

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

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

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

**Monday, February 3, 2014  
9:15 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1885  
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

House Bill 1885 proposes to establish the Sand Island Task Force and appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources' (Department) Division of State Parks for facility improvements as laid out in a document referred to as the Sand Island Ocean Recreation Park Master Plan. **The Department supports the intent of this bill but has determined that further discussion is warranted prior to its passage.**

House Bill 1885 is a well-intended measure that appears to be responding to an issue that came up when the Department, during the 2012 Legislative Session, requested \$11.5 million in Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funding for a Master Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and design and construction for infrastructure related to a proposed marina complex in a portion of the Sand Island State Recreation Area (SISRA). This CIP proposal was intended to establish a Sand Island Ocean Recreation Park that would be administered by the Department's Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR). This portion of SISRA also has a DOBOR-managed boat ramp, trailer parking, rinsing facilities, and comfort station. While the CIP request was not granted, the marina concept generated concern amongst several of the canoe clubs that are utilizing SISRA for canoe storage and training.

DOBOR prepared a preliminary site design plan for a proposed Ocean Recreation Park that included a marina complex in a portion of SISRA, but this plan is not a Master Plan and did not implement a Chapter 343 Hawaii Revised Statutes, Environmental Impact Statement, so there are no current entitlements to construct any improvements. As such, the Sand Island Ocean Recreation Park Master Plan does not exist.

Currently, a 30-acre portion of SISRA is under a Board-approved Revocable Permit (RP) to the Sand Island Off-Highway Vehicle Association, and there are five Special Use Permits (SUPs) issued annually to five canoe clubs for storage and training in this area. Both the RP and SUPs are gratis in order to help support both off-highway vehicle use and community paddling, without the collection of rent.

The Department has always considered the use of SISRA for off-highway vehicles as temporary until a more appropriate ocean based activity is developed.

In the adjacent day-use and camping portion of SISRA, in Fiscal Year 2013, 908 camping permits were issued to 5,225 members of the public. This generates approximately \$17,000 in revenue. However, SISRA's operating and labor costs, when added to Fiscal Year 2013 construction and improvement costs, were approximately \$345,638. For the past several years, due to inadequate operating funds, expense at SISRA needed to be reduced, resulting in a reduction of actions such as irrigation. Due to current increases in revenue-generation at other parks, this management action is being reinstated. Given this management scenario and community interest, it seems warranted that further discussion on the merits of this measure should occur, and therefore the Department supports House Bill 1885 to allow for further discussion.