



OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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Statement of
LEO R. ASUNCION
Planning Program Administrator, Office of Planning
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Wednesday, February 13, 2019
1:20 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of
SB 1287
RELATING TO STATE PLANNING.

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land.

The Office of Planning (OP) appreciates the intent and offers comments on SB1287, which adds a section in Chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes that provides for objectives and policies and implementation guidelines for planning for the lei of green in the state of Hawaii.

The proposed amendment aligns with OP's overall sustainability and green infrastructure goals and appreciates the opportunity to comprehensively identify green infrastructure opportunities. This amendment would enhance Section 12 of Chapter 226, however, OP feels that the proposed report should encompass the entire state rather than the select area from Diamond Head to Aloha Tower.

Lastly, due to limited personnel and project funding resources of the OP, we feel that this measure should include an appropriation of \$250,000 to secure a temporary planner position who will then be tasked to conduct the report.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



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**The Trust For Public Land's Testimony In Support Of
SB 1287 Relating To State Planning**

Senate Committee on Water & Land, Conf. Room 229

Wednesday, February 13, 2019, 1:20 p.m.

Aloha e Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

The Trust for Public Land supports SB 1287, which proposes to incorporate the decades-old concept of a Lei of Green into state planning efforts.

The Trust for Public Land is part of a coalition of community groups advocating for a Lei of Parks or Lei of Green connecting Diamond Head to West O'ahu. We support the intent of this bill, but would recommend that, rather than restricting the scope of the bill to Diamond Head to Aloha Tower, the scope be expanded statewide, and that the Office of Planning be provided funding and manpower to implement the vision.

This Lei of Green or Lei of Parks could also complement climate mitigation planning envisioned by other pending bills such as HB 1487, which proposes a continuous coastal pathway linking parks from Diamond Head to the Honolulu airport that provides green infrastructure to mitigate the effects of rising sea levels and climate change.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify. I apologize that I cannot be present at the hearing of this bill due to scheduling conflicts.

Me ke aloha,

Hawaiian Islands State Director
Edmund C. Olson Trust Fellow



SB-1287

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 11:38:52 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/13/2019 1:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

Lei of Parks



Statement of Lei of Parks Coalition
Before the
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Wednesday, February 13, 2019, 1:20 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229
In consideration of
SB 1287

LATE

To Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Araran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land.

The Lei of Parks Coalition is a group of nonprofit and advocacy groups who support the long held belief that a connected lei of green that links Honolulu's green parks, open space, recreation areas, and greenways mauka to makai along the shoreline, interconnected with tree-lined multi-use paths, would greatly benefit the residents of Honolulu, residents of the State, and visitors. In addition we believe it will benefit our ability to be resilient in the face of a changing climate, and could allow our communities to be healthier, happier, and more sustainable.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this draft legislation, as we have been working on this very concept for over three years, as an organized coalition. We are happy to share our work to date, including an existing conditions report, a GIS story map, as well as a number of outreach events to develop support for the concept. We have found that there is a strong need for the selection of a government agency who would have the authority and funding to work across jurisdictions to make this concept a reality. We support the State Office of Planning as that entity, and ask that the bill include funding to support staff to complete the report, and additional funds to implement the project on the ground.

While we enthusiastically support the efforts to create the Lei of Green, we also believe this should be a statewide initiative. Our Lei of Green project extends from Diamond Head up to Ka`ena Point. It would connect to the State's Leeward bikeway and create much needed opportunities for residents along the entire coast. We believe a more holistic approach is needed. In addition, there have been a number of greenway projects that have been proposed over the last 10 years across the state. The common barrier to these projects is that no one entity is willing and able to take this on. Only in Kauai have we seen the

concepts turned into reality. We highly recommend that the State Office of Planning, if willing and if funded, have the authority to implement greenways across the many agencies and jurisdictions that a greenway traverses. They should be given the authority to build private-public partnerships and engage the local communities in the design and long-term stewardship of the greenways. Other examples of recent efforts include the North Shore Trails plan (Oahu) and the West Maui Greenway.

