

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 House Committee on
OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Friday, January 24, 2014
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1684
RELATING TO MANTA RAYS**

House Bill 1684 proposes to authorize the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to adopt administrative rules to establish a permit system to limit the number of boats and people at manta ray sites. The Department supports the intent of the bill and offers the following comments:

The Department currently has the authority to adopt rules to address the boating situation at the manta ray sites. The Department requests clarification about whether numbers of boats and people should be limited based on facilities (i.e. moorings) capacity, user experience, and/or impact to living aquatic resources. Impact to living resources depends very much on the behavior of the users, often more so than on the number. Facilities have a relatively stable capacity. Researchers from the University of Hawaii have offered the Department data relating to user experience. The Department recommends that there be a prohibition on users deliberately touching the manta rays.

The Department would like to recognize that any permitting or licensing system requires additional departmental capacity to establish and administer effectively.

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

ESTER 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
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LAND
STATE PARKS

cullen2

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HB1684

Submitted on: 1/23/2014

Testimony for OMH on Jan 24, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kara	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This is long over due and supported by many operators. Having 27 boats on a site for manta rays is completely out of control. Not only does this need to be passed but the rules than need to be created and enforced.

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HB1684

Submitted on: 1/24/2014

Testimony for OMH on Jan 24, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
makani	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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