

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

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

**Before the Senate Committees on
PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
and
EDUCATION**

**Wednesday, February 9, 2011
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1215
RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS**

Senate Bill No. 1215 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.