

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

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

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

DEAN D. UYENO
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

Thursday, March 28, 2024
3:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1258, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Senate Bill 1258, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1 proposes to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to develop and implement a management system for the Ka'ena Point State Park (KPSP), Mākua, and Keawa'ula sections. **The Department provides the following comments.**

Ka'ena Point State Park (KPSP) has two unique and distinctly different public access patterns and management. The entire park is a cultural landscape and is considered a leina: a culturally significant place on every island where, after death, spirits would jump into the next world. The Mokule'ia section has unlimited hiking and a permit requirement for vehicular access via a controlled gate. There are State Parks Interpretive Technicians on site 5 days a week to educate and monitor public behavior. Hiking and fishing are the primary activities.

The Mākua/Keawa'ula section has a series of gates and as the bill accurately states, the coastal Mākua gates have been closed since 2016, eliminating the huge impacts of upwards of 800 people illegally camping on weekends at a park unit with no restrooms. The Keawa'ula gate is now closed each night through a contract with a security company that costs approximately \$100,000 a year. While there is still illegal camping, the impacts have been substantially reduced by prohibiting vehicle shoreline access at Mākua and managed gate closures at Keawa'ula. Ocean recreation, beach use, and fishing are the dominant recreational activities.

As always, assigned law enforcement to remote park units to enforce rules and behavior will reduce the need for a costly planning effort. We cannot plan the public into compliance. However, in the 2022 Legislative Session, 11 new Interpretive Technician position were approved for the Division of State

Parks (State Parks) and we are in the process of redescribing these into Specialists for better recruitment and retention potential.

Two of these positions will be assigned to the Mākua/Keawa'ula portion of Ka'ena State Park and will support stewardship and visitor education – and be able to contact law enforcement as the need arises.

Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funds in the amount of \$2.15 million dollars was approved for KPSP in both Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 (Act 88, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021) and FY2023 (Act 248, SLH 2022). This is \$4.3 million dollars out of which planning is going to be conducted. Planning, such as is called out in this bill, can be accomplished while implementing the CIP.

The breakdown is:

FY 2022 (\$2,150,000)	FY 2023 (\$2,150,000)
Outreach and Planning: \$450,000	Design: \$300,000
Design: \$500,000	Construction: \$1,850,000
Construction: \$1,200,000	

It is important to note the KPSP has been nominated for a three-year study as to the eligibility of this park unit to be designated as a National Heritage Area. It is anticipated that if so designated, additional resources may become available for enhanced management.

Based upon the CIP, and current and future actions, the Department feels this legislation is not necessary.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments.

SB-1258-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 7:18:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2024 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynette Cruz	Malama Makua	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support this bill.

IN SUPPORT OF SB No. 1258

Aloha, My name is Karen Young

I am a Wai'anae HS graduate and a life long resident of the Wai'anae Coast. I live on Poka'I Bay St. which is right across the street from the awesomely beautiful beaches of Lualualei II. Every night, we witness a gorgeous sunset and/we're surrounded by an exquisite sky and colorful clouds. To our backs is the majestic Wai'anae range which is currently green. It is, the most beautiful place on earth ! and is part of a continuous coast going all the way to Makua, Keawa'ula and Ka'ena Pt. There, there are very few residents. It is the last wilderness on this side.

I also represent all the regular litter pickers of the Wai'anae Coast. We solitary people, go along beaches and parks picking up cigarette butts, trash, abandoned clothes, furniture, toys, food and cartons, etc. I wear gloves and bring trash bags. There is one trash I cannot pick up, which is human waste - sometimes just there in piles, sometimes in multiple buckets. There are also needles and syringes which I do pick up.

I used to pick up litter in the Makua and Keawa'ula Beach areas. But there was so much of it and many times the abandoned furniture or car part or equipment was too large or heavy or there was simply too much of it, that I couldn't do it/ even with 2 of us, it would be a struggle, requiring more hands and equipment and a vehicle.

The last time I was at Makua Beach, it was so crowded, we had to walk over peoples' legs and walk around multiple camps and tents. People had actually tented within the fishing lele, without respect for the rock walls or structures within. There were rubber slides on the ground from the grassy area to ocean shore for sliding and parties were everywhere. It was as if folks had discovered a playland!

There were charred palettes where bon fires had been lit the night before, and the remaining nails and boards were hazardous and took up a lot of space. There were trucks tearing up and down the beach, and going up on the sand dunes, extremely loud, blasting the sand and dangerously close to where children were playing.

We experienced 2 cars filled with young people, parked on the grassy bluff. We had just picked up litter in that area.

