

# LATE TESTIMONY



**BISHOP MUSEUM**

1525 Bernice Street • Honolulu, HI 96817 • Ph: (808)847-8274 • Fax (808) 841-8968

**February 8, 2009**

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

**FR: Bishop Museum  
 Timothy Johns, President & CEO**

**RE: Committee on Water, Land, & Ocean Resources  
 Monday, February 9, 2009; 9:00 a.m. Rm 325  
 Support of HB 980 Relating to Recreational Renaissance**

**Bishop Museum supports HB 980**, which fortifies the recreational renaissance program of the Department of Land and Natural Resources through various amendments to state law.

Bishop Museum works in partnership with The Friends of 'Iolani Palace to ensure the proper care and display of our ali'i treasures within the Palace. To do this, 'Iolani Palace must properly maintain its facilities as well have the ability to make improvements when necessary.

As drafted, HB 980 would allow for funding to enable the Department of Land and Natural Resources to upgrade and maintain its land-based facilities, which includes 'Iolani Palace.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 980.

# LATE TESTIMONY



Ocean Tourism Coalition

*The Voice for Hawaii's Ocean Tourism Industry*  
820 Mililani Street, #810  
(808) 205-1745 Phone (808) 533-2739 Fax  
office@oceantourism.org

February 9, 2009

TESTIMONY TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN  
RESOURCES

9:00 AM Room 325

Representative Ken Ito, Chair

Presented By: James E. Coon, President of the Ocean Tourism Coalition

Subject: H. B. 980 RELATING TO RECREATIONAL RENAISSANCE

## **Conditional Support of HB 980 with proposed amendments**

Chair Ito and Members of the Committee:

I am Jim Coon, President of the Ocean Tourism Coalition (OTC) speaking with conditional support of this bill. We are offering five amendments. This proactive plan, properly administrated would make a significant positive improvement in our Harbors, Parks, and recreational areas. These are our proposed amendments:

Page 4, Line 14-15: DELETE [as long as those moneys are not currently going to the general fund]

Page 10, Line 20-21: DELETE [issued to an owner of a commercial catamaran operating in the Waikiki area]

Page 13, Line 1-12: ADD "two times the moorage fee plus utility/common area maintenance fees assessed for a recreational vessel of the same size, whichever is greater.

Page 14, Line 7: ADD dry dock areas

Page 14, Line 11: ADD boat ramp widening, revetments, and improvements, dry dock access improvements

There are still many things to be worked out; with an over \$200 million deferred harbor maintenance shortfall, the devil is in the details.

For example: How do you protect the slip holders in a small rural facility utilized by the entire community--but having very limited slip holders or ramp users--from being massively negatively impacted if they actually had to support the cost of maintaining and repairing their facilities and did not get the collective help from the other harbors and resources?

Commercial boaters represent less than 3% of the total boats using these facilities yet produce close to 50% of all revenues derived from boater fees. Commercial boaters recently supported legislation to have their fees raised by 50% with the promise that this would provide enough extra revenue for DOBOR to upgrade our harbors. As an industry we just cannot afford any significant increase in what we are already paying. We are paying more than our fair share! We are not complaining, but do not want to see a draconian open ended fee system added on to our already strained resources to the point where it drives us out of business. Like I stated earlier, the devil is in the details.

If you will pass this bill with the proposed amendments I believe we can work with DLNR/DOBOR to work out the details.

Thank you,

James E. Coon, President  
Ocean Tourism Coalition  
PO Box 847  
Kula, HI 96790  
808-870-9115

# LATE TESTIMONY

Jeannine Johnson, Legislative Sub-Committee Chair

## **Kuli'ou'ou / Kalani Iki Neighborhood Board #2**

5648 Pia Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96821

Phone: 373-2874 (h) / 537-7261 (w)

February 8, 2009

### COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

Rep. Ken Ito, Chair

Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

HB 980 RELATING TO RECREATIONAL RENAISSANCE.

Hearing: Monday, February 09, 2009 at 9 am in Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Ito, Vice Chair Har and Honorable Committee Members,

As Committee Chair of the **Kuli'ou'ou / Kalani Iki Neighborhood Board #2** Legislative Sub-Committee, it is my duty to inform you **Neighborhood Board #2** opposes HB980 which purports to provide funding and tools to enable the DLNR to upgrade and maintain state parks, trails and ocean recreational facilities to "world class levels" through various amendments to state law. **Neighborhood Board #2** represents over 6,000 households, with a population of almost 20,000 people (State of Hawaii Data Book 2002) in East Honolulu.

Although there was recent good news regarding Governor Linda Lingle's decision to change the land use designation of the Ka Iwi makai lands from urban to conservation, many in our East O'ahu communities were dismayed at the introduction of HB980 which establishes a special fund financed through the building of new facilities, land acquisition, building an industrial park, harbor fees, etc., all at the discretion of the DLNR.

The most troubling part of the "recreational renaissance" plan is the proposed building of comfort stations, cabins, camping areas, concession facilities, boardwalks, marina facilities, parking control stations and "other improvements" to be constructed at Ka Iwi State Scenic Shoreline. The community has fought for 30 years to keep this area in its natural state and vehemently objects to the DLNR using it to finance its upgrade and maintenance of its other parks.

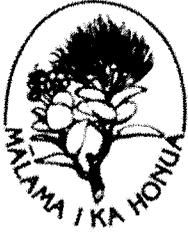
Therefore, at its February 5, 2009 meeting, **Neighborhood Board #2** voted to oppose HB980 and support the deletion of the Ka Iwi State Scenic Shoreline from the DLNR's recreational renaissance plan. Your opposition to HB980 is respectfully requested.

Mahalo,



Jeannine Johnson  
Legislative Sub-Committee Chair  
**Kuli'ou'ou / Kalani Iki Neighborhood Board #2**

cc via email: Chair Robert Chuck  
Sen. Sam Slom  
Rep. Lyla Berg  
Rep. Barbara Marumoto



# Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803  
808.537.9019 hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

## LATE TESTIMONY

### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

February 9, 2009, 9:00 A.M.

*(Testimony is 2 pages long)*

#### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 980

Chair Ito and members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with over 5500 dues paying members statewide, supports the intent of HB 980, establishing a new methodology for funding and support our public parks and trails. The Sierra Club's mission is to "explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth" -- a mission made particularly difficult when our public parks, trails, and marinas are in a despicable condition.

It is clear that the current model of support for our public areas is broken. Hawai'i is one of most beautiful places in the world. This beauty, however, is not reflected in the deplorable condition of our public parks and trails. Years of neglect have made us too tolerant of broken bathrooms and reliant on volunteer organizations, such as the Sierra Club, to take on the responsibility to fix and maintain our trails.

Although almost everyone agrees our public resources deserve better, in the crush of budgeting, our parks frequently fall second to other critical components of government, such as the funding for education or the public health system. That is why the Sierra Club has reluctantly agreed to support the concept of charging a "visitor fee" for the sole purpose of supporting our public resources. This concept is somewhat antithetical to the Sierra Club's mission of getting people into the outdoors, but we cannot continue down the same path without making a change. We hope that this reluctant tradeoff will lead to more people enjoying the outdoors because of the improved facilities, educational opportunities, and enhanced relationships with outdoor organizations.

The Sierra Club also supports the concept of dedicating funds from the *appropriate* use of State lands. A constant source of dedicated funds will, hopefully, lead to better

management of our parks, trails, and marinas for the benefit of residents and visitors alike.

We note that the Department of Land and Natural Resources has made extraordinary efforts to outreach with public organizations to explain the details of this program. We salute this effort, but hope that it continues. There is still a great deal of public uncertainty regarding DLNR's plans, which hopefully will be addressed as this bill is heard and in future public hearings.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



# LATE TESTIMONY

## Livable Hawaii Kai Hui

Email: hawaiiikaihui@aol.com ~ Website: www.hawaiiikaihui.org

Defend Ka Iwi Coast  
Preserve Kamilo Nui Valley  
Hold the Urban Growth Boundary  
Enforce Public Right of Way Beach Access  
Uphold the East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan  
Protect the authentic characteristics & natural beauty of East Honolulu

BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS  
2008

February 9, 2009

Elizabeth Reilly  
President

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

Marian Grey  
Vice President

Rep. Ken Ito, Chair  
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

Gayle Carr  
Secretary

HB 980 RELATING TO RECREATIONAL RENAISSANCE.  
Hearing: Monday, February 09, 2009 at 9 am in Conference Room 325

Dear Chair Ito, Vice Chair Har and Honorable Committee Members,

Tai Hong  
Treasurer

Livable Hawai'i Kai Hui (LHKH) is a non-profit, bipartisan community action group. We strive to promote sensible growth and respect for the land as well as upholding the integrity of the East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan (EHSCP).

