

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Testimony of**  
**WILLIAM AILA, JR**  
**Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on**  
**WATER & LAND**

**Friday, March 14, 2014**  
**10:00 am**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of**  
**SENATE BILL 2391, SENATE DRAFT 2**  
**RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS**

Senate Bill 2391, Senate Draft 2 proposes to establish a 2-year pilot project to resolve user conflicts on public recreational lands by convening one working group on the Island of Oahu to identify and implement management strategies through the execution of a written agreement between interested parties. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources supports this measure as it will allow the Department to work on developing the process to resolve user conflicts.**

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

**JESSE SOUKI**  
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

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From: Lisa Cates <lisacates@hawaii.rr.com>  
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 9:55 AM  
To: waltestimony  
Cc: Rep. Chris Lee; Rep. Cynthia Thielen; Sen. Laura Thielen  
Subject: SB2391 SD2

Aloha Honorable Chair Cindy Evans and members of the House Committee on Water and Land,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB2391 SD2 which would establish a pilot project to resolve user conflict on public recreational lands.

Conflict between various users of recreational areas will continue to escalate with the increase of tourism to our State. Commercial operators and tour groups promise visitors "new" experiences outside the traditional tourist agenda, a trend which leads them into residential communities, as well as to significant cultural and recreational sites for many local residents.

Examples of this trend span across the State. Formerly quiet beachside, residential roads in Waimanalo are now scattered with large tour buses and commercial tour vehicles, often times idling, in front of private homes. Community parks and beaches across the State serve as satellite storefronts for non-permitted, unregulated commercial operations. There has been a steep rise in confrontations between commercial boat operators and fishermen at Poho'iki and Keauhou on the Big Island. A Hawaiian charter school in Haiku located on DHHL land at the base of a popular, but "closed" hiking trail are faced with trespassers through school property every single day. Then there is Kailua; historically, user conflict can be traced back over 25 years through archived neighborhood board minutes, and the problem still persists today despite ongoing efforts of residents, community groups, and recently passed City ordinance. Incidents such as these are the cause of anguish for many local residents which will consequentially spillover into the visitor experience. Those of you who represent districts near public recreational areas have surely received complaints from your constituents, and likely have experienced negative encounters yourselves.

Many communities are seeking relief and deserve balance. Our finite natural resources need protection. Please pass bill 2391 in order to develop a statewide set of management strategies and tools to prevent and resolve conflict on public recreational lands. Although solutions may be unique to each situation, a project such as this will provide a baseline to which various agencies of our government can effectively communicate, collaborate, and ensure that all involved are working cohesively. This will also assure various rules of each department, regardless if they fall under the City or State, are compatible and support one another in cases where multiple agencies share jurisdiction.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Lisa Lonokapu-Cates  
Kailua, Oahu