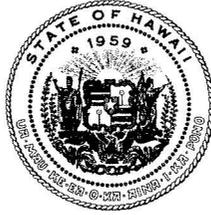


LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
LAURA H. THIELEN  
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committees on  
WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES**

**Monday, February 2, 2009  
9:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of  
House Bill 595  
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

House Bill 595 would amend Section 8-12, Hawaii Revised Statutes, observing Ocean Day on the first Wednesday of June each year, to World Ocean Day, to be observed on June 8 of each year. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources has no objections to this measure, and hopes that it will bring increased awareness to ocean conservation issues.**

**LAURA H. THIELEN**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**RUSSELL Y. TSUJI**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**KEN C. KAWAHARA**  
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
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LAND  
STATE PARKS



TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND OCEAN RESOURCES

TWENTY-FIFTH STATE LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION, 2009

**TIME/DATE: 9:00 a.m., Monday, February 2, 2009**

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO.595 – “RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.”

TO THE HONORABLE KEN ITO, CHAIR  
AND MEMBERS OF THE WATER, LAND AND  
OCEAN RESOURCES

Kai Makana appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 595. My name is Donna Kahakui, founder of Kai Makana, a non-profit community organization whose purpose is to educate and mobilize the public to better understand and preserve our marine life and the ocean environment throughout Hawaii and the world.

Let me begin by clarifying that the State of Hawaii does recognize the first Wednesday in June of every year as Ocean Day, however, the bill before us today seeks to bring recognition of World Ocean Day not only in the islands, but to the nation and throughout the globe.

The purpose of this bill is to bring international awareness of our planet’s fragile ecosystem and to recognize its role in the well-being and health of each individual. Many of us do not understand the importance of the ocean and how it impacts us in our

everyday lives. The world's oceans encompass approximately 70 percent of the surface of our planet, yet less than one percent of the world's habitat is protected. In addition, approximately 25 percent of Hawaiian corals are found no where else in the world. It is our kuleana (responsibility) to perpetuate awareness by preserving and respecting the ocean life with which we coexist.

This bill is a means to inspire and empower each one of us to make a difference and to change our habits, if you will, for the benefit of our ocean. This is a bill to let each individual in the State of Hawaii understand their kuleana to the ocean as being a member of this community, our community, and to know that on this day June 8<sup>th</sup>, they can make a difference along with other communities, states and countries around the world.

Establishing this day as World Ocean Day is a way for the citizens of this earth to come together and realize how one day of the year can make a difference in the future of our oceans.

For me, this concept is simple. I was raised by my grandmother who told me stories of growing up on a small island off of Sand Island. She spoke of how her mother would carry a traditional two person canoe by herself to catch he'e (octopus), or how she could just open her front door and pull a fish (by hand) out of the ocean for dinner, or even how there was so much limu that often times they would take it to market to sell. She would talk about that time in her life as "being a time of plenty," and then tears would well up in her eyes as she thought of this place that now only remained in her dreams.

My grandmother taught me the values of a single fish and to never take more than I needed or waste a single part. She taught me to respect all of nature's creations

especially those which come from the ocean. I was given the Hawaiian name, Kahiwaokawailani, the chosen one of the heavenly waters, which was truly a gift, but with it came a greater responsibility to care for our ocean as I would care for any member of my family past and present.

I have been fortunate to have grown up at a time when the ocean thrived with sea life as all types of fish were plentiful and turtles were free from tumors. It was a time when plastic bags floating in the ocean were a rarity, and as a result, more turtles, birds, monk seals and other various animals live longer and a time when you could pick native limu off of reefs in Honolulu. This time has since passed and the ocean is struggling. It is our turn to give back, to respect this element of nature which embodies our culture and lifestyle. Without the ocean, no Polynesian traveler would have discovered Hawaii. Without the ocean, there would be no coral, no fish and no sea life. Without the ocean, Hawaii as the paradise we know would not exist.

The time is now to be a part of the global movement to recognize the significance of our ocean. The hope is that one day of ocean awareness will lead into several days and several days will lead into everyday. The goal is simple. Leave the ocean better than when we received it in order for the next generation to have a chance to experience all that we have and more. My greatest fear is that one day I may find myself like my grandmother with tears flowing down my face as I am only left with memories of an ocean long past.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 595, and I respectfully ask that you support passage of this measure.

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Supporting H.B. 595 Relating to the Environment  
House Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources  
Monday, February 2, 2009, 9:00am, Rm. 325

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*The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of Hawai'i's native plants, animals, and ecosystems. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands for native species in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 32,000 acres in 11 nature preserves on O'ahu, Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i. We also work closely with government agencies, private parties and communities on cooperative land and marine management projects.*

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The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i supports H.B. 595 to establish June 8 of each year as World Ocean Day.

The world's oceans cover 70 percent of the surface of our planet. Yet, less than 1 percent of these habitats are protected.

