



KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA
KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

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Executive Director

Testimony of
MICHAEL K. NĀHO'OPTI
Executive Director

Before the House Committee on

TRANSPORTATION

Friday, February 8, 2019
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 423

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 458 HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO SMALL BOAT HARBORS

House Bill 458 HD! authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources to transfer to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission the Board's duties to operate, administer, manage and maintain the Kīhei Launch Ramp and authorizes the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission to undertake those duties. The Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) supports this measure as a potential revenue source to help fund the restoration of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve.

In 2002, Governor Linda Lingle signed Executive Order No. 3963, which set aside 8.261-acres adjacent to the Kīhei Small Boat Harbor for the KIRC to develop an Education/Administration/Visitor center, boathouse/storage facility and native Hawaiian plant nursery. Act 49, SLH 2017 authorized \$500,000 for KIRC to begin the plans and designs for this center. Additionally, the KIRC submitted, at the request of the legislature, a "KIRC Financial Self-Sufficiency and Sustainability Plan" which states that a critical factor for KIRC's long-term financial success is to "build the KIRC's Kaho'olawe Education & Operations Center at Kīhei, Maui as the key infrastructure/facility to generate sustaining funding for the island's long-term restoration and establishing a permanent, public gateway to Kaho'olawe".

In 2018, the KIRC completed the conceptual designs and planning for this facility and was granted a Shoreline Management Area (SMA) permit by the Maui Planning Commission. The KIRC is currently seeking final design and construction funding to move forward with this project.

As the KIRC depends on the Kīhei Launch Ramp as its primary launch point for vessels traveling to and from Kaho'olawe and manages the adjacent property, the KIRC has a vested

interest in ensuring the Kīhei Small Boat Harbor is well maintained and managed. The KIRC has only recently entertained the possibility of developing a cooperative management opportunity with the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation as a possible means of integrating the small boat harbor into the future development of the KIRC's neighboring facilities. We are still investigating the possible risk and benefits of this endeavor as well as determining the possible revenue streams that could support this action and any possible consequences.

The KIRC currently does not yet have the revenue streams to fully execute its initial mandate in HRS 6K, to manage and restore the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve. This opportunity could become a significant benefit to the KIRC future.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
TRANSPORTATION**

**Friday, February 8, 2019
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 423**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 458, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO SMALL BOAT HARBORS**

House Bill 458, House Draft 1 proposes to authorize the transfer of operations, administration, management, and maintenance of the Kīhei Launch Ramp from the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC); and (2) preserves the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) authority to issue permits and collect fees due to the Boating Special Fund. **The Department supports this measure to the extent that KIRC is amicable to the transfer and offers the following comments.**

The Department's Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR) currently operates, administers, manages, and maintains the Kīhei Launch Ramp facility for both recreational and commercial vessel use. Revenues generated at the facility are deposited into the Boating Special Fund and are used to support the statewide boating and ocean recreation program.

Upon discussions with KIRC, they indicated that they are not interested in assuming all operations, administration, management, and maintenance of the facility but instead would like to enter into a cooperative management agreement with DOBOR in order to integrate the Kīhei Launch Ramp facility into the future development of KIRC's neighboring facilities. DOBOR is committed to working with KIRC to develop a plan to initiate this proposal.

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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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
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February 8, 2019

Testimony To: House Committee on Transportation
Representative Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair

From: Tim Lyons, CAE
Executive Director

Subject: H.B. 458, HD 1 – Relating to Small Boat Harbors

Aloha Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee:

I am Tim Lyons, Executive Director of the Ocean Tourism Coalition (OTC) and we have comments on this bill.

Although we sympathize with KIRC and understand that they need some sort of funding, we continue to believe that KIRC should be funded out of the General Fund. We have deep concerns over parceling out one of our small boat harbors to KIRC for fear that it sets a dangerous precedent in that it will be the Kihei Small Boat Harbor today and the Honolulu Boat Harbor tomorrow. We think that for the smooth administration of the small boat harbors it needs to remain centralized however, as stated, we have sympathy with KIRC and its funding.

Having said that we are more comfortable with the bill in consideration of the language in Section 2, subsection (a) with the proviso that all permits issued under that section remain under the Statewide Boating Program and that all fees collected remain in the Boating Special Fund.

With those two (2) provisions we are more comfortable with the bill although we still think that philosophically all the small boat harbors should remain under one centralized authority.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.