Jeannine  
Johnson  
Director

One of the visions of the EHSCP is to preserve the Koko Head-Makapu'u scenic district:

Jacquelin Miller  
Director

The rugged coastal lands between Koko Head and Makapu'u Point are among O'ahu's most unique and spectacular scenic resources, offering mauka and makai views from many vantage points... Protection of the scenic value of this view shed has island-wide importance because of its attraction to both residents and visitors. Preserving one of Oahu's most popular visitor resources is critical to our economy since tourism, our base industry, continues to grow in significance. Nowhere else on the island, with the exception of the Ka'ena coastline, are there elements of a natural environment in one large, contiguous area of undeveloped open space. Unlike Ka'ena, however, the Koko Head-Makapu'u coastline is easily accessible by vehicle. While easy access benefits the public's recreational needs, it can also contribute to degradation of the area's resources. Overuse, misuse, and potential urban encroachment, particularly in the Queen's Beach vicinity, are pressures which threaten the integrity of this coastal area. The resources of the Koko Head-Makapu'u region should be protected and enhanced. The publicly owned Koko Head Regional Park, which includes Hanauma Bay Beach Park and Sandy Beach Park, should continue to provide world-class recreational opportunities, but at the same time the value of these resources must be protected from overuse. Visual resources of the Queen's Beach and Queen's Rise sections should also be protected through creation of the proposed Ka Iwi scenic shoreline. Section 2.2.2.

Allen Tateishi  
Director

Gary Weller  
Director

Thomas Yamabe  
Director

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

February 9, 2009

Page 2

The citizens of this state have fought for 30 years to keep this area in its natural, pristine state and we request your Committee amend HB980 so to delete the Ka Iwi State Park from the DLNR's recreational renaissance plan.

Sincerely,

Marian Grey, Vice President



## IOLANI PALACE

PH (808) 522-0822 FAX (808) 532-1051

**LATE TESTIMONY**

### TESTIMONY OF KIPPEN DE ALBA CHU

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COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES  
Rep. Ken Ito, Chair  
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

Monday, February 9, 2009

### **HB 980**

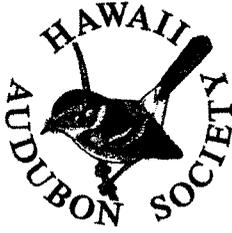
Chair Ito, Vice Chair Har, and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of House Bill 980.

Iolani Palace State Monument is one of the locations listed in this bill. As a private non-profit tasked with maintaining and preserving state-owned property, The Friends has struggled with very limited funds. In fact, within the last decade, The Friends only received a one-time capital improvement project grant appropriation of \$1.5 million in 2003 to perform various repairs, restoration work, and disaster preparedness. Other critical maintenance projects have been deferred indefinitely, such as the deteriorating condition of the historic iron fencing and wall surrounding the entire Palace complex.

HB 980 seeks to address this lack of funding by issuing general obligation bonds. The Friends welcomes this approach, given that it is practically impossible for us to raise private capital funds for buildings we do not own.

In these times of economic hardship, we need to think creatively in trying to take care of some of our State's most important cultural treasures. We therefore embrace the "Recreational Renaissance" initiative by DLNR and urge you to pass this measure.

Thank you again for allowing us to testify in full support.



*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.hawaii-audubon.com

# LATE TESTIMON

**Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources**  
**Representative Ken Ito, Chair and Representative Sharon Har, Vice Chair**

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

**Re: HB980, Relating to Recreational Renaissance**

### **Testimony Supporting the Intent**

Chair Ito, Vice Chair Har and members of the Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources. My name is George Massengale and I am a long time member of the Hawaii Audubon Society. During session, I serve as their Legislative Analyst. Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony supporting the intent of HB980, which purports to fortify a recreational renaissance program of DLNR through various amendments to state law.

The Hawaii Audubon Society was founded in 1939, and has over 1,500 members statewide. The Society's primary mission is the protection of Hawaii's native birds, wildlife, habitats as well as our aquatic and coastal resources.

From our review of HB980, it appears to be a jobs creation measure that could qualify for federal stimulus funding. Given the severe downturn of our economy we appreciate the positive impact that this bill could have putting people back to work.

However we have concerns about the impact that this bill could have to our endangered, birds, animals and native habitats. We would note that many of the parks, beach parks, forest reserves, state monuments, wetlands, and wilderness preserves are home to many endangered species found on the federal endangered species list. We would point out that **Hawaii is the Endangered Species Capital of the World.** With hundreds of plants and animals listed as endangered or threatened, there are more endangered species per square mile on these islands than any other place on the planet.

The Society would hope that before any types of improvements outlined in HB980, serious consideration be given to ecological and environment impact. We also believe that there will be certain proposed improvements that will trigger environmental review and assessment. At this juncture the Society believes that potential ecological and environmental concerns have not been properly addressed. **We believe that before this bill moves forward DLNR be directed to provide that committee with a list of projects that could move forward immediately, those projects with "no significant impact" and a list of those projects would have a "significant effect" requiring an environmental impact statement.**

It is our recommendation that at this time, it would be prudent to defer **this measure** until additional information could be provided by DLNR can be given to the addressing the ecological and environmental impacts on those lands subject to propose improvements of HB980.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Massengale".

George Massengale, JD  
Legislative Analyst

# LATE TESTIMONY

support

TO: Representative Ken Ito, Chair,  
House Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Resources  
[WLOtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:WLOtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

FROM: Sara Collins, Ph.D., Legislative Committee Chair  
Society for Hawaiian Archaeology  
Telephone: 808-348-2937  
Email: [sara.l.collins.sha@gmail.com](mailto:sara.l.collins.sha@gmail.com)

HEARING: February 9, 2009, 9:00 AM, House Conference Room 325  
SUBJECT: Comments on HB 980, Relating to a Recreational Renaissance

I am Dr. Sara Collins, Legislative Committee Chair of the Society for Hawaiian Archaeology (SHA). We have over 200 members that include professional archaeologists and advocates of historic preservation in general. We are testifying in support of HB 980 which will enable the Department of Land and Natural Resources to implement its proposed Recreational Renaissance plan. If implemented as proposed, the Recreational Renaissance provides the funding and policy commitments needed to significantly improve the protection and management of archaeological and cultural sites found in State Parks. Of the 54 parks open for public use, 19 include historic and archaeological sites that are listed in the National or State Register of Historic Places and 29 parks have archaeological site complexes representing a diverse record our cultural past.

While the improvements envisioned by Recreation Renaissance are far-reaching and systemic, there are three elements that are of particular interest to our organization and consistent with our mission:

Interpretation and Education: The plan calls for a major and almost immediate investment in the development and installation of interpretive displays and materials for selected parks. Many of the interpretive and education themes presented will focus on the archaeology and history of the parks and will further the publics' understanding of archaeology and the need for site protection.

Site Restoration: Archaeological site and historic building restoration projects are among the 2010 to 2016 capital improvement projects identified in plan. These restoration efforts will not only help preserve these sites, but make it possible for them to become an integral part of State Parks interpretive and educational initiatives.

Management of Cultural Resources: The policy commitments being made to improve DNLR's management of its recreational facilities also apply to its routine management of cultural resources. Just as facilities and infrastructure will be systematically inventoried and their condition monitored and repaired on a cyclical schedule, mechanisms and procedures will be established to systematically inventory and monitor the condition of its cultural resources, including archaeological sites. We are particular encouraged by DLNR's efforts to work with the National Parks Service (NPS) when developing an assets management plan. NPS cultural resource managers have made significant progress in adapting the NPS assets management plan, which was primarily facilities-oriented, to the management of cultural resources nation-wide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for considering our comments. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the above telephone number and email address.

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**Testimony for HB980 on 2/9/2009 9:00:00 AM**

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

**Sent:** Sunday, February 08, 2009 5:18 PM

**To:** WLOtestimony

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

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Testimony for WLO 2/9/2009 9:00:00 AM HB980

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Raymond A. Gruntz

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 2/8/2009

**Comments:**

Here we go again, putting Large Boats in the Alawai Small Boat Harbor is a unsafe thing. Like I said 6 years ago, Paddlers,Suffers,Free Divers,and the resulting noise, of diesel engines, above my bedroom, DON'T MIX.You can bet Rep's of the Local Surfers & Paddles will be at these hearings.

As a Waikiki NHB #9 Member, the Waikiki Board Voted against, any( Commercial Activity) in our Ali Wai Small Boat Harbor 6 years ago.

The State at this time is doing a good job with the only self supporting Harbor in the State, the ALAWAI SMALL BOAT HARBOR,WE THE PEOPLE WANT TO KEEP IT A SMALL BOAT HARBOR.

THE LARGE BOATS DON'T MIX WITH THE SMALL ONES.

ALOHA

Raymond A. Gruntz

Member Waikiki Board 9

Director Ilikai Marina Condo Assoc

Director Waikiki Area Residence Assoc.

Testimony to follow from the above will be forth coming.

**Testimony for HB980 on 2/9/2009 9:00:00 AM**

**LATE TESTIMONY**

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

**Sent:** Sunday, February 08, 2009 6:11 PM

**To:** WLOtestimony

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

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Testimony for WLO 2/9/2009 9:00:00 AM HB980

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: comments only

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Derrick W. Fenske

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 2/8/2009

**Comments:**

Why is the Lanikai Boat Ramp not included in this Bill. There are many users at this facility but it has become increasingly more difficult to launch a vessel at this site. I do not support any commercial activities for this site and it should not be left out of this bill. It is a beautiful spot located next to a beach (Kailua) that is very popular to residents and (increasing amounts) of tourists. I would like to see this ramp repaired and maintained. Perhaps a DLNR Enforcement Officer stationed here as well.

