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Statement of
JESSE K. SOUKI
Director, Office of Planning
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND OCEAN RESOURCES

Friday, February 10, 2012
9:45 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of
HB 2881
RELATING TO GREENWAYS.

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the House Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Resources.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports the intent of HB 2881, and appreciates the consideration of OP in implementing a statewide system of greenways and trails. HB 2881 proposes to: (1) amend Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 225M, OP's enabling statute, to establish a position within OP for a full-time statewide greenways and trails facilitator; (2) task OP with contracting with a consultant to develop a statewide greenways plan; and (3) appropriate funds for the facilitator position and for consultant services to develop the plan. The appropriation of adequate funding is particularly important for this initiative.

Rather than establishing the facilitator position in OP at the outset, we would prefer that the proposed greenways plan development process allow stakeholders to discuss and make recommendations as to the appropriate location for the facilitator position. It is critical to place

the facilitator in an agency with programmatic functions and responsibilities that would complement and support the greenways facilitator functions, and that dedicated funds are appropriated for this purpose once the appropriate location is determined.

OP is willing to serve as the lead for the development of the statewide greenways plan as described in Section 3 of the bill, provided that funding for consulting services to develop the plan is appropriated as proposed in the bill. OP does not have the budgetary or staff resources to undertake development of the statewide greenways plan without the appropriation of additional funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

har2-Samantha

From: Clemson Lam, Architect [c.lam4@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 11:07 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: Rep. Cindy Evans
Subject: HB 2881

Dear Representatives,

I am writing in support of HB 2881 establishing a position of Statewide Greenways and Trails Facilitator in the Office of Planning and to develop a Statewide Greenways Plan. The hearing is Friday February 10, 2012 at the State Capitol, Conference Room 325.

My name is Clemson Lam, I am the Chairman of the Waimea Trails and Greenways committee in Waimea on the Big Island. We have been working with the County of Hawaii since 1996 to make a multiuse trail in our town. I fully support trails and greenways throughout our state. People are beginning to use our rustic trail (woodchip surface for now) to enjoy the Waikoloa Stream that runs through the center of town. This stream has been neglected and overgrown over the past 100 years and our efforts through volunteer work have cleared much of the stream of fallen trees so the stream can flow freely. School kids are using it to walk to school, people are using it to exercise and to get to work.

We need more alternatives to automobiles that promote health, exercise and enjoyment of our natural environment.

Mahalo,

Clemson Lam

February 9, 2012

The Honorable Representative Jerry Chang
House Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony supporting HB2881 Relating to Greenways

Chair Chang and Committee Members:

The Outdoor Circle (TOC) urges the passage of this proposed legislation.

While Hawaii has many wonderful venues for hiking and experiencing the unparalleled beauty of our islands, a statewide hiking network planned in a systematic, comprehensive manner would greatly benefit visitors and residents alike.

Last year the legislature agreed with this idea and required the Office of Planning (OP) to develop a plan to establish a statewide system of greenways and trails in coordination with other State agencies. The OP has fulfilled this obligation and presented it to the legislature in December 2011.

The coordination efforts have produced a plan for moving forward. HB 2881 is the next step.

This legislation will create and fund in the OP a statewide greenway and trails facilitator who will expedite the implementation of greenway and trails initiatives at the local and regional level. HB2881 also provides funding for OP to hire a consultant to develop and implement a statewide greenway and trails plan.

We note that the OP does not feel it is the appropriate agency for the facilitator position. We urge the committee to work out that detail with OP which recommends having the plan development process make recommendations as to the appropriate agency for this position/function. Let's not allow this hiccup to slow the progress already made toward meeting this long overdue greenway and trails system in Hawaii.

We strongly urge the committee to approve HB2881.

Respectfully,

Bob Loy
Director of Environmental Programs

har2-Samantha

From: aniko2@juno.com
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 3:07 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Subject: HB 2881

Dear Representatives,

I am writing in support of HB 2881 establishing a position of Statewide Greenways and Trails Facilitator in the Office of Planning and to develop a Statewide Greenways Plan. The hearing is Friday February 10, 2012 at the State Capitol, Conference Room 325.

My name is Avi Okin, I am a member of the Waimea Trails and Greenways committee in Waimea on the Big Island. We have been working with the County of Hawaii since 1996 to make a multiuse trail in our town. I fully support trails and greenways throughout our state.

Mahalo,

Avi Okin
aniko2@juno.com