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Statement of
JESSE K. SOUKI
Director, Office of Planning
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS**

Thursday, February 7, 2013

8:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of
HB 505
RELATING TO GREENWAYS.

Chairs Lee and Tsuji, Vice Chairs Thielen and Ward, and Members of the House Committees on Energy and Environmental Protection and Economic Development and Business.

The Office of Planning (“OP”) has reservations about the bill, including the cost implications of the proposal, which could replace or adversely impact priorities in the Executive Budget. HB 505 would appropriate \$50,000 for each of the next two fiscal years to develop a plan for the establishment and implementation of a statewide greenways plan. The bill assigns OP to this task. We have the following concerns about the bill.

First, successful implementation of any statewide greenways plan or program will require a funded staff whose sole function is support of a greenways program. Involvement of program staff and their leadership in the development of a statewide greenways plan from the outset is also critical to successful implementation. There is no dedicated staff in place at this time, and OP is not the appropriate entity for managing or implementing a statewide greenways program.

Second, it is important to distinguish between the work required to develop a plan for a statewide greenways program—where to house it, staff and budgetary requirements, and program responsibilities—and the development of a statewide greenways plan with maps and actual projects identified. This bill deals with the former; the actual plan would be several more years down the line. Managing public expectations as to the final product of this bill will be essential.

Third, this effort is duplicative of county efforts and the Department of Land and Natural Resources' ("DLNR") State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2008 Update, April 2009, available at <http://hawaii.gov/dlnr/scorp>. The SCORP is a statewide plan prepared by DLNR in coordination with state, federal, and county agencies, and members of the public. The plan is aimed at implementing the goals, objectives, and policies of the Hawaii State Plan, State Recreation Functional Plan, and county general plans ("GP") and development plans ("DP"). County GPs and DPs include long-range planning for bikeways, parks, and greenways. The SCORP identifies agencies responsible for these amenities and potential funding. Through the SCORP program, the State of Hawaii and the four counties have received more than \$36 million in federal grants since its inception in 1965.

Finally, we recommend that the total amount of funds for contractual services be appropriated in Fiscal Year 2013-2014 to avoid delays in payment and additional contract amendments that might incur from the appropriation of funds over two fiscal years.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Testimony of Robert Loy
Director of Environmental Programs
The Outdoor Circle
HB 505
Committee on Energy and Environment
Committee on Economic Development and Business
February 7, 2013 8:30 AM
Room 325

RE: Strong Support for HB 505 relating to Greenways

Chairs Lee, Tsuji and Committee Members:

The Outdoor Circle (TOC) urges the passage of this proposed legislation.

While Hawaii has many wonderful venues for hiking and experiencing the unparalleled beauty of our islands, a statewide hiking network planned in a systematic, comprehensive manner would greatly benefit visitors and residents alike.

As Hawaii's visitor totals reach and break all records it is imperative that we continue to provide the recreation opportunities demanded by today's market. One way of accomplishing this task and for meeting the needs of Hawaii residents is through the creation of a state greenways and trails system.

The 2011 legislature agreed with this idea and required the Office of Planning (OP) to develop a plan to establish a statewide system of greenways and trails in coordination with other State agencies. The OP fulfilled this obligation and presented it to the legislature in December 2011. Now, HB 505 is the next step.

This legislation will create and fund in the OP, a consultant to develop and implement a statewide greenway and trails plan. This is the next step in the process to bring the dream of a statewide greenways and trails system to fruition.

We urge the committee to recognize that projects like this succeed when they are carefully planned and cautiously implemented. There are now two solid years of momentum behind the development of a statewide system. Let's keep it going and create a trails system that allows people a greater enjoyment of the diverse beauty of our islands.

Respectfully,
Bob Loy
Director of Environmental Programs

thielen3 - Charles

From: Windward Ahupua`a Alliance [info@waa-hawaii.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 9:38 AM
To: EEPtestimony; edbtestimony
Subject: HB 505 - RELATING TO GREENWAYS

Submitted By:

Shannon Wood, *President*
Windward Ahupua`a Alliance
P.O. Box 6366
Kane`ohe, HI 96744
Voicemail: 808/247-6366; Cellular: 808/223-4481 or 808/224-4496 (personal)
Website: <http://www.waa-hawaii.org>; E-mail: <mailto:info@waa-hawaii.org>

HB 505 - RELATING TO GREENWAYS

Hearing - Thursday, 02-07-13 8:30AM in House conference room 325.
Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Committee on Economic Development and Business

STRONGLY SUPPORT WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Directs the Office of Planning to contract with a consultant to develop a plan for a statewide greenways plan. Appropriates funds. Effective July 1, 2013.

My name is Shannon Wood, the president and co-founder of the *Windward Ahupua`a Alliance*, a **501c3** Hawai`i non-profit corporation, which was established in July, 2002, to create the **Ko`olau Greenbelt & Heritage Trails System** in order to restore, protect & provide public access to the *mauka* lands on the windward side of O`ahu along the base of *Na Ko`olau* as well as to support locally-owned sustainable economic activities in the more developed areas.

Its mandate, however, has expanded over the past ten years well beyond these important regional issues. *WAA* now works to educate & inform residents, visitors, businesses, policymakers at all three levels of government, and the media about using **SMART GROWTH** principles which promote sustainability through urban (re)development to protect agricultural and conservation lands forever.

Although I tried to get greenway legislation passed during the 2003/2004/2005 legislative sessions, I was not successful - although I did get strong support from Brian Schatz who was on the **Energy and Environmental Protection Committee** during those years. I continued to advocate for the greenway concept after he left the *Legislature* in 2006, but I shifted my focus to other environmental issues in addition to **SMART GROWTH** such as solid waste management, ocean resources, and *Kawainui Marsh*).

Obviously, I was delighted to see an earlier version of this bill submitted by *Representative* Jo Jordan last year..

I strongly support **HB 505**, but I do urge that you include county planning departments and council committees addressing environmental, cultural and recreational activities in developing a state-wide plan.

Mahalo for the opportunity to present this testimony in support of this bill.

thielen3 - Charles

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 2:39 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: brilana@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB505 on Feb 7, 2013 08:30AM*

HB505

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for EEP/EDB on Feb 7, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brilana Silva	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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thielen3 - Charles

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 1:51 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB505 on Feb 7, 2013 08:30AM*

HB505

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for EEP/EDB on Feb 7, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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thielen3 - Charles

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 1:56 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: palmtree7@earthlink.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB505 on Feb 7, 2013 08:30AM

HB505

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for EEP/EDB on Feb 7, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
janice palma-glenie	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, creating greenways is critical to smart land use planning. the money spent will be returned ten-fold in savings including environmental, infrastructural, touristic and even cultural in some instances. As a member of the Kona Community Development Plan Action Committee (but not speaking for that group), i ask that you support the creation and funding of greenways. mahalo

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thielen3 - Charles

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 5:22 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: aniko2@juno.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB505 on Feb 7, 2013 08:30AM

HB505

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for EEP/EDB on Feb 7, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Avi Okin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I would like to offer my support for a state encompassing Trails and Greenways Program. I do have some reservations or questions. I live on the Big Island and am concern that such a program would overly favor O'ahu, thus blocking funds for greenways on Hawai'i Island. I agree that a study should be made with strong consideration as to how the outer islands will fair with such a program. Will such a study remove local control over the Greenways, or would it enhance the development and improvement of trails on all islands? Hopefully this would not be another study that just becomes a file copy and not an actual program. Mahalo, Avi Okin aniko2@juno.com

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