With the health of these oceans deteriorating at a rapid decline due to irresponsible fishing, pollution, global climate change and unsustainable development, we need to become active stewards in protecting this precious natural resource, which provides food, protection and economic value.

Hawaii's location in the middle of the Pacific Ocean makes our state an ideal participant in World Ocean Day, held every year on June 8.

This day, established in 1992 at the United Nations Earth Summit, is an opportunity to celebrate our world ocean and our personal connection to the sea. It's a chance to education the public about how to conserve and protect our fragile marine environment, which generates more than \$350 million annually to the state's economy.

Hawaii's coral reefs and nearshore waters are homes to more than 7,000 marine life forms – a quarter of them found nowhere else in the world. But land-based pollution, sedimentation, alien invasive species, destructive fishing methods and other threats have degraded our reefs. Scientists estimate that our nearshore fisheries have declined by 75 percent over the last century.

The Nature Conservancy, together with members and conservation partners, has protected more than 200,000 acres of critical natural lands in Hawai'i, including those that directly impact the ocean and its precious ecosystem.

Last year, we partnered with the state's Division of Aquatic Resources to promote International Year of the Reef, a worldwide campaign and call-to-action that raises awareness about the importance of our coral reefs and the various threats to their sustainability. During this yearlong campaign, we spread the message about the state of Hawaii's reefs and what we can do to help preserve and conserve this important natural resource.

The quality of our lives depends on the health of our ocean, reefs and their ecosystems. In this International Year of the Reef, we should come together as stewards of our ocean to preserve this resource for generations to come.

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January 29, 2009

The Honorable Ken Ito, Chair  
and Members of the House Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources

RE: In SUPPORT OF HB 595 – "RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT."

Hearing Date: Monday, February 2, 2009, 9:00 a.m., Conference Rm. 325

Dear Chair Ito and Members of the House Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources:

My name is Marla Momi Musick, Communications Director, Hawai'i Arts Alliance. Hawai'i Arts Alliance is an organization that represents all the arts, in the State of Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 595.

Hawai'i Arts Alliance supports the passage of HB 595 which amends §8-12, HRS, by establishing June 8 of each year as World Ocean Day. Currently the statute recognizes the first Wednesday of June as Ocean Day in our State, however, it is important to increase public awareness throughout the planet. The ocean is one of our greatest resources, and it is imperative that globally we protect this precious commodity. The ocean environments around the world are collapsing, primarily due to over-fishing, pollution, invasive species, and unsustainable coastal development. Therefore the need to promote public awareness, educate communities and increase the understanding of the importance of conserving and protecting our fragile marine environment are essential to preserving it for our children and our children's' children.

Lastly, the ocean plays an integral part in the lives of the people of our great state and around the world, and it is vital that we preserve it for future generations to come - **and is essential to promoting and sustaining our unique cultural heritage.** For these reasons, I humbly ask you to support the passage of HB 595. Thank you once again for the opportunity to submit written testimony on this measure.

Sincerely,  


Marla Momi Musick  
Communications Director,  
Hawai'i State Captain, Arts Advocacy, Americans for the Arts  
Hawai'i Arts Alliance

Hawai'i State  
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[arts@hawaiiartsalliance.org](mailto:arts@hawaiiartsalliance.org)  
[www.hawaiiartsalliance.org](http://www.hawaiiartsalliance.org)

# Keahiakahoe Canoe Club KAHALU'U

January 29, 2009

The Honorable Ken Ito, Chair  
and Members of the House Committee on  
Water, Land and Ocean Resources

RE: In SUPPORT OF HB 595 – “RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.”  
Hearing Date: Monday, February 2, 2009, 9:00 a.m., Conference Rm. 325

Dear Chair Ito and Members of the  
House Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources:

My name is Ikaika Rogerson, Secretary of Keahiakahoe Canoe Club. Keahiakahoe Canoe Club is an organization that represents canoe paddlers and the protection of our natural resources, in the State of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 595.

The Keahiakahoe Canoe Club supports the passage of HB 595 which amends §8-12, HRS, by establishing June 8 of each year as World Ocean Day. Currently the statute recognizes the first Wednesday of June as Ocean Day in our State, however, it is important to increase public awareness throughout the planet. The ocean is one of our greatest resources, and it is imperative that globally we protect this precious commodity. The ocean environments around the world are collapsing, primarily due to over-fishing, pollution, invasive species, and unsustainable coastal development. Therefore the need to promote public awareness, educate communities and increase the understanding of the importance of conserving and protecting our fragile marine environment are essential to preserving it for our children and our children's' children.