Mahalo,

Derrick W. Fenske

# LATE TESTIMONY

## JEANNINE JOHNSON

5648 Pia Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96821

Phone: 373-2874 (h) / 537-7261 (w)

February 8, 2009

### COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

Rep. Ken Ito, Chair

Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

HB 980 RELATING TO RECREATIONAL RENAISSANCE.

Hearing: Monday, February 09, 2009 at 9 am in Conference Room 325

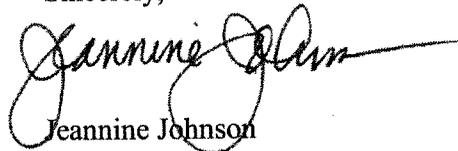
Aloha Chair Ito, Vice Chair Har and Honorable Committee Members,

I strongly oppose HB980 which funds the recreational renaissance program of the DLNR through various amendments to state law. HB980 would allow the DLNR full discretion to build comfort stations, cabins, camping areas, concession facilities, boardwalks, marina facilities, parking control stations and "other improvements," in addition to charging user fees, at Ka Iwi State Scenic Shoreline.

"The Ka Iwi coast is a precious place for all of Hawai'i and its people. The beauty of the Ka Iwi coastline and scenic view plane runs mauka to makai - from the mountains to the sea. **It was through the efforts of thousands of Hawai'i's citizens that this scenic coastline was spared from development.** The Ka Iwi coast symbolizes the movement of Hawai'i's people to preserve and protect the beauty and wonder of the special place of our islands. It is the preservation of this wild scenic coastline and the cultural ties Hawaiians had to the land and ocean that has brought our island people together to protect this special place." Ann Marie Kirk, Maunalua historian (emphasis added).

I humbly request you oppose HB980 or amend it to delete the Ka Iwi State Scenic Shoreline from the proposed list in Section 10. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeannine Johnson

cc: Sen. Sam Slom  
Rep. Lyla Berg  
Rep. Barbara Marumoto  
Ann Marie Kirk

# LATE TESTIMON

TO: Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources

DATE: Sunday, February 8, 2009

FROM: Natalie Iwasa  
1331 Lunalilo Home Road  
Honolulu, HI 96825  
808-395-3233

HEARING: Monday, February 9, 2009, 9 a.m.

SUBJECT: HB 980 - Relating to Recreational Renaissance - oppose

Aloha Representatives,

Our island state allows only finite opportunities to experience the solitude and breathtaking beauty of nature offered by our state parks. I understand the need to maintain our parks. However, we also need to maintain a balance with our quality of life.

Over the years, we have added user fees to places such as Diamond Head and Hanauma Bay. These parks no longer offer the same pleasure they once did. Adding user fees to parks such as the Ka Iwi shoreline *at a minimum* would require a collection booth, more signs and toilet facilities. These types of improvements turn parks into tourist attractions and take away the natural appeal they have without them.

I have two boys, ages 10 and 6, who have yet to visit most of the places listed in Sec. 10 of this bill. I want to be able to show them the beauty of Kaena Point and the magnificence of the Ka Iwi shoreline without having to go through a line and "educational" booth.

Please remove the Ka Iwi shoreline, Kaena Point and any other parks that would require the addition of collection booths and other tourist improvements from the list. Once we start construction, we cannot return the land to its natural state, and part of Hawaii's most precious resource will be forever lost.

# **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE INTENT OF HB 980 WITH SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS**

**The Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources  
Monday, 9 February 2009 in Room 325 at 0900  
REVISED 2/09/2009**

Chair Ito and Respected Members of the Committee;

My name is Reg White. I earn my living as a commercial passenger boat operator and I have been a recreational boater all of my life. I am a tenant and a resident of Ala Wai Boat Harbor. This bill is a most refreshing breeze blowing through our recreational boating and ocean resource management here in Hawaii. After years of enduring a regime that took the money and ran, a bunch that cared nothing for the health of Hawaii's outdoor resources, this new direction at DLNR is most welcome and wonderful. The first thing they did was to make a plan, something that has been missing all this time. This plan is very new and therefor most certainly a work in progress, and we must give them sufficient flexibility to accommodate changes in direction when it is called for in order to reach the goals of the plan. This bill, HB 980, tries to implement this new plan to rehabilitate the deteriorated outdoor recreational facilities of Hawaii, to add more facilities to our boating inventory, to rehabilitate our trails and beaches and then to maintain those resources and facilities over time as we go along. It also plans to create additional revenue sources in order to help to pay for all this work. This truly is the job that we see as the responsibility of DLNR to the recreational communities of Hawaii and it's truly wonderful to see this present management team rise to the occasion.

In making the plan quickly and looking for revenue sources to pay for the intended expenditures, as you might expect, they made a couple of mis-steps. That's why we have this hearing process, and that's why I'm addressing this committee today.

In the preamble of this act and in 206J-5.6 of this bill the department says they want to develop at Keehi Lagoon, via any of a host of partnership varieties or outright leasing of the properties, income to pay for this plan, while at the same time increasing the size of the boating industry in Hawaii. This is in order to generate income to pay for some of the rest of the costs to carry out the plan. This is wonderful news and a great idea that will also create many new jobs and opportunities in our industry but it will not work unless we here in this legislature, make resolutions, or an act, that will expedite the permitting process for a partnership or a lease holder to build out these facilities in a meaningful period of time. The plan has a goal of six years to completion, progressively paying more of it's own way as it progresses. To wait twenty two years to go through the permitting process as has happened to Haseko out at Ewa with their marina project will not get us to the goals of this plan. I leave this responsibility to you respected members of the committee for handling, as especially in this time of economic distress, time will be of the essence if we are to have any chance of reaching these noble goals and creating these new permanent jobs. If expedited, this bill truly is an economic stimulus plan!

In section 171 - (a) (3) There is established the Recreational Renaissance Fund into which we will authorize the placement of the newly generated income and monies from other special funds dedicated to similar purposes. Here I worry that my boating money might just be spent to build more hiking trails or restore some beaches as has happened in the past. It becomes important to find a way to keep the funds going to their original destinations. The boating special fund built the boating and harbor facilities that have been allowed to run down due to neglect by the department. Certainly not the fault of this team that is now trying to fix our problems, but the risk is still there as time passes. No one from hiking trails nor beaches helped to build nor to maintain and operate those facilities as, in recent years, money has been slipped from the boating fund to help take care of and operate the trails and beaches at our expense. This needs to be fixed so it will not happen in the future. Trails, parks and beaches must pay their own way to the same extent as that required of the boaters.

In SECTION 6, 200-9 (b) this bill authorizes 15% of the slips in Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor and 35% of the slips at Keehi Small Boat Harbor to be used by commercial operators. Instead, this percentage needs to be described as a finite number of slips, and this number needs to be limited to causing an increase in the amount of traffic that can be handled by the existing road system serving the harbor. This is done in order to help increase the revenue available to fund this project. It will work if properly controlled, but as with Lahaina Harbor, the commercial boats at Ala Wai need to be limited to not more than 65 feet in length. The bill needs to make it clear that the commercial moorings in Ala Wai will be restricted to the approximately 24 slips ewa of Atkinson Dr. on the front row facing the Hawaii Prince Hotel and that the approximately 26 berths on the 800 row out on the breakwater may be used by commercial boats carrying no more than six passengers for hire, and that recreational users now holding permits in those areas will be accommodated at other locations within Ala Wai Harbor as commercial demand requires it. This equates to fifty commercial berths in Ala Wai Boat Harbor, not 15%.

SECTION 7 200-10 (1) puts establishment of the fees that will be charged to recreational boaters into the hands of a real estate appraiser. It does not say how this will result in fees, just that they will be based on the appraisals received. It also says that these fees shall increase annually according to any CPI index. Then in (2) it says that at the option of the department this system may also spill over to the commercial fees as well. Sorry, but none of us can sign on to a pie in the sky fee increase without knowing what it will amount to. Not for our recreational use, not for our homes nor for our businesses. Let's remember why the State of Hawaii owns the waterfront facilities in Hawaii. It is to keep boating affordable for the people of Hawaii. It is not the state engaged in a real estate for profit venture. The term "fee" has been defined at the federal level in MTSA 2002 and in Hawaii by court decision (CASSI vs DLNR Hawaii) to be the recovery of the cost to provide a facility or a service to a vessel or its operator. That's what we pay, a mooring fee, and this definition applies. The boaters of Hawaii, session before last, approved a fee increase of 10% across the board for each of two possible \$20 million dollar reimbursable bond issues to be authorized by the legislature so the department would have sufficient funds to start repairs to our boating facilities. One of those bonds was issued and we took one 10% fee increase to pay for it. Now in this bill we have a similar situation, except that this time we are being asked to authorize an unknown fee level increase and a continuing automatic annual increase in those fees without any need to justify a like increase in the cost to

provide our facilities or services received. The increases are also not in any way tied to the issue of the reimbursable bonds needed to do the job as we did in the past. The justification for any fee increase has to come from open records of the department submitted to and corroborated by the state auditor, or from an agreed to increase to pay for bonds issued. Let's face it, if the boaters are going to have to pay more, the money had better be shown to 100% be spent on boating needs and services, not on any of the other parts of this plan. As it is now, the boaters pay for services and facilities to be used by the general public when they visit the beaches near our marinas.

