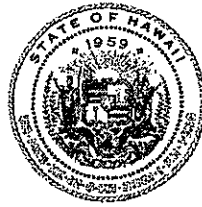
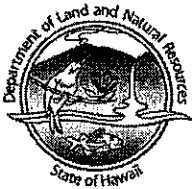


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**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 Committees on
WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES
and
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Monday, March 21, 2011
9:15 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

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

The Department opposes Senate Bill 1219, Senate Draft 2, which requires solely private funding be used for the implementation of the Lana‘ihale watershed management plan on the island of Lana‘i and requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to control and manage the implementation of the watershed management plan. The Department supports the intent and need to implement the watershed management plan, but opposes the restrictions being placed on use of other funds and who can manage the project. The Department is all for encouraging private funding for this project and for the private landowners to step up, but does not support prohibiting the project from applying for or receiving other state and federal funds under other competitive grant programs if available.

The Department also opposes the provision that it has to take over the control and management of the watershed management plan. The Department is willing to assist with the project and is providing \$60,000 through the Watershed Partnership Grant Program to fund a part time coordinator, and some limited vegetation surveys and ungulate control efforts this year. The Coordinator will be tasked with integrating the recommendations from the various watershed and forest management plans and developing a 5-year action plan to manage and conserve the watershed. It is not appropriate for the Department to assume the responsibilities to control and manage the implementation of the watershed management plan from the landowner. The implementation should remain flexible to be done by the landowner, their agent, or under a partnership agreement like the other watershed partnerships across the state.

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
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony before the
House Committees on
Water, Land, & Ocean Resources
and
Energy & Environmental Protection**

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

**Monday, March 21, 2011
9:15 a.m., Conference Room 325**

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

Chairs Chang and Coffman, Vice Chair Har, 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 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.