

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
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FIRST DEPUTY

**WILLIAM M. TAM**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

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



**Before the House Committee on**  
**FINANCE**

**Wednesday, March 27, 2013**  
**4:45 P.M.**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of**  
**SENATE BILL 406, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1**  
**RELATING TO TRAINING**

Senate Bill 406, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1, proposes to require the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to establish, design, and administer a training course in Native Hawaiian matters for specified members of boards, councils, and commissions and requires those members to take the course within six months of their respective appointments. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) supports this bill.**

DLNR is acutely aware of the need for members of its boards and commissions to be properly educated and sensitive to the important subject of Native Hawaiian matters. DLNR also notes that OHA's presence before the various councils, boards and commissions to offer guidance on Native Hawaiian matters has been very beneficial and DLNR continues to urge an OHA presence.

DLNR is committed to increasing capacity and knowledge among its individuals on Native Hawaiian matters. At a Saturday volunteer training held earlier this year that OHA conducted on Native Hawaiian rights, there were many DLNR individuals that attended including the Chairperson and First Deputy. All felt that it was a very productive introduction on important Native Hawaiian matters, and DLNR suggests OHA consider extending the training to various agencies, including DLNR, during the work week so more individuals may attend.

In addition, DLNR supports two measures this session that direct the Board of Land and Natural Resources (House Bill 1327) and the Natural Area Reserves Commission (Senate Bill 1172) to require a member that possesses a background in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.