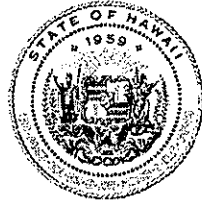
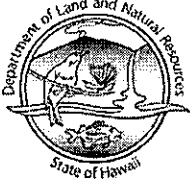


SB 689

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 Senate Committees on
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
and
WATER, LAND AND HOUSING**

**Thursday, February 10, 2011
4:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 689
RELATING TO LAKE WILSON**

Senate Bill 689 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 but defers on the fiscal implications until the Executive Biennium Budget is finalized.

The Department has an interest in the improvement of water quality in Lake Wilson (state park, recreational fishing, water use, etc.). In this respect, it would want to participate in such an endeavor. However, the Department alone, does not have the expertise to evaluate the feasibility of phyto-remediation, nor does it have a capacity to implement a pilot project. Water quality improvement programs have historically fallen to government organizations that deal with treating sewage effluent or hazardous wastes removal.

The Department notes that if one of the objectives is clear water, then the *Salvinia molesta* infestation did produce "clear" waters, temporarily until all the plants were removed. However the infestation did not support other objectives such as for water recreation activities.

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
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



SB 689
RELATING TO LAKE WILSON
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment,
Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing

February 10, 2010

4:30 p.m.

Room 225

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs strongly **SUPPORTS** SB689, 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 and appropriates funds for the project.

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 SB689. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/10/2011 4:30:00 PM SB689

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: T. Merrill
Organization: Individual
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

Comments:

I am a Wahiawa resident and support this bill. Any effort to help clean-up Lake Wilson is a good thing! Thank you!

Testimony for WLH/ENE 2/10/2011 4:30:00 PM SB689

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brent Carman
Organization: Individual
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

Comments: