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

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

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FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
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
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WATER AND LAND**

**Wednesday, February 6, 2019
1:15 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1500
RELATING TO WATER CIRCULATION**

Senate Bill 1500 proposes to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to collaborate with various agencies to research and develop a mechanism for increased water circulation in Pokai Bay, Oahu. **The Department acknowledges the intent of this measure but respectfully opposes it due to the lack of jurisdiction and funding.**

The intent of this measure is to address concerns with alleged environmental and health risks caused by pollution and contaminants in Pokai Bay due to runoff containing industrial pollutants, illegal dumping, and other user-induced contaminants.

The Department has been in consultation with the Department of Health (DOH) and has learned that DOH tests the water at Pokai Bay twice a month for the bacterial indicator enterococcus to determine if it is safe for recreational activities. If the bacteria levels exceed DOH's established "Beach Action Value" (BAV) of 130 colony forming units per milliliter (cfu/mL) for enterococcus, DOH will post signs at the beach to notify the public that there is a potential health risk associated with swimming or wading in these ocean waters. The Department and the DOH also concur that if pollution sources other than enterococcus are from landside activities, the next steps would be to further identify these sources (and to what extent) and determine what can be done to eliminate or reduce their contribution into the Bay.

The Department believes that it premature to begin discussing potentially costly methods to increase water circulation in Pokai Bay. It is recommended that funding and resources be appropriated to DOH so additional testing can be done to potentially identify the source of the pollution and contaminants that may be contributing to the health risks experienced by users in the Bay. If the source of contaminants can be determined through additional testing, mitigation measures should then be discussed. The Department does not have the jurisdiction, expertise or resources to conduct an assessment of the water quality and/or landside contaminants that may be contributing to the health risk to users in the Bay.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SB-1500

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 1:17:17 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

LATE

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:

SB-1500

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 8:25:24 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John & Rita Shockley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha!

The Free Access Coalition supports all efforts to clear the bacteria laden water at Pokai Bay. The beach goes in the Waianae Coast area as well as visitors to the beach risk potentially harmful effects from the poor ocean circulation in Pokai Bay. The project to increase ocean circulation in the bay is an important project that deserves immediate action.

We implore Suzanne Case, DLNR Chair, to assist with this important safety project.

Mahalo for your time.

John & Rita Shockley www.freeaccesscoalition.weebly.com

672-6535

SB-1500

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 10:28:30 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mio Chee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-1500

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 6:33:05 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl M Jellings Sr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Honorable Senate

Wouldn't take much to notch the wall were it has collapsed. to a depth of 3 feet and an adequate width causing water to surge into the Bay creating some circulation.

Carl P Jellings Sr

SB-1500

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 7:11:56 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amanda Sofa Mahelona	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the research and study to find a solution to the highly contaminated waters and poor circulation at Poka'i Bay. In 2017 my father was hospitalized for 5 days after getting a staphylococcus infection after coming home from swimming at Poka'i Bay. A few of his friends were also interviewed about their hospitalizations on Hawai'i News Now Possible solutions and studies were mentioned so I'm pleased this SB1500 is finally being brought forward. My daughter saw her grandfather become ill from swimming at Poka'i Bay so she recently did her 7th science project on the high bacteria levels at Poka'i Bay compared to Ko Olina, Makaha & Nanakuli and two of the three days Poka'i Bay came out with the highest colonies of bacteria visible. The third day Poka'i Bay came in second right behind Ko Olina. While she doesn't know the exact cause she thought the break water left in place from the original harbor may be contributing to poor circulation from run off etc.. We know that there's something definitely causing the dangerous levels of bacteria and the Wai'anae community deserves this study for answers and a resolution. I want to continue to take my children there because it is still one the the most beautiful family friendly beaches on the Leeward Coast of Oahu. Mahalo, Amanda Sofa Mahelona

SB-1500

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:06:59 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
joseph simpliciano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The community deserves something better our coast has been neglected for so long. No handicap mats to the ocean like Waikiki, No repairs to our beaches, no sand replenishment no nothing! The least that could be done is to repair the jetty and install some pipes to allow the natural flow of water back into Pokai Bay so it can keep itself clean naturally and keep our keikis from getting skin diseases and worse.