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HAWAII



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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

Wednesday, March 1, 2017
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

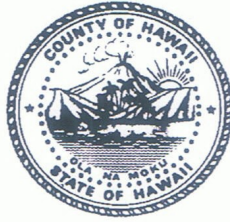
In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1200, HOUSE DRAFT 1
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY AND PLANS FOR A
SWIM AREA IN POHOIKI

House Bill 1200, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to conduct a feasibility study to determine the best means to provide a Pohoiki swimming area and develop plans, in cooperation with United States Army Corps of Engineers, County of Hawaii, and any stakeholders, for a safe swim area. **The Department opposes this measure as amended.**

The Department initially supported this measure when the proposed feasibility study was funded using general funds. House Draft 1 changed the source of funding from general funds to special funds. Due to the limited nature of the special fund accounts and the fact that the majority of funding is used to cover operational expenses, there is no guarantee that funding will be available to support this feasibility study.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Eileen O'Hara
Council Member
Council District 4



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Chair: Environmental
Management Committee

Vice Chair: Planning Committee and
Agriculture, Water & Energy
Sustainability Committee

County of Hawaii
Hawaii County Council

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Date: Feb. 27, 2017
To: Sylvia Luke & Ty J. K. Cullen, Chair & Vice Chair of FIN Committee
From: Eileen O'Hara, Hawaii County Councilmember, District 4
Subject: **Testimony in support of HB1200 relating to Pohoiki; Swim Area on 3/1/2017**

Aloha Representatives of the FIN Committee,

As a Councilwoman from the Big Island, I would like to express my support for this measure! The Pohoiki boat ramp and water recreational site is in Lower Puna which is my Council district on the Big Island.

This location supports a boat ramp, surfing, boogie boarding, and a swim area making it quite congested and unsafe for all parties. The use conflict invites potential injuries, especially as the boat ramp has become even more active with the increase in commercial lava boat tours.

Pohoiki boat ramp has one of the State's largest "landings" of commercially caught fish, so additional usage for lava viewing tourism has increased the potential for accidents with swimmers.

Please support this measure for the safety of our keiki and all users at this location!

Mahalo,

Eileen O'Hara, Councilmember
Hawaii County Council, District 4

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 11:00 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: malamaopuna@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1200 on Mar 1, 2017 11:00AM

HB1200

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 1, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rene Siracusa	Malama O Puna	Support	No

Comments: Malama O Puna is a Puna nonprofit that has been advocating for our community for 27 years. The conflicting uses of commercial boat ramp and keiki swimming spot at Pohoiki have long been a matter of concern to the Puna community. It poses a danger to both children and the vessels. It is long past time to study solutions and address the problem. Please pass this. mahalo, Rene Siracusa, president

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 11:10 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: Luanajones777@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1200 on Mar 1, 2017 11:00AM

HB1200

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 1, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Luana Jones	Friends of Pohoiki	Support	No

Comments: The Hawai'i island population has grown by over 25% in the past decade, with the bulk of the growth in the Puna district. The Pohoiki Boat Ramp is the only safe ocean access in all of Puna, approximately 60 miles of coastline. Puna contains over 20 subdivisions, with 45% of Hawai'i island's total subdivided lots (totaling over 50,000 lots). Since the 1991 inundation of Kalapana by lava, public use at Pohoiki has multiplied significantly. Phase I of the new County Isaac Hale Park was completed after 17 years (in 2008). Currently, the public swims at the boat ramp, even though signs are posted, "No Swimming." There simply are no other options! Boats go in and out at the ramp continuously every day; during peak times there are over 100 people in the water and at the boat ramp area. This is an urgent safety issue, especially when boat traffic increases. The public needs safe swimming away from the ramp. There is a lagoon area away from the ramp on the other side of (unfinished) Phase II of Isaac Hale Park. The current situation is an accident waiting to happen! Therefore, we strongly support a feasibility study and whatever it takes to provide a safe swimming area at Isaac Hale Park in Pohoiki. Your attention to this growing safety issue is urgently needed! Mahalo for this effort to serve the people and many visitors of Puna Makai.

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LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 3:13 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: rastetson@outlook.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1200 on Mar 1, 2017 11:00AM

HB1200

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 1, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

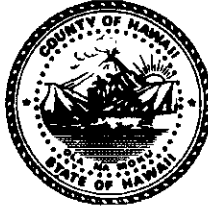
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robin Stetson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: An ocean swimming area with safe access on the east side of the Big Island (at Pohoiki) is very much needed, and will be utilized and enjoyed by Puna residents of all ages. Please support HB1200 in moving forward.

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Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i
Office of the Mayor

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LATE

February 28, 2017

Representative Sylvia Luke
Finance Committee
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Luke and members:

RE: **HB 1200**
Making an Appropriation for a Feasibility Study and Plans
for a Swim Area in Pohoiki

I apologize for the lateness of this testimony, but I did want to offer short comments in favor of HB1200.

The Puna district is approximately the size of the entire island of Kauai, and once had the beautiful Kalapana area where our local children could learn to swim. Over the years, Madame Pele has taken away a large portion of accessible shoreline, and left the growing population of Puna with few safe swimming areas.

A feasibility study for a safe and accessible swimming site in Puna would be most welcomed.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Kim
Mayor

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 11:11 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: cariagacora@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1200 on Mar 1, 2017 11:00AM*

HB1200

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 1, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Liberty Albano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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