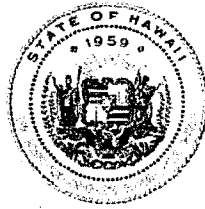
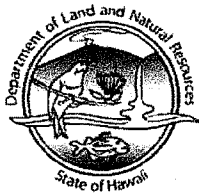
**Monday, February 8, 2010
3:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2485
RELATING TO MOKAUEA ISLAND**

Senate Bill 2485 would authorize the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) a monitoring system and enforcement mechanism to insure compliance and may adopt rules, (3) Establish a Mokauea Island Advisory Committee, (4) Exempt the leases from all statutes, ordinances, charter provisions, and rules of any governmental agency related to zoning and construction standards for subdivisions, the development and improvement of land, and the construction of units thereon; provided the exemptions are consistent with the purposes of this Act and the leases meet minimum requirements for health and safety; and (5) Enforce criminal laws on Mokauea Island. DLNR does not support this measure.

The area under consideration is under the jurisdiction and management of the Department of Transportation (DOT), by way of Executive Order No. 3202. DLNR does not have the resources or the responsibility to manage this area. DLNR must concentrate its limited resources on managing the 1.3 million acres of land that is under its control, and cannot afford to divert its limited resources to manage lands for other department. DLNR continues to face severe budget cutbacks. DLNR's general fund appropriations and special fund revenues have dropped over 32% and 35%, respectively, in less than three years, and DLNR lost more than 10% of its positions (over 80 positions) this past year. The bill imposes duties that would require a substantial amount of staff time and funding. DLNR simply does not have the resources and staffing necessary to undertake the additional duties that would be required under this bill.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

LATE TESTIMONY

Laura H. Thielen
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

RUSSELL V. TSUJI
FIRST DEPUTY

KEN C. KAWAHARA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONSERVATION
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

January 2010

**Budget Testimony of the Department of Land and Natural Resources
(Abbreviated Version)
Supplemental Budget FY 11
Chairperson Laura H. Thielen**

I. FOUNDATION FOR DLNR BUDGET

A. Department of Land and Natural Resources Mission Statement

Enhance, protect, conserve and manage Hawaii's unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of people of Hawaii nei and visitors, in partnership with others from the public and private sectors.

DLNR is responsible for managing 1.3 million acres of state land, 3 million acres of state ocean waters, 2 million acres of conservation district lands, our drinking water supply, our fisheries, coral reefs, indigenous and endangered flora and fauna, and all of Hawaii's historic and cultural sites.

B. DLNR Priority Functions

The collaborative and collective effort of all DLNR divisions is required to effectively steward Hawaii's resources and to meet the three constitutional and statutory priorities that this department is charged with carrying out:

1. Public Trust

The State of Hawaii has constitutionally mandated public trust responsibilities to manage natural resources for present and future generations, such as our drinking water supply, our native forests, and our ocean resources. We also have constitutionally mandated public trust responsibilities to preserve cultural practices and our unique historic and cultural sites.

2. Public Access

Intertwined with the public trust is the legal obligation and essential public service to provide public access. Public access to mountains, beaches and the ocean for gathering, subsistence, religious practices, recreation, for residents and the millions of visitors and small businesses who serve them which are the backbone of our state economy.

3. Public Safety

Intertwined with both public trust and public access is the legal and moral obligation to protect the safety of the public accessing these 1.3 million acres of state lands and 3 million acres of state waters managed by DLNR, as well as protect the safety of the public trust resources housed there. In addition, common sense requires sustained management of public lands and waters to protect the State from exposure to liability.

It is not possible to meet just two of these three priorities. The public trust requires we provide public access. Public access requires we provide public safety. Similarly, it's not possible for two-thirds of the DLNR divisions to meet these three priorities. Each division within DLNR is integral to meeting the comprehensive mandates of these three priorities. For example:

- The public trust obligation to protecting and preserving Hawaii's miraculous aquifers and our drinking water supply requires the combined efforts of the Water Commission, Forestry, Aquatic Resources (stream), Engineering, Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands and Enforcement.
- The public access and public trust obligations for cultural practices, recreation, etc. requires the combined efforts of Historic Preservation, Parks, Forestry, Enforcement, Office of Conservation & Coastal Lands, Boating, Engineering and Land.

