

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
WATER AND LAND

Monday, February 13, 2023
12:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1254
RELATING TO THE KAIWI COAST

Senate Bill 1254 proposes to: 1) designate the Kaiwi Coast Scenic Shoreline and adjacent lands as the Kaiwi Coast State Park; 2) establish protection and directions for land management and 3) establish positions within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) and 4) appropriate funds. **The Department supports this measure with amendments.**

The Department needs to point out that the official name of this park unit is Kaiwi State Scenic Shoreline and agrees that it should be, and is already mostly designated as, conservation and is of great intrinsic open space value and complementary to the adjacent Maunalua-Makapu'u Scenic Byway.

However, the Department strongly opposes all of SECTIONs 2 and 3 that proposes to amend Chapter 184, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), by changing the name to Kaiwi Coast State Park. There are no other park units called out in Chapter 184, HRS and it is unwarranted to do so now for one park unit to change the name. Additionally, when the land was acquired from Kamehameha Schools in 2001, Inter Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) funds were used. There was an ISTEA requirement that the nomenclature criteria of this acquisition be designated as State Scenic Shoreline. State Scenic Shoreline is also complementary to the name of the scenic byway.

The Department also recommends, due to the intent of including safe pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, that SECTION 5, (2) be amended to read as:

Include staff of the department of transportation and stakeholders who assisted in the creation of the Maunalua-Makapu'u scenic byway and Kaiwi [east] state scenic shoreline master plans and local community members who are dedicated to the preservation of the lands of Kaiwi [coast] state scenic shoreline.

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
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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
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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

The Department greatly appreciates the addition of positions. As the least staffed State Park System in the United States, additional positions assigned to this park unit are of great benefit for managing these resources and the public.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure and offer these critical amendments.



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Ka Iwi Coast

Livable Hawaii Kai Hui is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, community organization serving East Honolulu since 2004. We strive to promote sensible growth, respect for cultural & natural resources, and upholding the integrity of the East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan.

February 11, 2023

Hawai'i State Senate
Committee on Water and Land
Meeting on February 13, 2023 at 12:30 p.m.
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

RE: **Strong support and comments for SB1254, Kaiwi Coast State Park**

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and WTL Committee Members,

As an organizing member of the Ka Iwi Coalition and contributor to the Maunaloa-Makapu'u State Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan, Livable Hawaii Kai Hui testifies in **strong support** of SB1254.

LHKH proudly stewards the Ka Iwi Coast Mauka Lands with the support of communities and individuals not only from East Honolulu, but across O'ahu and beyond. As such, we take particular interest in SB1254 and are eager to support what we hope is the final push to create the Kaiwi Coast State Park.

The Hui is excited to see the State taking up this initiative that aims to protect and preserve the cultural and natural resources of Kaiwi Coast in perpetuity, especially because it respectfully seeks to engage community members and stakeholders in the planning process. That said, while we are encouraged by such mindfulness, we hope this inclusivity and a commitment of adequate resources extend throughout the park's lifetime.

We'd like to send a big mahalo to this Committee for hearing this measure and considering the decades of grassroots stewardship that brought us all to this momentous point. Special thanks to Senator Chris Lee, Senator Stanley Chang, Representative Gene Ward, Representative Mark Hashem, and all their teams for working with us on this effort for years. We look forward to the passage of SB1254 and our continued collaboration.

Mahalo,

Elizabeth Reilly
Founder/President

Ka Iwi Coalition

Mauka to Makai



Committee on Water and Land
Sen. Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Sen. Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Committee Hearing
Monday, February 13, 2023
Conference Room 229, Hawai'i State Capitol & Videoconference
415 South Beretania Street

Re: Testimony In Support of SB 1254 - Relating to the Kaiwi Coast

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

As advisors of the Ka Iwi Coalition, we are writing in support of SB 1254, which will keep the Kaiwi Coastline in its wild and natural state for future generations.

