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GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

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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, March 28, 2025  
3:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

**In consideration of  
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 119/SENATE RESOLUTION 100  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO  
CONVENE A KAILUA BAY ADVISORY WORKING GROUP.**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 119/Senate Resolution 100 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  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT  
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TESTIMONY OF  
**CAROLINE ANDERSON**  
Interim President & CEO  
Hawai'i Tourism Authority  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

Friday, March 28, 2025  
3:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 016

In consideration of  
**SR 100/SCR 119**  
**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 SR 100/SCR 119, 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.

**LATE**

**SR-100**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 6:18:07 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Atwood	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

My name is Mike Atwood. I am the first vice president of Kai`Opua Canoe Club. I have been a member of Kai`Opua since 1973. For more than 90 years Hawaiian outrigger canoe regattas have been held in Kailua Kona. The territorial championships were held here in 1933 and outrigger canoe paddling in Kona and Hawaii island continued for a number of years. After a pause, paddling in Koa canoes resumed in the early 70's. Regattas were again held in Kailua bay, as part of the Kamehameha Day festivities hosted by Kai`Opua. The regatta, along with the Kamehameha day parade and other cultural and traditional Hawaiian activities included visitors, vendors, spectators paddlers and Hawaii island residents. In the 90's Kai Ehitu and Keauhou Canoe clubs also started hosting regattas here. The beautiful Koa canoes racing on Kailua bay waters was an exciting day for all of Kona. We were made to stop regattas in 2023, because our course anchors were unintentionally damaging living coral in Kailua bay..

I, along with other Kai`Opua and Kona canoe club members have been working with each other, DLNR, Lindsey Kramer of DAR, Army Corps of Engineers and Jeff and Teri Leicher of Jacks Diving Locker to take photographs of the submarine terrain and map out a permanent regatta course that will not damage coral. Senator Kanuha has been a key member of our team efforts. We look forward to working together with an advisory group and returning Hawaiian Koa outrigger canoes to Kailua

Kona. Mahalo,

Mike