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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
WATER, LAND AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Friday, January 25, 2019
10:35 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 423

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 458
RELATING TO SMALL BOAT HARBORS

House Bill 458 proposes to authorize the Board of Land and Natural Resources to transfer the operation, administration, management, and maintenance of the Kīhei Small Boat Harbor, with some exceptions, to Kahoʻolawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) and authorizes KIRC to undertake those duties. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (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 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.

The Department recognizes that KIRC depends on the Kīhei Small Boat Harbor as its primary launching area for vessels traveling to Kahoʻolawe and that it manages the adjacent property. The Department is open to working with KIRC on investigating this endeavor and seeing if it is financially viable for them. If this is a viable endeavor, the Department could use a limited amount of funds that are directly generated at the Kīhei Small Boat Harbor to accomplish the transfer.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA
KAHO'OLAWÉ ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

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Executive Director

Testimony of
MICHAEL K. NĀHO'OPTI
Executive Director

Before the House Committee on

WATER, LAND & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Friday, January 25, 2019
10:35 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 423

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 458
RELATING TO SMALL BOAT HARBORS

House Bill 458 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 Small Boat Harbor 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 Small Boat Harbor as its primary launch point for vessels traveling to 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.

HB-458

Submitted on: 1/24/2019 9:00:12 AM

Testimony for WLH on 1/25/2019 10:35:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Greg Howeth | Lahaina Divers Inc. | Oppose | No |

Comments:

We strongly oppose moving Kihei small boat to KIRK. They have neither the resources nor the expertise to run the harbor. Department of Transportation would be a better place to move it to.

HB-458

Submitted on: 1/24/2019 9:12:55 AM

Testimony for WLH on 1/25/2019 10:35:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Blake Moore | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments:

HB-458

Submitted on: 1/24/2019 11:02:49 AM

Testimony for WLH on 1/25/2019 10:35:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jeff Strahn | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments:



Activities & Attractions Association of Hawaii
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**Testimony to the House Committees on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
Friday, February 24, 2019, 10:35am
Conference Room 425**

RE: House Bill 458 RELATING TO SMALL BOAT HARBORS

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd and members of the joint committee;

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify, my name is Toni Marie Davis. For the last 13 years it has been my honor to serve the activity & attraction industry of Hawaii through my position as the Executive Director of the Activities & Attractions Association of Hawaii. **A3H strongly opposes HB458.**

I urge you DEFER this Bill in committee. This Bill places Kihei Boat Ramp commercial operators under the jurisdiction of the Kahoolawe island reserve commission. This is not about management or improvement this is about money and control over an establishment that is operating well under the DLNR, DOBOR.

Huge void here – is there is a hidden agenda? Either this is for a money grab down the road or an effort to demolish a thriving industry. Or possibly both! Kaho’olawe has been seeking funding since their 1994 federal appropriation of \$44M dwindled, not without questions regarding where this was spent.

Kaho’olawe needs money for continued restoration, we fully support this. Those in leadership positions should be thinking out of the box – working to create new positive solutions. Instead of tapping into and potentially destroying a thriving environmentally sustainable industry or riding on the shirt tails of others that have worked long and hard to build a successful business.

Kaho’olawe has beautiful pristine reefs along its shores teeming with fish and coral. Designate a use area, clear of undetonated bombs and install manta day use mooring to preserve the reef. Maui Reef Fund and/or Malama Kai (2 not for profit organizations that have worked with the DLNR and Army Core of Engineers) I would think would gladly coordinate this effort at no cost. Many of the Molokini operators already donate their boats, equipment and labor to these efforts. Malama Kai has been involved in the over 200 day use moorings installed in the State. Setting of these moorings minimizes reef damage.

Once a designated area is set, all commercial & recreational vessels could visit when weather permits. A cost be charge for the visit. Why not have a Kaho’olawe representative on board or train crew to provide visitor education regarding the history and culture of the island.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony. If you have any questions, please contact me at (808)871-7947 or 1-800-398-9698.

Toni Marie Davis

Toni Marie Davis/Executive Director
Activities & Attractions Association of Hawaii