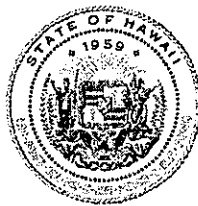
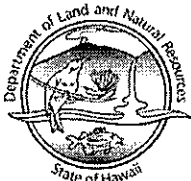


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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LAND
STATE PARKS

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

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

**Tuesday, February 8, 2011
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

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

Senate Bill 2 proposes to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to initiate and coordinate all efforts to establish a public lands information system; requires the Department to provide progress reports to the 2011 and 2012 Legislatures; and appropriates an unspecified amount of funds for this purpose.

The Department does not support the bill. While supporting the overall concept of this bill as it includes initiatives supportive of our goals and objectives, the Department is nonetheless concerned about the cost implications generated by this proposal.

This bill is substantially identical to Act 125, Session Laws of 2000, except for the substitution of the Department for the State Legislative Auditor. The Legislative Auditor generated a report entitled Establishment of a Public Land Trust Information System, Phase One, dated March 2001 (2001 Report), pursuant to Act 125. The 2001 Report concluded that it would cost approximately \$18.5 million to \$19.1 million to create the information system contemplated by the Act. That cost estimate is certain to be in the \$20 million to \$25 million range today, just accounting for inflationary adjustments.

While a comprehensive information system for inventorying and maintaining information about the lands of the public land trust is a meritorious and laudable goal, the Department believes that its current State Lands Inventory Management System (SLIMS) has been and continues to be adequate for handling the vast majority of the State's informational needs for now. SLIMS is by no means complete and has certain limitations such as the non-inclusion of information pertaining to lands held by other government agencies that have authority to hold title. Due to

the Department's role as the principal agency for holding title to state lands, however, SLIMS does include the vast majority of the lands of the public land trust and is capable of providing information regarding the same. Moreover, SLIMS is readily accessible to the Legislature and other government agencies upon request, and the Departments of Transportation, Agriculture, Accounting and General Services, Attorney General, the University of Hawaii, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the County of Hawaii, several legislators and others have already been provided such access.

ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

TESTIMONY BY
PRESIDENT SOULEE STROUD

**IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2
Relating to the Public Land.**

Before the Senate Committee on
Water, Land & Housing
February 8, 2011; 1:15 pm Room 225

Aloha Mr. Chairman Dela Cruz, Madame Vice Chair Soloman and members of the Senate committee. I am Soulee Stroud, President of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs here today to support the passage of SB 2 .

The first civic club was founded in 1918 and we continue to thrive with clubs on all islands of the State of Hawaii, 11 states on the continent and the District of Columbia. We now have sixty component clubs participating in those activities that our founders envisioned – historic preservation, education of Native Hawaiian students, protection of traditional culture and advocacy for Hawaiian Home Lands. We have also been very active in the preservation and protection of the public land trust that was created with the annexation of Hawai'i by the United States in 1898. These lands, were the original public, government and crown lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i that were taken and held in a federal trust. Upon the admission of Hawai'i as a State, lands are held in a State public land trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai'i in general, and the native Hawaiian people, in particular.

We come today to continue to support legislation that seeks to inventory the public land trust. This bill notes, correctly, that we have been seeking this inventory for over a decade.

Although SB 2 speaks to the 5(f) responsibility to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs for the benefit of native Hawaiians, we note that 80% of the public land trust provides for the people of Hawai'i. Section 5(f) of the Admission Act speaks to five public purposes, one of which is the betterment of conditions to native Hawaiians, but the other public purposes include, schools and educational institutions, agriculture and farming, housing, as well as general public use.

For the State to still not have accurate descriptions of the parcels that comprise the public land trust – as an example, parcel locations now held by State departments and lands acquired after Statehood that are not specifically described - does a disservice not only to native Hawaiians and their proper entitlements, but does a disservice as well to the general public of Hawai'i for whom these lands should provide greater public service and use.

We believe SB 2 is long overdue. We support this measure and hope that finally, we shall move forward to provide the inventory necessary to carry out a sacred promise made a very long time ago.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony. We urge your support of this measure.

For further information please contact our Government Relations Chair, Jalna Keala at jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net.