Regarding sub paragraph (6), no other municipal, county, or state marina charges a CAM. If we do indeed pay a CAM, then the fees for use of the facilities must be reduced by a similar factor. More water goes to the wash down hoses at the launching ramp than is paid for by all the annual fees of the trailer boating public. This is to say nothing of the free showers and restrooms provided to the beach users at our marinas, and the 300 free parking spaces at Ala Wai, paid for by the boaters. Many berths at the marinas have independent electrical service on a meter and purchase their service directly from HECO. Common area maintenance is done by the marina staff and is included in the fee structure. Again, lots of the required cleanup is caused by non tenant passerby traffic and beach users, not the boaters. How do we resolve the responsibility for this cleanup and maintenance. It most certainly is not a justification for a CAM to be paid by the slip permittees.

In Hawaii we have a multi tiered fee structure amongst the various marinas. Unfortunately the system is tired backwards. The harbors that lose the most money above their income each year are the ones with the lowest fees and the boaters with the highest fees are left to pickup the deficit from the operating surplus in their harbor's funds. I do not think that the fee tiering should be reversed to make the distant, small harbors pay their own way, but I do think they each should have to pay the same fee toward their services that I do. There should be just one fee charged to berth a recreational boat in the state of Hawaii, regardless of where the boat is berthed.

SECTION 12 does not provide the \$40 million dollars required to implement the first phase of this Recreational Renaissance plan as described in the preamble. The \$6 million over two years will only allow the merest beginnings of the planning phase of this plan and will assure that the plan starts out two years behind. This plan is a fine economic stimulus. It will provide many local jobs while the restoration and construction work is in progress and the expansion of our marina and boating facilities at Keehi Lagoon will create many, many, new per\_düz

**From:** Rep. Sharon Har  
**Sent:** Monday, February 09, 2009 8:02 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Testimony Against HB 980 - Recreational Renaissance - User Fees  
**Attachments:** DLNR 8-Plex.jpg

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**From:** Greg Knudsen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 07, 2009 3:52 PM  
**To:** Rep. Ken Ito  
**Subject:** Testimony Against HB 980 - Recreational Renaissance - User Fees

## Coming to a State Park near you -- User Fees!

The Recreational Renaissance bill (HB 980) includes many great proposals -- with one glaring exception: **USER FEES.**

User fees are proposed for non-residents at eight popular state parks (see attached graphic). At a time when tourist counts are dropping and cost is a primary reason, we should be offering MORE free attractions, not less.

User fees tend to drive residents away from an attraction, even when residents don't have to pay. When was the last time you went to Diamond Head (where all pay) or Hanauma Bay (where residents are free)?

Even if residents don't have to pay, user fees "commercialize" the site and discourage residents from visiting. Commercialism detracts from the natural experience. "Improvements" don't necessarily improve the site.

On Oahu, user fees are proposed for Pali Lookout and Ka Iwi Scenic Shoreline.

No visit to Oahu is complete without a stop at Pali. Visitors and residents enjoy the wind-blown view. Most visitors appear to be in and out within 15 minutes -- and all are happy and enjoy the experience. Now imagine parking and admission fees, lines to ticket booths, concession stands, and ID checks. Virtually every round-the-island tour company will have to change their rates, or absorb the "non-resident" cost.

Ka Iwi Scenic Shoreline, one of the last accessible open areas on the island, is intended to remain natural and undeveloped. A user fee would necessitate ticket booths, concession stands, restrooms, fences, etc. User fees are not consistent with the Ka Iwi State Scenic Shoreline Master Plan (1996).

Current visitor counts at Ka Iwi do not come close to justifying the expense of a user fee attendant and capital improvements -- the state would **lose money** by imposing a user fee there. A 2007 OmniTrak survey for the Hawaii Tourism Authority stated that 68,000 use the lighthouse trail. Even if half are non-residents (which is not likely right now), the state would collect only \$40,000 -- and the state budgets \$85,000 for a single attendant. The only way to make a profit would be to drive local users out and replace them with many more out-of-state tourists.

HB 980 will have its first hearing at the Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Resources on Monday, February 9, at 9 a.m. in Room 325.

The best features of the Recreational Renaissance should be advanced. But user fees should be eliminated. Imposing user fees is neither the right time nor the appropriate thing to do.

Aloha,  
Greg Knudsen



# DINR Park-o-Rama

## 8-Plex

### IS NOW PAYING?

- Nu'uaniu Pali Lookout
- 'Iao Valley Monument
- 'Akaka Falls State Park
- Koke'e/Waimea State Park
- Ka Iwi Scenic Shoreline
- Makana State Park
- Kekaha Kai State Park
- Ha'ena State Park

### COMING ATTRACTIONS?

- Ka'ena State Park?
- Malakahana Rec. Area?
- Hapuna Beach?
- Manoa Falls Trail?
- Makiki-Tantalus Rec. Area?
- Kealahou Bay?

**Admission:** Non-Residents – \$5 per car or \$1 per walk-in  
Residents – Free (but not encouraged; we really need the money! More and more TOURISTS Welcome!)

### Recreational Renaissance: The Best Things in Life are Free

*Our motto: "If you leave Hawaii with any money, we haven't tried hard enough."*

# LATE TESTIMONY

**Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources  
Hearing**

**Monday, February 9, 2009, 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 325**

**Representative Ken Ito, Chair**



**Testimony on HB980**

Dear Chair Ito and Members of the Committee:

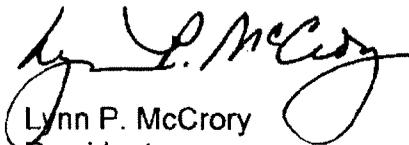
My testimony is in STRONG SUPPORT of HB980. My name is Lynn McCrory and I am the President of PAHIO Development, Inc. We are a locally owned and operated time share development company on the island of Kauai. I was the Kauai member of the Board of Land & Natural Resources for eight years.

HB980 provides the changes needed to HRS to implement the Recreational Renaissance program proposed by Department of Land & Natural Resources. The Recreational Renaissance program will provide the sorely needed funding for the deferred repairs and ongoing maintenance for many of our State parks and boat harbors. This innovative approach with a combination of fee increases, new fees, and dedicated State owned lands for revenue production, along with the use of general obligation and general obligation reimbursable bonds to initially move forward on the work needed, is an example of what government should be looking to do in these economic times.

At the time when the people of our islands will be spending more of their time utilizing our natural resources, the State will be moving to make them better for everyone. I humbly ask for your consideration for SUPPORT of HB980. Mahalo!

Me ke aloha pumehana  
With warm aloha,

PAHIO DEVELOPMENT, INC.

  
Lynn P. McCrory  
President

THE HOUSE  
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2009

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND & OCEAN RESOURCES  
Ken Ito, Chair  
Sharon Har, Vice Chair

Monday, February 9, 2009  
9:00 a.m., Conference Room 325, State Capitol

HOUSE BILL NO. 980  
Relating to Recreational Renaissance

Representative Ito, Representative Har, members of the committee, my name is Linda Paul and I am testifying today in behalf of the Ocean Law & Policy Institute of the Pacific Forum CSIS. I am testifying against HB 980. There are a significant number of problems with this bill.

Section 3 creates a new “partnership” with DLNR resources for Keehi small boat harbor and triangle island. The nature of this partnership and the “development corporation” it mentions are undefined, but one can assume that this is an undisclosed private entity to be funded with public money in a not-so-competitive process. The kind and number of projects this undisclosed development corporation is authorized to spend public money on is not limited in this bill, but I’d like to address the one it does mention: the development of Keehi small boat harbor and Triangle Island.

The bill mentions few specifics about the development of Triangle Island. Man-made or not, Triangle Island is a wetland in the middle of an estuary and lagoon in Hawaii’s over-developed coastal zone. There are a great number of issues that come to mind with such a project and a large number of federal statutes that come into play, not to mention the State Constitution. Relevant federal statutes include the Coastal Zone Management Act, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Rivers and Harbors Act, the Submerged Lands Act, etc. All of the federal statutory requirements that this project must meet need to be considered by the Legislature before this bill goes forward.

Section 4 provides for the designation of an industrial park, although the bill, which includes no map, is vague about where exactly it will be located, but we can assume it will be in Keehi, if

not on Triangle Island itself. Our coastal zone is no place for a new industrial park. Development of an industrial park in Keehi Lagoon would be subject to all the federal statutes mentioned above and more. Furthermore, the rise in sea level associated with climate change make it highly inadvisable to continue to pour tax money into coastal zone infrastructure within the tsunami inundation zone. We are very shortly going to have to spend enormous sums of money to rebuild our docks and harbor infrastructure to adapt to rising sea levels.

