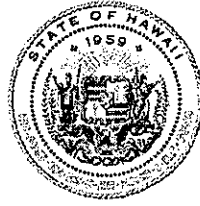
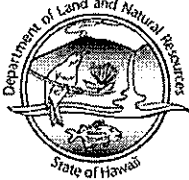


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**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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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

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

**Before the Senate Committee on
WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING**

**Thursday, February 3, 2011
1:15 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1219
RELATING TO THE LANAI WATERSHED**

The purpose of Senate Bill 1219 is to appropriate funds for the execution of the watershed management plan for Lana'ihale on the island of Lana'i, for the protection of the only fresh water recharge area on the island. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the need to fence and protect the watershed area of Lana'ihale as a means of protecting Lana'i's sole water source as well as Lana'i's best remaining native plants and animals but has concerns because of the cost implications it may have on the Administration's Biennium Budget request.

The Department has provided assistance for watershed management on Lanai through the Forest Stewardship program. The Department provided \$610,000 for fence construction, animal control, vegetation outplanting and fence maintenance during 2000 to 2010. This year, the Department is providing \$60,000 through the Watershed Partnership Grant Program to fund a part time coordinator, and some limited vegetation surveys and ungulate control efforts. The Coordinator will be tasked with integrating the recommendations from the various watershed and forest management plans and developing a 5-year action plan to manage and conserve the watershed. Fencing alone is projected to cost more than \$1,000,000.

The Department suggests revisiting the funding for this project once the 5-year action plan has been developed and those plans can be integrated with other watershed management needs and the Administration's budget priorities.



Ocean Tourism Coalition

The Voice for Hawaii's Ocean Tourism Industry
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Testimony to the Senate WLH Committee
Thursday, February 3, 2011; 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 225

Speaking in Support

RE: SB 1219

Chair Senator Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Senator Solomon and Members of the
Water, Land, Housing Committee:

My name is James E. Coon, President of the Ocean Tourism Coalition. The OTC represents over 300 small ocean tourism businesses state wide. We appreciate the efforts being made by the Legislature in addressing the degradation of the Lanai Watershed and the subsequent non point source pollution and run off that is killing Lanai's windward barrier reef. Mauka to Makai. What starts on the mountain ends up in the water and on the reef.

We believe this bill will go a long way in helping to restore this very important ecosystem that has been so badly damaged by feral ungulates. When this area is restored, the reef will also be able to support the rich variety of marine life as it had in the not so distant past.

Please pass this bill which will help with the watershed and with restoring the reef.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. If you have any questions, please contact me at 808-870-9115.

Sincerely,

James E. Coon, President

**Testimony before the
Senate Committee on**

Water, Land, and Housing

S.B. 1219 -- Relating to the Lanai Watershed

**Thursday, February 3, 2011
1:15 pm, Conference Room 225**

**By Robbie Alm
Executive Vice-President
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee,

This testimony is being submitted on behalf of Hawaiian Electric Company and its subsidiary utility, Maui Electric Company.

We support S.B. 1219 which appropriates an unspecified amount of funding for the implementation of the watershed management plan for Lanaihale on the island of Lanai and requires matching private funds. During community meetings on the proposed wind farm project and in discussions during the community's visioning process residents raised concerns about the health of Lanaihale which is the island's only watershed forest and the less-than-vigilant efforts to remove invasive alien plants and animal species that threaten the forest. This appropriation along with matching private funds will enable the continuation of various watershed protection projects including fencing to keep feral ungulates out of the watershed, the removal and eradication of alien weeds and invasive species, and the management of rare species that are important for the maintenance of the forest biodiversity.

This bill is among several bills that have been introduced this legislative session which address some concerns and desires raised by residents during community discussions on the wind farm project. If the wind farm is built on Lanai and the power sent to Oahu, it seems only fair to provide the island with the resources necessary to meet critical community needs. We strongly urge this committee to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



LATE

CONSERVATION COUNCIL FOR HAWAII

Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing
Hearing: Thursday, February 3, 2011
1:15 p.m.
Room 225
Support for SB 1219 The Lana'i Watershed

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 1219, which will help protect the vegetative watershed cover on the summit, Lana'ihale. Lana'i is a sole-source aquifer. Fresh water is limited, and the watershed must be protected if people are to continue living and working on the island. The native forest on Lana'ihale should be managed because it provides a superior watershed cover.

Lana'ihale also provides habitat for rare and endangered species, including one of the few known nesting colonies of endangered 'ua'u (Hawaiian petrels). Kahuli tree snails and a dozen or so endangered Hawaiian plant species, including members of the genera *Melicope*, *Cyanea*, *Cyrtandra*, *Hedyotis*, *Viola*, and *Bonamia*, are also found on Lana'ihale.

Funding to eliminate these threats is money well spent investing in the future for the people of Lana'i. The Lana'ihale forest is one of the few places left on the island that has not been destroyed by decades of cattle, sheep, and goat ranching, free-roaming sheep and deer, large-scale pineapple cultivation, and invasive plants. But Lana'ihale is being destroyed by introduced browsing and grazing animals, and invasive plants. According to one estimate, there are 8,000 axis deer on this tiny island alone. Native plants are being overtaken by the extremely invasive strawberry guava.

Please pass SB 1219 and support an appropriation for matching funds necessary to secure the only source of water on Lana'i and protect habitat for unique and imperiled Hawaiian species.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Marjorie Ziegler



Hawai'i's Voice for Wildlife – Ko Leo Hawai'i no na holoholona lohiu

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