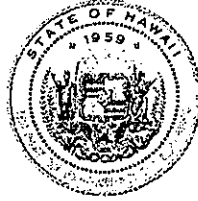
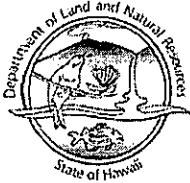


SB 1154
LATE TESTIMONY

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 Senate Committees on
WATER, LAND AND HOUSING
and
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Saturday, February 12, 2011
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1154
RELATING TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Senate Bill 1154 establishes the South Kona Wilderness Area under the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) and provides a mechanism for the development of a comprehensive management plan to preserve the area's significant scenic, historic, cultural, and biological features. The Department acknowledges the merits of this bill, however, we cannot support this measure without the assurance of additional resources, staffing, and capacity for sustainable management to help insure the intent of providing the area with the preservation that is warranted, and to manage and maintain these additional lands.

The concept for a primitive, wilderness park from Honomalino to Manuka was initially proposed in 1971 by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs with the support of the Bishop Museum. Approximately 22,000 acres are proposed for designation as a wilderness area and includes portions of the shoreline of five ahupua'a: Honomalino, Okoe, Kaulanamauna, Kapu'a, and Manukā. Except for the privately-owned lands in Kapu'a, and several inholdings in Honomalino, most of the other lands are owned by the State.

In 1983, with funds appropriated by the Legislature, the Department conducted a park feasibility study and surveys were performed on the botanical, aquatic, wildlife and archaeological resources. However, no decision was made on the suitability of establishing a wilderness park.

The South Kona Wilderness Area was established under Act 59, of the 2003 Legislature. This Act however, was repealed in 2007 when the Kapua land acquisition did not take place. The Senate Bill before you today is identical to Act 59.

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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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAIHOKU-AWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Some concerns and issues need to be addressed if the wilderness area is implemented. They are: limited access and the lack of fresh water; the Department's capability to manage and protect the shoreline resources in balance with public visitation and the need for managed public recreational use of the area; development of alternate access and the potential need for adding recreational infrastructure and facilities; wildland fire management, control of visitation patterns to those areas where the sensitivity and significance of the resources require greater resource management. To address these concerns then requires the need for formal planning and compliance with various permitting processes. If additional management and public access is the public's future expectation of this designation, the Department must also consider methods by which the designation and acquisition of land could generate funds in order to provide the enhanced access, recreation and preservation.

The Department supports the intent of this measure as it will preserve a 13 mile long coastline from urban/resort development and preserve the area's important historic, cultural, scenic, environmental and biological resources. However, without additional resources as indicated above, we are unable to assume responsibility for additional lands at this time. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony.