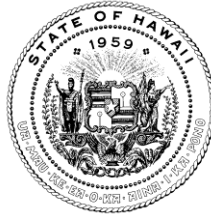


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Wednesday, April 3, 2019  
10:20 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1068, HOUSE DRAFT 1, SENATE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO HEEIA STATE PARK**

House Bill 1068, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 proposes to make an appropriation for a He'eia State Park community-based long-range plan and planning and design of the education center for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve System. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this measure and offers the following comments.**

The Department realizes that this measure is requesting the funding for both the community planning process and a portion of the funds to construct the educational center. In 1993, a Final Environmental Impact Statement and Master Development Plan was prepared by PBR Hawai'i – so it may be warranted to re-evaluate the findings of the 1993 plan which could be possible with an appropriation of \$250,000.

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

**ROBERT K. MASUDA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**M. KALEO MANUEL**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at 10:20 a.m.

By

Judy Lemus, Interim Director  
Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology

And

Michael Bruno  
Vice Chancellor for Research  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1068 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO HEEIA STATE PARK

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee:

As a unit of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology is an official site partner of the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve (HeNERR), and we support HB 1068 HD1 SD1.

Now that He'eia has been designated as the 29th member of the NERRS in the Nation, the site partners have been working together with the recently-hired staff to implementing the HeNERR master plan. A key component of that master plan is to construct an education center in He'eia State Park, but doing so will require legislative support to provide for a community-based long-term plan for the park, and design plans for the education center.

As such, we are fully in support of HB 1068 HD1 SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



O'ahu County Democrats  
oahudemocrats.org



Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

**RE: HB1068 HD1 SD1, Relating to He'eia State Park.**

The O'ahu County Democrats write in support of House Bill 1068, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1. This measure appropriates funds for a long-range plan for the Park and the funds to design an education center for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve System.

Our Democratic Platform on O'ahu includes the United Nations Sustainable Development goals, including "inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all."<sup>1</sup> Additionally, our environmental Platform states that we "believe in integrated approaches, practices, and support for public policies that create and maintain a sustainable way of life in Hawai'i." This measure is entirely consistent with these statements. Our wetlands have been largely transformed, and the management of our remaining estuarine systems is essential for the survival of freshwater native species, and the public's benefit of sustainable environmental services: water quality, flood and erosion mitigation.

Education of the sciences and our environment is also important for the well-being of the developing child. Such natural science education centers have the ability to engage tactile, auditory and visual learning routes in the brain, in a way that traditional classroom settings to not so equally provide. Further, to work for better environmental policy we can so better educate our future voters and lawmakers about our natural heritage.

Last but not least we want the public to most fully enjoy its public lands and the spectacular diversity of the natural world here in Hawai'i.

Please vote in support of HB1068 HD1 SD1. Mahalo for your consideration.

DYLAN P. ARMSTRONG, VICE CHAIR  
O'AHU COUNTY COMMITTEE, O'AHU COUNTY DEMOCRATS

1. Platform of the O'ahu County Democrats. <https://www.oahudemocrats.org/oahuplatform.htm>

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Supporting H.B. 1068 HD1 Relating to He'eia State Park  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Wednesday, April 3, 2019, 10:20 AM, Room 211

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*The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 40,000 acres in 13 nature preserves and work in over 30 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs, waters and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnership with government, private parties and communities to protect forests and coral reefs for their ecological values and the many benefits they provide to people.*

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The Nature Conservancy supports H.B. 1068 HD1 SD1, which would appropriate funds for a He'eia State Park community-based long-range plan and an education center for the [He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve](#). State funding in support of the He'eia NERR is annually matched by approximately \$690,000 in federal funds from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The ahupua'a of He'eia on the island of O'ahu is one of twelve NOAA-designated Sentinel Sites and in January 2017 was designated as the [29<sup>th</sup> National Estuarine Research Reserve](#). The [He'eia NERR](#) encompasses upland forests and grasslands, wetlands, reefs and seagrass beds, as well as Kāne'ohe Bay—the largest sheltered body of water in the Hawaiian Islands. The NERR designation reflects the community's desire to ensure the protection and sustainable management of valued cultural, historical and natural resources.

