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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 House Committees on  
OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
and  
WATER & LAND**

**Wednesday, January 22, 2014  
9:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1556  
RELATING TO LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT OF PAPAHANAU MOKUAKEA**

House Bill 1556 proposes to establish a Papahānaumokuākea Legislative Inspection Committee (Committee). Members of the Committee would be required to conduct a site inspection of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument once every three years. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of the bill and could consider this proposal if it included a revenue stream to carry out its intent. The Department offers the following comments.**

First, the Department greatly values the Legislature's recognition of the State's role as a co-trustee of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM). One of the world's largest marine protected areas, PMNM is the largest conservation area in the United States, encompassing an area over seven times as large as all the country's national parks combined. PMNM comprises about two-thirds of the Hawaiian archipelago- extending roughly about 1,000 miles past Kauai and Niihau. Contained within PMNM there remain two underlying state resource management designations which pre-dated the PMNM designation; Northwestern Hawaii Islands State Marine Refuge and Kure Atoll State Wildlife Refuge.

PMNM is recognized globally as delegates of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) 34th World Heritage Convention in Brasilia, Brazil, agreed July 30, 2010 to inscribe PNMN as one of only 28 mixed (natural and cultural) World Heritage Sites in the World. UNESCO World Heritage Site for its rich combination of natural and cultural resources as well as the area's overarching spiritual significance for native Hawaiians. With this designation, PMNM became the first mixed World Heritage Site in the Nation.

**WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
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**ESTER KIA'AINA**  
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AQUATIC RESOURCES  
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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Second, the Department strongly supports the Legislature's goal of fiscal responsibility statewide. Although the current Executive Budget request includes priority funding requests for the Department's responsibilities and efforts to management the lands, waters and resources of PMNM, at present there are no consistent state funding streams supporting these ongoing Department efforts.

Third, the required site inspection of PMNM by the members of this Committee could only occur once the administrative, logistical and cost requirements associated with travel into this remote marine protected area are met. Kure Atoll State Wildlife Refuge is located about 1,400 miles from Honolulu, past Midway Atoll. Transit to Kure Atoll presently occurs only twice per year, and coincides with resource management staff camp deployments. Transit is costly and occurs by boat, plane, or a combination of both. The only available maintained airstrip within PMNM exists at Midway Atoll.

Furthermore, upon establishment (by Presidential Proclamation 8031) in 2006, entry to the area became solely possible with the issuance permit. All activities that occur within PMNM must meet the findings of this Presidential Proclamation to be issued a permit, approved and signed by the three co trustees.

In recognition of these costly administrative and logistical transit requirements, and in order to fulfill the bill's intent, the Department would appreciate a revenue stream. We would greatly appreciate if the abovementioned funding stream would not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget request.