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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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To: waltestimony
Cc: prentissc001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2559 on Feb 3, 2014 09:15AM

HB2559

Submitted on: 1/30/2014

Testimony for WAL on Feb 3, 2014 09:15AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charles Prentiss	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: A bill was requested consistent with the recommendation of the Kailua Neighborhood Board's Investigative Committee (P.I.G.) on the Kawaiui Master Plan for an Advisory Council to help prepare the plan. The committee concluded that current public involvement activities have been unresponsive to community input. This bill ignores that request, and only sets up an Advisory Council after the DLNR adopts the plan and prepares an EIS. Please defer this bill, or amend it to have the Council start work July 1, 2014.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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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
WATER & LAND

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

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2559
RELATING TO KAWAINUI

House Bill 2559 proposes to amend Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 171 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated as “Kawainui advisory council”, whereby there would be established a Kawainui advisory council within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) for administrative purposes and consisting of nine voting members appointed by the governor and five other nonvoting members of various federal, state, city and county agencies. The purpose of the advisory council is to facilitate the implementation of the updated Kawainui master plan, to enhance awareness of Kawainui, and to participate in the protection and preservation of Kawainui. **The Department acknowledges the intent of this measure but feels that it is not necessary.**

The Department’s Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) manages portions of Kawainui Marsh as a State Wildlife Sanctuary, and about 10% is managed by the Department’s Division of State Parks. The lands were transferred to the Department and set aside for DOFAW via Executive Order #4258 for habitat restoration and marsh restoration purposes on January 6, 2009. Since then, DOFAW has been actively managing the marsh by maintaining the flood control levee, creating and restoring habitat for endangered native waterbird species, and managing the natural resources as a wetland. DOFAW has been working closely with Aha Hui Malama I Ka Lokahi to restore resources and educate the public about Kawainui Marsh.

Although it is not finished, a master plan is being written to ensure that future practices and activities at Kawainui would be discussed with the community, as there is much interest in this local resource. The coalition Hoolaulima la Kawainui, which is comprised of many diverse organizations in Kailua (or associated with the marsh) has been a key cog in the ongoing development of the master plan. Hoolaulima has provided cultural, educational, and public

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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
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

access information, as well as distributed that information to the general public. DOFAW went to Hoolaulima as one method to obtain public input, and also to disseminate information back to the public, to ensure that the master plan for Kawainui was based on the concurrence of the majority of residents, community groups, and others interested in Kawainui. For DOFAW, priority management activities are flood control, native species recovery, and invasive species control. Concurrent actions with DOFAW include cultural practices and considerations, educational activities, and public access in areas that do not conflict with the Department's core mission. The Hoolaulima coalition has provided the knowledge and expertise needed to direct that portion of the plan. Kawainui's natural resources, endangered species recovery, and wetland ecosystem conservation are managed by DOFAW, with regular consultation with other State, Federal, and NGO organizations that are experts in wetland management. Flood control activities are closely monitored with regular communication with the City and County departments of Facility Maintenance and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Department feels that the Hoolaulima la Kawainui group has done a good job filling the role of an advisory committee, and that there is no need to create an additional group to oversee the activities and management of the marsh. The management plan for the marsh is still under construction, and should be finished within a year or two. After the completion of the management plan would be a more appropriate time to consider creating a formal advisory group.

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HB2559

Submitted on: 2/2/2014

Testimony for WAL on Feb 3, 2014 09:15AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Wood	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

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