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

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

**Before the Senate Committee on
WATER AND LAND**

**Friday, April 11, 2025
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 191, HOUSE DRAFT 1
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
CONVENE A KAILUA BAY ADVISORY WORKING GROUP.**

House Concurrent Resolution 191, House Draft 1 requests the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to convene a Kailua Bay Advisory Working Group. **The Department offers the following comments.**

Operation of Kailua-Kona Pier is currently under the Department's Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR). The facility includes a cruise ship port, an offshore mooring area, a boat launch ramp, vessel loading/unloading areas, a vessel washdown, and a comfort station. The number of daily users at Kailua-Kona Pier is typically around 150-250, and this number increases when cruise ship tenders utilize the area as a secure loading and unloading zone. When cruise ship loading/unloading occurs, cruise ship operators hire private security guards.

The Department notes that DOBOR currently collaborates with many Kailua-Kona Pier users for management strategies, including area hotels and businesses. The Department recognized that people have concerns about public safety across the State due to unlawful activities taking place in DOBOR facilities after-hours and subsequently implemented emergency rules in late 2024 to designate hours of operation for small boat harbors and boating facilities. Under these emergency rules, DOBOR was able to establish closure hours for Kailua-Kona Pier from 10:30pm to 4:30am. DOBOR is currently working on implementing a permanent version of the rules authorizing DOBOR facility hours of operation, which would provide an effective enforcement tool and help to deter criminal activity.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
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TESTIMONY OF
CAROLINE ANDERSON
Interim President & CEO
Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Friday, April 11, 2025
1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 229 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HCR 191 HD1
**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONVENE A KAILUA
BAY ADVISORY WORKING GROUP**

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

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) is pleased to comment on HCR 191 HD1, which requests the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to convene a Kailua Bay advisory working group.

The 2021 Hawai'i Island Destination Management Plan, created by HTA, identifies specific hotspots—popular areas or sites that attract visitors but may also lead to overcrowding, congestion, resource degradation, safety hazards, and negative experiences for both residents and visitors. Kailua Pier is highlighted as one of these hotspots, facing issues related to homelessness, parking, and traffic.

Effective management is essential, and the multiple jurisdictional oversight highlights the importance of a collaborative approach to efficiently address these challenges. By adopting an inter-jurisdictional approach, we can enhance communication, foster coordinated oversight, and improve conditions at Kailua Pier for everyone involved.

HTA welcomes the opportunity to participate in the Kailua Bay advisory working group and help develop positive, sustainable solutions for this important cultural, historical, recreational, and commercial asset of Hawai'i Island.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share our comments.

HCR-191-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/11/2025 9:27:49 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Young	Testifying for CARES Community Advocacy Research Education Services	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Support.