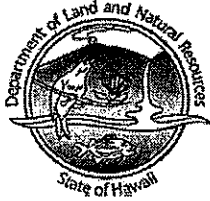


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

**Before the House Committee on
WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES**

**Friday, March 4, 2011
10:15 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 38/HOUSE RESOLUTION 33
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
STUDY THE EFFECTS OF SPORTS FIELD AND COURT LIGHTS ON THE
MIGRATORY PATTERNS OF SEABIRDS IN HAWAII**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) opposes House Concurrent Resolution 38/House Resolution 33 requesting that the Department study the effects of artificial lights on seabirds in Hawaii because these studies are currently underway.

The impacts of artificial lights on Hawaiian seabirds have been well known for more than 30 years. Lights and bright lights in particular, such as those on sports fields, can cause fledgling seabirds to become disoriented, leading to exhaustion and grounding. Once on the ground the birds become easy prey for feral cats that are ubiquitous in the islands. More than 30,000 grounded birds have been rescued in the last 30 years by concerned citizens. Countless others died before they were found.

Working with partners, the Department is implementing an effective research and management program on Kauai where this problem is most acute and research and monitoring is being conducted. Research is focused on monitoring impacts from lights and other sources, tracking population trends, identifying problematic areas, and documenting flight patterns and nesting locations. Management is focused on rescue and rehabilitation and habitat protection in nesting areas. In addition, the Department conducts outreach to inform and assist landowners with lighting and other issues, and is nearing completion of an island-wide habitat conservation plan for Kauai that will allow qualified landowners to obtain legal authorization for any take they may be responsible for, and to contribute to a comprehensive management and recovery program for the birds.

The Department invites and encourages interested individuals to become involved in agency and community efforts to monitor and reduce impacts of artificial lighting on seabirds in Hawaii and to become part of the solution to recover these unique Hawaiian birds.

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

GUY H. KAULUKUKUI
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
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