

**SB**

**263**

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**SB263**

Submitted on: 2/10/2015

Testimony for WTL on Feb 11, 2015 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carty S. Chang	DLNR	Support	Yes

Comments:

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DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of  
CARTY S. CHANG  
Interim Chairperson**

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

**Wednesday, February 11, 2015  
3:30 pm  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 263  
RELATING TO KE'EHILAGOON BEACH PARK**

Senate Bill 263 proposes to make an appropriation for the replenishment of the man-made beach at Ke'ehi Lagoon Beach Park, which is managed by the City and County of Honolulu. The beach park is heavily utilized for canoe racing and boating. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Biennium Budget request.**

As you know, part of the Department's mission is to manage coastal areas and ocean resources through the Department's Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL). OCCL works closely with the City and County of Honolulu Parks Department (City Parks) on beach management efforts for shoreline areas under shared jurisdiction, including recent projects at Kailua, Makaha, and Pupukea-Sunset Beach Parks. A collaborative project between City Parks and OCCL should be implemented to restore the beach at popular and heavily used Ke'ehi Lagoon Beach Park, provided any appropriations from this bill do not impact priorities in the Executive Biennium Budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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**SB263**

Submitted on: 2/10/2015

Testimony for WTL on Feb 11, 2015 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Evan C.A. Gushiken	Na Opio Canoe Racing Association	Support	No

Comments:

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 263

Aloha,

My name is Evan Gushiken, current keiki president of Nā 'Ōpio Canoe Racing Association and paddler.

I am supporting Senate Bill 263 because Ke'ehi Lagoon is a place of great significance to the paddling community. Ke'ehi is a home for many canoe clubs and their wa'a. It is a practice site and is frequently used by canoe associations HCRA, OHCRA, Hui Wa'a, and NOCRA as a place to hold regattas and races.

Replenishing Ke'ehi Lagoon will provide a safe environment for everyone who comes to enjoy the park, especially the paddlers. There have been numerous times people have been injured by rocks or trash that has been washed ashore, sometimes leading to staph infections. It is sometimes not safe to use the restrooms towards the end of practice because there is no lighting at the park and there are numerous homeless people around.

Ke'ehi is an important place to the paddling community, for without it, our canoe associations would not have a place to continue to perpetuate our Hawaiian sport and culture. I feel that it is important to mālama and kōkua not only the 'aina, but the kai as well.

Sincerely,

Evan Christian Aona Gushiken  
Keiki President  
Nā 'Ōpio Canoe Racing Association

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**SB263**

Submitted on: 2/10/2015

Testimony for WTL on Feb 11, 2015 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Samantha M. Moikeha	Na Ohana O Na Hui Wa'a	Support	No

Comments:

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Relating to Ke'ehi Lagoon Beach Park  
SB 263

To whom it may Concern,

My Name is Samantha Mokuahi Moikeha. I presently serve as the President of Na Ohana o Na Hui Wa'a, one of the outrigger canoe racing associations on the island of Oahu. I am also the Race Secretary for the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association (HCRA), our state wide Canoe Racing Association. We support SB263 to replenish the beach at Ke'ehi Lagoon Beach Park.

With five of our clubs based out of Keehi Lagoon, this project is very important to us as we utilize Ke'ehi Lagoon for training and competition on a year-round basis. The rapid decrease in sand on the shoreline has made it difficult on paddlers as well as equipment.

Having the beach at Keehi Lagoon replenished will ensure that our paddlers will have a safer area to train and compete. Keehi Lagoon is used on a year-round basis by many associations including the high schools and outer island associations. Na Ohana O Na Hui Waa has about 400 paddlers during our summer season that use Keehi Lagoon on a daily basis. Our regattas at this location serve close to 1600 paddlers and when the HCRA state race is held on Oahu, Keehi Lagoon accommodates close to 8000 paddlers and participants. All paddlers and citizens state wide would benefit from this project.

Again, we are in support of SB263.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Mokuahi Moikeha  
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**SB263**

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for WTL on Feb 11, 2015 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Clinton Schultz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB 263 - RELATING TO KE‘EHI LAGOON BEACH PARK.**

**Makes an appropriation for the replenishment of the beach at Ke‘ehi lagoon beach park.**

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Clinton Schultz and I am the Athletic Director at Anuenue School as well as the Oahu Interscholastic Association’s (OIA) Sport Director for Outrigger Canoe Paddling. I am also affiliated with the Na Opio Canoe Racing Association (NOCRA) and the Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association - Hawaii (OHCRA Hawaii) in the capacity of Vice President and Race Coordinator. I am in support of Senate Bill 263 as it relates to the replenishment of the sand which relates directly also to the safety concerns for Ke‘ehi Lagoon Beach Park. I assist and support these canoe paddling associations and have contact with the Keehi Lagoon Beach Park on an almost daily to weekly basis. This location serves as a wonderful venue for our paddling activities to take place.

Keehi Lagoon Beach Park is a wonderful venue for many activities, but as far as Outrigger Paddling is concerned, it is more than a beach...it is a home and gathering center for all of us. Currently there are seven (7) clubs that use the beach on a yearly basis and numerous clubs and schools that utilize the beach park between October and March. The average number of student-athletes and other level of paddlers using the beach park can be over 400 people on the very best days. Due to the amount of people using the beach park daily, this bill would provide much needed support for all of them. There are also approximately 40 organized events that are supported by the paddling community every year. The age range of our paddlers range from six years old to over 80 years old. The Keehi Lagoon Beach Park and Lagoon are used consistently all year long and serves as a prime venue to perpetuate our Hawaiian Culture and Heritage through outrigger canoe paddling.

At low tide, what is left of the beach is exposed and poses safety concerns for all participants, athletes, support staff and coaches, included. At other times, rocks and eroded shoreline still pose threats to anyone in the area as well as the normal park users. Where there was once beach has given way to sharp rocks and dangerous shore erosion areas throughout the shoreline. We have had many people that have been treated for cuts, both minor and major, as well as numerous abrasions. Hence, by replenishing the sand and beach to the Keehi Beach Park, this would create a much safer environment and better peace of mind for all to enjoy.

If you have any further questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience. Your continued support and cooperation are greatly appreciated!!!

Mahalo Piha,  
Clinton Schultz  
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**SB263**

Submitted on: 2/10/2015

Testimony for WTL on Feb 11, 2015 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer I. Romano	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Mahalo for your time

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**SB263- RELATING TO KE'EHl LAGOON BEACH PARK**

**Makes an appropriation for the replenishment of the beach at Ke'ehi Lagoon Beach Park**

To whom it may Concern,

My Name is Jennifer I. Romano I am the founder/owner of Keola O Ke Kai Canoe club, Head Coach of the Girls Radford High School Paddling, and the President of the Na Opio Canoe Racing Association. I am in support of the Bill SB263 to replenish and bring Ke'ehi Lagoon Beach Park back to what it once was.

This project is very important to me as Keola O Ke Kai and Radford Paddling because we call Ke'ehi Lagoon our home this is where we practice, train, get physically fit and compete during the winter season as well as the summer season. I can remember when we were able to use the beach water line to run back and forth for training now that there is no Sand to run on we have to use the sidewalk however the sidewalk gravel is so hard and sometimes hurts the paddlers getting cuts and scraps. Then we also have the ants and pokie plant problem when the kids run on the hill side.

As the President of the Na Opio Canoe Racing Association Ke'ehi is the only park or waters we use for the Winter time to compete so this is very important to us to have not only the replenishment of the beach but the restoration of the electricity because we had the cooper stolen about 4 years ago and we have to use generators to run our races and then when the youth practice its a safety issue not to have light during the winter time when the sun goes down earlier. Also the bathroom need to be better up kept due to the abundance of homeless the restroom get worn down quicker.

We need this park to be replenished and brought back to what it once was so that our children and the next generation can enjoy Ke'ehi Lagoon for years to come. This park is also very active during the Summer time when our clubs use their precious Koa Canoe's in the OHCRA association. It is better to have sand their to protect these rare canoes vs the hard rocks and coral edges that can cause much damage to these canoes costing the club's thousands of dollars to repair.

So I am in support of Bill SB263 and any other Bills that will help get Ke'ehi Lagoon back to what she once was. Ke'ehi Lagoon is the Park that keeps our State Sport of Hawaiian Outrigger Canoe Paddling Alive.

Jennifer I. Romano  
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**SB263**

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Testimony for WTL on Feb 11, 2015 15:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Regino Dayton	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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**SB263- RELATING TO KE'EHl LAGOON BEACH PARK**

**Makes an appropriation for the replenishment of the beach at Ke'ehi Lagoon Beach Park**

To whom it may Concern,

My Name is Regino (Gino) Dayton I am the founder/owner of Keola O Ke Kai Canoe club, Head Coach of Radford High School Paddling, and the Race Director of the Na Opio Canoe Racing Association. I am in support of the Bill SB263 to replenish and bring Ke'ehi Lagoon Beach Park back to what it once was.

I have paddle at Ke'ehi Lagoon since I was a freshman in high school and I can remember when we were able to exercise and run laps on the sand from one end of the beach to the other end and back. Now that I started my own canoe club called Keola O Ke Kai we made Ke'ehi Lagoon our home to train and perpetuate this Hawaii State Sport. Now the beach has no sand and there is the old sprinkler pipes that stick out on the edge of the beach creating a safety issue for our paddlers and youth. Then to run on the sidewalk there are Red ants at the edge and the ground is not as smooth as before.

We as paddlers use this Park everyday not only for racing but for practice and training, it is a safe area for the kids to come and learn and get physically fit. Although during the winter time we have lost power because the cooper was stolen and we have not had electricity for over 4 years this park is still much alive.

We need this park to be replenished and brought back to what it once was so that our children and the next generation can enjoy Ke'ehi Lagoon for years to come. This park is also very active during the Summer time when our clubs use their precious Koa Canoe's in the OHCRA association. It is better to have sand their to protect these rare canoes vs the hard rocks and coral edges that can cause much damage to these canoes costing the club's thousands of dollars to repair.

So I am in support of Bill SB263 and any other Bills that will help get Ke'ehi Lagoon back to what she once was.

Regino "Gino" Dayton  
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