Greenways with green infrastructure create solutions for many issues we are currently facing. Greenways provide a safe place for people to walk and bike safely and use it as alternative transportation, they reduce vehicle miles traveled and our carbon footprint. Greenways can be designed to buffer and mitigate flooding and storm surges and they support our goals for a 100% renewable energy future and our ability to be resilient in the face of increases in storms, sea level rise, and other natural hazards. We support this effort, but believe a bolder vision is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



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February 13, 2019

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

SB 1287
RELATING TO STATE PLANNING

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members;

Hawaii's Thousand Friends (HTF), a non-profit statewide organization dedicated to ensuring that land use planning and decisions protect the environment, human health and natural and cultural resources, supports the creation of a *lei of green* along Honolulu's urban waterfront.

SB 1287 enacts the objectives and policies of the Hawai'i State Planning Act §226-11 *for the physical environment--land-based, shoreline, and marine resources (2) effective protection of Hawaii's unique and fragile environmental resources.*

The policy of this section is to (1) *Exercise an overall conservation ethic in the use of Hawaii's natural resources.*

The vision of a *lei of green* along urban Honolulu's shoreline is not new. Lewis Mumford, renowned authority on architecture and city planning and consultant to the Honolulu City and County Park Board in 1938, envisioned Honolulu's urban shoreline lined with parks, open space and recreation areas decades ago.

HTF urges the committee to pass SB 1287 that not only preserves the natural urban environment, enacts the goals, objectives and policies of the Hawai'i State Plan but finally realizes an eighty-year old vision.

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LATE

February 13, 2019

Testimony Supporting SB1287

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and esteemed members of the Committee on Water and Land:

Hawaii Bicycling League **strongly supports Senate Bill 1287**, which adds the “Lei of Green” to State Plan and charges the State Office of Planning to work with relevant agencies to implement it.

As noted in the bill, the Lei of Green (also known as Lei of Parks) is a long-planned vision of connected network of parks, beaches, and public lands in urban core of Honolulu tied together by multi-use pathways. Many of the pieces of the Lei of Green have been completed, yet crucial gaps exist that prevent the Lei of Green from being connected and the community from realizing the full benefits of improved access of our public lands, increased recreational options, and a network on pathways that provide for safe walking and bicycling for all ages. The reason for many of these gaps is jurisdictional challenges and lack of a central responsible agency charged with working across jurisdictions. Therefore, we applaud the bill’s approach on assigning implementation to the State Office of Planning and charging them to work with all necessary agencies (State and City) to achieve implementation.

Hawaii Bicycling League has been part of the Lei of Parks Coalition – a group working to achieve implementation of the Lei of Parks. Our vision for the Lei of Parks has grown to encompass the entire South Shore of Oahu with the vision of the multi-use pathway linking public lands from Diamond Head to Kaena Point. We urge that this bill and the vision of the Lei of Green be expanded – the potential benefits and benefactors will be multiplied and amplified.

Thank you very much for considering the comments of Hawaii Bicycling League. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please contact Daniel Alexander (808-275-6717, Daniel@hbl.org) or Chad Taniguchi (808-255-8271).

Ride and Drive Aloha,

Daniel Alexander
Co-Executive Director
Hawaii Bicycling League

Chad Taniguchi
Director Emeritus
Hawaii Bicycling League



For the Protection of Hawaii's Native Wildlife
HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY

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THE SENATE
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Wednesday, February 13, 2019
1:20 p.m., Conference Room 229 State Capitol

SB 1287
RELATING TO HOUSING

Chair Kahele , Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee, my name is Linda Paul and I am testifying in favor of SB 1287 as a volunteer, President of and in behalf of the approximately 1800 members of the Hawaii Audubon Society. This bill will help restore and conserve a portion of Oahu's magnificent southern shoreline, a shoreline that nurtures our urban community and attracts the life blood of our economy: visitors from around the world.

The Hawaii Audubon Society works hard to conserve a portion of that "lei of green" by restoring and maintaining an acre of native dryland forest along Oahu's southern coast just east of Diamond Head so that it can support a colony of native wedgetail shearwaters in the midst of a residential area. This bill will encourage efforts to conserve and protect from urban sprawl green areas along the shore west of Diamond Head to Aloha Tower. Please pass SB 1287.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Linda M. B. Paul
President of the Hawaii Audubon Society
808-262-6859

Kaka'ako Makai Community Planning Advisory Council

Testimony In Strong Support

SB 1287

AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

~~1:15 P.M.~~ **1:20 P.M.**

Conference Room 229

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street



COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Kaiali'i Kahele and Vice Chair Keith-Agaran:

Please accept this testimony in strong support for SB1287 to protect, preserve and improve sensitive areas along Honolulu's South Oceanfront Parks and Shorelines to be enjoyed Hawaii's residents and visitors.

My name is Wayne Takamine and I serve as the chairman and spokesman for the Kaka'ako Makai Community Planning Advisory Council (CPAC). My involvement in community planning for Kaka'ako Makai began in late 2005 when the Kaka'ako community, stakeholders, environmental groups and ocean recreational park user groups began to understand the plans for 3 condominiums of 200 feet to be built in Kaka'ako Makai. After 6 months of strong statewide public opposition, the A & B Condominium RFP was repealed and new law were created prohibiting residential development in Kaka'ako Makai and prohibiting the sale of state land in Kaka'ako.

The Legislature also created HCR 30, 2006 the required the HCDA to create a community working group to organize, plan and implement a Master Plan for Kaka'ako Makai. The Kaka'ako Makai Community Planning Advisory Council (CPAC) was created in 2008. In 2010 I was selected by the CPAC Steering Committee to become the CPAC Chair. In 2011 with the support of hundreds of community participants, the HCDA Board approved the Kaka'ako Makai Master Plan.

Included in the Kaka'ako Makai Master Plan is the **Vision and Guiding Principals** that was created by CPAC and adopted by the HCDA Board that has become the basis for all future planning in Kaka'ako Makai. In the survey that was conducted by CPAC in collaboration with the HCDA, Community Participants of the Kaka'ako Makai Community Planning process and in accordance with legislation described in HCR 30, 2006, it was revealed that the **Lei of Green was the most popular planning concept**. Therefore it should be noted that, SB 1287 is legislation in the public interest and should be further refined to insure our precious Honolulu Shorelines are protected and preserved for greater community and future generations.

Mahalo,

Wayne Takamine

Chair

Kaka'ako Makai Community Planning Advisory Council (CPAC)

O'AHU ISLAND PARKS CONSERVANCY

Senate Committee on Water and Land
Wednesday, February 13, 2019, Hearing
Senate Conference Room 229
1:20 PM

LATE

In Strong Support of Senate Bill 1287 **Relating to State Planning**

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

Senate Bill 1287 is an important policy enactment to ensure the protection, preservation and connection of Honolulu's renowned shoreline parks from Diamond Head to Aloha Tower in the greater public interest and as a legacy to benefit of present and future generations.

SB 1287 is consistent with HRS 226-104 that sets forth State Planning Priority Guidelines for the protection and enhancement of Hawaii's shorelines, open spaces, and scenic resources; and defines Hawaii's scenic and recreational shoreline resources, open space and natural areas, historic and cultural sites, and scenic resources as critical environmental areas to identify.

The purpose of enacting this policy under the State Planning statute is to benefit the Physical Environment of scenic, natural beauty and historic resources as addressed under HRS Chapter 226, Section 12, toward achievement of this objective:

- preservation and restoration of significant natural and historic resources
- maintaining and enhancing historic, cultural, and scenic amenities
- preserving views and vistas to enhance the visual and aesthetic enjoyment of mountains, ocean, scenic landscapes, and other natural features
- protecting those special areas, structures, and elements that are an integral and functional part of Hawaii's ethnic and cultural heritage
- encouraging the design of developments and activities that complement the natural beauty of the islands

Clearly this measure embodies all of the above to maintain and improve the quality of life and physical environment for both individuals and communities, with the linkage of Honolulu's existing shoreline resources that include our existing historic parks, recreational open green spaces, and scenic greenways.

This policy was first recommended by renowned national planner Lewis Mumford to benefit the Territory of Hawaii, as a plan to link Honolulu's green parks, open space, recreation areas and greenways as a lei of green mauka to makai along the shoreline, interconnected with tree-lined pedestrian paths for shade and climate protection.

The Lei of Green has been further emphasized by the Hawaii Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects in 1999, as well as incorporated as a Guiding Principle in the Kaka'ako Makai Master Plan by the Hawaii Community Development Authority in 2011.

To accomplish this objective, there is a need for coordination among related State and City agencies in guiding this policy to ensure the intended and continued protection and preservation of the Lei of Green comprised of Honolulu's historic parks and green recreational open spaces from Diamond Head to Aloha Tower as an interconnected system. Thus it has been found that the State Office of Planning is best suited to oversee the Lei of Green Policy for Honolulu's network of green parks and open spaces to continue to benefit the people of Hawaii for present and future generations.

Additionally, SB 1287 is consistent with several other Bills now moving through the Legislature relating to Hawai'i's fragile environment in view of sustainability goals and policies, green urban vegetation planning, and climate change. Further, SB1287 serves as a precedent model to benefit Hawai'i's public shorelines elsewhere around O'ahu and throughout the State.

We applaud the State Senate's consideration of this important measure, and all Senators and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land who participated in the introduction of this Bill.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michelle Spalding Matson
President, O'ahu Island Parks Conservancy



LATE

Testimony before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Wednesday, February 13, 2019 1:20 P.M.
Conference Room 229

RE: SB1287 RELATING TO STATE PLANNING.

Chair Kahele and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land:

Trees for Honolulu's Future is a non-profit organization with a vision for a tree-filled island that preserves and enhances our quality of life, especially in the face of climate change.

We support SB1287. The bill include objectives and policies and implementation guidelines for planning for the lei of green in the Hawaii state plan. An integral part of such a lei of green are trees. Benefits of trees include those associated with improved: 1) Human Health; 2) Water Quality and Management; 3) Public Well-Being and Safety; 4) City Planning; 5) Economic Development; 6) Air Temperatures; 7) Air Quality and Energy Use; and 8) Transportation.

Codifying initiatives such as the lei of green and then importantly, acting/implementing them as part of a comprehensive change effort, will further the livability and vitality of our island home.

Mahalo,

Tom Dinell
President, Board of Directors
Trees for Honolulu's Future

SB-1287

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 3:05:01 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/13/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Whalen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-1287

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 12:03:04 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/13/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bernard Nunies	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This needed Bill ensures that the long-respected Lei of Green plan from Diamond Head to Aloha Tower becomes an enacted policy at the State level to protect, preserve and connect our historic shoreline Parks and green open spaces. I fully support SB1287.

SB-1287

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 9:49:43 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/13/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donna L. Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Mahalo for your support of this imporant bill. As Honolulu becomes ever more urbanized and overcrowded, open spaces and access to our oceans must be preserved. The Lei of Green ensures Hawaii remains both livable for residents and attractive to visitors. Costs associated with implementing the Lei of Green concept and maintaining our existing parks and recreational lands (DLNR, Ocean Safety Dept, Parks Dept, etc.) should come from a dedicated percentage of the the TAT. The adverse impact of over 10 million tourists per year needs to be financed sustainably.

Thank you for more aggressively protecting our quality of life though policy and funding.

Aloha, Donna L. Ching

SB-1287

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 6:37:53 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/13/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee,

I strongly support SB1287. We need to connect our parks and bike paths to form a "lei of green" along the south shore of Oahu. This is a great idea which would give options to people who want to travel without the use of a car.

Currently the connection sought is from Diamond Head to Aloha Tower. This is a great start. Eventually we should have an entirely connected bike path or "lei of green" along the entire South Shore -- Hawaii Kai to Nanakuli. This would make Oahu a great destination for bicycle tourism, as well as for use by residents.

Please pass SB1287. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Randy Ching

Honolulu (makikirandy@yahoo.com)