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

DIVISION OF STATE PARKS  
P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

**Before the House Committee on**  
**CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE**

**Tuesday, February 11, 2025**  
**2:00 PM**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**In consideration of**  
**HOUSE BILL 1316, HOUSE DRAFT 1**  
**RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

House Bill 1316, House Draft 1, proposes to require that, beginning January 1, 2026, rental watercraft be registered and numbered with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) before being provided or offered to be used by the public for transiting the navigable waters of a state park. **The Department supports this measure and offers the following comments.**

There is a robust market of rental kayaks and stand-up paddleboards (SUP) servicing the visitor industry statewide and a few specific State Parks that have natural resources with navigable water features that provide stunning backdrops and experience for kayaking and SUP use. Wailua River State Park (SP) on Kaua'i and Kealahou Bay State Historic Park (SHP) on Hawai'i Island are the two major park units currently subject to the rental kayak and SUP industry. Ahupua'a O Kahana SP on O'ahu has a navigable stream that is used for noncommercial recreational kayak and SUP use, but there are no commercial permits issued for this park unit due to proximity to resident homes. Nāpali Coast State Wilderness Park is also a premier commercial kayak destination; however, use of the kayaks is on the ocean and not within the State Park boundaries and is regulated when landing in a park by camping and/or commercial use permit conditions.

Kealahou Bay SHP is the only park unit where DSP has regulatory authority over the bay's waters. All noncommercial and commercial vessel use in the bay requires a special use permit with specific conditions to transit the bay. In 2025 there are 65 commercial kayaks with permits and required stickers issued for transiting the bay. These vessels are not allowed to land – only paddle and snorkel using a tether.

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

**RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE**  
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**CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
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MANAGEMENT  
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

At Wailua River SP, commercial kayak tours are restricted to weekdays only but there are a significant number of offsite kayak and SUP rentals on the weekends. This area is the largest source of complaints about overuse, and conflicts between resident users, and tourists using rented vessels from offsite. While the permitted guided trip vendors comply with weekend prohibitions on commercial use, the river is filled with rented kayaks presently not subject to any park rules oversight. The proposed registration system could be administered with conditions of use, including a restriction on weekend use within parks, similar to what other commercial permittees are already subjected to, allowing for weekend use by residents only, when the vast majority of residents recreate. This condition alone would alleviate many of the current complaints, conflicts and overuse.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments in support of this measure.

**LATE**

**HB-1316-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:48:47 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Garrett Evans	Bring Me A Kayak	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha CPC members,

I'm speaking as an owner of a Wailua area kayak rental company and as an individual who enjoys visiting Wailua River State park regularly.

I would like to dispute the premise of this proposal. It's my experience that Wailua River specifically is not overrun by visitors and would suggest the claim be investigated prior to taking any legislative action.

As someone who pays attention daily, I can tell you that there has never even been lack of parking stalls - including at peak times. Not once in five years.

At best, this is a solution in search of a problem. At worst, it's an effort to give a few operators a monopoly by disallowing individual access to people who don't own their own equipment.

I appreciate this committees consideration, and Im happy to make myself available for any specific questions you may have.