

HB2871 HD1

RELATING TO THE WEST MAUI OCEAN RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA.

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 Kaanapali on the island of Maui. Effective July 1, 2020. (HB2871 HD1)

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**

**Thursday, March 15, 2012
1:20 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**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 supports the intent of 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.

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March 12, 2012

TO: Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing

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

DATE: Thursday, March 15, 2012

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF HB2871 H.D. 1, RELATING TO THE WEST MAUI OCEAN RECREATIONAL 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_hb2871c:grs



Ocean Tourism Coalition

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March 15, 2012

Testimony To: Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Presented By: Tim Lyons, CAE
Executive Director

Subject: H.B. 2871, HD 1 – RELATING TO THE WEST MAUI OCEAN RECREATION
MANAGEMENT AREA.

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

I am Tim Lyons, Executive Director of the Ocean Tourism Coalition and we generally support this bill. We do however, have a suggestion for an amendment based on the fact that commercial tourism operators are very much a significant part of the "users of the ocean" as is referred to in this bill. In fact, because we think that any plan regarding any findings or recommendations will closely interface with the commercial industry, it might even be a better idea to include more than one commercial tour operators this five (5) man committee. We don't need to have a majority, we are only asking for a "seat at the table".

Thank you.