

**SB 2**

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

**GUY H. KAULUKUKUI**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**WILLIAM M. TAM**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

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

**Before the Senate Committee on  
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Thursday, February 24, 2011  
9:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 2, SENATE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO THE PUBLIC LAND**

Senate Bill 2, Senate Draft 1, requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to initiate and coordinate all efforts to establish a public lands information system; requires all state agencies to report to the Department each parcel of land to which it holds title, the disposition of each parcel to which the agency holds title or is acquiring title, and any inaccuracies in reports to the Department; requires the Department to submit a progress report to the legislature; and appropriates funds to create and maintain a comprehensive statewide public land trust inventory database and to provide funding for one staff position for a database and application developer. The Department supports and favors Senate Draft 1 over the original version of the bill, and offers the following comments.

The Department believes the appropriation and the one and one-half year implementation timeline suggested in the bill is reasonable, but ambitious. It is likely that there will be some significant time required after this initial period to backfill specific data elements that may be missing from agency inventories and to fully develop a Geographic Information System interface to facilitate viewing and querying the data.



**SB2 SD1**  
**RELATING TO THE PUBLIC LAND**  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 24, 2011

9:00 a.m.

Room 211

---

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following comments on SB2 SD1, which seeks to facilitate the establishment of a comprehensive information system for inventorying and maintaining information about the lands of the public land trust described in section 5(f) of the Admission Act and article XII, section 4 of the state constitution.

First, OHA values an accurate inventory of public lands and their disposition as a foundation for successful management of the public land trust. Current databases are useful but do not provide a complete and accurate picture.

Second, this bill would require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to conduct many tasks regarding the inventory that may already have been performed by the State Auditor pursuant to Act 125, Session Laws of Hawaii 2000. Although the State is far from having a comprehensive and accurate inventory, the Auditor took the first steps, including the issuance of her report entitled *Establishment of a Public Land Trust Information System, Phase One* (March 2001). That report concluded among other things that a geographic information system (GIS) is the preferred method to develop an information system.

Third, OHA appreciates that SB2 SD1 provides the opportunity for all state agencies, including OHA, to work with DLNR in the development of the proposed information system. We look forward to participating in this effort. We do have concerns, however, regarding the bill's funding mechanism, which would bar the general fund appropriation from being expended unless matched dollar-for-dollar by OHA.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.