

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Testimony of  
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on  
FINANCE**

**Wednesday, March 2, 2011  
2:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1082  
RELATING TO THE CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
SPECIAL FUND**

House Bill 1082 would establish the Conservation and Resources Enforcement Special Fund in the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) for the purpose of setting aside monies to be used toward the protection of the State's natural resources. The Department strongly supports this Administration measure.

The Department's Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) has been approached by private grant-funding sources that are interested in partnering with DOCARE to improve natural, cultural and historic resources, public education, and information as well as providing an opportunity to enhance enforcement operations. However, the Department does not have a special fund to receive and access monies that could directly support DOCARE program activities.

This bill would establish a Conservation and Resources Enforcement Special Fund to receive supplemental funding from various sources for the enforcement of state, county or federal laws relating to natural, cultural, and historic resources management and protection. While the Department can accept and establish trust accounts to manage a one-year grant from foundations, multi-year non-governmental funding should be placed into an established and dedicated account.

This bill will benefit the public through the enhancement of our enforcement program and increase opportunities for better compliance through an improved public information and education program and strengthen the Department's efforts to enforce existing resources protection measures.

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON  
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# Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

March 2, 2011, 11:00 A.M.  
(Testimony is 1 page long)

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1082

Aloha Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i Chapter of the Sierra Club, with 8,000 dues-paying members and supporters, supports HB 1802. This measure would allow the Department of Land and Natural Resources to accept private donations to assist with currently understaffed and underfunded enforcement efforts.

Enforcement of our laws is sometimes as important as the language of the law itself. This measure is a small step in providing DLNR the resources needed to ensure our natural resources are protected for future generations.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.



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Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Supporting H.B. 1082 Relating to Conservation and  
Resources Enforcement Special Fund  
House Committee on Finance  
Wednesday, March 2, 2011, 2:00PM, Room 308

The Nature Conservancy supports H.B. 1082.

Last year, the Conservancy was pleased to provide logistical support, and some financial assistance along with another local foundation, for the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) to begin the process of seeking national law enforcement accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA [www.calea.org](http://www.calea.org)). We believe there are further opportunities for DOCARE to successfully compete for grant funds to complete the rigorous accreditation process, as well as for other projects and programs in support of DOCARE's mission and responsibilities. A dedicated financial account will facilitate these efforts.

The DLNR Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) has a specialized mission requiring unique knowledge and training related to the protection of the globally unique and fragile aquatic and terrestrial resources of the State of Hawai'i.

"The overall mission of the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement is to promote the safe and responsible use of Hawaii's natural resources."

DOCARE notes as its first objective: "In partnership with others, to help lead the citizens of Hawaii in developing and maintaining a tradition of ethical use, stewardship and sustainability of our land and natural resources."

<http://hawaii.gov/dlnr/docare/mission>

There is widespread agreement amongst a variety of stakeholders that Hawaii's fragile environment is in need of improved compliance, enforcement and prosecution of violations of our State natural resource laws. A 2006 State Auditor's report concludes that DOCARE officers are spread too thin and lack the equipment they need to do their jobs. In a better economy, the Legislature had been able to support an increase in the number of trained officers and equipment. Not to be deterred by the current tough fiscal climate, DOCARE undertook its own review and strategic planning effort to improve its operational processes. Seeking CALEA accreditation was an important outcome of that process.

Against this backdrop, a number of communities across the state have been organizing themselves to become more directly involved in the care and management of their natural resources, particularly in coastal and near shore areas. Some communities have partnered with DOCARE to raise awareness of natural resource laws and to improve compliance with those laws.

DOCARE needs the continued support and encouragement from the Legislature, the Administration, and the public. It is doing an admirable job of independently seeking non-State resources to keep building its capacity and expertise. H.B. 1082 will give them an important tool to achieve success.

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## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 01, 2011 12:53 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** holter@maui.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1082 on 3/2/2011 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/2/2011 2:00:00 PM HB1082

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: lance holter  
Organization: maui democratic party  
Address:  
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Submitted on: 3/1/2011

### Comments:

Please pass out HB1082 as the chairman of the Maui Democratic party we need to support the funding of conservation thru grants which will give the DLNR the ability to educate and protect our environment. Please support the provisions of this Bill. Aloha puameha, Lance Holter