Section 7 specifying specific moorage fees i.e \$/vessel foot, is a level of detail that belongs in a rule, not a statute. Statutes set policy; rules implement policy. Specific dollar figures such as these do not allow for adaptive management.

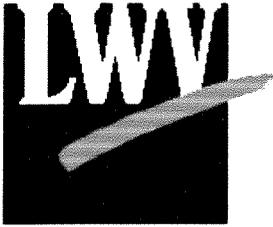
Sections 9 and 10 include laundry lists of areas where improvements are needed, but by adding the words "including, but not limited to", and having specified no priorities and with little money to pay for most of the ones listed, the lists mean nothing and don't belong in a statute.

In short this bill is a hodgepodge. There may be some parts that are worth salvaging, but they need to be pulled out and extensively re-written before this bill goes any further.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Paul". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "P".

Linda Paul  
Director  
Ocean Law & Policy Institute, Pacific Forum CSIS  
ph. (808) 262-6859



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HAWAII

49 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, ROOM 314 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 PHONE (808) 531-7448

February 5, 2009

Honorable Ken Ito  
Chair, House Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources  
State Capitol

Re: House Bill 980 Relating to Recreational Renaissance

Dear Representative Ito and Members of the Committee:

This bill has the admirable objective of greatly improving our state parks and ocean recreation systems by catching up on long-deferred maintenance. It is also attractive because it would be self-financing at a time when monies are scarce. However, we have some concerns about promoting some parks as tourist-designation areas, and particularly about the process that led to these determinations.

First we would like to address the process issue. The League of Women Voters has consistently fought for public participation and governmental transparency in decision making. This bill has appeared out of nowhere and, as far as we can determine, with little input from the affected communities, certainly not Ka Iwi. The plan for charging admission to the Makap`u Trail has not been brought to the attention of either the Waimanalo or Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Boards.

Second is the specific case of Ka Iwi. The citizens of the area, supported by residents of the rest of Oahu, have been fighting to keep this area as undeveloped open space for 30 some years. We were all rejoicing from the news that the Governor had proposed rezoning the area adjacent to the park from Urban back to Conservation when this new proposal was announced. User fees for the Makapu`u trail would result in commercialization of the very area we are determined to keep "country." We are not even sure that this would be legal, given that federal transportation funds were used to purchase the area as open space to be enjoyed by all.

We respectfully request that Ka Iwi be deleted from the park list and that action on the bill be deferred until there has been ample consultation with all the communities affected by enacting service fees for park use.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jacqueline Parnell, President  
League of Women Voters of Hawaii

## Hawaii Resident and Tourist Recreational Statistics

<b>Fishing, Hunting &amp; Wildlife Watching</b> <sup>1</sup>		
Residents		227,000
Visitors		39,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>366,000</b>
Expenditures		\$342,000,000
<b>Ocean Recreation Industry (1996)</b> <sup>2</sup>		
Employment		7,021
Revenues		\$560,000,000
<b>Commercial Fishing Industry</b> <sup>3</sup>		
Licensed Commercial Fishers		3,220
Revenue (1998)		\$88,000,000
<b>Registered Boaters</b> <sup>4</sup>		
Oahu		9,063
Hawaii		2,735
Maui		1,887
Kauai		1,656
Molokai		248
Lanai		82
<b>Total</b>		<b>15,671</b>
<b>State Park Visitors</b> <sup>5</sup>		
Residents		3,405,400
Tourists		6,734,900
<b>Total</b>		<b>10,140,300</b>
<b>Racing Canoe Association Members</b> <sup>6</sup>		
Hawaiian Canoe Racing Assn		9,637
Hui Waa		1,847
<b>Total</b>		<b>11,484</b>

<sup>1</sup> Department Business Economic Development & Tourism 2007 Data Book

<sup>2</sup> DBEDT *A Synopsis of Hawaii Strategy for Ocean Industry Development*, 1996

<sup>3</sup> DBEDT 2007 Data Book & *A Synopsis*

<sup>4</sup> DLNR 2009 Boater Registration list

<sup>5</sup> 2007 HTA Hawaii State Parks Survey

<sup>6</sup> Based on 2-09 phone call, to be verified in writing

## Recreational Renaissance State Park Facts

54 State Parks

15 State Park Reserves (areas acquired and set aside for park purposes, but not funded for development or improved for public use. Examples: Kaena Point, Oahu; Kiholo, Hawaii)

Approximately 27,000 across five islands (Oahu, Hawaii, Maui, Kauai, Molokai)

<b>DLNR State Parks Operating Budget 2009</b>			
	General Fund	\$5,792,108	
	Special Fund <sup>1</sup>	\$2,917,424	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,646,532</b>	
<b>Cost of Lifeguard Contracts at State Parks <sup>2</sup></b>			
		\$1,207,226	
<b>Total Funds Available to Support General Operation of All 54 State Parks &amp; 15 Park Reserves</b>			
		<b>\$7,439,306</b>	
<b>Average Operating Funds Per State Park &amp; Park Reserve</b>			
		<b>\$107,816</b>	
<b>DLNR State Parks CIP Budget for 2000 – 2009</b>			
2000-2004		\$26,875,000	
2005-2009		\$45,235,000	
<b>Total 2000 – 2009 10 Year CIP</b>		<b>\$72,110,000</b>	
	Minus Grants in Aid <sup>3</sup>	\$5,250,000	
	Minus Rockfall Mitigation	\$2,950,000	
	Minus Cesspool Removal	\$10,000,000	
<b>Total 2000 – 2009 CIP for State Park Facilities</b>		<b>\$53,910,000</b>	
	<b>Average Annual Per Park/Reserve CIP</b>	<b>\$78,130</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Although the State Parks Special Fund authorized expenditure ceiling is \$6,614,809, Parks have never generated this level of revenue. The average Special Fund revenue generated through leases, concessions, Diamond Head entry fees and HTA funds over the past five years has been \$2,917,424.

The Special Fund ceiling was increased in the mid-1990s during the economic downturn when Parks General Funds were reduced and the division was encouraged to generate additional revenues.

State Parks budget includes \$1,218,456 in Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds. However, these are primarily pass-through grants to the counties. While State Parks has been awarded modest federal grants from these pass-through funds in the past, the federal dollars are approved for specific capital improvements and not for general park operations.

<sup>2</sup> State Parks contracts for County lifeguard services at three State Parks.

<sup>3</sup> Funds appropriated to an outside organization and passed through State Parks

## DLNR CIP Appropriations Under LNR 801 (Boating) and LNR 806 (State Parks)

FY 2000 to FY 2009

Amounts in \$1,000s

Act	Year	Prgm ID	Item No.	Project	Scope	MOF	1st Year Total Apprn	2nd Year Total Apprn	Total Apprns in Budget Year	
									LNR 801	LNR 806
91	1999	801	H-10	Ala Wai Boat Harbor Fire Protection System, Oahu	fire protection	D	20	100	13,770	
91	1999	801	H-11	Planning for Boat Harbor Facilities, Statewide	research/adv planning	D	125	125		
91	1999	801	H-12	Imprs to Boat Harbor Facilities, Statewide	misc imprs	D	300	300		
91	1999	801	H-13	Kikialoa Light Draft Harbor, Kauai	accom for cruise opns	C/N	6,300	2,700		
91	1999	801	H-14	Kailua-Kona Wharf Repairs/Improvements, Hawaii	ground/site imprs	C	800	3,000		
91	1999	806	H-5	Diamond Head State Monument, Oahu	Cannon Club acquisition	B	1,000			5,025
91	1999	806	H-6	Landscaping and Park Improvements, Statewide	imprs & renovations, incl ADA	C	1,250	1,250		
91	1999	806	H-7	Hawaii Nature Center, Oahu	grant-in-aid to HNC	C	750			
91	1999	806	H-8	Mookini Heiau Complex, Oahu	grant-in-aid to Mookini Ed Cntr	C	400			
91	1999	806	H-9	Waahila State Park, Oahu	recon road, prkg, drainage	C	375			
281	2000	801	H-14A	Maalaea Boat Harbor Land Acquisition, Maui	land purchase	D		2,500	2,525	
281	2000	801	H-14B	Keauhou Harbor, Hawaii	fish winch	C		25		
281	2000	806	H-9A	Aha Hui E Kala, Kauai	grant-in-aid for cultural presvtn	C		250		250
259	2001	801	H-11	Wailoa BH Impr, Hawaii	dock/parking imprs	D	300	300	10,135	
259	2001	801	H-12	Lahaina BH Replacement/Repair/Imprs, Maui	replacement/repairs/imprs	E	100	800		
259	2001	801	H-13	Lahaina BH Comfort Station, Maui	comfort station replacement	C/N	100	400		
259	2001	801	H-14	Lahaina BH Ferry Pier, Maui	new ferry pier	C/N	500	1,600		
259	2001	801	H-15	Ala Wai BH Floating Docks Replacement, Oahu	replace floating docks F and G	E	100	1,200		
259	2001	801	H-16	Waianae BH Pier Repairs/Imprs, Oahu	repair/impr concrete piers	C	100	750		
259	2001	801	H-17	Haleiwa BH Replacement/Repair/Imprs, Oahu	replacement/repairs/imprs	D	90	900		
259	2001	801	H-18	Haleiwa BH Fire Protection System, Oahu	fire protection system	D	20	100		
259	2001	801	H-19	Planning for BH Facilities, SW	studies, research, advance planning	D	125	250		
259	2001	801	H-20	Improvements to BH Facilities, SW	misc imprs	D	300	600		
259	2001	801	H-21	Boat Ramp Impr, SW	repairs/imprs	D/N	500	1,000		
259	2001	806	H-4	Wailua River SP, Kauai	sewage system imprs @ Fern Grotto	C	250	1,000		7,350
259	2001	806	H-5	Kokee/Waimea Canyon SP Complex, Kauai	water system imprs	C	250	1,200		
259	2001	806	H-6	Wainapanapa SP, Maui	master plan and EIS	C	250			
259	2001	806	H-7	Kaunahina State Wayside, Maui	new comfort station/ADA imprs	C	1,150			
259	2001	806	H-8	Landscaping and Park Impr, SW	minor additions/renovations	C	1,250	1,250		
259	2001	806	H-9	Sacred Falls SP, Oahu	study for hazard mitigation	C	250			
259	2001	806	H-10	Kokee/Waimea Canyon SP Complex, Kauai	development plan/EIS	C	500			
177	2002	801	H-21A	Pohoiki Boat Ramp & Loading Dock Repl, Hawaii	replace launch ramp/loading dock	C/N		800	3,300	
177	2002	801	H-21B	Maalaea BH Land Acquisition, Maui	land acquisition	D		2,500		
177	2002	806	H-10A	State Parks Improvements, SW	improvements and renovations	C		2,000		4,250
177	2002	806	H-10B	State Parks, Hawaii	composting units in wilderness parks	C		750		
177	2002	806	H-10D	Friends of Iolani Palace, Oahu	grant in aid for improvements	C		1,500		
200	2003	801	H-2	Imprs to Harbor Facilities, Statewide	repairs/imprs	D	150	150	3,050	
200	2003	801	H-3	Imprs to Boat Ramp Facilities, Statewide	misc imprs	C/N	500	500		
200	2003	801	H-4	Comf Stn/Sewer Impr to Boating Facs, Statewide	cesspool replacement/comfort station imprs	D	500	500		
200	2003	801	H-5	Keehi BH Replacement of Piers 100 & 200, Oahu	P/D for pier replacement	D	285			
200	2003	801	H-6	Haleiwa BH Impr, Oahu	repairs/imprs	D	465			
200	2003	806	H-1	Lump Sum CIP, SP Facility Impr, Statewide	cesspool removal, sewer upgrades, etc	C	500	9,500		10,000
41	2004	801	H-6.01	Lahaina BH Comfort Station Replacement, Maui	comfort station replacement	C/N		900	12,520	
41	2004	801	H-6.02	DBOR - Impr to Harbor Facilities, SW	repairs/imprs at existing boating facilities	E		9,000		
41	2004	801	H-6.03	Hana Ramp and Wharf, Maui	repairs/imprs	C/E		1,350		

## DLNR CIP Appropriations Under LNR 801 (Boating) and LNR 806 (State Parks)

FY 2000 to FY 2009

Amounts in \$1,000s

Act	Year	Prgm ID	Item No.	Project	Scope	MOF	1st Year Total Apprn	2nd Year Total Apprn	Total Apprns in Budget Year	
									LNR 801	LNR 806
41	2004	801	H-6.04	Maalaea Small Boat Harbor, Maui	pier & electrical repairs/imprs, new pump out	C		770		
41	2004	801	H-6.05	Waianae Small Boat Harbor, Oahu	concrete pier/finger pier repairs/imprs	C		500		
41	2004	806	H-1.01	Lump Sum CIP, SP Comfort Station Impr, SW	comfort station replacement	C		5,000		5,600
41	2004	806	H-1.02	Keolanahihi State Park, Hawaii	land acquisition for park expansion	C		600		
178	2005	801	H-9	Lump Sum CIP, Ferry System Impr, Statewide	imprs at Lahaina, Manele & Maalaea SBHs	C	3,280			26,050
178	2005	801	H-9	Lump Sum CIP, Ferry System Impr, Statewide	imprs at Lahaina, Manele & Maalaea SBHs	N	11,520			
178	2005	801	H-10	Lump Sum CIP, Impr to Harbor Facilities, Statewide	imprs at various boating facilities	D	5,000			
178	2005	801	H-11	Kawaihae Harbor Improvements, Hawaii	sewer system, utilities, loading dock	C	2,700			
178	2005	801	H-12	Kahului Small Boat Harbor Impr, Maui	imprs to ramp facility	C	1,000			
178	2005	801	H-13	Waianae Boat Harbor, Oahu	imprs/replacement of existing facilities	C	750			
178	2005	801	H-14	Keehi Boat Harbor, Oahu	dock replacement/related work	C	1,800			
178	2005	806	H-3	Lump Sum CIP, SP Facility Impr, Statewide	SP improvements	C	3,000	2,000		6,710
178	2005	806	H-4	Kokee State Park, Kauai	widening of Kokee Road	C	600			
178	2005	806	H-5	Haena State Park, Kauai	master plan	C	300			
178	2005	806	H-6	Diamond Head Visitor Orientation Center, Oahu	planning study	C	260			
178	2005	806	H-7	Lawai International Center, Kauai	grant-in-aid	C	500			
178	2005	806	H-8	Daughters of Hawaii, Hawaii	grant-in-aid for imprs at Hulihee Palace	C	50			
160	2006	801	H-14.01	Maalaea Small Boat Harbor, Maui	pump-out facilities	C		2,600		24,800
160	2006	801	H-14.02	Manele Small Boat Harbor, Lanai	ferry system imprs	C		100		
160	2006	801	H-14.02	Manele Small Boat Harbor, Lanai	ferry system imprs	N		400		
160	2006	801	H-14.03	Manele Small Boat Harbor, Lanai	loading dock imprs	D		38		
160	2006	801	H-14.03	Manele Small Boat Harbor, Lanai	loading dock imprs	N		112		
160	2006	801	H-14.04	Hana Boat Ramp Impr, Maui	revetment, approach, other imprs	C		2,300		
160	2006	801	H-14.04	Hana Boat Ramp Impr, Maui	revetment, approach, other imprs	D		1,000		
160	2006	801	H-14.05	Maalaea Small Boat Harbor, Maui	ferry system imprs	C		2,673		
160	2006	801	H-14.05	Maalaea Small Boat Harbor, Maui	ferry system imprs	N		10,692		
160	2006	801	H-14.06	Kaunakakai Harbor, Molokai	ferry system imprs	C		227		
160	2006	801	H-14.06	Kaunakakai Harbor, Molokai	ferry system imprs	N		2,908		
160	2006	801	H-14.07	Keehi Small Boat Harbor, Oahu	pier improvements	D		900		
160	2006	801	H-14.08	Kukuuiula Small Boat Harbor, Kauai	loading dock imprs	D		50		
160	2006	801	H-14.08	Kukuuiula Small Boat Harbor, Kauai	loading dock imprs	N		150		
160	2006	801	H-14.09	Wailua Marina Boat Ramp Improvements, Kauai	dredging, dock imprs	D		125		
160	2006	801	H-14.09	Wailua Marina Boat Ramp Improvements, Kauai	dredging, dock imprs	N		375		
160	2006	801	H-14.10	Assessment Report for Future Dredging, Statewide	study/assessment	D		37		
160	2006	801	H-14.10	Assessment Report for Future Dredging, Statewide	study/assessment	N		113		
160	2006	806	H-8.01	Iolani Palace State Monument, Oahu	AC, climate control, related imprs	C		900		9,100
160	2006	806	H-8.02	Diamond Head State Monument, Oahu	rockfall mitigation	C		700		
160	2006	806	H-8.03	Kokee-Waimea Canyon State Parks, Kauai	water system imprs	C		2,000		
160	2006	806	H-8.04	Kokee State Park, Kauai	road imprs	C		500		
160	2006	806	H-8.05	Waiianapanapa State Park, Maui	water system imprs	C		1,250		
160	2006	806	H-8.06	Sand Island State Recreation Area, Oahu	water system imprs	C		1,250		
160	2006	806	H-8.07	Hapuna Beach State Recreation Area, Hawaii	water system imprs	C		1,250		
160	2006	806	H-8.08	Natural Hazard Warning Signage, Statewide	signage	C		50		
160	2006	806	H-8.09	Kalihi Valley Nature Park, Oahu	nature park	C		200		
160	2006	806	H-8.10	Hawaii Maoli, Oahu	grant-in-aid for Maunaala	C		500		
160	2006	806	H-8.11	Hawaii Nature Center, Kauai	grant-in-aid for education facility at Wailua Res	C		500		
213	2007	801	H-15	Lump Sum CIP - Ferry System Improvements, Statewide	various imprs	C	3,920	4,300		60,666
213	2007	801	H-15	Lump Sum CIP - Ferry System Improvements, Statewide	various imprs	N	8,600	13,200		
213	2007	801	H-16	Lump Sum CIP - Improvements to Harbor Facilities, Statewide	various imprs	D	10,000	1,000		
213	2007	801	H-16	Lump Sum CIP - Improvements to Harbor Facilities, Statewide	various imprs	N	1,220	620		

