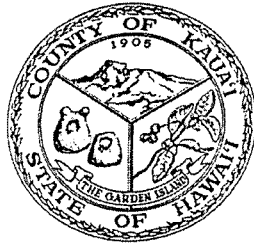


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April 1, 2013

TESTIMONY OF MEL RAPOZO
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL

ON

S.B. NO. 1171, SD1, HD 1, RELATING TO
THE REVIEW OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECTS

House Committee on Finance

April 1, 2013

2:00 p.m.

Conference Room 308

LATE

Dear Chairperson Luke and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to S.B. No. 1171, SD1, HD1, relating to The Review of Historic Preservation Projects. My testimony is submitted in my capacity as a Councilmember of the Kaua'i County Council.

S.B. No. 1171, SD1, HD1, seeks to authorize the phased review of certain projects by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD). This bill would allow construction of development projects to start before an inventory of all archaeological resources is complete, threatening iwi kūpuna and irreplaceable historic sites.

Allowing phased review would undermine the spirit of current Federal and State historic preservation laws, and put valuable and irreplaceable historic sites, as well as iwi kūpuna, at great risk. Not identifying burial sites and historic properties prior to making fundamental planning decisions effectively forecloses many options that could protect those sites. Identifying burials later in the development process makes it more difficult for the developer to consider adjustments that become financially burdensome, thus their insistence that no alternative exists, but to disinter the iwi discovered in the path of projects that have already expended significant costs.

For these reasons, I am opposed to the passage of S.B. No. 1171, SD1, HD1. Again, thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

MEL RAPOZO
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AO:mn