

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on  
WATER & LAND**

**Tuesday, February 8, 2022  
9:00 AM**

**State Capitol, Conference Room 430, Via Videoconference**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 2413  
RELATING TO STATE PARKS**

House Bill 2413 proposes to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to conduct a feasibility study on a revenue generating and management system of user fees for Hawaii's state parks and to submit a report to the Legislature. **The Department supports the intent of this measure but does not support passage, as this work is well underway and requires a variety of actions that are in play to achieve what the bill directs the Department to do.**

Chapter 13-146, Hawaii Administrative Rules has established and increased fees in 2020 for residents and visitors for camping and lodging with price differential in place for visitors and in state residents.

Parking and entry fees are enabled at all State Park managed areas, with additional flexibility provided in the last Legislative Session via Act 194. Hawaii residents are exempt from all parking and entry fees.

Currently there are 10 park units out of 50 collecting and generating income from parking and entrance fees: Kokee, Waimea Canyon and Haena State Parks on Kauai; Diamond Head State Monument and Nuuanu Pali State Wayside on Oahu; Makena and Waianapanapa State Parks and Iao Valley State Monument on Maui; and Hapuna State Recreation Area and Akaka Falls State Park on Hawaii.

These are highly patronized park units and have been examined as feasible for fee collection due to the high percentage of out of state patronage. Thus, creating the income stream

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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  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

significant enough to partner with private sector parking companies to install and manage machines and place staff on site to ensure payment and manage parking and entry. Three of the monetized park units have been identified as being eligible to improve the quality of experience and reduce impacts to resources and community with advanced reservations systems: Haena State Park, Waianapanapa State Park, and under development, Diamond Head State Monument which will have a digital system applicable to other park units.

Examples of other park units eligible that will be examined and evaluated for either advanced reservation or online payment that are currently monetized is Iao Valley State Monument and Akaka Falls State Park. Examples of currently non monetized (no parking concession in place) park units that may be subject to advanced reservation or online payment are Wailuku River State Park, Kekaha Kai State Park and Puu Ualakaa State Wayside.

It is critically important to evaluate the economy of scale of each park unit for fee collection, the cost or revenue collection, and threshold of patronage to make it cost effective.

Simply automating pay with smart phone applications and reservations - absent either parking staff, additional State Park staff or law enforcement ensuring payment or citing for non-payment as a means to ensure payment is not prudent. Staff have witnessed non-payment at an alarming rate at monetized park units where the attendant has been temporarily off site and there is no law enforcement presence.

A current priority to enable this process is in progress, the Board of Land and Natural Resources in November of 2021 authorized State Parks to solicit for 7 revised parking and entry concessions for fee collection and visitor management to establish new contracts and lock in management for a sustained period. The current permits reflect a fiscal relationship crafted due to pandemic impacts, and new contracts for these are essential. The 3 others will follow when fee collection permits near expiration. This process, in itself, is time consuming when coupled with other lease management, fee recording and depositing, and placing other properties out to bid (such as the Kokee recreational cabins), new concessions (new solicitation for mobile food trucks in parks) and trying to establish new paradigm with reservations systems.

The revenue stream has been highly increased, hence the Department's request to have the State Park special fund ceiling raised to 12 million dollars.

State Park will keep the Legislature apprised as we continue to increase the capacity to both collect revenue and better manage patronage.

The Department requests that the measure be held in committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



*Ko`olau Foundation*

P. O. Box 4749  
Kane`ohe, HI 96744

February 7, 2022

TO: Rep. David Tarnas, Chair  
Rep. Patrick Branco, Vice-Chair  
& Members  
Committee on Water & Land

FROM: Mahealani Cypher  
Ko`olau Foundation

RE: Support for H.B. 2413, Study on Revenue, Fees and Management for State Parks

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Branco and Committee Members:

The Ko`olau Foundation supports passage of this bill, which would call for the Department of Land and Natural Resources to conduct a feasibility study to consider user fees, revenue enhancements and related management issues to provide support for state parks.

We note that similar user fees for visitors at state and county parks are already in place on a limited basis, such as Nu`uanu Pali Lookout or Hanauma Bay, and these may help launch the study into the feasibility of expanding the practice to state parks and enhance financial support for managing these parks.

Currently, we have seen state parks, which have important historic, cultural or scenic value, leased to tenants that DLNR treats as partners for their economic support of the parks' operations.

This is very concerning, because with private vendor-tenants at these parks, they become privatized and less accessible for our local community to enjoy.

We urge your committee to support this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration.



# KŌ OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

P. O. Box 664 \* Kaneohe, HI 96744 \* Ph. (808) 235-8111 \*

[www.koolaupokohcc.org](http://www.koolaupokohcc.org)

To: House Water and Land Committee  
David Tarnas, Chair; Patrick Pihana Vice-Chair  
Members of Committee

For: Hearing, Tuesday, February 8, 2022  
9:00 A.M., Conference Room 430

## **Related to State Parks**

**Testimony in support of HB 2413**, which would require the DLNR to conduct a feasibility study on a revenue generating and management system of user fees for Hawaii's state parks and to submit a report to the legislature.

It has been long apparent to anyone who has been paying attention that our state parks have suffered from a lack of sufficient funds and staffing to maintain the number of parks the DLNR has responsibility for. It doesn't take a degree in advanced mathematics to conclude that 128 positions for 52 parks, monuments, recreation and wilderness areas is a number far from adequate, when one considers that there are 750 miles of coastline, 1.3 million acres of public lands, and 3 million acres of ocean throughout the Hawaiian Islands.

That is a daunting responsibility, and the visitor impacts on the parks and their resources have taken a toll that will only worsen as visitor numbers increase as Covid restrictions are eased.

We understand that it can't be a one-size-fits-all fix and that the solutions need to be tailored to the needs of specific parks.

But the requirements of this bill are long overdue steps in the right direction to give the DLNR the money, staffing, and resources it needs.

Mahalo for considering this testimony.

Submitted by Nancy Davlantes, Government Relations Chair,  
Kō'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club

*The Kō'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club was established in 1937 and is a not-for-profit community organization dedicated to preserving and perpetuating the history, heritage and culture of Native Hawaiians. One of the largest of the Hawaiian Civic Clubs, its membership is open to people of Hawaiian ancestry and those who are "Hawaiian at heart"*



House Committee on Water and Land  
Chair David Tarnas, Vice Chair Patrick Pihana Branco

February 8, 2022, 9 a.m., Conference Room 430

**HB 2413 — RELATING TO STATE PARKS**

TESTIMONY

Nancy Davlantes, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco, and Committee Members:

**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports HB 2413**, which would require the DLNR to conduct a feasibility study on a revenue generating and management system of user fees for Hawaii's state parks and to submit a report to the legislature.

It has been long apparent to anyone who has been paying attention that our state parks have suffered from a lack of sufficient funds and staffing to maintain the number of parks the DLNR has responsibility for. It doesn't take a degree in advanced mathematics to conclude that 128 positions for 52 parks, monuments, recreation and wilderness areas is a number far from adequate, when one considers that there are 750 miles of coastline, 1.3 million acres of public lands, and 3 million acres of ocean throughout the Hawaiian Islands.

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We understand that it can't be a one-size-fits-all fix and that the solutions need to be tailored to the needs of specific parks.

But the requirements of this bill are long overdue steps in the right direction to give the DLNR the money, staffing, and resources it needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

**HB-2413**

Submitted on: 2/5/2022 10:22:30 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

NO FEES PERIOD !!!!