Accordingly, we come before you with a budget proposal which has deliberately and delicately balanced general, special and federal funds across divisions and programs to preserve this holistic approach to meet – albeit in a reduced fashion – *all* three of our constitutional, statutory and general essential government service priorities.¹

II. UNIQUE BALANCE OF DLNR BUDGET

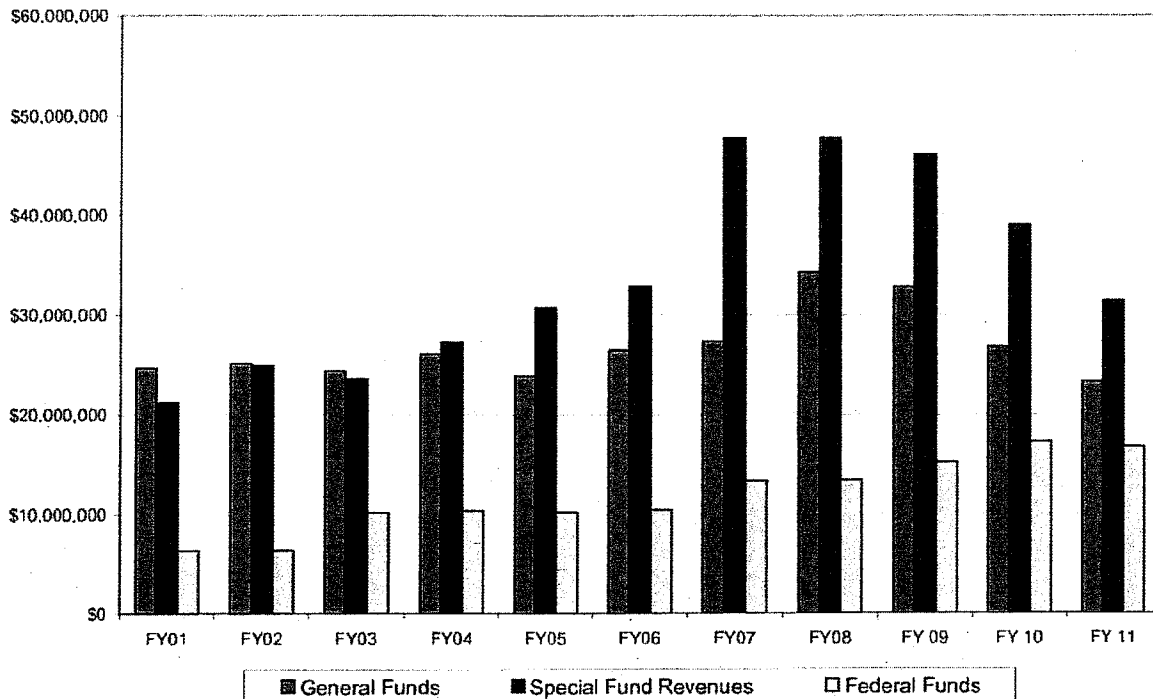
A. Economic Impact on DLNR

DLNR receives a mixture funds:

- Appropriation of general fund taxpayer dollars
- Approval to expend authorized amounts of federal funds from grants, and
- A special fund "ceiling" authorizing maximum expenditures of special funds comprised of non-taxpayer revenues received in various divisions.

¹ One DLNR division not included in these examples is the Bureau of Conveyances. While that is not technically a natural or cultural resource function, as the only recording office in the State of Hawaii, they serve an essential government function relating to safety of property investment and public access of a different kind. In addition, the administrative services provided through our fiscal, personnel and IT staffs are essential support for the entire department and the line divisions could not function without them.

