

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 & LAND

Monday, March 17, 2025
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 59/SENATE RESOLUTION 43
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION AND KAHOO LAWE ISLAND
RESERVE COMMISSION TO WORK COLLABORATIVELY AND IN PARTNERSHIP
TO MAINTAIN THE KIHEI RAMP FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE COMMUNITY.**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 59/Senate Resolution 43 requests the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department), Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR) to work collaboratively and in partnership with Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) to repair and maintain the Kīhei Ramp Facility. **The Department offers the following comments.**

Operation of the Kīhei Ramp Facility is currently under DOBOR. The facility includes three boat launch ramps, two docks, a vessel washdown, offshore moorings, and a comfort station, serving an estimated 200-300 users daily.

KIRC has a property adjacent to the Kīhei Ramp Facility, which it currently operates for the purpose of long-term restoration of Kaho'olawe. Kīhei Ramp Facility is an integral part of KIRC's operations, as KIRC leads its many community engagement and educational projects primarily from the facility and has plans to build a permanent Kīhei-based educational and operational center. DOBOR and KIRC have been working very well together for many years to effectively manage the Kīhei Ramp Facility and will continue this successful partnership.

Because the facility is a collection of a number of features and amenities in addition to boat launch ramps, the Department recommends that the Committee amend references in the measure from "Kihei Ramp" to "Kihei Ramp Facility" to accurately reflect this.

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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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
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Vice Chair

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'ĀNELA EVANS

SAUMALU MATAAFA

BENTON KEALII PANG, Ph.D

KEONI SOUZA

Michael K. Nāho'opi'i

Executive Director

KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA
KAHO'OLawe ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
KŌMIKINA MĀLAMA KAHO'OLawe

811 Kolu Street, Suite 201, Wailuku, HI 96793
Telephone (808) 243-5020 Fax (808) 243-5885
Website: <http://kahoolawe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony of
MICHAEL K. NĀHO'OPŪ'I
Executive Director

LATE

Before the Senate Committee on
Water and Land

Monday, March 17, 2025
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 59 and SENATE RESOLUTION 43
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION AND KAHOOLOWE ISLAND
RESERVE COMMISSION TO WORK COLLABORATIVELY AND IN PARTNERSHIP
TO MAINTAIN THE KIHEI RAMP FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE COMMUNITY.

Senate Resolution 43 and Senate Concurrent Resolution 59 request that the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation and the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission to work collaboratively and in partnership to maintain the Kihei Ramp for the betterment of the community. The Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) supports this measure.

The KIRC currently occupies the adjacent property to the Kihei Small Boat Harbor as our boathouse and staging area to transport people and supplies to Kaho'olawe for the purpose of restoring the former military weapons test range. The KIRC, an attached agency of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), has a long history of working cooperatively with the many divisions of DLNR. The KIRC utilized the administrative services functions of DLNR for its financial and personnel support and frequently seeks the assistance of the various DLNR division to help manage and facilitate the restoration efforts on Kaho'olawe.

The KIRC is planning to develop its adjacent 8.5 acres property to build a consolidated office, education center, museum and community center to promote the unique restoration efforts developed by the KIRC, to preserve the historical efforts of the community to return Kaho'olawe to the people of Hawaii and to generate revenue to help finance the long term management and restoration of Kaho'olawe.

So far, the KIRC has only received funding to develop a conceptual plan and to begin the required permitting and planning process. Once funding is secured and the facility is built, the KIRC will have a regular presence in the Kihei area and can provide the eyes and ears in this area to seek improvements and coordinate community concerns in the area.

SCR-59

Submitted on: 3/15/2025 7:07:25 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/17/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Serena Reiss	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am supportive of SCR59.

Thank you,

Serena Reiss

LATE

SCR-59

Submitted on: 3/16/2025 4:34:19 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/17/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Delyon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in **strong opposition of Senate Concurrent Resolution 76 and Senate Resolution 56**, which push forward the Kahana Bay Erosion Mitigation Project. This is not a public project—it benefits private beachfront condominiums, many of which are short-term rentals or second homes.

These resolutions divert resources from Lāhainā’s recovery. Thousands of Lāhainā residents remain displaced, and state resources should be focused on rebuilding homes, schools, and infrastructure—not protecting beachfront investment properties.

This project has faced years of community opposition because it is environmentally harmful and unsustainable. The last Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in 2021 was met with overwhelming public resistance. Why is this project being revived now, when our community needs every resource for recovery?

Shoreline armoring does not save beaches—it destroys them. Rock groins and sand replenishment accelerate erosion and harm nearshore ecosystems. Hawai‘i’s beaches belong to the public, and we should not sacrifice them to protect private investment properties.

The only real solution to coastal erosion is managed retreat, not seawalls or artificial sand projects. I urge you to **oppose SCR76 and SR59** and put our Lahaina community’s needs first.

Mahalo for your time and commitment to Lahaina’s recovery.

Aloha,

Elizabeth DeLyon