

SCR 92

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE PUBLIC LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE COUNTY OF HAWAII, TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO DEVELOP AND IMPROVE THE EAST HAWAII AREA OF HAWAII COUNTY.

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
WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING
and
PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**Thursday, April 12, 2012
1:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 92
RELATING TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF EAST HAWAII**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 92 urges the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) and the Public Land Development Corporation, with the assistance of the County of Hawaii, to conduct a study on the establishment of a public-private partnership to develop and improve the East Hawaii area of Hawaii County. The Department understand the intent of the resolution but notes that it may not be necessary due to legislation enacted from recent legislative sessions.

Act 219, Session Laws of Hawaii, 2011, authorized the Department to enter into development agreements for the extension of hotel and resort leases that have not been sold or assigned within the last five years, for lessees who commit to making substantial improvements to existing leasehold premises. In effect, this act already creates opportunities for public-private partnerships with respect to the redevelopment of resort and hotel properties on leased State lands. The Department has received at least one inquiry from a lessee on Banyan Drive regarding opportunities under the act, though no development agreement proposals have been submitted to date.

Also in the 2011 Session, the Legislature passed legislation which was signed into law as Act 207, which increased the maximum aggregate term for leases and all extensions to 65 years. Under this Act, lessees with 55-year leases whose termination dates are approaching will be eligible to apply for 10-year extensions subject to certain conditions. A number of the Department's lessees in East Hawaii have expressed interest in seeking lease extensions under this Act.

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

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LLOYD M. HARAGUCHI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
PUBLIC LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

POST OFFICE BOX 2359
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Testimony of
LLOYD M. HARAGUCHI
Executive Director**

**Before the Senate Committees on
WATER, LAND AND HOUSING
and
PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**Thursday, April 12, 2012
1:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 92
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE
PUBLIC LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF
THE COUNTY OF HAWAII, TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO DEVELOP AND IMPROVE THE EAST
HAWAII AREA OF HAWAII COUNTY.**

The Public Land Development Corporation (PLDC) is **in full support** of Senate Concurrent Resolution 92, and looks forward to the opportunity to work with the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the County of Hawaii, and other interested agencies and parties in the potential development and improvement of state lands in the East Hawaii area of Hawaii County.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION
LOCAL OFFICE • 451 ATKINSON DRIVE • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814 • PHONE 949-4161

HAWAII DIVISION: 100 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii 96720 • OAHU DIVISION: 451 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
MAUI COUNTY DIVISION: 896 Lower Main Street, Wailuku, Hawaii 96793 • KAUAI DIVISION: 4154 Hardy Street, Lihue, Hawaii 96766

LOCAL 142

April 12, 2012

Time: 1:30 pm
Place: Conference Room 225
Committees: Senate WLH/PGM
Re: SCR 92

Aloha Legislators,

I am Wallace A Ishibashi Jr., Acting Division Director for the ILWU Local 142, Hawaii Division. The ILWU represents the working families of Hawaii Island.

We are constantly being torn apart with the lack of job opportunities in East Hawaii. Most of the available job opportunities on the Big Island are in the West Hawaii area. With the high cost of gas, long travel time and distance, spending more to get to work is not economically viable for us in the long run.

We must improve and attract better work opportunity in East Hawaii. That is why we strongly support and request your favorable consideration for SCR 92; this measure brings the State together with the County agencies to address the financial hardship in East Hawaii. Last year, ACT 55 was adopted to help expedite the process and build the economy on Hawaii Island. The goal was to increase revenues to the State's General Fund; the intent was to "jump start" the economy through business partnerships and with the private sector that would increase work opportunity.

Hilo, Hawaii is a beautiful and special place to raise a family and has some very profitable areas like Banyan Drive that, if given the needed resources, these areas could be commercially viable for our tourism industry. This will result in increased construction jobs and a better means to raise our families. Currently, East Hawaii is the highest (or in extreme) poverty conditions compared to the rest of the State. Living on or below the State's average to the poverty line is the norm for some of our Hilo residents. This is sad, but true.

Therefore, representatives of the PLDC, DLNR, County, and the State should focus on the most needy communities in our island state. This would raise the living standard of the poor in the areas that are most in need.

As we continue to work together to build a better community that is safe and with a healthy environment to raise our children and grandchildren, having a vibrant economy and affordable living conditions are key to keeping Hawaii Hawaiian.

Please support this Resolution as an injury to one is an injury to all.

Mahalo for this opportunity to express our thoughts.