When they were leaving, this area was peppered with tons of bottles and cans. I actually ran after the last car, yelling for them to stop and clean up! One car with young girls stopped, turned back and did that. The other, with young local males, turned around too, but gave me the finger, swore and sped off in a cloud of dirt and screeching.

The beaches of the Westside have no obstruction, no building. They are gorgeous to see, to listen to, to get into the blue water. It is a 360 degree experience. It is a living treasure that should be preserved in perpetuity.

Unfortunately, perhaps due to alcohol, drugs, lack of education, carelessness, and a sense that there's no rules or enforcement, some people have done whatever they want to the environment. They say it's the tourists. Let's tell it like it is: I've only witnessed locals abusing the environment. My guess is that the same is being done to the ocean, mountains, and forests.

This bill : would request that the DLNR develop a management and enforcement plan to address the abuse of the environment on the farthest side of the Westside coast where decades of unfettered abuse has been going on. It encourages community input and participation. To me, there should be a large educational/ awareness effort as well. It needs help to succeed: they cannot be there 24/7.

You who oppose this bill – go out there regularly and pick up litter, doo doo and kick out the lolos who are abusing our beautiful Westside aina ! Teach everyone to respect and care for our aina. If they don't do it on their own, fine them, and make them do community service cleaning the aina! It's been about 60 yrs. Enough is Enough!!

MAHALO,

Karen G Young

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

SB-1258-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2024 5:22:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2024 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Finance Committee Members:

I submit this testimony in SUPPORT of SB1258, SD2, HD1 – but in its original form WITH an appropriation to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to effectively manage the Ka`ena Point State Park, Makua and Keawa`ula cultural and recreationally significant regions along the O`ahu’s Leeward Coast.

For too long, the northern Leeward Coast has become O`ahu’s “dumping ground” for problems that seem to impact our cultural sites and WITHOUT sufficient financial assistance to clean-up the areas that most desperately need it. Ka`ena Point State Park, Makua and Keawa`ula are three (3) such areas. This bill’s original intent was to provide sufficient funding so that DLNR could devote resources -- presumably either on its own OR in association with community groups -- to keeping these areas protected and accessible to Hawaiian cultural practitioners and the public. However, to ensure these protections, and to make these 3 key areas priorities, DLNR will likely require more support and funding to create and implement such a plan or work to begin as soon as possible ideally before 2025. We support changing the effective date back to some time in 2024 to 2025 from July 1, 3000 – in the interest of enhancing protections for these areas as soon as possible.

For all of the above reasons, I urge your Committee to please SUPPORT and implement SB1258, SD2, HD1 – with relevant language as detailed in the DLNR’s prior testimonies and with necessary CIP or other funding ideally before 2025.

Mahalo for this opportunity to present this testimony supporting SB1258, SD2, HD1.

Nancy A. Jones

PO Box 1462, Wai`anae, HI 96792 / Email: nancyhydroalt@gmail.com

SB-1258-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2024 5:28:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2024 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zeb Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Finance Committee Members:

I submit this testimony SUPPORTING SB1258, SD2, HD1 – consistent with the appropriation/CIP request presented by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to effectively manage the Ka`ena Point State Park, Makua and Keawa`ula cultural and recreationally significant regions along the O`ahu’s Leeward Coast.

Our Leeward Coast, for many years, has become O`ahu’s “dumping ground” for problems that seem to impact our cultural sites the most and WITHOUT sufficient financial assistance to clean-up the areas that most desperately need it. Ka`ena Point State Park, Makua and Keawa`ula are three (3) such areas. This bill’s original intent was to provide sufficient funding so that DLNR could devote resources -- presumably either on its own OR in association with community groups -- to keeping these areas protected and accessible to Hawaiian cultural practitioners and the public. However, to ensure these protections, and to make these 3 key areas priorities, DLNR will likely require more support and funding to create and implement such a plan or work to begin as soon as possible ideally before 2025. We support changing the effective date back to some time in 2024 to 2025 from July 1, 3000 – in the interest of enhancing protections for these areas as soon as possible.

For these key reasons, I urge your Committee to please SUPPORT and implement SB1258, SD2, HD1 – with relevant language as detailed in the DLNR’s prior testimonies and with necessary CIP or other funding ideally before 2025 to allow work to commence on further protecting these areas as soon as possible.

Mahalo for this opportunity to present this testimony supporting SB1258, SD2, HD1.

Zebuel “Zeb” C. Jones

PO Box 1462, Wai`anae, HI 96792 / Email: zebbe3442@gmail.com