

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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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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 Senate Committee on
WATER AND LAND**

**Wednesday, March 24, 2021
1:00 PM**

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 229

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1276, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO STATE PARKS**

House Bill 1276, House Draft 1 proposes to allow the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board) to adopt, amend, or repeal administrative fee schedules for certain activities related to state parks through regular or special board meetings rather than through administrative rulemaking and appropriate funds out of the State Parks Special Fund to the expenditure ceiling of the special fund. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this measure.**

The Department's Division of State Parks (State Parks), through the successful implementation of the Hā'ena State Park Master Plan, has already begun to employ adaptive management strategies to the management of parking, pedestrian and shuttle entry by adjusting capacities for each category on the fly to accommodate such factors as resident vs. out-of-State visitor demand, and incentivizing shuttle use. It has long been the policy of both State and National Park areas to adjust pricing seasonally, and even more frequently, for various park fees, and camping and lodging amenities. Hawai'i, despite its more moderate weather, does experience seasonal visitation, and demand fluctuates significantly for park activities commensurate with these visitation patterns. Presently our rigid pricing models – embedded in a cumbersome Administrative rulemaking process, do not allow for the dynamic pricing which has become the standard in many places and travel-related industries

The Department supports the amendment that allows the Board to set a fee range , i.e. an amount not less than or greater than, that can be adjusted seasonally or in response to changing economic conditions, in order that during times of low demand, we can have sales or kama'aina specials, etc. to maximize visitor opportunities and affordability, as well as allow for peak season pricing

to enhance revenue in times of high demand – for example, the temporary winter spike in visitation to Diamond Head State Monument when Hawai‘i hosted the Pro Bowl. This would allow for adjustments throughout the year to pricing without constantly returning to the Board, but establishing reasonable upper and lower thresholds.

The Department will also consult with the Small Business Regulatory Review Board prior to Board approval for fees that would affect small businesses.

The Department recommends the removal of Section 3 of the bill relating to the State Parks Special Fund in order to keep this bill moving, as this is a significant opportunity for State Parks to be more nimble in pricing certain fees based on seasonal and daily changes in patronage and still allow for a transparent process for public engagement through our Board of Land and Natural Resources.

The Department recommends the following amendments in bold/highlight and bracketed/stricken on Page 3:

"~~§184-~~ **Fee schedules.** (a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the board of land and natural resources may adopt, amend, or repeal administrative fee schedules, exempt from chapter 91, for all **user fees, including but not limited to** camping, lodging, parking, group use, and special use activities, ~~[including entrance to Diamond Head State Monument,~~ for which the department charges fees. Fee schedules may be adopted at regular or special meetings of the board of land and natural resources pursuant to section 171-5.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HUI MAKA'ĀINANA O MAKANA



The Hui Maka'āinana o Makana is a non-profit organization dedicated to perpetuating and teaching the skills, knowledge, and practices of our kūpuna (ancestors) through the interpretation, restoration, care, and protection of natural and cultural resources in within the Hā'ena State Park.

TO: Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

DATE: Wednesday, March 24, 2021
TIME: 1:00 PM
PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

From: Chipper Wichman, Secretary
Hui Maka'āinana o Makana

RE: Testimony in Support of HB1276 HD1

I am writing today as a founding Director and current Secretary of the Hui Maka'āinana o Makana a nonprofit established in 1999 to support the care and management of Hā'ena State Park (HSP). **The Hui is in strong support of HB 1276 HD1.**

Over the past 20 years we have worked closely with the Division of State Parks to restore the ancient loi kalo system that exists in HSP and were deeply involved in the 10-year long process of developing the Master Plan for Hā'ena State Park which was adopted by the Board of Land and Natural Resources in 2018.

Since the massive flooding in 2018, we have all learned the importance of “adaptive management” which is based on the ability to pivot and change as circumstances dictate. Hā'ena State Park is a case study on why DLNR needs the ability to change their fee structure and adjust between the peak summer season and the slower fall and spring shoulder seasons. We thus strongly support the concept in HB1276 that gives the Department the flexibility to set a fee range that can be adjusted seasonally or in response to changing economic conditions and not have to constantly returning to the Board.

Mahalo for your support of our State Parks and giving them the tools the need to manage the State Parks system effectively.

Aloha,

Chipper Wichman, Secretary
Hui Maka'āinana o Makana

HB-1276-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 8:05:59 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/24/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

Please support HB1276.

Thank you,

Andrea Quinn