

# LATE TESTIMONY

## HB 1330



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L A T E

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

March 19, 2013, 1:20 P.M.  
(Testimony is 1 page long)

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1330 HD1

Aloha Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter, with over 10,000 dues paying members and supporters statewide, respectfully *supports* HB 1330 HD1. This measure restores resources and staffing to the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) back to prior levels.

The January 2006 auditor's report of DOCARE found that "Hawai'i's resources have deteriorated through overuse or abuse and from factors such as agriculture, grazing, and urban and residential developments. Examples of deterioration include the decline in coastal water quality, decrease of inshore marine resources, endangerment of inshore ecosystems by alien seaweeds, decline of coral reefs, and increase in the number of impaired streams. Similarly, our cultural resources have also been abused and suffered deterioration."

While the auditor blamed poor management, institutional problems, and the lack of performance indicators for much of DOCARE's ineffectiveness, it was made clear that the resources and staffing of the division have not matched the increasing level of conservation enforcement workload – estimated by the report as having grown by as much as 50% over the past ten years. While the Administration needs to firmly address the management weaknesses within the DLNR, the Legislature must provide the proper level of resources and staffing to ensure that DOCARE can get their job done.

We encourage this Committee to move this measure forward. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.