

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 House Committee on  
WATER & LAND**

**Monday, March 10, 2014  
8:45 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 2874  
RELATING TO THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Senate Bill 2874 proposes to amend the composition of the Board of Land and Natural Resources by requiring that at least one member shall have a background in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this Administrative bill.**

Currently, nearly all of the boards and commissions under the Department require a member with a background in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices. Last session, legislation was enacted requiring such expertise for the Natural Area Reserves System Commission. The remaining Department boards and commissions that need such expertise are the Board of Land and Natural Resources and the Endangered Species Recovery Committee.

As the Department is obligated under the Hawaii Constitution and Hawaii statutory and case law to preserve and protect the exercise of traditional and customary native Hawaiian rights, it would provide great value to have a member on the Board of Land and Natural Resources to have expertise in this area to provide guidance on natural resource protection and management decisions.

**WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**JESSE K. SOUKI**  
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

## **HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS CAUCUS**

Democratic Party of Hawaii

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March 9, 2014

**LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY**

**IN SUPPORT OF**

**SB2874, RELATING TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

Hearing, Monday, March 10, 2014, 8:45 a.m., Room 325

Representative Cindy Evans, Chair  
Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair  
Members, Committee on Water and Land

Aloha mai kākou

The Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports SB2874 that would require that at least one member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) have a background in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.

The BLNR jurisdiction encompasses over 1.3 million acres of State lands, beaches, and coastal waters. These lands are largely comprised of former Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands to which Native Hawaiians have never relinquished their claims.

The lands that BLNR has jurisdiction over include vast areas where Native Hawaiians exercise their constitutionally protected traditional and customary practices. Hence, it is important and respectful to empower their mana'o via a BLNR voting member knowledgeable of native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.

We urge your passage of SB 2874, Relating to the Composition of the Board Of Land And Natural Resources.

Respectfully

/s/ via on-line testimony

DAVIS PRICE  
Chair

lowen2-Nga

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
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**SB2874**

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for WAL on Mar 10, 2014 08:45AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Willie-Joe Camara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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