Our community has spent over 45 years across multiple generations to protect the Kaiwi Coastline mauka to makai. The Ka Iwi Coalition is part of the same group of community members who led the successful Save Sandy Beach Movement in the 1980s and fought to preserve the entire Maunaloa-Makapu'u corridor over the past 40 years. In 2017, the Ka Iwi Coalition received a Legacy Conservation Program grant to acquire 182 acres of land overlooking Makapu'u to Sandy Beach. We successfully led the successful grassroots fundraising campaign that garnered over 1,600 donors and nearly \$700,000 in three months to secure the conservation purchase. This history of community activism demonstrates strong public support for the continued stewardship of the Kaiwi Coastline.

SB 1254 will address the challenges that the Department of Land & Natural Resources and community partners currently face in stewarding the Kaiwi Coastline. The bill will have the state park incorporate lands currently part of the Kaiwi state scenic shoreline and ensure consistency that all parcels across the Kaiwi Coastline receive the protections of a state park. SB 1254 will also appropriate adequate staffing to maintain the Kaiwi Coast state park.

Finally, SB 1254 dictates that future master planning of the Kaiwi Coast state park builds upon the vision of community partners and stakeholders who have fought for over 45 years to protect the coastline. As noted in the bill, we hope that the Department of Land & Natural Resources incorporates the Maunaloa-Makapu'u scenic byway plan, which was drafted by members of the Ka Iwi Coalition among a diverse group of stakeholders. SB 1254 will foster future collaboration between the State of Hawai'i and community partners to steward the Kaiwi Coast state park.

SB 1254 recognizes the many years of community activism spent to protect the Kaiwi Coastline from urban development, including hotel resorts, golf courses, and cabins. We urge you to pass SB 1254.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 1254.

Phil Estermann
Advisor

Gary Gill
Advisor

Kendrick S. Chang
Community Outreach



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

February 13, 2023 12:30 PM Conference Room 229

In SUPPORT of SB1254: Relating to the Kaiwi Coast

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Water and Land Committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **supports SB1254**, which will help to facilitate the management and stewardship of O'ahu's long-cherished Kaiwi Coast.

Volunteers and members of the Sierra Club of Hawai'i have endeavored for decades to protect the natural and cultural integrity of the Kaiwi Coastline, helping to control invasive species, protect native species habitat, and maintain trails that allow residents and visitors to enjoy this area safely and with minimal impacts. Most recently, Sierra Club volunteers have successfully advocated for the installation of boulders and a designated parking area to prevent vehicular degradation of the sand dunes and adjacent coastal areas of Wāwāmalu.

By consolidating ownership and land use authority under the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and by providing resources needed to steward this special place, SB1254 will help to ensure that the ecological and cultural character of our Kaiwi Coast remains intact for current and future generations to steward, appreciate, and enjoy.

The Sierra Club does note that this measure does not contemplate the sale or gift of lands from the state to non-state agencies, and that HRS § 171-64.7 would therefore not be triggered by its provisions. See HRS §171-64.7(a), (f)(1). Accordingly, to avoid unnecessary confusion, the Sierra Club does recommend that the exemption to the requirements of HRS § 171-64.7 on page 3, line 4 be deleted.

Accordingly, we respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** SB1254.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony.



2/13/2023

WTL Committee
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

Position: Support SB1254

The Surfrider Foundation is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our ocean, waves, and beaches. Surfrider maintains a network of over 150 chapters and academic clubs nationwide, including 4 chapters in the Hawaiian Islands. The Surfrider Foundation focuses on many aspects of the environment such as coastal protection, plastic pollution, and water quality.

The Surfrider Foundation, Hawai'i region, is testifying in **strong support of SB1254**, which would designate the Kaiwi Coast Scenic Shoreline and adjacent lands as the Kaiwi Coast State Park.