DLNR CIP Appropriations Under LNR 801 (Boating) and LNR 806 (State Parks)

FY 2000 to FY 2009

Amounts in \$1,000s

Act	Year	Prgm ID	Item No.	Project	Scope	MOF	1st Year Total Apprn	2nd Year Total Apprn	Total Apprns in Budget Year	
									LNR 801	LNR 806
213	2007	801	H-16	Lump Sum CIP - Improvements to Harbor Facilities, Statewide	various imprs	C	0	5,000		
213	2007	801	H-17	Maalaea Small Boat Harbor, Maui	land acquisition	C	6,000	0		
213	2007	801	H-18	Mala Boat Launching Ramp, Maui	ramp imprs	C	200	0		
213	2007	801	H-19	Keehi Small Boat Harbor Improvements, Phase I, Oahu	pier replacement	C	1,500	0		
213	2007	801	H-20	Hana Boat Ramp Improvements, Maui	various imprs	C	906	0		
213	2007	801	H-21	Waianae Small Boat Harbor, Oahu	various imprs	C	1,700	0		
213	2007	801	H-22	Pohoiki Boat Ramp and Loading Dock, Hawaii	ramp and dock replacement	C	800	0		
213	2007	801	H-23	Maalaea Small Boat Harbor, Electrical Imprs, Maui	electrical imprs	C	1,300	0		
213	2007	801	H-24	Kawaihae Small Boat Harbor Improvements, Hawaii	imprs to northern portion	C	400	0		
213	2007	806	H-6	Iolani Palace State Monument, Oahu	AC, climate control & related imprs	C	4,500	0		23,450
213	2007	806	H-7	Diamond Head State Monument, Oahu	rockfall mitigation	C	2,000	0		
213	2007	806	H-8	Lump Sum CIP - State Parks Facility Imprs, Statewide	various imprs	C	5,000	2,500		
213	2007	806	H-9	MacKenzie State Park, Various Imprs, Hawaii	various imprs	C	1,250	0		
213	2007	806	H-10	Lava Tree State Monument, Hawaii	various imprs	C	2,000	0		
213	2007	806	H-11	Manuka State Wayside, Hawaii	various imprs	C	1,000	0		
213	2007	806	H-12	Diamond Head State Monument, Trail System Imprs, Oahu	trail imprs	C	4,400	0		
213	2007	806	H-13	Hawaii Nature Center, Kauai	grant in aid	C	500	0		
213	2007	806	H-14	Lanakila Rehabilitation Center, Oahu	grant in aid	C	300	0		
158	2008	801	H-24.01	Kikiaola Light Draft Harbor, Kauai	dredging	C	0	1,560	5,560	
158	2008	801	H-24.02	Keehi Small Boat Harbor, Oahu	relocation of Honolulu Marine	C	0	4,000		
158	2008	806	H-14.01	State Parks Energy Efficiency & Conservation Impr, SW	energy efficiency imprs	C	0	250		375
158	2008	806	H-14.02	Waahila Park Access Road, Oahu	road imprs from Ruth Plact to park entrance	C	0	125		

Program Total FY2000 to FY2009

162,376

72,110

STATE PARK VISITOR COUNTS FOR 8 PROPOSED SIGNATURE PARKS UNDER THE  
RECREATIONAL RENAISSANCE PLAN

State Park Visitor Count	2003	2007
<b>TOTAL State Park Visitors at all Parks</b>	<b>9,176,350</b>	<b>10,140,300</b>
<i>Tourists</i>	6,299,300 (69%)	6,734,900 (67%)
<i>Residents</i>	2,877,050 (31%)	3,405,400 (33%)
<b>Nuuanu Pali State Wayside</b>	1,106,900	905,300
<i>Tourist</i>	839,700	697,100
<i>Resident</i>	267,200	208,200
<b>Waimea Canyon/Kokee State Park</b>	*	734,600
<i>Tourist</i>	*	629,500
<i>Resident</i>	*	105,100
<b>Haena State Park</b>	742,000	708,400
<i>Tourist</i>	685,600	637,600
<i>Resident</i>	56,400	70,800
<b>Makena State Park</b>	451,200	525,400
<i>Tourist</i>	267,400	289,000
<i>Resident</i>	183,800	236,400
<b>Hapuna Beach State Recreation Area</b>	*	514,300
<i>Tourist</i>	*	342,700
<i>Resident</i>	*	171,600
<b>Iao Valley State Monument</b>	438,300	431,400
<i>Tourist</i>	350,400	340,800
<i>Resident</i>	87,900	90,600
<b>Makapuu Point State Wayside</b>	*	251,400
<i>Tourist</i>	*	137,400
<i>Resident</i>	*	114,000
<b>Kekaha Kai</b>	*	235,700
<i>Tourist</i>	*	133,800
<i>Resident</i>	*	101,900

2007 Hawaii State Parks Survey prepared by Hawaii Tourism Authority

\* Because of methodological enhancements, comparisons of volume in 2007 cannot be made with 2003 because it would not represent an 'apple-to-apple' comparison







## Back to Nature

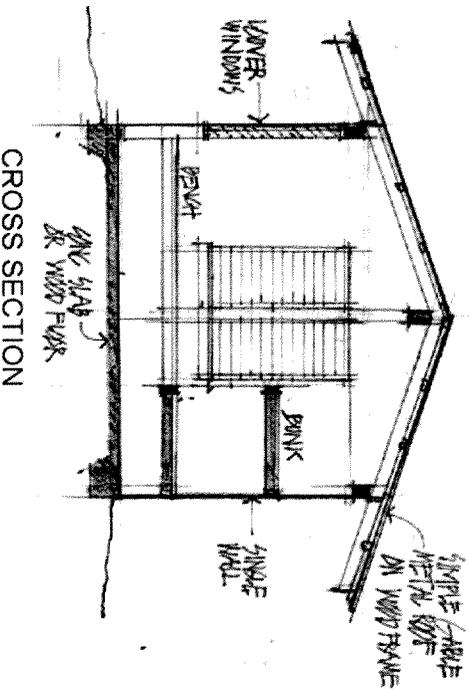
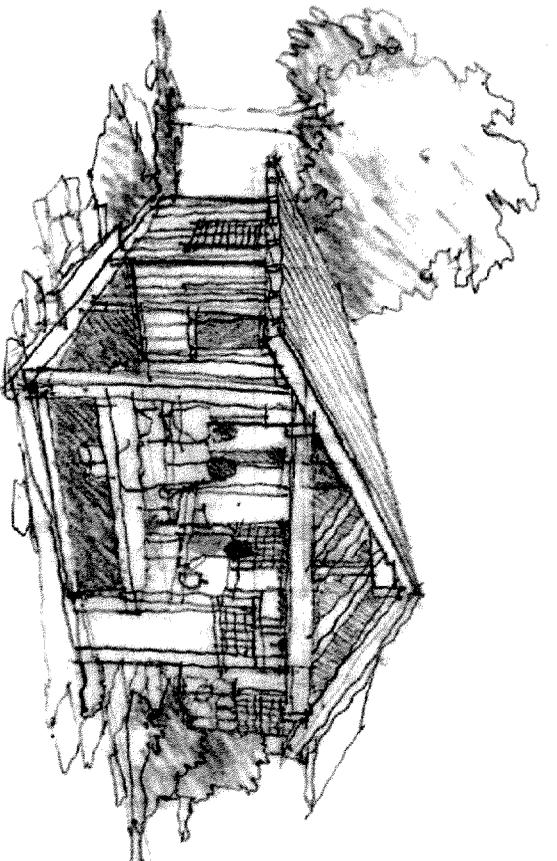
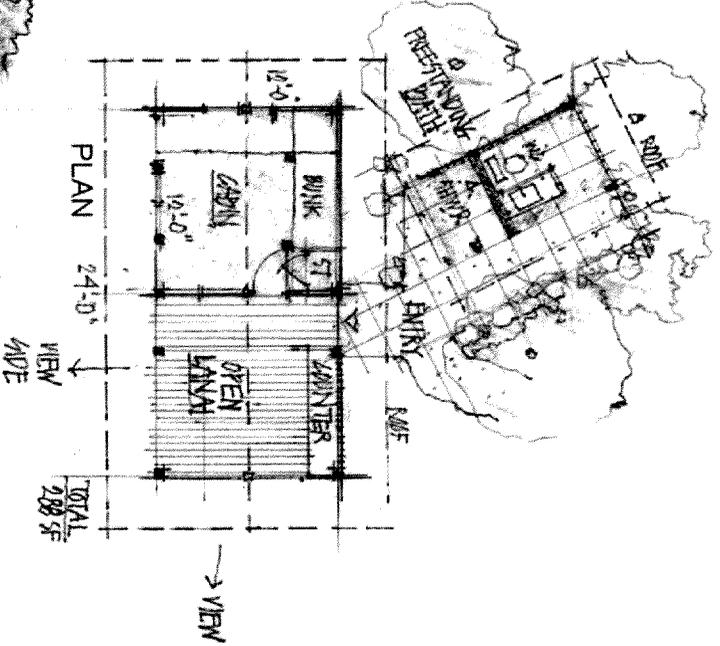
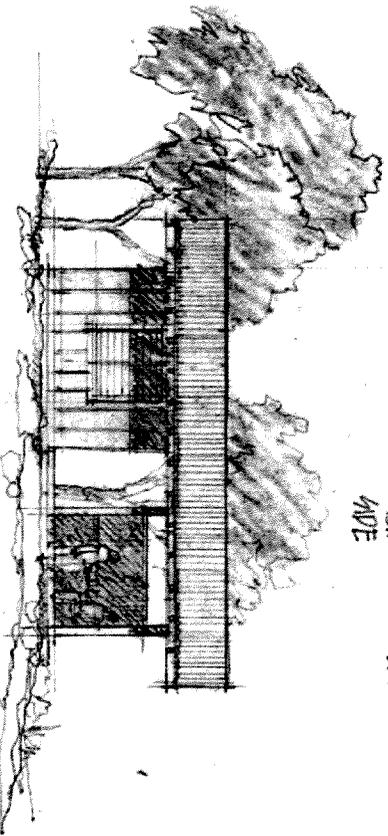
Approximately 348 sq. ft. of roofed area.

