

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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

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

**Friday, February 14, 2014
10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2254
RELATING TO THRILL CRAFT OPERATION**

House Bill 2254 proposes to make permanent the exemption that authorizes film production permit holders to operate a thrill craft in state waters. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this Administration measure.**

The Department supports the permanent exemption that authorizes film production permit holders to operate a thrill craft in state waters. To date, there have been no incidents or accidents reported involving the use of thrill craft during filming operations.

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
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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Statement of
RICHARD C. LIM
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS

Friday, February 14, 2014
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325
in consideration of
HB2254
RELATING TO THRILL CRAFT OPERATION

Chair Hanohano, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports HB2254 which proposes to make permanent an exemption to allow film production permit holders the ability to utilize thrill craft in non-designated areas as approved by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). DBEDT urges passage of this bill because Section 200-37, Hawaii Revised Statutes, which currently allows exemptions for filming, will sunset on June 30, 2014.

As a filming location, Hawaii has a global reputation for world renowned surf, pristine waters and the expert water safety professionals who support this industry. The use of jet skis for film shoots is normally limited to water safety usage, picture vessels, for transport of cast and crew members and for use as camera positioning. Per Act 89, SLH 2009, DBEDT has been providing the Legislature with yearly reports on Film Permits That Have Been Issued for the Use of Jet Skis. For FY10 – FY13 there were a total of 196 film permits issued for the use of jet skis over the past four (4) fiscal years. There were no complaints received by DLNR or the Hawaii Film Office for use of thrill crafts for film production, nor were there any incidents of environmental damage or business disruptions reported.

Given that there have been no incidents or environmental damage, and to maintain Hawaii's global reputation as a world class filming destination, DBEDT is in support of making this exemption permanent. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on this measure.