

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**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
WATER & LAND**

**Friday, February 10, 2017
9:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 785
RELATING TO
THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

House Bill 785 proposes to appropriate \$450,000 of general revenues in Fiscal Year 2017-2018 and Fiscal Year 2018-2019 for operating expenses and staffing costs of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD). **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget request.**

The purpose of the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Program is to educate, construct, maintain, and assist in the development of conservation plans to protect soil and water resources. Each SWCD is operated by a five-member volunteer board. HACD is an umbrella organization formed by the 16 SWCDs under Chapters 180 and 180C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and administratively attached to the Department. In each of fiscal years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, HACD and the SWCDs received \$322,500 in general funds, appropriated by Act 84, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015. The Department notes that the SWCD Program does not have a base budget appropriation and funding would be required for the continuance of their activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFERY T. PEARSON, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

waltestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 12:09 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: eileen.ohara@hawaiicounty.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1200 on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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HB1200

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
M. Eileen O'Hara	Hawaii County Council	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I fully support this measure which is needed to create a safe swimming area at Poho`iki on the Big Island. This spot supports a boat ramp, surfing, boogie boarding and swim area which is quite congested. The use conflict invites potential injuries especially as the boat ramp has become more active with the increase in commercial lava boat tours. Poho`iki boat ramp has one of the State's largest "landings" of commercially caught fish so additional usage has increased the potential for accidents with swimmers. Please support this measure! Mahalo, Eileen O'Hara, Councilmember Hawaii County Council, District 4 (808) 965-2712 eileen.ohara@hawaiicounty.gov

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kong2 - Crystal

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 2:02 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: malamaopuna@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1200 on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM

HB1200

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments: The Puna population has been growing incredibly fast - more than 24% between the 2000 and 2010 Census, and more than 2% annually since then. Yet many of the beach areas have been covered by lava, and the flows have not stopped. This leaves the Puna residents with very little in the way of safe swimming spots. Places like Pohoiki, with a mixed use of fishing boat launching and keiki swimming are not an example of safe compatible uses. Yet there is another area nearby that could provide safe swimming if some minor renovations are made. A feasibility study would give DLNR the information necessary to take this to the next stage and help bring the level of service up to an acceptable level. Please support this bill. mahalo.

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waltestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 1:26 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: Luanajones777@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1200 on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM

HB1200

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

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

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kong2 - Crystal

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 8:53 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: viviansuet@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1200 on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM
Attachments: Pohoiki_Bay_Navigation_Improvements 1978.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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HB1200

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vivian S. Toellner	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Aloha, It all began in the late 1950's ! The Subdivision of Hawaii Island - Puna District land was fast and furious. Let's do it, no one will really come here and live ! Well the saying now: Build it and They will come ! As a mainland transplant of 12 years, I still feel Puna is the Place of Potential. The land is fee simple, reasonably price, and with retirement funds the living is easy. The population growth should just keep going up. (While "googling" I found this old 1978 study of the boat ramp, so that is attached if interested.) So while doing this Boat ramp improvement, also do the swimming area, the sewage treatment facility, and whatever else is needed there. The cost will never be lower and the ease of putting in infrastructure will never be less complicated. Please be Proactive in Puna, the last affordable Hawaii land ! Aloha & Mahalo

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kong2 - Crystal

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 7:35 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1200 on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM*

LATE

HB1200

Submitted on: 2/10/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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