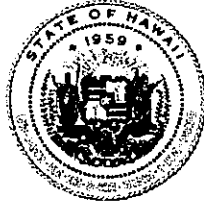


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**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**

**Thursday, April 07, 2011
2:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1219, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE LANAI WATERSHED**

The Department supports Senate Bill 1219, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1 for the implementation of the Lana'ihale watershed management plan on the island of Lana'i and improved management of this critical watershed on Lanai. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) request some further amendments for a House Draft 2 to expand the scope of the Bill to also include funding for the monitoring of the adjacent reefs and marine environment as part of the future management activities that will be included in the overall watershed management effort directed by this bill. Private landowner funding should be provided for an assessment of the baseline conditions and future benefits to the near shore marine environment as a result of the improved watershed management.

The Department supports the intent and need to implement the watershed management plan and encourages the private landowner to step up with their fair share of funding for this effort. The Department also supports the House Draft 1 amendment to provide flexibility to seek additional federal funds under other competitive grant programs if available.

The Department also comments that if the Department is going to be tasked to control and manage implementation of Lanai Watershed Management Plan, then any funding provided will need to be directed to the Department for this purpose.

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
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
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAIHOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony before the
House Committee on
Finance, Agenda #1**

S.B. 1219, S.D. 2, H.D. 1 -- Relating to the Lanai Watershed

**Thursday, April 7, 2011
2:30p.m., Conference Room 325**

**By Robbie Alm
Executive Vice-President
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.**

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee,

This testimony is being submitted on behalf of Hawaiian Electric Company and its subsidiary utility, Maui Electric Company.

We support the purpose and intent of S.B. 1219, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, which proposes to protect and preserve the Lanaihale watershed on the island of Lanai through the implementation of a watershed management plan. During community meetings on the proposed wind farm project and in discussions during the community's visioning process residents raised concerns about the health of Lanaihale which is the island's only watershed forest and the less-than-vigilant efforts to remove invasive alien plants and animal species that threaten the forest. Funding is needed to enable the continuation of various watershed protection projects including fencing to keep feral ungulates out of the watershed, the removal and eradication of alien weeds and invasive species, and the management of rare species that are important for the maintenance of the forest biodiversity.

This bill is among several bills that have been introduced this legislative session which address some concerns and desires raised by residents during community discussions on the wind farm project. If the wind farm is built on Lanai and the power sent to Oahu, it seems only fair to provide the island with the resources necessary to meet critical community needs. We strongly urge this committee to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.