

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 Committee on
WATER & LAND**

**Monday, March 17, 2014
8:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 87/HOUSE RESOLUTION 62
REQUESTING THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL
RESOURCES TO CONVENE AND CHAIR A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP THE
MEANS TO ALLOW PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE HAIKU STAIRS AREA**

House Concurrent Resolution 87/House Resolution 62 requests that the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources convene and chair a working group to develop the means to allow public access to the Haiku Stairs area. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports these resolutions and offers the following comments.**

The Ha'ikū Stairs is an exceptional recreational, historical, and educational resource, much cherished among the thousands of O'ahu's citizens who appreciate our natural splendor, value outdoor activities and respect the history of the island. Because of the aforementioned, the City and County expended over \$800,000 of public money on its restoration.

Haiku Stairs is an excellent exit or entrance point to Department's expert hiking trails in Moanalua Forest Reserve and has tremendous interpretative potential to safely observe a native windward cliff ecosystem as one ascends or descends the Stairs,

There may be practical public ways to access Haiku Stairs without going into or through the Haiku Valley community, eliminating concerns of trespassing on private property or disturbing local residents.

The Department recommends amending the resolutions' title from "CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD AND NATURAL RESOURCES CONVENE AND CHAIR..." to read "CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD AND NATURAL RESOURCES, OR THE CHAIRPERSON'S DESIGNEE, CONVENE AND CHAIR..."

The Department appreciates the opportunity to support these measures.

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
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LAND
STATE PARKS