



Hawaii's Thousand Friends

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COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Maile S. L. Simabukuro, Vice Chair

SB 2381

RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
MARITIME FACILITIES

Committee Chair and Members:

Hawaii's Thousand Friends, a statewide non-profit water and land use planning organization, opposes allowing DLNR to work on projects within lands or facilities under the jurisdiction of the division of boating and ocean recreation without the approval of county agencies.

This request to exempt DLNR boating division from county permits that protect Hawaii's fragile environment seems to be contrary to DLNR's mission, which is...

"Enhance, protect, conserve and manage Hawaii's unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of visitors and the people of Hawaii nei in partnership with others from the public and private sectors."

One of the key county permits DLNR's boating division would be exempt from is the Special Management Area (SMA) permit and the public involvement process that this process provides.

Hawaii's Coastal Zone Management Program was approved in 1977 (Chapter 205A, HRS) and is federally funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). A good portion of those funds go to the counties to administer the Special Management Area permitting process.

If DLNR boating division and a succession of other state and county agencies are successful in being exempt from the SMA process then the counties will not have management area process to administer thus putting federal funds in jeopardy.

Putting requirements aside it is disturbing as to why the very agency whose mission is to protect and manage Hawaii's unique and limited resources for future generations feels that it can be exempt from the very requirements that protect our unique and fragile environment. SB 2381 sets a bad precedent and must be held in committee.