DLNR 10-Year Budget

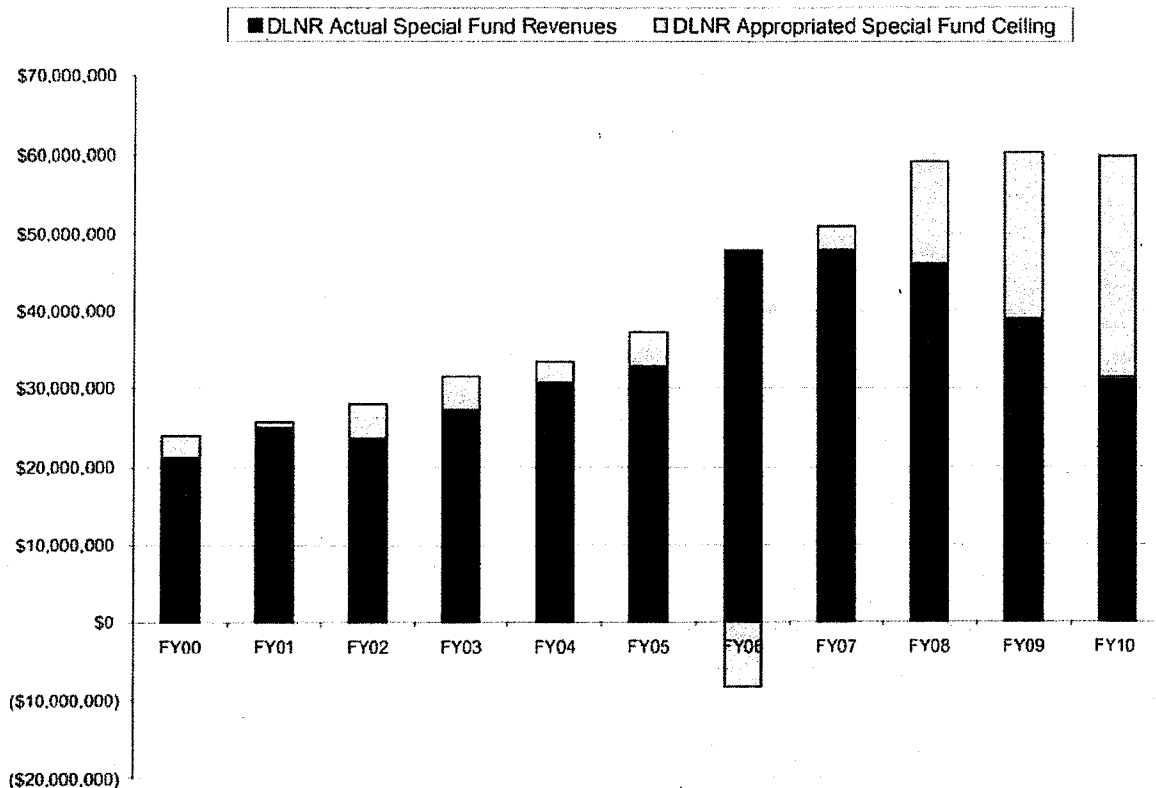


This chart illustrates three significant points about the economic impact upon DLNR's ability to perform state public trust, public access and public safety functions.

First, general fund appropriations to DLNR have declined over 32% between FY08 and FY11. As with other executive agencies, DLNR has taken action to reduce expenses, consolidate and eliminate programs, successfully compete for new federal funds, work with partners to maintain services, reduce operations through furloughs and ensured the state continued core public trust and public safety functions.

Second while the department has been aggressive and successful in growing federal support, these funds cannot be used to permanently offset general funds. Recent federal ARRA funds will cease at the end of two years and cannot be alternatives to state funds. Virtually all DLNR federal funds require mandatory levels of state commitments. In addition, many federal funds are reimbursement grants, requiring an initial state investment before the federal dollars can be sought.

Third, the decline in the economy has also hit DLNR special funds which have dropped about 35% since FY08. Land transactions are down, which has affected the Natural Area Reserve Systems and Bureau of Conveyances revenues; decline in tourism has affected DOBOR and Park revenues; struggling tenants have affected Land revenues. Accordingly, during these past three years there is an increasing gap between the special fund appropriated "ceiling" and the actual revenues received by the department.



While the gap between the authorized spending "ceiling" and actual revenues will diminish as the economy recovers, it will not diminish *until* the economy recovers. Consequently, DLNR special funds cannot be reliably substituted for general funds in FY 11, particularly where it will impact ability to meet existing payroll, fixed costs such as utilities, lifeguard contracts, and basic maintenance and repairs of public lands to protect public safety and reduce state liability.

