

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA**

P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of**  
**DAWN N. S. CHANG**  
**Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on**  
**WAYS AND MEANS**

**Tuesday, April 4, 2023**  
**10:30 AM**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of**  
**HOUSE BILL 1183, HOUSE DRAFT 1, SENATE DRAFT 1**  
**RELATING TO STATE PARKS**

House Bill 1183, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 proposes to exempt parking lot operations at state parks and the operation of concessions at certain state parks from the bidding requirements for concessions operating on public property. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this measure.**

Cooperative agreements for stewardship and management with private partners, including non-profit organizations, have proven to be an effective management tool to increase quality of experience and resource protection in our state parks. While a number of non-profit partners have long-term leases to provide experiences and value-added services within parks, none of them have yet included assistance with visitor management or parking lot operations, which are defined in Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Section 102-2 as a concession, and therefore subject to a competitive bid process. As the State Park System has expanded its parking and entry fee collection to ten parks, with potential for more, a natural outcome is to integrate co-management with affected communities and non-profit partners. This idea was piloted in 2020 via the Hā'ena State Park integrated parking and shuttle reservation system, in the wake of a paradigm-shifting master planning process. However, due to the lack of an existing exemption in HRS Section 102-2, State Parks cannot negotiate a long-term lease or management agreement with our non-profit partner at Hā'ena, Hui Maka'āinana O Makana. They presently manage this critical, highly successful visitor management system via a month-to-month revocable permit.

Particularly notable is the proposed amendment adding a new SECTION 2(b)(11) which exempts bidding requirements for concessions within state parks which are "environmentally, culturally, historically, or operationally unique and are supported by nonprofit corporations". This is a very specific exemption, and warranted given the important natural and cultural resources requiring specialized care and management within the Hawai'i State Park system. Hā'ena certainly fits within this definition, and great potential exists

**DAWN N.S. CHANG**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT

**LAURA H.E. KAAKUA**  
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

for other culturally and environmentally unique parks to benefit from this model, such as Kealakekua Bay and Kīholo (Hawai‘i) and Ka‘ena Point (O‘ahu).

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of 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.*

April 4, 2023

## **Subject: Testimony in Support of HB1183 HD1 SD1**

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, April 4, 2023

TIME: 10:30 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

My name is Chipper Wichman and I am a resident of Hā'ena Kaua'i and have been involved in conservation of natural and cultural resources for almost 50 years. I am a founding Director of the Hui Maka'āinana o Makana (1998) and just retired as the President of the National Tropical Botanical Garden after working there since 1976.

I currently serve on the Board of Directors of the Hui Maka'āinana o Makana and am testifying today in my position as the Secretary of the Hui. Our Board is in strong support of HB 1183 HD1 SD1 as it will allow State Parks to negotiate directly with non-profit organizations like the Hui to assist the Division of State Parks with the management of not only the natural and cultural resources found in unique State Parks across the pae 'āina (archipelago) but to also assist with visitor management and parking lot operations.

In Hā'ena we have been able to implement true regenerative tourism through our partnership with State Parks and the visitors are excited to know that their money is being used to help take care of our 'āina and our community. Although the Hui has a 22-year successful track-record in partnering with State Parks, and we have been managing the parking, entry and shuttle operations for 2 years under a revocable permit, last year the AG advised DSP that they can't enter into a long-term lease with the Hui because (HRS) 102-2 defines parking lot operations as a concession which then makes it subject to a competitive bid process.

**We ask for your support in passing HB 1183 HD1 SD1** which will fix this problem and allow DSP to work with their non-profit partners like the Hui to provide holistic

management of parks that are “environmentally, culturally, historically, or operationally unique and are supported by nonprofit corporations”.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chipper Wichman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chipper Wichman, Secretary  
Hui Maka'āinana o Makana