Over the past few years, the Surfrider Foundation O'ahu Chapter was heavily involved in an effort to protect Wāwāmalu Beach from vehicular degradation, which resulted in the insertion of large boulders to prevent illegal off-roading vehicles from driving across the dunes. The stretch of coastline serves as a critical wildlife habitat and natural resource that includes native plants and endangered species, including Hawaiian monk seals and sea turtles, and the installation of these boulders was just the first step in protecting this habitat. On January 25, 2022, a representative from Surfrider O'ahu was present at the Wāwāmalu Beach blessing with Mayor Rick Blangiardi and other key leaders and volunteers who spearheaded the effort to celebrate this initial victory.

Designating the Kaiwi Coast as a state park is a critical next step to ensure this area is preserved in its "wild and natural state," as stated in the bill. This bill would further protect the species who live in and around this coastline, as well as preserve the area for recreation and use for generations to come. This designation would address a number of issues such as "managing human impacts, preventing invasive species, and restoring the local ecosystem," also as stated in the bill. The Surfrider Foundation O'ahu Chapter partnered with many organizations and community leaders to protect the Wāwāmalu Beach dunes, and we once again are eager to see this area further protected by being designated as a state park.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in support of SB1254, submitted on the behalf of the Surfrider Foundation's 4 Chapters in Hawai'i and all of our members who live in the state and visit to enjoy the many coastal recreational opportunities offered by all of the islands' coastlines.

Sincerely,

Camile Cleveland
Volunteer Policy Coordinator
Surfrider Foundation, O'ahu Chapter



*Dedicated to the conservation of coastal and marine environments,
emphasizing stewardship of the natural resources of Hanauma Bay*

Committee on Water and Land (WTL)
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

DATE:	Monday, February 13, 2023
TIME:	12:30 PM
PLACE:	Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Re: Strong Support for SB1254

Aloha WTL Chair Senator Inouye, Vice Chair Elephante, and WTL
Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing Friends of Hanauma Bay to testify in strong support of SB1254 which would designate the Kaiwi Coast Scenic Shoreline and adjacent lands as the Kaiwi Coast State Park. It would also establish protection and directions for land management, and positions, within the Department of Land and Natural Resources for this new State Park.

The lands of the Ka Iwi coast extending from Hawaii Kai to Waimanalo for almost seven miles are an invaluable natural asset for the people of Hawaii. Framed by dramatic mauka-to-makai views and natural landscapes; cultural and historic features; popular recreational areas; and landmarks such as Koko Crater, Hanauma Bay, Makapuu Lighthouse, and the lava tube known as Halona Blowhole, Kaiwi comprises the last wild and undeveloped coastal lands in east Oahu.



*Dedicated to the conservation of coastal and marine environments,
emphasizing stewardship of the natural resources of Hanauma Bay*



Designating the Kaiwi Coast Scenic Shoreline and adjacent lands as the Kaiwi Coast State Park is a culmination of an extraordinary and unwavering decades-long commitment by the entire East Honolulu Community to protect and preserve this last undeveloped acreage in east Oahu in perpetuity.

Our children and grandchildren thank you in advance for passing SB1254!

With Aloha,

Lisa Bishop
President
Friends of Hanauma Bay

SB-1254

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 4:39:58 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/13/2023 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Kaiwi Coast should be protected and supported with the resources of DLNR. Protection of the shoreline is critical to protecting the reefs and ocean that are HIROC's main concern.

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo!

Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)



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The Hui is excited to see the State taking up this initiative that aims to protect and preserve the cultural and natural resources of Kaiwi Coast in perpetuity, especially because it respectfully seeks to engage community members and stakeholders in the planning process. That said, while we are encouraged by such mindfulness, we hope this inclusivity and a commitment of adequate resources extend throughout the park's lifetime.

We'd like to send a big mahalo to this Committee for hearing this measure and considering the decades of grassroots stewardship that brought us all to this momentous point. Special thanks to Senator Chris Lee, Senator Stanley Chang, Representative Gene Ward, Representative Mark Hashem, and all their teams for working with us on this effort for years. We look forward to the passage of SB1254 and our continued collaboration.

