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GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



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BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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LAND  
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on  
WAYS AND MEANS

Tuesday, April 4, 2017  
9:45A.M.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of  
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 88, SENATE DRAFT 1 /  
SENATE RESOLUTION 34, SENATE DRAFT 1  
URGING THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS,  
THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, AND OTHERS, TO  
COLLABORATE TO RESEARCH AND DEVELOP A PLAN FOR INCREASING  
WATER CIRCULATION IN POKAI BAY ON LEEWARD OAHU

Senate Concurrent Resolution 88, Senate Draft 1 / Senate Resolution 34, Senate Draft 1 urge the United States (U.S.) Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department), and others, to collaborate to research and develop a plan for increasing water circulation in Pōkaʻī Bay on Leeward Oʻahu. **The Department acknowledges the intent of these measures and provides the following comments.**

The intent of this measure is to address concerns with alleged environmental and health risks in Pōkaʻī Bay (Bay) due to runoff from surrounding surfaces, illegal dumping and user-induced contaminants.

Before discussing ways in which to increase water circulation in the Bay, the Department appreciates other entities being added to the current versions of both measures to assist in assessing the water quality in the Bay. After a water quality assessment is completed and if improved water circulation is deemed necessary, the Department can work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to come up with cost estimates to pursue design options that can be provided to the legislature for funding consideration next year. Studies would also be needed to assess the structural integrity of the breakwater if redesigned, as well as movement of sand when high surf enters the Bay. Unfortunately, the Department does not have the capacity to pay for such research and design studies with our existing operational funds.

Lastly, the Department notes that it is working to address the issue of boats being moored in the Bay for longer than permitted, through administrative rules.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these measures.



**WAIANAE COAST  
COMPREHENSIVE  
HEALTH CENTER**  
[www.wcchc.com](http://www.wcchc.com)

APRIL 3, 2017

**COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 88, SD1 / SR 34, SD1:** Urging The United States Army Corps Of Engineers, Department Of Land And Natural Resources, And Others, To Collaborate To Research And Develop A Plan For Increasing Water Circulation And Improving Water Quality In Pokai Bay On Leeward Oahu.

**SUBMITTED BY:** RICHARD BETTINI, PRESIDENT AND CEO, WAIANAE COAST COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CENTER

The Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center has provided health services to the communities of the Waianae Coast since 1972. In 2016, the Health Center served 36,019 patients.

The Health Center achieves its mission by not only serving patients who seek services, but also by incorporating the goal of improving the overall health status of the community it serves.

Poka'i Bay is an important recreational site for the community. Increasing water circulation and improving water quality within Poka'i Bay is a goal the Health Center supports.

The Health Center is willing to lend its medical to support, as applicable, any collaboration with essential partners from the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Thank you for considering the importance of this Concurrent Resolution to address the water quality conditions of Poka'i Bay.

Mahalo.

**From:** [Desiree Hikuroa](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** FW: SCR 88 / SR 34 and HCR 194 / HR 122  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 4, 2017 8:36:30 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Aloha Chairs Rhoads and Gabbard,

My Name is Desiree Hikuroa and I am testifying in support of SCR 88 / SR 34 and HCR 194 / HR 122 because I have personally been affected by the poor water quality of Pokai Bay. As a child, I would play in the shore while my mother would canoe paddle. I would end up with unusual rashes on my chest that were unexplainable. One day we showed up at the beach, and there were piles of dead file fish and other trigger fish all along the shore. These phenomenal events have led me to not want to take my own child to Pokai Bay.

As a fisherwoman, I am aware that fishermen/woman will discard unwanted parts of their catch into the ocean right in front of the harbor. That, coupled with the constant flow of marine traffic and canal runoff leads, and unexplainable wounds lead me to believe that there are unusually high amounts of bacteria that pose a risk to our community. Please consider testing various parts of the bay for bacteria and other contaminants that may pose a risk.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Desiree

Thank you,  
Desiree D. Hikuroa  
Development Director, MA COM

[cid:image001.png@01D2AD1E.19DE9F50]  
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Desiré DeSoto

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84-072 Makau St, Wai'anae, Hawaii 96792 | desiremakaha@gmail.com

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017

9:45AM Room 312

**In SUPPORT of SCR88 / SR 34 and HCR 194 / HR 122 Relating to Generating Circulation  
in Poka'i Bay**

Aloha Chair Tokuda and Committee members:

I strongly SUPPORT SCR88 / SR 34 and HCR 194 / HR 122 relating to the DLNR, DOH, UH, the City and WCCHC working together to generate and execute a plan for circulation with in Poka'i, Bay.

Poka'i Bay has become a poisoned due to the economic and environmental stressors that have continued to assault the Wai'anae community since colonization. Poka'i Bay has traditionally acted as a hub for the people of Wai'anae. Besides being the home of Ku'ilioloa Navigational Heiau, Poka'i Bay is host to an array of family and community gatherings as well as land and ocean leisure sports activities. However, ramifications of stagnant water are compounding with illegal dumping upstream and creating an unsafe environment for Poka'i Bay users. My father has been treated for staph four times within the last two years. Meanwhile, sixteen of his friends have also been treated and a few hospitalized for staph infections linked to Poka'i Bay. Records from Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center and Kaiser's Nanaikelo Clinic should corroborate the high number of staph infections related to contact with Poka'i Bay.

SCR88 / SR 34 and HCR 194 / HR 122 must be SUPPORTED because it is time to do the right thing and take care of an island treasure that is growing harmful bacteria and negatively impacting the short- and long- term health and wellness of Wai'anae community members who use Poka'i Bay regularly.

**Sincerely,**

**Desiré DeSoto**

**From:** [DR JO C STROUD](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SCR88/SR34  
**Date:** Monday, April 3, 2017 2:59:01 PM

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Dear Chair Tokuda and Committee members:

I support SCR88/SR34 because it is urgent for the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Land and Natural Resources to collaborate to create a mechanism for generating water circulation in Pokai Bay on Leeward Oahu. High bacteria levels and pollution are making all of us who swim, surf and play in the ocean there sick. Please help now!

Mahalo,

**Dr. Jo C. Stroud**

**Licensed Doctor of Chiropractic DC, MFT**

**84-575 Kili Drive, Unit 1**

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**OceanEmotions: Being With the Ocean (Paperback)**

**by Jo Stroud (Author)**

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