

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 Senate Committee on  
WATER AND LAND**

**Wednesday, February 13, 2019  
1:20 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 1414  
RELATING TO THE STATE PARKS**

Senate Bill 1414 proposes to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources State Parks Division to conduct a feasibility study of employing residential caretakers at high-use trails to assist hikers and reduce the need for hiker rescues. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this measure and offers the following comments.**

The Department's Division of State Parks (Parks) oversees state parks statewide. While there are state parks where the addition of a residence for staff and establishing a new residential caretaker position would augment both quality management, enhance public safety and reduce such issues as nuisance to adjacent neighborhoods associated with illicit after hours use, the cost would likely be prohibitive and there are other management methods that could address these concerns.

More frequently, due to social media, park units are experiencing new and previously unexpected types of use such as raves (large parties with illegal substances) drum circles, drones, illegal camping and homeless activity, and more commonly going out of bounds into unmanaged areas creating resource impact or risking safety.

For example, on O'ahu at Wa'ahila State Recreational Area, there was an intent under the Governor Ariyoshi administration when that park unit was established that a resident caretaker would be established for park management. However, the park is small and on-site management is effectively conducted by existing O'ahu field crew staff – so currently placing a new position on site would allow for the repurposing of field crew into other park units – but having the

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

**ROBERT K. MASUDA**  
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**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  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

position there simply to insure park closure and eliminate illicit activity is not as cost effective as either repurposing the current department law enforcement staff to be on site after hours or additional funding to hire private sector security guards that could patrol these park units after hours and alert department law enforcement about the illicit use. This park is experiencing after hours use and illegal activity that is a damaging to park property and a disruptive nuisance to the adjacent neighborhood.

Challenges are that the out of bounds use on unmanaged trails are typically in locations where it would be impractical or environmentally too challenging to establish a park caretaker residence due to lack of water or power and trailheads that are along roadways where a residence would be prohibited. The solutions continually pin point greater after park hours law enforcement capacity and more State Parks staff on the grounds patrolling and educating park users as the more economical and nimble methods to address these issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII  
Hawaiian Affairs Caucus

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT OF  
SB1414, Relating to State Parks  
Hearing: Feb 13, 2019, 1:20 p.m., Room 229

[COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND](#)

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

Aloha, Kenekoa Kahele a me Kanekoa Keith-Agaran

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Hawaiian Affairs Caucus submits the following testimony in SUPPORT, WITH AMENDMENT of Senate Bill 1414 that requires the Dept of Land and Natural Resources State Parks Division to conduct a feasibility study of employing residential caretakers at high-use trails to assist hikers and reduce the need for hiker rescues.

This bill also provides the opportunity to address vandalism of of Native Hawaiian sacred sites, such as Kukaniloko. Recommend it be amended to include in the feasibility study Native Hawaiian sacred sites to help mitigate destruction and/or vandalism of these sacred sites. Rationale for this amendment is taken from a resolution adopted in 2017 by the Democratic Party of Hawaii, O'ahu County Committee that appears below. We should also note that the Kamehameha statue was also vandalized a couple years ago by someone cutting down the leis that adorned King Kamehameha's statue.

Respectfully,

LEIMOMI KHAN, Chair

**“OC 2017-8. Calling for the Hawai'i State Legislature to Require a Management Plan for Hawai'i's Sacred Sites to be Developed by the State of Hawai'i's Department of Land and Natural Resources**

Whereas, there have been several instances of vandalism of Hawai'i's sacred places, the most recent being in June 2016 when *Kaniakapupu* was defaced; and

Whereas, these sacred places are of interest to tourists and many are publicized on websites of tourism companies; and

Whereas, Citizens of our community, many of whom are Hawaiian civic club members, voluntarily care for these sacred sites; and

Whereas, these sacred places remind us of a once rich history of the native people of Hawai'i; and

Whereas, these sacred places have spiritual and cultural significance at which Native Hawaiians and others practice the Hawaiian culture; and

Whereas, The Department of Land and Natural Resources, has published a brochure titled, "*NĀ WAHI PANA*, Respecting Hawaiian Sacred Sites"; and

Whereas, The International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) World Conservation Congress (WCC) who recently held its meeting in Hawaii affirmed the important role of native people in caring for mother earth; and

Whereas, The IUCN also acknowledged the role that governments play in upholding the values of native people in caring for the 'āina; and

*Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratc Party of Hawai'i request that the Hawai'i State Legislature require a management plan for Hawai'i's sacred sites be developed by State of Hawai'i's Department of Land and Natural Resources; and

*Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i request that the following organizations be consulted in the development of the management plan for Hawai'i's sacred sites: *Kaniakapupu (Ka Lei Maile Ali'i)*; *Kūkaniloko (Wahiawa Hawaiian Civic Club)*; *Ulupō Heiau (Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club)*; *Mauna'ala (O'ahu Council)*; and the Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai'i; all members of the Hawai'i State legislature that are members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Chairperson of the State of Hawai'i's Department of Land and Natural Resources; Chair, Office of Hawaiian Affairs Board of Trustees; President of the O'ahu Council of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs; all O'ahu County Democrats that are members of the Hawai'i State Legislature; and the Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

**SB-1414**

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 5:15:34 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Augusto Decastro	Individual	Support	No

Comments: