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HAWAII



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STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

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

**Friday, February 3, 2017  
2:45 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 1079  
RELATING TO MAKENA STATE PARK**

Senate Bill 1079 proposes to appropriate moneys to construct two comfort stations and ancillary infrastructure within Makena State Park, Maui. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

In 2007, the Hawaii Tourism Authority completed its Hawai'i State Parks Survey which identified 525,400 visitors to Makena State Park or the 5<sup>th</sup> most visited park in the State Parks system.

Since this survey, these numbers have likely increased due to the robust condition of the visitor industry. In 2017, the Department anticipates this number to be over 600,000. For a park with this level of use and visitation, no permanent sanitation facilities have been constructed to date. In the early 2000's, a composting toilet facility was constructed but vandals burned the structure down the next day. Due to the remoteness of the park and lack of infrastructure, portable toilets have been established as a temporary method to manage human waste.

There have been significant management improvements at the park since this time. In 2009, the Department's Division of State Parks (State Parks) worked with the Oneloa Coalition on park improvements and restoration projects including restoration of the Maluaka Wetlands and the Paniaka Fishpond. Coalition members are from organizations such as Maui Tomorrow, Surfrider Foundation, the Pacific Whale Foundation and Makena and Wailea homeowner associations. They volunteered in cleaning and removing litter and rubbish in the park, and noted the need for

a comfort station as they would encounter human waste dispersed throughout the park. Also, State Parks was able to establish a resident caretaker in the park to provide a continued presence to reduce vandalism and property damage, and to provide an efficient means to maintain the park.

The Coalition urged State Parks to plan and construct comfort stations in Makena State Park as a means to safeguard public health by creating a sanitary waste management solution. They note that human waste is becoming an issue in the Makena area due to the limited number of public facilities. State Parks will continue to consult with the Oneloa Coalition and other public stakeholders in the design and location of new facilities.

Senate Bill 1079 will provide the funding for permitting, design and construction of two (2) comfort station facilities and individual wastewater systems in the major parking areas in the park. In addition, outdoor showers and additional parking areas are proposed. The Department strongly supports this measure provided its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.