



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on  
WATER AND LAND**

**Monday, February 4, 2013  
10:50 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1227  
RELATING TO 'IOLANI PALACE**

House Bill 1227 proposes to prohibit parking on the grounds of 'Iolani Palace; to remove all blacktop pavement, parking areas, and parking meters adjacent to the Palace; and to require the development and maintenance of a pedestrian area composed of grass or other historically appropriate material. Department of Accounting and General Services and the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) are to conduct a cost analysis of these improvements and report their finding to the 2014 Legislature. **While appreciating the intent of this measure, the Department is opposed to House Bill 1227.**

It is the Department's understanding that this bill was introduced because the use of 'Iolani Palace grounds for parking and the resulting congestion is viewed as incompatible with the setting and dignity of this highly significant historic and cultural site. The Department's primary concern with House Bill 1227 is the requirement to remove the driveway. The driveway in its current location and layout is historic and is an integral part of the character and landscape of 'Iolani Palace. As such, the driveway contributes to the undeniable significance of this landmark, its setting, and its history. The current long-term plan for 'Iolani Palace does envision removal of the asphalt paving and replacing it with paving that resembles the rolled black sand that was the original surfacing of the driveway. Rolled black sand is no longer a feasible surface because it would be difficult to maintain and could damage the Palace floors if it were accidentally blown or tracked into the building. The plan also calls for removing parking from the grounds but it has proven problematic to identify replacement parking.

The driveway also provides a number of very real and necessary functions. Access to 'Iolani Palace without the driveway would be much more challenging for the many elderly and disabled individuals who visit the Palace every year and for those who participate in events on the grounds. The driveway is also critical for delivering supplies and materials needed for the daily

operations of 'Iolani Palace, the Kana'ina Building (Old Archives), and the 'Iolani Barracks. Without the driveway, it would also be more difficult and costly to complete the frequent repair and improvement projects required to maintain and preserve these historic buildings. Many of these projects involve use of heavy equipment and delivery of construction materials and it is not feasible to access project areas without a paved driveway.

The Department is open, however, to meeting with interested parties and other agencies to discuss any proposals to remove or reduce parking on the grounds of 'Iolani Palace. This could be achieved without legislation at this time.

**lowen2-Anosh**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 02, 2013 4:58 PM  
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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1227 on Feb 4, 2013 10:50AM

**HB1227**

Submitted on: 2/2/2013

Testimony for WAL on Feb 4, 2013 10:50AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeannine Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support removing the parking for State employees at the 'Iolani Palace. The palace is one of Hawai'i's wahi pana, and should be treated with respect and honor. Mahalo.

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