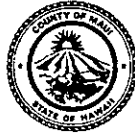


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March 1, 2012

TO: Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Robert Carroll
Council Member, East Maui 

DATE: Thursday, March 1, 2012

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF HB 2871 HD1, RELATING TO THE WEST MAUI OCEAN RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support this important measure. The purpose of this measure requires DLNR to establish a West Maui ocean recreation management area advisory committee to advise DLNR on issues relating to the state waters within the West Maui ocean recreation management area, particularly with respect to the waters adjacent to Ka'anapali.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. Hanakao'o Beach Park, known as "Canoe Beach", within the Ka'anapali area has been a crucial recreational beach park for West Maui residents and visitors for many years. Three canoe clubs have established themselves as the "keeper" of the 'aina and wai at Canoe Beach, hence the name. Canoe Club operations are a vital part of the function along the so called "West Maui Ocean Recreation Management Area" (WMORMA). Canoe clubs take it upon themselves to malama pono the 'aina and the wai, therefore any effort to preserve the safety of this valued activity must be encouraged.
2. For many years "swim buoys" were moored in the oceans along "Canoe Beach" and the WMORMA. These "swim buoys" helped to protect ocean recreational activities, such as kayaking, canoe paddling, snorkeling and family enjoyment of this area. The removal of these "swim buoys" have resulted in unnecessary accidents that have been fatal. The death of Kalani Kai "Billy" Gonzales, a truly respected waterman, could potentially have been avoided had these "swim buoys" remained in tack.
3. It is necessary that public safety along "Canoe Beach" and the WMORMA be reviewed and preserved to avoid further avoidable accidents. The creation of the WMORMA advisory committee is a step in the right direction, however DLNR should be encouraged to take immediate actions to enhance public safety in our ocean and prevent future accidents.

For the foregoing reasons, I support this measure.

CM:EM:canoe_beach_test_12session_hb2871b:grs

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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WILLIAM M. TAM
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AQUATIC RESOURCES
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

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

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Thursday, March 1, 2012
2:30 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2871, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE WEST MAUI OCEAN RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA**

House Bill 2781, House Draft 1 proposes to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to establish a west Maui ocean recreation management area advisory committee to advise the Department on issues relating to the state waters within the west Maui ocean recreation management area, particularly with respect to the waters adjacent to Kaanapali on the Island of Maui. The Department does not support this measure.

The Hawaii Administrative Rules that pertain to the west Maui ocean recreation management area currently provide for a recreation advisory committee of not less than three members to review and make recommendations. Each member of the committee shall have not less than three years experience in their area of specialty.

The Department has attempted to form these committees in the past but due to lack of participation on the part of the community and committee members the committees were dissolved. The Department is willing to work with the community to reestablish the west Maui ocean recreation committee and will begin that process in the near future.

To: FINTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
From: Adam Quinn
RE: H.B. No 2871

Date: Thursday March 1, 2012

As an avid ocean goer on the island of Maui for activities including, but not limited to; swimming, snorkeling, SCUBA Diving, outrigger canoe paddling and stand up paddling, and as holder of a USCG masters license and as a E.M.T. specializing in "Wilderness" Medicine I have developed a sincere concern for the dilemma facing the general population of ocean enthusiasts.

Simply put, there are too many motorized boats and too many people occupying the same liquid space.

The adoption of "Rules that promote greater safety" honestly seems to be a "no brainer". What could the State possibly wish for by permitting a void of greater safety? Would the neglect of said adoption not send a clear message to residents (State wide) that our elected government is *not interested* in our greater safety?

A demarkation line of easily sighted buoys is, at the least, a progressive step toward increasing the overall consciousness of safer waters.

The acceptance of such a rule would hopefully pave the way for the State to adopt mirroring guidelines for other, similar bodies of water on Maui and the other islands of Hawaii. The implementation of such a rule could also, hopefully would, serve to enlighten all boaters State wide to the dangers of operating carelessly in clearly identified geography so close to shore.

This piece of legislation is a solid stroke in the right direction, i earnestly encourage the passing of H.B 2871

Kind Regards,

Adam Quinn
AdamQuinn@mac.com
808.870.5492

cc. Representative Angus McKelvey
"Rep. Angus McKelvey" <repmckelvey@capitol.hawaii.gov>