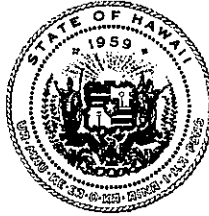
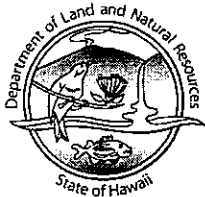


NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

**Before the House Committee on  
FINANCE**

**Wednesday, February 29, 2012  
1:30 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 2793  
RELATING TO BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

House Bill 2793 proposes to create four additional seats to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board), whose new members specifically from fisheries, fisheries science, and seafood/marine industry specialties, would vote only on ocean resource issues that came before the Board. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) acknowledges the intent of the bill but cannot support it.

This proposal strives to emphasize the importance of fishery resources in the State of Hawaii, but would create an off-balanced make-up of the Board. The Board already has the responsibility of evaluating all natural resource issues, including those involving aquatic resources. Ocean resources here, is not defined, and if interpreted broadly, could potentially involve these new members in virtually every Board meeting, as agendas often include items with some nexus to the ocean and its resources, eg. Land – submerged lands, the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands – conservation district permitting of submerged lands, Boating – ocean management areas, etc..

Another concern is that membership that is added for a specific purpose could create a demand by other stakeholders to petition for increasing the Board's members to benefit their specific interests, in which case the Board could become unwieldy and its mission complicated due to its large size.

Alternatively, the Legislature could consider introducing a resolution that calls for an evaluation of the State's fisheries, and include supporters of this bill's provisions to assist in the outlining of the focal points of this evaluation. The Department would be supportive of working with the Legislature in this regard.

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
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  
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS