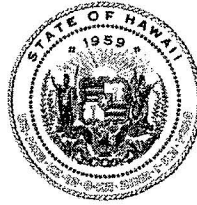
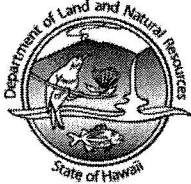


NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Testimony of  
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on  
WATER, LAND, AND OCEAN RESOURCES

Friday, March 18, 2011

8:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 1215, SENATE DRAFT 2  
RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS

Senate Bill 1215, Senate Draft 2 proposes to create a task force to study the feasibility of the transfer of a 1.5 acre parcel of land currently under the control and use of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) as the Division of State Parks Oahu District Baseyard and offices, to the University of Hawaii to construct a Legacy Center for the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion/442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team. The Department holds the 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> RCT in highest regard and supports a facility such as this. The Department supports this measure with the following amendments:

On Page 2, Lines 14 and 15, this measure notes that the parcel is presently used for storage and maintenance of vehicles. **This is incorrect.** As stated, the area serves as the Division of State Parks Oahu District baseyard for the Department's Division of State Parks and includes three warehouse buildings, in addition to parking for employees and the Division of State Parks Oahu vehicle fleet. One building houses the district maintenance shop, 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.

Proposed amendment is as follows:

Page 2, Line 9:

“department of land and natural resources, and is part of the Diamond Head State Monument”.

Page 2, Line 13:

“Executive Order No 3791. The balance of the parcel [~~is presently used by the State for storage and maintenance of vehicles~~] was not included in Executive Order 3791 and is under the jurisdiction of the department of land and natural resources and is the division of state parks Oahu district baseyard and office.

The Department’s DSP baseyard and office 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.

The intersection of Diamond Head Road and Makapuu Avenue is subject to periods of heavy traffic. The establishment of a public space with a library and research center, classrooms and gathering place may have indeterminate impact on the traffic in this location and would require further study. 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. BWS consultation is necessary for any improvements in this location.

Since previous legislative hearings on this measure, when the proposed project was first brought to the Department’s attention, there have been discussions with the University of Hawaii and Kapiolani Community College representatives on both identifying an appropriate location for this project and the respective constraints with placing the project within a portion of the Division of State Parks baseyard. There has been discussion on the feasibility, or lack thereof, of consolidating the Division of State Parks Oahu baseyard into approximately half of the approximate 3 acre parcel on a purely conceptual basis.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to testify on this measure.



# **442<sup>nd</sup> VETERANS CLUB**

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## **LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY**

**Testimony of  
William Thompson,  
President  
442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team Veterans Club**

**Before the House Committee on:**

**Water, Land and Ocean Resources**

**Friday, March 18, 2011**

**8:30 AM**

**State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 1215 S.D.2  
Related To Public Lands**

Senate Bill No. 1215 proposes to create a task force to study the feasibility of creating a new Legacy Center for the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team as part of the Kapiolani Community College. More specifically, the feasibility study focuses on to the transfer of approximately 1.5 acres presently under the ownership of DLNR to the KCC to be used for the Legacy Center. Part of this property, TMK: 3-1-42 parcel 20 is already set aside through Executive Order 3791 for KCC's use.

The 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT wishes to create a new facility which will promote the legacy of the Nisei veterans. It is envisioned that this facility, with the support of Kapiolani Community College, will be used an educational learning center, for students, faculty, and the general public. It will be a gathering place to commemorate those who served our country. It will preserve, present and perpetuate a part of Hawaii's history, the story of the 442.

The land in question and not under EO 3791 is currently being used by the State Parks Division of DLNR. The area is approximately 3 acres. We believe the land is underutilized and can accommodate both the State Parks Facility and the Legacy Center. We have met with State Parks and presented a conceptual master plan. We agreed to further study this and develop detail plans and other documents illustrating the viability of joint use of the parcel. Representatives from the University of Hawaii and KCC also attended the meeting and are aware of our intent. At the suggestion of State Parks, we presented our concept to the Diamond Head Citizens Advisory Committee. We are open to meeting with other groups as well.

While I understand that there are many issues associated with the creation of a new Legacy Center at this location, as a veteran, I feel that it is important that our story lives on. With the support of an institution of higher learning like KCC, we hope that not only will it expand the awareness of our legacy, but ensure that the facility will be around for a long time to come. As president of the 442 Veterans Club, I am reminded everyday that time is running out. Our honor roll grows longer each month. Many of the veterans who envisioned this learning center are no longer with us. We ask for your help and guidance to make our vision a reality.

Thank you for this opportunity to present my testimony.