B. Alternatives Considered

1. Generating Additional Revenue for the State

DLNR's Recreational Renaissance is a business plan for this department to generate new non-taxpayer revenues where appropriate to support the management costs for public access and public safety in a manner that also preserves public trust resources.

The vast majority of the Renaissance revenues (80%) are expected from commercial and industrial leases from vacant lands in urban areas. The process of procurement, entitlement, development and receipt of lease rents is generally a multi-year effort. The delay in revenue was not an issue for the Renaissance plan as debt service for bonds is deferred the first year and requires interest-only payments the first four years. However, the delay in realizing revenues from these land developments does mean this source is not available to offset general fund declines in FY11.²

² In addition, 20% all revenues generated from ceded lands are provided to Office of Hawaiian Affairs, leaving a reduced net amount available to DLNR.

Revenues generated from the shorter-turnaround projects comprise a much smaller amount of projected revenue (20%). However, initially, these new revenues will merely offset the sharp declines in the actual special fund revenues due to the economy. For example, in FY 09, the legislative "ceiling" for DOBOR was \$16,579,175. However, the actual revenues were \$11,050,077³, and FY10 has been worse. Unfortunately, the revenue decline hasn't affected the number of boats that are abandoned, run aground on reefs, or the amount of illegal dumping in small boat harbors. Indeed, these operational costs seem to be inversely proportionate to the economy.

2. Shifting General Funded Operations to Non-General Funds

Thanks to the strong partnership with federal agencies, DLNR has temporarily shifted some general fund operations to non-general funds:

- o DOFAW successfully competed for ARRA funds. However, those grants will cease in two years. Furthermore, the federal grant funds do not cover all basic state land management responsibilities, which would leave the state vulnerable to liability and compromise public safety relating to hazard removal and basic land management responsibilities.
- o DOCARE successfully negotiated a new Joint Enforcement Agreement with NOAA which increased federal support to offset some of the reductions in their non-payroll expenditures. However, these funds are limited to ocean resource enforcement.

DLNR also took steps where possible to shift personnel in general funded payroll positions to identical vacant special funded payroll positions during the reduction in force. However, due to the sharp decline in special fund revenues, we could not substitute special funds for most of our general fund payroll, and that situation will continue in FY11.

IV. CONCLUSION

The state budget allocates General Funds to 14 Executive agencies⁴, the Judiciary, the Legislature and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. This Legislature is about to embark upon the unenviable task of adopting a balanced budget which cuts at least \$348,300,000 from the FY11 budget passed last year. The reality is you could eliminate 100% of the general funds for DAGS, Legislature, Libraries, DLNR, Attorney General, DHRD, Tax, DOD, DLIR, Agriculture, DBEDT and OHA – and you still wouldn't meet the shortfall.

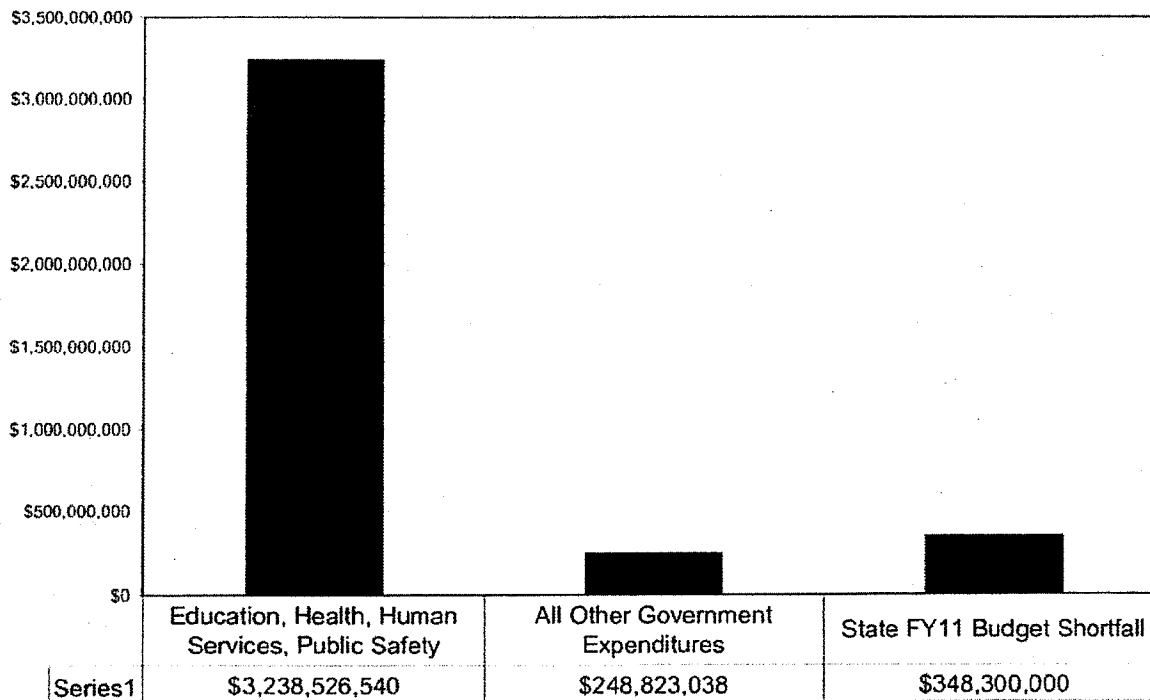
Departments have struggled with how to balance our priorities between large and small programs. DLNR chose to maintain small divisions, such as the Commission on Water Resources and the State Historic Preservation Division. Small does not mean unimportant. In our case, small divisions may play the premier role in our state meeting our constitutional and statutory public trust obligations, public access, and critical public safety needs.

³ Net revenue after deducting OHA 20% ceded land revenue and B&F 5% assessment on special funds.

⁴ The remaining Executive Agencies are non-General Funded.

Preserving small programs means making hard choices that recognize the disproportionate impacts a cut has on smaller programs over large ones. Now the choice is up to you as Legislators whether to sustain these divisions or not.

State FY 11 Budget Proposal



DOE	\$1,253,433,452	DAGS	\$60,463,771
DHS	\$747,410,665	Legislature	\$34,000,000
DOH	\$383,708,512	Libraries	\$25,880,773
UH	\$367,987,276	DLNR	\$23,251,540
DPS	\$214,607,894	Attorney General	\$22,813,695
Judiciary	\$139,000,000	DHRD	\$20,023,064
HHSC	\$83,878,654	Tax	\$19,503,345
Charter Schools	\$48,500,087	DOD	\$13,423,791
TOTAL GF	\$3,238,526,540	DLIR	\$12,855,128
		Agriculture	\$7,501,447
		DBEDT	\$6,606,484
		OHA	\$2,500,000
		TOTAL GF	\$248,823,038

⁵ B&F budget is excluded from this table as it includes \$1,089,953,553 in fringe benefits and \$492,930,627 in debt service for the state, some of which is paid for or reimbursed with non-general funds. If those were deleted from the B&F general fund allocation, that agency would likely fall into the group of agencies each receiving less than 0.5% of the total general fund appropriation.

Free - Internal

From: F. Gin [fgin888@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2010 10:57 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: RE: SB 2485-RELATING TO MOKAUEA ISLAND

LATE TESTIMONY

Monday, February 8, 2010

3:15p.m.

Conference Room 229

**TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE &
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

RE: SB 2485-RELATING TO MOKAUEA ISLAND

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Fabriann Gin and I have in the past worked with Kai Makana Foundation which is a not-for-profit organization leading the effort to environmentally and culturally restore Mokauea Island for future generations.

Kai Makana Foundation is in strong support of Senate Bill 2485, which will authorize DLNR to renegotiate leases with residents of Mokauea Island to facilitate the creation of an educational center where students, teachers, and other members of the public can learn the traditional methods used in a self sustaining Hawaiian fishing village and establishes the Mokauea Island Advisory Committee.

Mokauea Island is the site of O'ahu's last Hawaiian fishing village, and one of the only two left in Hawai'i where hundreds such villages thrived in pre-European times. Since 2005, Kai Makana has worked together with Mokauea Island residents and community volunteers to recreate a living example of a traditional Hawaiian subsistence fishing village as a learning center that will allow for the perpetuation and practice of Hawaiian fishing and seafaring culture. In 2009, over 1,300 students, teachers, and community members participated in service projects on Mokauea Island, which involved: restoration of the fishpond, removal of marine debris, introduction of native plants, removal of invasive seaweed, and learning about the traditional Hawaiian seafaring culture.

This measure proposes to facilitate the creation of an educational center where students, teachers, and other members of the public can learn the traditional methods used in a self sustaining Hawaiian fishing village. In order for our children to learn where they come from, we must protect and preserve this historical island.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this very important measure.

Fabriann Gin
Assistant Manager
lululemon atletica

--

Monday, February 8, 2010
3:15p.m.
Conference Room 229

**TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND,
AGRICULTURE & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

RE: SB 2485-RELATING TO MOKAUEA ISLAND

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Debra Shiraishi-Pratt, a resident of Oahu and volunteer with the restoration efforts on Mokauea Island.

I strongly support Senate Bill 2485, which will authorize DLNR to renegotiate leases with residents of Mokauea Island to facilitate the creation of an educational center where students, teachers, and other members of the public can learn the traditional methods used in a self sustaining Hawaiian fishing village and to establish the Mokauea Island Advisory Committee.

The visible efforts thus far to create a learning center on Mokauea Island is an amazing tribute to community spirit. Volunteers have cut back kiawe, removed mangrove plants, cleared the fishpond, removed invasive plants, and replanted areas with native vegetation. Student groups regularly visit the island and engage in community service learning - they learn about its history, the restoration efforts that are in progress (i.e., replanting native plants and restoring the fishpond) and get hot, muddy, or wet (sometimes all three) in helping to create the next phase of the future learning center.

I volunteer on Mokauea island because I see the need for more learning centers where youth can learn about the marine environment and traditional Hawaiian practices. Our Facebook connected youth can benefit from a day of thinking of life before Costco and envisioning more sustainable lifestyle options. It helps for a student to learn about coastal ecology when he/she has planted a *naupaka*, or about dissolved oxygen levels when caring for a fishpond, or about traditional Hawaiiana practices on an island where fishing was the livelihood. Youth are often surprised to learn that the nearby coastal areas once had lots of fishponds and that a hand-hewed canoe was found on the island. It's guaranteed that they will remember their first lesson – the need to work together while paddling to the island in an outrigger canoe.

In closing, the efforts to create a learning center on Mokauea Island are visibly progressing and tangible, and worthy of continuing. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 5:21 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: rob@electronicinsight.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2485 on 2/8/2010 3:15:00 PM

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for WTL 2/8/2010 3:15:00 PM SB2485

Conference room: 229
Testifier position:
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rob Barreca
Organization: Individual
Address: 3535 Maluhia St Honolulu, HI
Phone: 8082241905
E-mail: rob@electronicinsight.com
Submitted on: 2/8/2010

Comments:

I support this bill to build an educational center to teach the children of Hawaii about traditional fishing methods and culture. We must do everything possible to preserve the Hawaiian culture and give the children of Hawaii a place to experience this.



Monday, February 8, 2010
3:15p.m.
Conference Room 229

**TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND,
AGRICULTURE & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

RE: SB 2485-RELATING TO MOKAUEA ISLAND

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nainoa Thompson and I am the President of Polynesian Voyaging Society which is a not-for-profit research and educational organization. With a legacy of ocean exploration as its foundation, the Polynesian Voyaging Society reaffirms our commitment to undertake voyages of discovery; respect and learn from our heritage and culture; and strengthen learning which integrates voyaging experiences into quality education. We are committed to nurturing communities and the leadership therein which values learning and sharing knowledge in order to foster living well on islands.

Polynesian Voyaging Society is in strong support of Senate Bill 2485, which will authorize DLNR to renegotiate leases with residents of Mokauea Island to facilitate the creation of an educational center where students, teachers, and other members of the public can learn the traditional methods used in a self sustaining Hawaiian fishing village and establishes the Mokauea Island Advisory Committee.

Mokauea Island is the site of O'ahu's last Hawaiian fishing village, and one of the only two left in Hawai'i where hundreds such villages thrived in pre-European times. The voyaging canoe Hōkūle'a is currently based at the Marine Education and Training Center at Sand Island. When we sail past Mokauea Island and are reminded of our mission to Mālama Hawai'i and assume a leadership role in the stewardship of our cultural and environmental resources for future generations.

This measure proposes to facilitate the creation of an educational center where students, teachers, and other members of the public can learn the traditional methods used in a self sustaining Hawaiian fishing village. In order for our children to navigate their future, they must learn where they come from.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this very important measure.

From: Lauren C. Roth Venu [lauren@rothecological.com]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 8:28 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: Mokauea Island Educational Center

LATE TESTIMONY

To Whom it May Concern:

I, Lauren C. Roth Venu, resident of Palolo Valley and President of Roth Ecological Design Int., feel strongly that the residents of Mokauea Island have their lease revised so that they may have an educational center on the island!

mahalo
Lauren

Lauren Carter-Roth Venu
Roth Ecological Design Int. LLC
925 Bethel Street, Suite 100
Honolulu, HI 96813
(00) + 1 808-781-7583
(00) + 1 808-737-1512
(00) + 1 808-732-4597 (f)
lauren@rothecological.com
www.rothecologicaldesign.com
=

LATE TESTIMONY

Aloha,

I am writing in support of SB 2485 as this bill would continue the trend of community partnerships which have been vital to the conservation and restoration of resources in Hawai'i. DLNR has had great success working with communities on conservation projects, in recent memory: Mālama Maunalua & Ho'oulu 'Aina (KKV).

Because of these community partnerships the State of Hawai'i is able to make significant impact on restoration efforts but more importantly provide a community resource that benefits the people of Hawai'i.

SB 2485 is establishment of another great community partnership which will provide resources to an area which has been neglected for decades. This can easily be seen at Keehi Small Boat Harbor & the excessive trash that pollutes the Ke'ehi Lagoon. Without the efforts of visionary organizations like Kai Makana & Polynesian Voyaging Society Ke'ehi Lagoon could be lost forever.

By passing SB 2485 you are investing in our future generations along with the many organizations that are trying to restore the Kalihi Valley ahupua`a system which are: *Kai Makana, Polynesian Voyaging Society, Kaupa, Kahemeahema Schools, & Ho'oulu 'Aina* to name a few.

Mahalo for your time, I trust that you will be supporting a bill which is vital for continual restoration & conservation of Ke'ehi Lagoon in order for future generations to enjoy.

Regards,

Jared Christenot

TESTIMONY

LATE TESTIMONY

SB 2485: RELATING TO MOKAUEA ISLAND

Two years ago, our Hawaiian-themed learning center became the home of what is referred to as the Mokauea Canoe. It is 132-year-old canoe found in 1970 and is one of its kind. Being in the center has allowed this canoe to rest in a controlled environment away from the harmful elements until it can be restored. In the process of being a keeper of the canoe, I have learned so much about this special island and the people who surround and embrace it.

During these past couple of years, I've been able to work closely with individuals and groups who are connected to the island; residents, members of Kai Makana, teachers, students, paddlers, and many others who are committed to care for it. I have been continually impressed with these individuals and groups because they are very aware of community service, not only for the Mokauea, but for Hawai'i in general. They continually exhibit aloha for others, care for the 'aina, respect and perpetuation of the Hawaiian Culture, honor for our kupuna and the past as well as impressing upon the youth to live and practice these special values.

I've heard from many who have gone to the island and they tell me it is a very special place. There, students are able to learn to be considerate, helpful and thoughtful as they foster their intellectual, physical, emotional and spiritual growth through the restoration process.

I am convinced that an Education Center would be an exceptional concept that needs serious consideration. Na keiki o ka 'aina will only prosper and benefit from community-minded and caring adults who come together with a common vision to help, to give, and to care for the land and its people.