Lastly, the ocean plays an integral part in the lives of the people of our great state and around the world, and it is vital that we preserve it for future generations to come. For these reasons, I humbly ask you to support the passage of HB 595. Thank you once again for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,



Ikaika Rogerson  
Secretary / Keahiakahoe Canoe Club



January 30, 2009

The Honorable Ken Ito, Chair  
and Members of the House Committee on  
Water, Land and Ocean Resources

RE: In SUPPORT OF HB 595 – “RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.”  
Hearing Date: Monday, February 2, 2009, 9:00 a.m., Conference Rm. 325

Dear Chair Ito and Members of the  
House Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources:

My name is Pauline Sato, Coordinator of Mālama Hawai'i, a partnership of more than 70 organizations and hundreds of individuals dedicated to improving the well being of our environment and communities. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 595.

Mālama Hawai'i **supports** the passage of HB 595 which amends §8-12, HRS, by establishing June 8 of each year as World Ocean Day. As one of the lead coordinators of the 2008 International Year of the Reef Campaign, we saw how much interest people have statewide in learning more about how to care for our reefs. Having one day set aside each year dedicated to our ocean is a reliable way to help people remember the value of our ocean environment and what we must do to protect it.

There is no doubt that our oceans are in trouble. As an ocean state, let us recognize our relationship with the ocean and show all who live and visit here that we are responsible for its care each and every day.

For these reasons, I humbly ask you to support the passage of HB 595. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Aloha,

Coordinator, Mālama Hawai'i



## Hui Malama I Ke Kai Foundation Aloha-Mahalo-'Ohana-Malama-Kuleana

January 29, 2009

To: The Honorable Ken Ito, Chair  
And Members of the House Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources

RE: In SUPPORT OF HB 595 – “RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.”  
Hearing Date: Monday, February 2, 2009, 9:00 a.m., Conference Rm. 325

Dear Chair Ito and Members of the House Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources:

My name is Lani Eckart, Program Manager with the Hui Mālama I Ke Kai Foundation. The Hui Mālama I Ke Kai Foundation is a Waimānalo community-based non-profit organization which secondarily supports the Hui Mālama O Ke Kai program. The Hui Mālama O Ke Kai program is a truly unique after-school youth development program serving approximately forty-six, primarily Native Hawaiian, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders attending Waimānalo schools. The uniqueness of the program stems from its foundation in Native Hawaiian culture and values, the fact that it is based around an ocean/ environmental theme, as well as its deep connection to the community of Waimānalo. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 595.

The Hui Mālama I Ke Kai Foundation supports the passage of HB 595 which amends §8-12, HRS, by establishing June 8 of each year as World Ocean Day. Currently the statute recognizes the first Wednesday of June as Ocean Day in our State, however, it is important to increase public awareness throughout the planet. The ocean is one of our greatest resources, and it is imperative that globally we protect this precious commodity. The ocean environments around the world are collapsing, primarily due to over-fishing, pollution, invasive species, and unsustainable coastal development. Therefore the need to promote public awareness, educate communities and increase the understanding of the importance of conserving and protecting our fragile marine environment are essential to preserving it for our children and our children's children.

Lastly, the ocean plays an integral part in the lives of the people of our great state and around the world, **it is essential to promoting and sustaining our unique cultural heritage**, and it is vital that we preserve it for future generations to come. For these reasons, I humbly ask you to support the passage of HB 595. Thank you once again for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lani Eckart".

Lani Eckart  
Program Manager



*For the Protection of Hawaii's Native Wildlife*  
**HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY**

850 Richards Street, Suite 505, Honolulu, HI 96813-4709  
Phone/Fax: (808) 528-1432; hiaudsoc@pixi.com  
www.hawaiiadubon.com

**EMAIL:**

**TO: Committee on Water, Land, & Ocean Resources  
Representative Ken Ito, Chair & Representative Sharon Har, Vice Chair**

**HEARING: Monday, February 2, 2009; 9:00 A.M., Conference Rm. 325**

**Re: HB595, Relating to the Environment**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

Chair Ito and Vice Chair Har, and members of the Committee on Land, Water, & Ocean Resources. My name is George Massengale and I am a member of the Hawai'i Audubon Society and also serve as their legislative analyst during session. **We strongly support HB595, proclaiming June 8 of each year as "World Ocean Day."**

As the committee members are aware, the Society's primary mission is the protection of Hawai'i's native birds, wildlife & habitats, our ocean resources, and restoration of ecosystems and the conservation of natural resources through education, science and advocacy in Hawai'i and the Pacific. The Society has an established and active partnership with the Pacific Fisheries Coalition, and together we've advocated for various measure that would further protect our oceans and coastal waters from the Big Island of Hawai'i to Kure in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

The Society believes that proclaiming June 8<sup>th</sup> as World Ocean Day will garner more attention on how important and fragile our marine environment truly is.

We would urge the committee to pass this measure.

Sincerely,

George Massengale, JD  
Legislative Analyst

[REDACTED]

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, January 30, 2009 12:22 PM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB595 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB595

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: James Coon  
Organization: Trilogy Excursions  
Address: [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED]  
E-mail: [REDACTED]  
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

**Comments:**

This is a good measure with very little if any cost to increase awareness of our precious marine environment.  
Please pass this bill.