

SB2391

Measure Title: RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS.

Report Title: Recreational Land; User Conflicts; Working Groups; Appropriation (\$)

Description: Establishes a 2-year pilot project to resolve user conflicts on public recreational lands by convening one working group within each county to identify and implement management strategies through the execution of a written agreement between interested parties. Appropriates \$400,000. Effective 07/01/2014.

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: WTL/PSM, WAM

Introducer(s): L. THIELEN, GALUTERIA, KEITH-AGARAN, Kouchi, Ruderman

<u>Sort by Date</u>		Status Text
1/17/2014	S	Introduced.
1/21/2014	S	Passed First Reading.
1/21/2014	S	Referred to WTL/PSM, WAM.
1/30/2014	S	The committee(s) on WTL/PSM has scheduled a public hearing on 02-07-14 1:15PM in conference room 225.
2/3/2014	S	The committee(s) on WTL/PSM has rescheduled its public hearing to 02-07-14 1:00PM in conference room 225.

February 7, 2012

RE: SB2391 Relating to Public Lands

Honorable Chair Malama Solomon, Honorable Chair Will Espero, and members of their Committees,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB2391 which would establish a pilot project to resolve user conflict on public recreational lands.

My name is Lisa Cates and I am an advocate for protecting our public and natural resources, while preserving public access and use of these areas. I live in Kailua where we have a beautiful community beach park, white sand beaches, and offshore island sanctuaries that everyone enjoys. However, there has been ongoing conflict between commercial operations and recreational users of these resources for many years. Often times, resolution is difficult because these resources cross over various jurisdictions within our government. For example, the beach park is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks and Recreation which relies upon HPD to enforce park rules. The State's unencumbered lands fall under the jurisdiction of the Land Division, the ocean, waterways, and coastal areas are managed by the Boating and Ocean Recreation Division, and the offshore islands are under the management of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife. Enforcement for these areas are the responsibility of DOCARE. Commercial tour vehicles transporting guests to these areas obtain permits from the City's Department of Transportation Services and fall under their own set of rules regarding pick up and drop off points.

In the past when trying to resolve conflict, it became very difficult and frustrating because of these overlaps in government, and the incompatibility of rules governing these areas under the various City and State agencies. These issues are not isolated to Kailua. Problems occur at Keauhou Bay in Kona, Hanalei bay on Kauai, and most recently I have seen new operations in Hilo bay, and the Wailoa River.

This pilot project makes sense. Bring all stakeholders to the table and work out a resolution. We have been trying to resolve strife in Kailua for years, but I believe our largest failure was the absence of the Hawaii Tourism Authority. I appreciate the possibilities of this measure effecting communities across the State of Hawaii.

Please vote yes on SB2391 so that an all inclusive group can collectively work together to protect our resources and public recreational lands for residents and tourists alike.

Mahalo,

Lisa Cates