Mahalo,

Elizabeth Reilly
Founder/President

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Monday, February 13, 2023 – 12:30pm

Hawai'i Bicycling League Supports SB 1254, relating to the Kaiwi Coast

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

My name is Travis Counsell, and I am the Executive Director of the Hawai'i Bicycling League (HBL). We are a non-profit organization founded in 1975 with the mission of enabling more people to ride bicycles for health, recreation, and transportation. We strive to create communities across our islands that have safe, accessible, and inclusive environments for people to bike, walk, and roll.

Hawai'i Bicycling League strongly supports SB1254, which designates the Kaiwi Coast Scenic Shoreline and adjacent lands as the Kaiwi Coast State Park. It also establishes protection and directions for land management and positions within the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The Kaiwi Coast Scenic Shoreline, which includes the Maunalua-Makapu'u scenic byway, is a space that deserves additional protection. It is also a very popular destination for recreational activities including biking, walking, hiking, and beach activities. This has resulted in an increase of roadway users, on a highway which lacks adequate infrastructure to safely protect all users. This bill emphasizes the need for roadway improvements that focus on the safety of people who walk and bike.

Hawai'i Bicycling League members participate in multiple weekly group bicycle rides along this area. Additionally, HBL's signature bicycling event, the Honolulu Century Ride, attracts over 2000 participants annually and proceeds along this shoreline with an aid station at Sandy Beach Park.

We strongly urge you to pass this legislation to protect this important shoreline and ultimately create a safer space for all to enjoy. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

Ride Aloha,

Travis L. Counsell
Executive Director
Hawai'i Bicycling League

SB-1254

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 7:05:50 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/13/2023 12:30:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rafael Bergstrom	Testifying for Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii believes in the intrinsic value of our protected coastlines and supports the continuation of resources being allocated to maintain and expand these protections on the Kaiwi Coastline. Having conducted cleanups and restoration events along this amazing stretch of O'ahu we are happy to continue to support collaborative efforts to maintain and preserve the area. Mahalo for your work to protect this area.

SB-1254

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 8:06:11 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/13/2023 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY support this Bill.

SB-1254

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 10:03:39 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/13/2023 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Rogers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a great Idea and way over do. The Kaiwi Coast is one of the most beautiful places on earth. We should do our absolute most to keep it that way and provide safer access to all road users.

SB-1254

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 11:52:14 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/13/2023 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Toriki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of protecting this beautiful, sacred, scenic coastline and it's adjacent lands. Respectfully , please pass SB1254 to ensure protection of these lands for future generations.
Mahalo

SB-1254

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 3:49:04 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/13/2023 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeannine Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thousands of people in our community have spent decades fighting for, protecting and caring for the Ka Iwi Coast. I strongly support SB1254, especially how it intends to build upon and reflect the direction of recent work for the Maunalua—Makapuu scenic byway and Ka Iwi coast master plans; as well as includes our community stakeholders. Mahalo for your support!

SB-1254

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 8:40:41 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/13/2023 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John N. Kittinger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Supporting SB1254

LATE

Aloha,

My name is Dr. Jack Kittinger, and I am testifying as an individual in strong support of SB1254, relating to the Kaiwi coast.

The establishment of the Kaiwi coast state park will help to preserve the natural and cultural heritage of this special place in our islands, which I have the privilege to leave nearby. Further, the proper staffing of an established state park will help to manage the various demands placed on this special and vulnerable coastal area, and to liaise with the appropriate stakeholder communities. Appropriate funding dedicated to this effort will help to ensure its success.

I want to thank the committee for hearing this bill and my testimony today. The resources at stake are paramount to Hawai'i, and deeply intertwined with our way of life. This bill is a clear pathway to protecting, restoring, and enhancing Hawai'i for our local communities and the visitors we share it with.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Dr. Jack Kittinger