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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 Committees on
WATER AND LAND
and
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

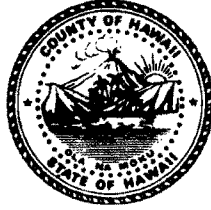
Monday, February 13, 2017
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 841
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY AND PLANS FOR A
SWIM AREA IN POHOIKI

Senate Bill 841 proposes to appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Resources) 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 supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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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February 13, 2017

Senator Karl Rhoads
Water and Land Committee
Senator Clarence Nishihara
Public Safety, Intergovernmental and
Military Affairs
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairs Rhoads and Nishihara, and members:

RE: **SB 841**

I apologize for the lateness of this testimony, but I did want to offer short comments in favor of SB 841.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2017 12:13 AM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: Luanajones777@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB841 on Feb 13, 2017 15:00PM

SB841

Submitted on: 2/11/2017

Testimony for WTL/PSM on Feb 13, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

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 of Puna Makai. Aunty Luana

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: Sunday, February 12, 2017 2:31 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: suzannewakelin@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB841 on Feb 13, 2017 15:00PM

SB841

Submitted on: 2/12/2017

Testimony for WTL/PSM on Feb 13, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suzanne Wakelin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this bill to help provide a safe swimming area at Pohoiki. The coastline on this side of Hawai'i Island is rocky and rough and there needs to be a designated area that is safe for families to swim. Mahalo for your support.

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Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2017 1:14 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: malamapuna@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB841 on Feb 13, 2017 15:00PM

SB841

Submitted on: 2/12/2017

Testimony for WTL/PSM on Feb 13, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Kuykendall	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support a safe swim area for children at Pohoiki so that they don't have to swim at the boat ramp. It is an unsafe situation. On any given day you will find children swimming at the boat ramp because they have nowhere else to go. Please support the local keiki. Thank you for your consideration.

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