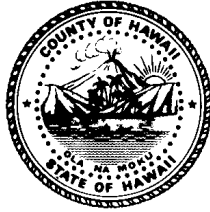


SB 2669

**LATE
TESTIMONY**

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Walter K.M. Lau
Managing Director

Randall M. Kurohara
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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February 3, 2014

The Honorable Malama Solomon, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 225
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 225
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 225
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Senate Bill 2669, RELATING TO MAUNA KEA STATE RECREATIONAL AREA

Aloha, Chair Solomon, Chair Espero, Chair Shimabukuro and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to offer our support for the intent of Senate Bill 2669, which instructs the state Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to negotiate a long-term, nominal rent agreement with the County of Hawai'i to lease Mauna Kea State Recreation Area to the county.

We are pleased to report that representatives of the Division of State Parks of the DLNR are engaged in discussions with representatives of Hawai'i County including the Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Water Supply and the county Corporation Counsel to develop a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to place the park under county control. The teams have inspected the park facilities and the adjacent water supply system, and are now working on specific language for the MOA.

The Honorable Malama Solomon
The Honorable Will Espero
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
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February 3, 2014

We appreciate your continued support in this effort. As we have stated before, we believe transfer of this property to County of Hawai'i will increase government efficiency and save taxpayer dollars while allowing more of our residents and visitors to more fully enjoy this important park facility. With the proper public investment, this park can offer extraordinary recreational experiences, and the county is ready and able to assume this responsibility.

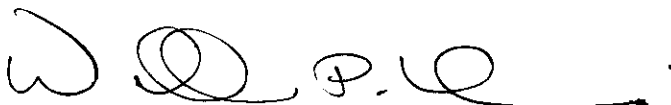
Park maintenance and operations are core county services, and the county plans to use economies of scale to minimize its maintenance and personnel costs. Meanwhile, leasing this facility to the county will allow the DLNR to use its limited resources on other parks and state facilities. This solution benefits everyone, but the most important beneficiaries are the children and families that will visit and enjoy this public treasure in the years ahead.

The county believes Mauna Kea State Recreation Area is an increasingly important recreational facility because of the ongoing reconstruction of Saddle Road. The federal government has made a very large investment in re-aligning and improving the Saddle Road, which in turn has caused a substantial increase in use of the road by residents and tourists alike. The rebuilt Saddle Road is evolving into an important 50-mile scenic highway unlike any other in the state, and Mauna Kea State Recreation Area is perched along that route between the magnificent Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa summits. There are no other restrooms, recreational or other public facilities anywhere on the entire 50-mile drive, but the growing demand for such services is obvious.

The county is prepared to make the necessary investment in infrastructure and maintenance to allow Mauna Kea recreation area to achieve its potential as a key outdoor recreational facility. Many on our island remember when this park was a well-used community resource enjoyed by weekend campers, hikers and travelers, and we ask for your help as we seek to restore it for the benefit of all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. P. Kenoi', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

William P. Kenoi
MAYOR

From: [Kimo Po'o](#)
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Subject: SB2669
Date: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 6:09:04 PM

I would like to testify on SB2669, the bill to transfer MKRA from State to County of Hawaii hands.

Please put me down as opposed to the whole idea. For the past two sessions, I have been asking how COH intends to manage the park, and no one has any answers. Keep it in State hands, since they seem to manage it well.

James Head