He'eia contains a world-class research institution (Hawai'i Institute for Marine Biology) and multiple community organizations including Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, Ko'olau Foundation, Kāko'o 'Ōiwi, Paepae o He'eia, and the He'eia State Park working together to develop and implement effective management strategies in an entire ahupua'a. Collaboration between these organizations coupled with education and outreach to the broader community are recognized as necessary because of the interconnected relationship each ecosystem has to another within the He'eia ahupua'a. Any effect up in the mountains will work its way into the community, into the wetlands and lo'i (traditional wetland agriculture systems), flow down to the coast, into the loko i'a (fishponds), and eventually into the bay and onto coral reefs—affecting people's lives, lifestyles and livelihoods all along the way.

The proposed community-based long-range plan and education center will contribute to greater community engagement and increase local and national support for research, education, and restoration efforts in the region.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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**LATE**



*Ko`olau Foundation*

P. O. Box 4749  
Kane`ohe, HI 96744

April 3, 2019

To: Chair Donovan Dela Cruz  
Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran  
Members, Committee on Ways and Means

From: Aaron Mahi, President  
Ko`olau Foundation

Re: H.B. 1068, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 – Relating to He`eia State Park – SUPPORT

Aloha, Chair DelaCruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, Honored Members:

The Ko`olau Foundation strongly supports passage of H.B. 1068, H.D.1, S.D.1, which would provide funding for a community-based longrange plan for He`eia State Park. Moreover, it would support funding for planning and design of an education center for the He`eia NERRS.

A key component of this bill's intent, in our view, is the emphasis on *community-based*. We have been informed by staff of the Department of Land and Natural Resources that future planning for the park has been delegated to the current tenant at the park. According to state parks officials, that tenant has "complete control" over management and planning for future facilities of the park.

In our view, this privatizes the park, changes its overall purpose and longrange facility planning and virtually removes the public – and taxpayers – from having a say over this park's future.

We urge your committee to consider inserting language that requires DLNR to resume its statutory role as formal manager of the park and include kupa`aina – lifelong grassroots organizations like the neighborhood boards and the participants in the He`eia NERRS – to play a major role in future planning for the park.

We thank you for hearing this bill, and appreciate any support you can give toward passing this bill with the requested additional language to insure adequate community involvement in this public park.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of our request.



**LATE**

## KO`OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

April 3, 2019

To: Sen. Donovan Delacruz, Chair  
Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
& Members, Ways & Means Committee

From: Leialoha "Rocky" Kaluhiwa, President  
Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club

Subject: Support for H.B.1068, H.D.1, S.D.1, Relating to He`eia State Park  
**With Proposed Amendment**

Aloha, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of this Committee:

The Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club offers its strong support for House Bill 1068, H.D.1, S.D. 1, which would provide funding for a community-based longrange plan for the future of He`eia State Park, as well as funding for initial planning and design of an education center for the He`eia National Estuarine Research Reserve.

In discussions with other community leaders in our area, we realized that it is necessary to insert specific language in this bill to ensure that the Department of Land and Natural Resources includes key community stakeholders in planning for the future of He`eia State Park.

We therefore ask your consideration of inserting the following language at the end of the first section in the language of this bill to read as follows:

To ensure the involvement of key community stakeholders in this planning process, the department shall invite representatives of the University of Hawai`i Institute of Marine Biology, Kako`o `Oiwai, Paepae o He`eia, the Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, the Ko`olau Foundation, NOAA, DLNR, and one representative each from the Kane`ohe and Kahalu`u Neighborhood Boards.

We appreciate any consideration you can give to our request for this amendment, and urge passage of this bill by your committee.

Mahalo nui for allowing us to share our mana`o.

*The Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club was established in 1937 and is one of the largest in the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs nationwide. Ko`olaupoko HCC is a not-for-profit community organization dedicated to preserving and perpetuating the history, heritage and culture of Native Hawaiians and providing leadership and scholarships. Its membership is open to people of Hawaiian ancestry and those who are "Hawaiian at heart."*