

Testimony to the House Committee on Water and Land
And House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, and Hawaiian Affairs

Monday, March 25, 8:45 am

Conference Room 325

Speaking in Strong Support of HCR 208

Chairs Evans and Hanohano, Vice Chairs Lowen and Cullen, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Jim Coon and I am speaking in Strong Support of HCR 208. My brother Randolph and I own Coon Brothers, Inc., through which we own three operating companies that operate tour boats from berth 24 and an adjoining loading dock. We built the dock and the rock groin on which it sits years ago at no cost to the state. We also built the pavilion that sits across from the berth. Even though we only bring a maximum of 100 guests to Hulopoe Beach Park, we designed the pavilion to accommodate up to 175 persons to meet the needs of the Hotels and the Lanai community. Our ability to pay lease rental based on fair market value requires continued access to berth 24 by our three catamarans.

HCR 208 is in response to the suggestion that berth 24 be converted to a public loading zone and dock. The change would marginalize if not eliminate our ability to continue use of the berth and loading dock at the level we require. A public loading zone would be open to all for up to thirty minutes throughout the day. This would block access to our assigned berth and prevent its use by our other vessels. This would cause ripples of conflict elsewhere in the harbor if Trilogy were forced to relocate one or more of its vessels to the existing public loading dock at berth 1. In sum, efficient use of the assigned berth would be lost and with it our prospects for continued financial success and ability to continue our Lanai operations.

Finally, we have provided long term, stable employment to the people of Lanai for decades. My brother and I are mentoring our adult children to take control of this, our family business and continuing serving our community. This requires investment of both human resources and financial capital.

We have been present on Lanai for 40 years and hope our company will continue to prosper for another four decades. To this end we have requested that

the Board authorize the Chair to grant us a 35 year term. We have seen how quickly time can pass. We know also the time required to amortize investment of the magnitude we have made for the benefit of Lanai.

We are blessed to have great employees and adult children who share our commitment to the Lanai Community. A long term lease will secure our ability, directly and through a 3rd generation of our family, to serve the Lanai Community.

We humbly request you to pass HCR 208.

Respectfully submitted.

James E. Coon, CEO
808-870-9115

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

**Monday, March 25, 2013
8:45 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 208
AUTHORIZING THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO LEASE
CERTAIN SUBMERGED LANDS AT MANELE BAY TO COON BROTHERS INC.
FOR RENOVATION OF THE SMALL BOAT HARBOR FACILITIES**

House Concurrent Resolution 208 authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources to lease certain submerged lands at Manele Bay to Coon Brothers Inc. for renovation of the small boat harbor facilities. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this resolution.

The majority of the testimony received by the Department from the Lanai community is in support of this measure. The Department notes that this proposed lease will ensure that the Trilogy Corporation can continue to conduct their business as they have done for the last three decades.

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

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
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