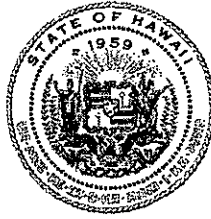
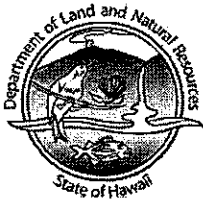


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**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, March 2, 2011
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 496
RELATING TO LAKE WILSON**

House Bill 496 would establish a pilot project within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to demonstrate the effectiveness of phyto-remediation using native plants to remove pollutants and improve water clarity in Lake Wilson, to submit a report on viability of technologies by the 2012 Legislature, and to appropriate an unspecified sum for a demonstration pilot project.

The Department supports the intent of the bill and notes other bills have been introduced in this Session to advocate for the development of an overall plan for the use of Lake Wilson and its water resource. As such, the Department would prefer that the Lake and its resources be comprehensively evaluated to maximize its potential.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
INTERIM 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
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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



HB 496
RELATING TO LAKE WILSON
House Committee on Finance

March 2, 2011

11:00 a.m.

Room 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs strongly **SUPPORTS** HB496, which would establish a pilot project within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to demonstrate the effectiveness of marine phytoremediation using plants that are native to Hawai'i to remove pollutants and improve water clarity in Lake Wilson.

The low water quality in Lake Wilson has limited the public's desire to engage in recreational and subsistence (fishing) opportunities and contributes to the lack of suitable agricultural water for a wider variety of crops on O'ahu's central plains and north shore.

Like the Native Hawaiian relationship with 'āina, the varied ecosystems across Ka Pae 'Āina o Hawai'i have evolved over time to achieve a homeostasis, bio-cultural uniqueness and richness recognized worldwide for its priceless beauty and service to the people of Hawai'i and humanity. The DLNR should be lauded for its work in promoting bioremediation approaches that maximize the potential of our native resources and strives to respect and work within these unique (sometimes fragile) ecosystems before looking outside for solutions.

Therefore, OHA strongly urges the committee to PASS HB496. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

March 01, 2011

To: The Honorable Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
The Honorable Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF H.B. 496
RELATING TO LAKE WILSON

Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2011

Time: 11:00am

Agenda: 2

Place: Conference Room 308

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Finance Committee,

Partners In Development Foundation (PIDF) is grateful for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Bioremediation using Native Hawaiian plant based ecologies including phyto-remediation of heavy metals and nutrients dissolved in fresh and marine waters has been successfully demonstrated in the State of Hawai'i. The appropriateness of this technology is based on its cost effectiveness, and limited external impacts to the people and environment of Hawai'i.

The ability of planted hydroponic communities to increase populations of wetland bacteria to improve water quality by reducing nutrient levels, heavy metals, and pathogenic bacteria has been proven conclusively in the laboratory. The implementation of this strategy will enhance water quality, but will be limited by the scale and other factors impacting water quality in an *insitu* setting.

An ecological engineering assessment completed by Strategic Solutions, Inc. as part of a proposal to the state to address the *Salvinia molesta* infestation of Wahiawa reservoir showed that several steps needed to be completed to improve water quality in the water body. First among these is the **cessation of disposal of treated wastewater into the reservoir**.

With the latter in mind, a pilot project to demonstrate the effectiveness of phyto-remediation is well worth pursuing. As an added comment one would not use *marine* phyto-remediation in Lake Wilson which is a freshwater environment.

Respectfully,

Jan E. Hanohano Dill
President & Chair
Partners In Development Foundation
808-595-2752 (B) / 808-595-4932
<http://pidfoundation.org>