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GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
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
WATER AND LAND**

**Wednesday, March 28, 2018
2:51 pm
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 181/SENATE RESOLUTION 107
REQUESTING THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL
RESOURCES TO RENAME THE MAUNA KEA RECREATION AREA IN THE
COUNTY OF HAWAII AS THE GILBERT KAHELE RECREATION AREA**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 181/Senate Resolution 107 request the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources to rename the Mauna Kea Recreation Area in the County of Hawaii as the Gilbert Kahele Recreation Area. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports these measures.**

The late Senator (Gilbert) Kahele was a catalyst for the concept of optimized management of this park unit via a transfer, due to the superior fiscal resources of Hawaii County Parks and Recreation, from the State to the County. His long standing relationship and deep interest with Mauna Kea State Recreation Area and his desire to make this park a gathering place for the community and a quality park experience for all warrant that this small piece of the aina be named after a man who gave his life to serving the community.

The Department notes that the Mauna Kea State Recreation Area is currently managed by the County of Hawaii via an agreement with the Department. Formal transfer to County is still pending a series of actions to actualize title to the subject property. The Department recommends the County, as the envisioned steward of this park, design and install all appropriate signage and information to honor the late Senator Kahele.

It is with genuine respect and acknowledgment of a man who's life ended too soon that the Department strongly supports these measures.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these measures.

SR-107

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 6:13:36 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/28/2018 2:51:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

SR-107

Submitted on: 3/25/2018 10:26:06 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/28/2018 2:51:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Testifying for Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee (HPAC)	Support	Yes

Comments:

WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS RESOLUTION! KĀ^a KIA`I MAUNA!

From: [Linda Kahele](#)
To: [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#)
Subject: Gilbert Kahele and Mauna Kea State Park
Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 10:03:32 AM

I strongly support SCR181 and SR107 - Thank You - Linda Kahele

Aloha from Linda's iPad!

From: [Jessie Faige](mailto:Jessie.Faige)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: FW: SCR. No 181 and SR 107
Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 11:43:53 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Gerald De Mello <gmello@hawaii.edu>
Date: March 27, 2018 at 01:06:35 HST
To: senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov, Kai Kahele
<senkkahele@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: SCR. No 181 and SR 107

Dear Senator Rhoads and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gerald De Mello, a lifelong resident of Hawaii Island, and I am pleased to write testimony that supports SCR. 181 and SR 107--Requesting the Chairperson of Board of Land and Natural Resources to Rename the Mauna Kea Recreational Area in the County of Hawaii as the Gilbert Kahele Recreational Area.

To name this Park after Gilbert Kahele is to recognize his long standing vision and work to better define the area for the community. Gilbert had a vision that spanned decades that the Mauna Kea Recreational Area should be improved to be a place that would enhance safety, rest, relaxation, calm and convenience while at the same time a Park for people to enjoy the panoramic scenic beauty of the area. Further, for people traveling across Hawaii Island via the Daniel K. Inouye Saddle Road Highway the park area, he believed it was under served in terms of it's potential and that improved facilities would bring attractiveness, safety, convenience and comforts. He held this perspective for decades and when he became a State Senator. he worked hard and collaborated with others to make improvements to the Park. Gilbert was pivotal to the cooperation needed to make the current Park improvements.

Notably, in terms of practically he would often articulate and expand on his vision for the Park that one day there will be a convenience store and gas station for travelers in or near the Park. On a personal note, while traveling with Gilbert on the Daniel K. Inouye Saddle Road Highway, Gilbert shared stories and events about how he helped people who had road side auto problems (case in point running out of gas) on the Highway, a situation that he too, learned through a "first hand" experience. Because on an occasion when he and I were driving the "Saddle" we ran out of gas on the Highway. It was cold, potentially dangerous, and yet to be out of gas was self-denigrating and at the same time humorous. Two seasoned Hawaii Island travelers should know better. We were stranded on the Highway at dusk and clearly understood distress and our situation reinforced the need upgrades for safety and amenities for travelers. Fortunately, park personnel assisted us.

Mahalo for this Resolution and the request that it entails, I am pleased to support

this and look forward to the naming of the Park after Gilbert, someone who loved the area and devoted his time and energy to improving the Park and always made the connection that upgrades are needed for travelers. And perhaps, this naming is a beginning that will help to bring the fullness of his vision for a gas and convenience store to fruition.

To rename the Park is a very fitting legacy and an honor beyond measure given Gilbert's early community advocacy and later his actions as a State Senator to improve the Park that is a "stop" that is safe, convenient and beautiful for everyone who travels across Island on the Daniel K. Inouye Saddle Road Highway. Thank you for this opportunity to submit my supportive testimony.

Sincerely,

Gerald De Mello, 381 Haili Street, Hilo Hawaii 96720....Phone 961-2128

SR-107

Submitted on: 3/28/2018 1:09:20 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/28/2018 2:51:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Micah Alameda	Individual	Support	No

Comments: