

Council Chair
Danny A. Mateo

Vice-Chair
Joseph Pontanilla

Council Members
Gladys C. Baisa
Robert Carroll
Elle Cochran
Donald G. Couch, Jr.
G. Riki Hokama
Michael P. Victorino
Mike White



Director of Council Services
Ken Fukuoka

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov/council

March 27, 2012

TO: Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Robert Carroll
Council Member, East Maui *Robert Carroll*

DATE: Thursday, March 29, 2012

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF HB 2871 H.D. 1, RELATING TO THEE 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.