Very truly yours,

ILWU LOCAL 142, HAWAII DIVISION

Wallace A Ishibashi Jr.
Acting Division Director

cc: Hawaii Division files

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Indigenous Consultants, LLC

Mililani B. Trask, Principal

P.O.Box 6377 ❖ Hilo, HI 96720

Mililani.trask@gmail.com



Date: Thursday, April 12, 2012

Time: 1:30 pm

Place: Conference Room 225

Committees: Senate WLH/PGM

Re: SCR 92 – Relating to the Public Land Development Corporation

Aloha Legislators,

Indigenous Consultants (IC) is a Hilo, Hawaii based, indigenous LLC owned and operated by Native Hawaiians. It was created to assist indigenous peoples in developing their renewable energy resources in ways that are: Culturally appropriate, environmentally green and sustainable, socially responsible and economically equitable and affordable. For several years the IC has worked with Innovations Development Group in New Zealand and indigenous Maori developing geothermal resources, which are trust assets of Maori Land Trusts. In addition, the IC has acted as a consultant to other indigenous people in Hawaii and Asia who are addressing development of their trust renewable energy resources in ways that; directly benefit their people, bring in revenues, create small business opportunities and ensure fair & affordable rates to consumers, including themselves and their communities.

Testimony in Strong Support

The purpose of S.C.R. 92 is to urge the DLNR, PLDC & County of Hawaii to work together to conduct a study on establishing a Public-Private Partnership to improve East Hawaii. The Resolution specifically mentions the areas of Banyan Drive and the Kanoiehua Industrial Area, both in Hilo.

Indigenous Consultants strongly supports this measure which is badly needed to address and remedy Hawaii Counties serious financial and employment needs. Hawaii and has the second highest unemployment in the State, following the island of Molokai.

State housing statistics demonstrate that housing starts (an important indicator for growing economies) on Hawaii Island have steadily declined from 2008 to 2011.

In 2009, 15.4% of Hilo residents lived below the poverty line, compared to 10.4% statewide. In Hilo there is “extreme” poverty, with 6.3 residents living on less than 50% of the poverty line, the state average is 4.4%. Sadly, 21.9% of Hilo’s children live below the poverty line, with the state average being 13.4%.

[see www.city-data.com/poverty/poverty-Hilo-Hawaii.html].

These statistics demonstrate why there needs to be a priority set for a cooperative effort between the newly created PLDC and the County & DLNR for Hilo and East Hawaii. Some folks are saying that the PLDC should identify 1 project per island. While this approach sounds fair, it really ignores the reality of life in our State & the critical need that neighbor islands, especially EAST HAWAII are in. The priority for the PLDC should be in the areas of greatest need in our State, and East Hawaii is such an area.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. B. Trask", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mililani B. Trask – Indigenous Consultants LLC



Date: Thursday, April 12, 2012
Time: 1:30 pm
Place: Conference Room 225
Committees: Senate WLH/PGM

Re: SCR 92

Aloha Legislators,

The Innovations Development Group (IDG) is a Hawaii based renewable energy Development Corporation owned by Native Hawaiians. It was created to facilitate the development of renewable energy resources of native people, and in summer 2011 presented its development model to legislators of the Energy & Land Committees.

The IDG strongly supports this measure.

IDG supports this measure because it prioritizes a collective effort bringing the County together with State agencies to address the financial crisis in EAST HAWAII. Last year, the Legislature passed ACT 55 creating a new development arm of the State to fast track development of the State public trust lands & resources in order to bring in badly needed revenues to the State general fund & agencies. The intent was to jump start the economy through business partnerships with private sector that not only upgrade & energize our State economy but also increase jobs & decrease poverty.

East Hawaii has some very developable areas that have proven their commercial viability in the past, but need repairs, renovation & upgrading. These areas, including Banyan Drive & the Kanoelehua Industrial Area, are subject to State lease terms that will soon expire (2015) and current lessees are reluctant to install needed improvements because of this. Consequently, there is a need for the PLDC, DLNR & the County to fashion a plan to ensure that the infrastructure in these areas will be improved. This will result in increased construction jobs and upgraded tourism accommodations

Please support this measure.

Sincerely,

Patricia K. Brandt
CEO, IDG

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 11:23 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: apohi21@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR92 on 4/12/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for WLH/PGM 4/12/2012 1:30:00 PM SCR92

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Comments Only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: SAMSON BROWN
Organization: Aupuni O Hawai'i
E-mail: apohi21@gmail.com
Submitted on: 4/9/2012

Comments:

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