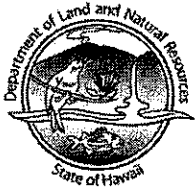


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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FIRST DEPUTY

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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

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

**Before the House Committee on
HIGHER EDUCATION**

**Thursday, February 10, 2011
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1255
RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS**

House Bill 1255 proposes to turn over a 1.5 acre parcel of land currently under the control and management of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to the University of Hawaii to construct a Legacy Center for the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team. While the Department holds the 100th/442nd RCT in highest regard, we respectfully oppose this bill.

On page 2, lines 14 and 15, this measure notes that the parcel is presently used for storage and maintenance of vehicles. The area serves as the Oahu District baseyard for the Department's Division of State Parks and includes three warehouse buildings, in addition to parking for vehicles. One building houses the district maintenance shop, another houses the Oahu District Office, and there are also several smaller storage buildings. The Department has invested over \$340,000.00 in infrastructure and other improvements at the baseyard.

The Department's State Parks baseyard is within the boundary of the Diamond Head State Monument, and classified as Conservation District land. In addition, the baseyard is within the Diamond Head Special Design District and the Fort Ruger Historic District. One of the warehouse buildings in the baseyard, Building 34, is a historic structure, dating from the 1910s to early 1920s when the area was part of Fort Ruger Military Reservation. The warehouse is one of the few remaining historic structures associated with the initial construction of Fort Ruger and is eligible for listing on the Register of Historic Places. The Monument lands, including the baseyard, also lie within the Special Management Area.

In addition, the intersection of Diamond Head Road and Makapuu Avenue is a heavy traffic area. The baseyard function has minimal impacts on the traffic in this congested area. The establishment of a public space with a library and research center, classrooms and gathering place would dramatically increase the traffic at an already congested intersection.

The Department's State Parks baseyard is adjacent to and sits on top of the Board of Water Supply's (BWS) Fort Ruger Utility Tunnel. If the proposed infrastructure requires digging of a foundation for a proposed building, then this construction may affect the stability of the existing tunnel.

The Department is willing to work with the University of Hawaii, on identifying an appropriate location for a Legacy Center for the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team. Based on the concerns mentioned above and because the Division of State Parks does not currently have another facility to serve the function of a district baseyard, the Department respectfully asks that another location be selected for the purposes of the bill.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
February 10, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

by

John Morton

Vice President for Community Colleges, University of Hawai'i

HB 1255 RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS

Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Nakashima, and Members of the Committee:

HB 1255 transfers 1.5 acres adjacent to the approximately 3.993 acres set aside by Executive Order No. 3791, to the University of Hawai'i Kapi'olani Community College, for a proposed Legacy Center for the 100th/442nd RCT.

Kapi'olani Community College is very supportive of the efforts to create a Legacy Center for the 442nd regiment. We have worked with the Sons and Daughters of the 442nd in the past on developing public exhibitions and on-line materials related to the history of the 442nd. We hope to continue working with them wherever the ultimate site for the center is located.

While the land across from the campus could be ideal, at this time the possibility of UH acquiring that land has not been discussed with the UH Board of Regents or with Department of Land and Natural Resources. Should the Legislature wish us to enter into such discussions, we would be happy to do so.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Testimony for HB1255 on 2/10/2011 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2011 7:53 AM

To: HEDtestimony

Cc: 442veterans@hawaiiantel.net

Attachments: HB1255 testimony.pdf (175 KB)

Testimony for HED 2/10/2011 2:00:00 PM HB1255

Conference room: 309

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: Yes

Submitted by: Wes Deguchi

Organization:

Address: 933 Wiliwili Street Honolulu, HI 96826

Phone: 949-7997

E-mail: 442veterans@hawaiiantel.net

Submitted on: 2/10/2011

Comments: