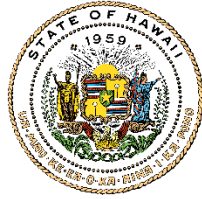


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

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  
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LAURA H.E. KAAKUA  
FIRST DEPUTY  
M. KALEO MANUEL  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER  
AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
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ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on  
WATER AND LAND

Monday, March 13, 2023  
1:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1394, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill 1394, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) Division of Forestry and Wildlife to manage hotspots at trailheads as part of the Nā Ala Hele Trail and Access Program (Program). **The Department strongly supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated the Department's Executive Budget request.**

The Department acknowledges the Hawai'i Tourism Authority's Destination Management Action Plan initiative, identified a series of destination "hotspots" across the state that are presenting management challenges to the agencies tasked with managing the hotspot areas. Program staff are currently actively engaged in a strategic planning effort to address the challenges associated with visitor use and have initiated programs and projects statewide to help mitigate the impacts of a rapid rise in outdoor recreation.

The funding proposed by this bill will allow the Department to put personnel and planning efforts in motion to address a number of these hotspots, including trailheads in the Koke'e region of Kaua'i, the Maunawili Falls and Ka'iwa Ridge trails on O'ahu, multiple areas on Maui, Naha Trail on Lāna'i, and Pololū Valley, Waipi'o Valley, and Maunakea on Hawai'i Island. The positions proposed will enable enhanced active management of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife's recreational inventory. The Department respectfully requests that the funding amount for operating expenses be established at \$2,000,000 recurring annually.

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



Ke'ena Kuleana Ho'okipa O Hawai'i  
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**Josh Green, M.D.**  
*Governor*

**John De Fries**  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

Statement of  
**JOHN DE FRIES**  
Hawai'i Tourism Authority  
before the  
**COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

Monday, March 13, 2023  
1:00 p.m.  
State Capitol Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**HOUSE BILL NO. 1394 HD1**  
**RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) appreciates the opportunity to offer comments on HB1394 HD1, which appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for operating costs and personnel to manage certain trailheads as part of the Nā Ala Hele trail and access program.

HTA's message to prospective visitors around the world is **Mālama Hawai'i**: an invitation for them to join kama'āina in caring for our beloved home. Setting that intention and expectation, combined with robust visitor education through all stages of the journey, is our strategy to target and welcome visitors who prioritize the environment and being mindful guests – all key to achieving our goal of a regenerative model of tourism through destination management.

An important component of visitor education where we must continue to build capacity is in-person stewardship of sensitive sites like the trails for which the Department of Land and Natural Resources is responsible. We appreciate the Legislature's consideration of this need, which was articulated by community members across Hawai'i in the Destination Management Action Plans for each county.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer these comments on the intent of HB1394 HD1, and defer to our colleagues at the Department of Land and Natural Resources on matters related to the implementation of this measure including their recommendations on funding levels provided in testimony. Mahalo.

**HB-1394-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 9:42:21 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Z. Arakawa	Testifying for Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers, and utility companies. LURF’s mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational, and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii’s significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF **supports HB 1394, HD1**, which appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) for operating costs and personnel to manage certain trailheads as part of the Na Ala Hele trail and access program.

LURF’s landowner members have been longtime supporters and participants in the State’s Na Ala Hele trail and access program.

This funding for the Na Ala Hele trail and access program will help to preserve, protect and enhance the trailheads and enjoyment of Hawaii’s natural resources and scenery by kamaaina, residents, visitors, and Hawaii’s future generations.

LURF **supports HB 1394, HD1**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this measure.

**HB-1394-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 5:23:21 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Klayton Kubo	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Support.

**HB-1394-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 3:11:58 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Catherine West Dale	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Highly support. Please pass this through!

**HB-1394-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 7:20:29 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nancy Davlantes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

If we value the trails and hiking paths here, then the agency managing them has to be given the resources in terms of manpower and \$\$ needed.

**HB-1394-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 9:14:22 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Roney deYoung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Maintaining and expanding safe access to our cultural and natural resources is important for residents and visitors. The interpretation offered at Pololu Valley has been positive for residents and visitors and is a model to expand. Access to public lands and the maintenance of access and preservation of our natural, historic and cultural areas is important and Na Ala Hele helps ensure this this for the people of our state.

I support this legislation.

**HB-1394-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 9:12:02 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Edwin Petteys	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair and Members of the Senate Water and Land Committee:

For many years, the Na Ala Hele program has struggled to manage our state’s trail and access system with insufficient staffing and resources. It is a program that continues to grow both in terms of its geographic importance, but also in its cultural and recreational value to visitors and residents alike. Insufficient support has placed a difficult burden on this important program, forcing it into a triage-like prioritization process to allocate its limited resources. The result is, of course, inconsistent and reactive attempts to fulfill its responsibilities, and challenges in trying to manage this statewide program at a truly programmatic level. One of the symptoms of Na Ala Hele’s struggle is the hotspot issue referenced in this Bill. HB1394 HD1 is an opportunity to help this vitally important program to gain the staff and resources it needs to move into proactive, consistent, and more comprehensive program management. I ask your support of HB1394 HD1 to help this program more fully fulfill its mandates and obligations. Mahalo for your consideration.

Respectfully, Edwin Petteys, resident of Hawaii Island.



**HB-1394-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 2:21:50 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Deborah Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye and Members of the Senate Water and Land Committee,

I strongly support HB 1394 HD1 for the following reasons:

Hawai‘i’s most cherished outdoor spaces on all the islands need to be better protected from the consequences of trail overcrowding and overuse. Our state’s trails should be an asset we can be proud to share with visitors, but this will require long-term commitment and investment. HB 1394 HDI would demonstrate that commitment.

HB1394 HD1 would better equip our Statewide Trail and Access System known as Nā Ala Hele, with resources and personnel needed to properly fix, manage, and maintain the “hot spots” that are being “loved to death.” For too many years, the Nā Ala Hele program has struggled to manage our state’s trail and access system with minimal staffing and resources.

Knowing the ownership of trails and accesses in the hot spots, as well as ownership of the historic Hawaiian trails, is critical to Nā Ala Hele’s work. HB 1394 HDI, SECTION 2. (7) provides for a full-time, permanent abstractor position on O‘ahu where many key sources of information for the abstractor’s research are located. Historic Hawaiian trails are a special category of trail completely unique to Hawai‘i and culturally significant. Historic Hawaiian trails can be government-owned, per the Highways Act of 1892 (see HRS §264-1). Claiming government-ownership of historic Hawaiian trails needs to be timely and requires professional research by an abstractor who is well-versed in Hawaiian land-tenure, language, and history. Time is running out for the protection of historic Hawaiian trails, as more rural lands are purchased and developed, especially on the neighbor islands.

Please support HB1394 HD1, which will improve the state’s ability to manage our trails on all the islands as well as help to protect the vulnerable, historic Hawaiian trails for future generations.

Respectfully,

Deborah Chang

Pa‘auilo, Island of Hawai‘i



**HB-1394-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 1:50:30 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mark Tamosiunas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill as long as it provides the Nā Ala Hele program a total of six new professional and technician level positions across the state, along with support funding. Please consider adding more than six and a flexible volunteer program for citizens to volunteer too.

Mahalo.

**HB-1394-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 7:45:13 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chandra Robison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

DNLR is essential to the maintaining safe access to Hawai'i's trail system. The trail system supports the health and well-being of the body, mind and soul. The mountains provide a sense of serenity and connection with nature and the world that surrounds us. The Trail System is an indispensable investment in the future of our communities.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Chandra

**HB-1394-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 9:59:33 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a hiker, I frequently use trails maintained by DOFAW. I **strongly support** this bill to fund operating costs and personnel to manage hotspots at trailheads! I support an appropriation of **\$1,384,044.**

**HB-1394-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 12:06:29 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorraine Waianuhea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I am writing in **strong support of HB1394** which would greatly increase the capacity of the Na Ala Hele program to maintain trails throughout the State by funding additional professional and technician positions. O‘ahu's trails are some of the most degraded and overused I have ever seen, and it is tragic how many rescues and deaths of hikers occur every year. Trail maintenance is important for the safety of hikers, for protecting sensitive ecosystems, and for controlling erosion and runoff.

Currently, Na Ala Hele is severely understaffed and underfunded. I urge you to **please support HB1394** so that Na Ala Hele can have more resources and be able to carry out their responsibilities to the State and people of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony,

Lorraine Waianuhea