

# TESTIMONY

## HB1423 HD1 (?)

Measure Title: RELATING TO THE MALA WHARF TASK FORCE.

Report Title: BLNR; Task Force; Mala Wharf; Pier

Description: Requires the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources to convene a Mala Wharf Task Force to examine the feasibility of redeveloping the collapsed pier at Mala Wharf on the island of Maui. Effective July 1, 2020. (HB1423 HD1)

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: WTL, WAM

Introducer(s): MCKELVEY, CARROLL, EVANS, HANOHANO, ING, SOUKI, WOODSON, YAMASHITA

| <u>Sort by Date</u> |   | <b>Status Text</b>  |
|---------------------|---|---|
| 3/1/2013            | S | Received from House (Hse. Com. No. 137).  |
| 3/1/2013            | S | Passed First Reading.   |
| 3/5/2013            | S | Referred to WTL, WAM.   |
| 3/12/2013           | S | The committee(s) on WTL has scheduled a public hearing on 03-19-13 1:20PM in conference room 225. |

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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

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

**Tuesday, March 19, 2013  
1:20 pm  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1423, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO THE MALA WHARF TASK FORCE**

House Bill 1423, House Draft 1 proposes to require the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources to convene a Mala wharf task force to examine the feasibility of redeveloping the collapsed pier at Mala Wharf on the Island of Maui. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) does not support this measure**

The Department notes that a draft Environmental Impact Statement was conducted in 2007 for the ferry pier at Lahaina Harbor. The draft stated:

“The Mala Wharf site alternative was not deemed feasible due to ocean conditions that make the new pier unsafe during severe ocean swells; the high cost of demolishing the existing wharf and construction of a new pier and support facilities; the potential adverse impacts to the marine ecosystem caused by the construction of the new walkway and pier; the potential adverse impacts to the numerous burials in and adjacent to the existing parking lot and known cultural layers caused by the construction of landside support facilities.”

The Department further notes that a feasibility analysis was conducted in 2006 and the findings are as follows:

“To make the Mala Wharf operational for the interisland ferry service will require the following improvements: (1) Demolish the existing wharf; (2) Construct a new concrete walkway and pier; (3) Construct a ferry terminal building and waiting area for ferry operations and passenger services; (4) Construct offsite parking area and repave existing parking area; (5) Construct sewer pump out on new concrete pier; (6) Construct new

**WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
  
ESTHER KIA'AINA  
FIRST DEPUTY  
  
**WILLIAM M. TAM**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER  
  
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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

individual wastewater system; and (7) Extend utility services to the end of the new wharf. The estimated cost for the Mala Wharf improvements is \$12.6 million.”

While this assessment was done for the ferry service, it gives a good estimation of the costs associated with replacing the Wharf. Also, the area in the immediate vicinity of the Wharf has heavy coral concentrations and based on recent coral mitigation requirements imposed by the Federal Government, the Department feels that it would not be feasible to mitigate such a large amount of coral colonies.



Testimony to the WTL Committee  
COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND  
Senator Malama Solomon, Chair  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, March 19, 2013  
TIME: 1:20  
PLACE: Conference Room 225

**Speaking in Support**

RE: HB 1423 HD 1

Chair Senator Solomon, Vice Chair Senator Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee on Water and Land:

My name is James E. Coon, President of the Ocean Tourism Coalition (OTC) Hawaii's State-wide organization. We represent the 300 Small Commercial Passenger Vessels operating out of State Harbor facilities. We speak in **Support of HB 1423 HD1**

Mala Wharf is now badly deteriorated yet it served the shipping needs of West Maui for many years. We believe it is a prudent plan to have this task force study the possibility of what could be done with this valuable State asset. The cost for this study would be minimal for the valuable information that the State would receive.

I humbly ask you to support HB 1423 HD1 and pass this worthy bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. If you have any questions, please contact me at 808-870-9115.

Sincerely,

James E. Coon, President  
Ocean Tourism Coalition  
808-870-9115  
[captcoon@gmail.com](mailto:captcoon@gmail.com)