Me ka 'oia'i'o (with sincerity),

Hattie Eldredge Phillips
Kuaihelani Coordinator
Punahou School

I

From: Jeanine Keohokalole-Kam [herekkam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 10:15 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: In support of SB 2485

LATE TESTIMONY

Aloha,

Thank you for this opportunity. I would like to ask for your support in passing SB 2485 relating to Mokauea Island. This bill will be heard today, Monday, February 8, 2010 at 3:15pm.

This bill will allow my family and future generations to come to Mokauea island and learn many valuable things that are part of our culture. My children and I have already had the opportunity to learn so much from this sacred place. This has created a bond in all aspects and we are very honored and blessed to be a part of this place. Learning about self-sustaining on Mokauea island helps my children to come back home and practice those techniques learned and be better contributors to their own community.

In these tough times, Mokauea Island can and will provide an educational center for everyone to come and learn many things.

Please support Bill 2485 Relating to Mokauea Island.

Thank you,
Jeanine Keohokalole-Kam
45-672 Anoi Rd.
Kaneohe Hawaii 96744

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 11:21 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: erinann815@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2485 on 2/8/2010 3:15:00 PM

Testimony for WTL 2/8/2010 3:15:00 PM SB2485

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: erin rutherford
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: erinann815@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/8/2010

Comments:

last year i helped do an island clean-up on mokauea. by talking to the residents i got a sense of the struggle they have gone through in order to stay on the island. between government seizing the land and houses being burned down, the mokauea island residents have become quite resilient. it is now up to our state legislature to give them the support, funds, and aid that is needed to restore the island fully.

LATE TESTIMONY

BARBARA NATALE
2957 NUMAMA ROAD
HONOLULU, HI 96819

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture & Hawaiian Affairs

Re: Testimony in support of SB 2485

To be heard:

Date: February 8, 2010 at 3:15p.m.

Place: State Capitol, room 229

Aloha Senator Hee, Senator Todkuda, and the WLAHA Committee,

I am writing in support of SB2485, relating to Mokauea Island.

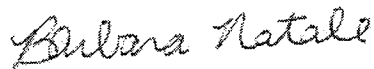
I am a resident of the ahupua'a of Kalihi, and fully support the creation of an educational center at Mokauea Island. As the last remaining fishing village on O'ahu, it is of highest importance that we don't miss this opportunity to share with others the traditional Hawaiian knowledge associated with the fishing village.

There are already great programs in place to make this educational center a success. The residents of the island are dedicated to their way of life, as can be seen by this and other initiatives on the island. Kai Makana has been very successful in working with the Mokauea Fisherman's Association to remove trash, restore native plant species, and offer wonderful educational experiences for volunteers and school groups alike.

Mokauea Island is a jewel in the crown of Kalihi. It is here where people can really see up into the ahupua'a and understand the positive or negative impacts they are having in their daily lives.

I fully support this bill, and ask that you do too.

Mahalo,



Barbara Natale



LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony of Mālama Hawai'i
Supporting 2485 Relating to Mokauea Island
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
Monday, February 8, 2010 3:15 pm, Rm. 229

I am Pauline Sato, testifying on behalf of Mālama Hawai'i, a hui of more than 70 organizations and hundreds of individuals, whose shared mission is to inspire the people of Hawai'i to care for our land, sea, and people.

Mālama Hawai'i is in strong support of Senate Bill 2485, which will authorize DLNR to renegotiate leases with residents of Mokauea Island to facilitate the creation of an educational center where students, teachers, and other members of the public can learn the traditional methods used in a self sustaining Hawaiian fishing village and establishes the Mokauea Island Advisory Committee.

For the past few years, we have been partners with Kai Makana, the non-profit organization that has been working with Mokauea Island residents to care for and restore the island as an educational resource. We have volunteered to help clear the island of improperly discarded waste as well as plant native species. Year by year, bit by bit, the island is becoming restored.

But it has a long way to go and without formal support from our government, Mokauea Island may never reach its potential again. It's a unique learning environment just outside of perhaps the most densely populated part of O'ahu. To have this little island be a place where people of all ages and races can help perpetuate the Hawaiian culture in a direct, hands-on way, is not only a dream but can be reality.

We support S.B. 2485 wholeheartedly. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this very important measure.

TESTIMONY

SB 2485

LATE

(END)