

# SB 456

## SB456

**Measure Title:** RELATING TO MAUNA KEA STATE RECREATIONAL AREA.  
**Report Title:** Mauna Kea State Recreational Area; Transfer to the County of Hawaii  
**Description:** Transfers in fee simple Mauna Kea state recreational area to the county of Hawaii on 1/1/2014.  
**Companion:**  
**Package:** None  
**Current Referral:** WTL/PSM, WAM  
**Introducer(s):** SOLOMON, KAHELE, Dela Cruz, Shimabukuro

<u>Sort by Date</u>		<b>Status Text</b>
1/18/2013	S	Introduced.
1/22/2013	S	Passed First Reading.
1/22/2013	S	Referred to WTL/PSM, WAM.
2/1/2013	S	The committee(s) on WTL/PSM has scheduled a public hearing on 02-05-13 1:45PM in conference room 225.

**S** = Senate | **H** = House | **D** = Data Systems | **\$** = Appropriation measure | **ConAm** = Constitutional Amendment  
Some of the above items require Adobe Acrobat Reader. Please visit [Adobe's download page](#) for detailed instructions.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

**Before the Senate Committees on  
WATER AND LAND  
and  
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**Tuesday, February 5, 2013  
1:45 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 456  
RELATING TO MAUNA KEA STATE RECREATIONAL AREA**

Senate Bill 456 proposes to transfer Mauna Kea State Recreation Area from the State of Hawaii (State) to the County of Hawaii (County) in fee simple. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) is willing to discuss the issue with the County of Hawaii but does not support this measure.**

During the Regular Session in 2010, the Legislature introduced several measures requesting the Department to pursue transferring this recreation area to the County. The Department testified that it would be willing to discuss the issue with the County. Subsequently, the County approached the Department, discussions occurred, and work was done to develop agreements to effectuate such a transfer. In 2011, the Legislature introduced a measure requesting that such a transfer not take place. Accordingly, the Department did not pursue the issue any further.

There are some management issues which must be addressed to transfer Mauna Kea to the County. The water supply is a big problem. The flow from the springs which provide water has decreased over the years and is now inadequate to provide full service to the park. The State and the United States Army have a water lease and agreement for use of the water, which is currently being amended, and would likely need to be handled separately from any park transfer. The volume of water available remains as a constraint to any increased use of the park.

The park and water system is on land under the Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW). Any transfer will require withdrawal from the forest reserve, and exclusion of DOFAW facilities.

**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  
STATE PARKS

The disposition of personnel needs to be addressed, as the measure is silent on that issue. If all funds are transferred to the County, and personnel remain with the State, the Department will be unable to make payroll.