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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 Committees on
AGRICULTURE
and
OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Wednesday, February 8, 2017
11:15 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1342
RELATING TO HAWAIIAN TRADITIONAL AND CUSTOMARY PRACTICES

House Bill 1342 proposes to establish a pilot project at Makua Beach, Oahu and Hawai'i Island to designate areas in public parks for planting and growing coconut trees for Hawaiian traditional and customary gathering practices and appropriate funds for the pilot project. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) opposes this measure and offers the following comments.**

The Department recognizes the potential value in re-establishing coconut groves in Hawai'i, but is in strong opposition to conducting a pilot project at Makua Beach within Ka'ena Point State Park.

Ka'ena Point State Park - Makua Beach Section has been subjected to years of informal and unauthorized camping that had escalated to over 900 people camping on certain weekends and illegally driving on the beach, having pallet bonfires and leaving both the charcoal and nails in the sand, in addition to campers leaving large amount of rubbish that on every Monday, the Division of State Parks' (State Parks) sole employee for that side of O'ahu had to collect and haul away. Makua does not have a comfort station, and the years of human waste accumulation and associated public health issues and aesthetic degradation of one of Oahu's most beautiful beaches made it imperative to close the beach for nighttime public use.

Makua is significant to the Hawaiian community, and State Parks has been in close coordination with community members including the Waianae Neighborhood Board and Aha Moku representatives, both of whom support the closure, on the most appropriate management protocols. Currently, the Protectors of Paradise, which is headed by a lineal descendent of Makua, has an Adopt-A-Park agreement with State Parks, and has been instrumental in providing volunteer services to help remove rubbish and clear non-native vegetation so the area can be restored. The Department has prioritized these restoration efforts over further impacts.

In addition, this measure contains several elements that are problematic:

- Determining what in fact is the appropriate traditional and customary use for the planting and gathering of coconuts, and who are authentic practitioners for the area, requires detailed discussion, establishing criteria, and issuing park permits to ensure appropriate use.
- The permit would stipulate that this activity cannot be commercial in nature, and the sale of the coconuts would be prohibited. A permit is required for this important distinction.
- Due to previous military use, unexploded ordinance pose a potential safety hazard at Makua, requiring careful regulation of activities.
- Location of activities must be planned carefully to ensure it doesn't interfere with established public use.
- Coconut trees can create public safety issues from falling coconuts. State Parks routinely contracts the trimming of coconut trees in parks to minimize this hazard.
- In regard to Hawai'i Island, there is no location specified in the measure, so the Department cannot comment further.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 3:43 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: tiare@hapahi.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1342 on Feb 8, 2017 11:15AM

HB1342

Submitted on: 2/7/2017
Testimony for AGR/OMH on Feb 8, 2017 11:15AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tiare Lawrence	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Strong support of this bill. To have more native trees at our public beaches will benefit the community. Please allocate funding.

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 6, 2017 4:51 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: pulermq@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1342 on Feb 8, 2017 11:15AM*

HB1342

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for AGR/OMH on Feb 8, 2017 11:15AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
RuthMarie Quirk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 3:34 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1342 on Feb 8, 2017 11:15AM*

HB1342

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for AGR/OMH on Feb 8, 2017 11:15AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 1:07 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: dkapua@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1342 on Feb 8, 2017 11:15AM



HB1342

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for AGR/OMH on Feb 8, 2017 11:15AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha kakou, I support HB 1342 RELATING TO HAWAIIAN TRADITIONAL AND CUSTOMARY PRACTICES. Establishes a pilot project at Makua beach and Hawaii island to designate areas in public parks for planting and growing coconut trees for Hawaiian traditional and customary gathering practices. Appropriates funds for the pilot project. While this is only a pilot project consisting of coconut tree's, I look forward to other traditional and customary plant (edible, medicinal, material, etc.) sites too. By expanding the categories of plants, and sites, it will increase the awareness and benefits of traditional Hawaiian knowledge. Mahalo for allowing my testimony requesting your support and passage of Bill HB1342. Na'u, Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai Concerned Waianae Community Member

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Cc: aluhi@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1342 on Feb 8, 2017 11:15AM

HB1342

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for AGR/OMH on Feb 8, 2017 11:15AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alohi Aea	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill. Coconuts are an excellent source of nourishment, and as island people thousands of miles away from another land mass, we need to begin cultivating more resources that will lead to self-sustainability. It's time once more to have coconut groves in Hawaii that people can access!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 7:01 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: crystalkpaul@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1342 on Feb 8, 2017 11:15AM*



HB1342

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for AGR/OMH on Feb 8, 2017 11:15AM in Conference Room 312

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

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 10:38 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: blawaiianlvr@icloud.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1342 on Feb 8, 2017 11:15AM



HB1342

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for AGR/OMH on Feb 8, 2017 11:15AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omana Pono, LLC.	Support	Yes

Comments: We FULLY SUPPORT this bill. We are a native Hawaiian Advocacy Corporation that operates primarily out of the Wai`anae Coast. We would like to note that funding for this bill can be found in SB1300: "Description: Increases the amount of transient accommodations tax revenue allocated to the special land and development fund." Therefore, we ask that you please pass this bill which is needed for the Wai`anae Coast. Mahalo.

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