A two room structure that provides a sleeping area and an open lanai for cooking, dining and socializing.

The bathroom is a separate structure. This moves the higher-maintenance wet area, which typically is damp and musty, away from the cabin.

The structure is a wood framed, single wall, gable structure.

- AMENITIES
- BATHROOM
  - Toilet
  - Basin
  - Shower
  - Hot water
  - KITCHEN
  - Sink
  - Stove
  - Refrigerator



Wai'anapanapa State Park Master Plan

Cabin A





# THE MAUI NEWS

MAUI'S NEWSPAPER SINCE 1900

## News

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### 'Renewing a commitment'

By BRIAN PERRY, City Editor

POSTED: February 1, 2009

WAILUKU -- Maui County would get 39 state parks capital improvement projects worth nearly \$41 million under a "Recreational Renaissance" initiative backed by Gov. Linda Lingle and the state Department of Land and Natural Resources.

According to details released by the governor last week, the breakdown would be 32 projects for Maui island estimated to cost \$35.7 million, six for Molokai carrying a \$4.5 million price tag, and one for Lanai valued at \$770,000.

"More than any other state, Hawaii residents depend upon our ocean and land for recreational opportunities, sustenance, and cultural and spiritual practices," Lingle said. "To ensure the long-term viability of these precious resources, we are renewing our commitment to preserve and protect these special assets and to educate residents and visitors about their importance."

Statewide, the plan calls for spending \$240 million on 238 capital improvements over five years, with debt paid by rents from state commercial and industrial lands. There also would be dedicated revenues from fees from park users, leases and concessions in parks and small-boat harbors to pay for facility maintenance, restoration work, interpretive and educational programs, and increased security at recreational areas.

According to state officials, the first year of the plan includes \$31.3 million worth of projects ready to go out to bid for construction. In its second year, \$20.6 million in projects would go out to bid.

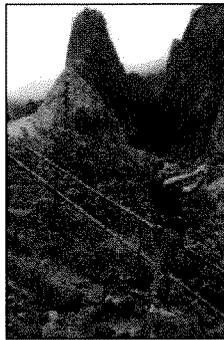
The projects would be funded by \$200 million in general obligation reimbursable bonds (to be repaid by new revenue laid out in the plan) and \$40 million in general obligation bonds. This session, state lawmakers would need to approve a special fund to handle revenue generated by new rents and fees targeted for park and harbor improvements.

Laura Thielen, DLNR board chairwoman, has said proposed park entry fees would be charged to visitors, not Hawaii residents, a plan modeled on the fee system already in place at Diamond Head Monument State Park.

On Maui, the state is considering entry fees for Iao and Makena state parks. The fees would not be imposed without consultations with affected communities and not until park facilities have been upgraded, Thielen said.

DLNR officials would need to adopt national standards for maintenance schedules to upgrade park trails and small-boat harbors. The Department of Land and Natural Resources would be reorganized to "maximize efficiency and professionalism in maintaining recreational facilities and spaces." The plan also calls for developing new land and ocean recreational opportunities through public-private partnerships to support long-term demand for additional recreational opportunities and relieve pressure on already crowded state park areas.

### Article Photos



Roberto De Lena of Italy photographs the scenery while visiting Iao Valley State Park on Friday afternoon. State Department of Land & Natural Resources officials are proposing to institute entry fees at Makena and Iao parks for nonresidents, as part of a sweeping plan to upgrade state parks. The Maui News / AMANDA COWAN photo

### Fact Box

- At a glance: Maui County projects included in the proposed "Recreational Renaissance" plan Park, trail improvements:
  - Waianapanapa State Park, \$7.6 million for park and rental cabin improvements and a new restroom for a new camp area.
  - Wahikuli vehicle trail, \$3 million for an off-highway vehicle riding area on 665 acres.
  - Makena State Park, \$2.75 million for master planned improvements.
  - Hoolehua wetlands on Molokai, \$2.2 million for a survey and restoration of an open pond on 75 acres.
  - Palaau State Park, \$1.5 million for a pavilion and camping and water system improvements.
  - Polipoli Springs State Recreation Area, \$1.16

Most of the planned improvements would be on Oahu, where 73 projects are envisioned costing an estimated \$72.6 million. The plan would spend \$63.3 million on Kauai with 46 projects and \$58.3 million on the Big Island with 60 projects.

"By utilizing multiple sources of revenue and a small amount of general obligation bond funding, we are employing a coordinated, creative approach to upgrade and expand our recreational facilities that takes into account both the current fiscal condition of the state and the growing needs of our population," Thielen said.

"Although the challenges are real, continuing to do 'business as usual' will mean Hawaii's parks, beaches, trails, campgrounds, cabins, small-boat harbors and ramps will fall further into disrepair," she said. "Our environmental and cultural resources will be further degraded. We will have increasingly unsafe recreational spaces for residents and visitors alike, and we will lose educational opportunities to promote kuleana and stewardship," Thielen said.

For more information on the Recreational Renaissance plan, go to the Web site at <http://hawaii.gov/dlnr/recreate>.

[gov/dlnr/recreate](http://hawaii.gov/dlnr/recreate).

The Department of Land and Natural Resources operates and maintains 54 state parks, 20 small-boat harbors, 25 boat ramps or landings, 275 miles of hiking trails, 19 natural area reserves, 55 forest reserves and hundreds of miles of state beaches.

Brian Perry can be reached at [citydesk@mauinews.com](mailto:citydesk@mauinews.com).

million for park, water system and roadway improvements.

Iao Valley State Monument, \$1.12 million for bridge and park improvements.

Puaa Kaa State Wayside Park, \$880,000 for replacing a deteriorated water system.

Halekii-Pihana Heiau State Monument, \$380,000 for parking area improvements.

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## WATER WAYS

# 'Recreational Renaissance' is great idea

By Ray Pendleton

POSTED: 01:30 a.m. HST, Jan 25, 2009

The recent announcements by Gov. Linda Lingle and Department of Land and Natural Resources chairwoman Laura Thielen of plans for a statewide "Recreational Renaissance" are bound to attract interest among our state's recreational boaters.

There hasn't been such recognition for the need to improve our public boating facilities by an administration since Gov. Ben Cayetano was running for office some 14 years ago.

Of course, some waterfront cynics might point to the fact that Cayetano never actually bothered to fulfill his pledge to "create a world-class boating program within the DLNR," so why get excited now?

But I digress.

The goals of this new Recreational Renaissance initiative don't apply to boating facilities alone, but rather, they are described as "a comprehensive and system-wide recreational modernization that will provide all residents and visitors across the state with better and new recreational spaces that are well maintained, secure and enriching," according to information from the DLNR.

Nearly as important as these potential improvements is this administration's recognition that "the state has not kept pace with demand," and that the DLNR must be reorganized to "maximize efficiency and professionalism in maintaining recreational facilities."

The administration is proposing a \$40 million General Obligation bond issue to generate a portion of the funding for the program, coupled with an additional \$200 million in General Obligation Reimbursable bonds.

The plan is for the debt service on the GOR bonds to be developed from commercial and industrial leases on state land, together with a combination of scheduled increases in small boat harbor fees, limited commercial uses in the Ala Wai and Keehi harbors and entry fees for nonresidents into certain popular state parks.

Some currently vacant lands with "high development potential" are also being reviewed as property to be developed through public-private partnerships and are hoped to generate \$6 million in new revenue within six years.

The creation of new marinas on Sand Island and in Keehi Lagoon may become examples of these partnerships. More than just boat slips, they would offer haul-out yards, ocean education facilities, outrigger canoe storage, beach parks, and camping and picnic areas.

Overall, if approved by the Legislature, the plan will fund 46 projects on Kauai, 73 projects on Oahu, 39 projects in Maui County and 60 projects on the Big Island.

The DLNR plans to adopt the National Parks Service assets management program and model boating facility standards to guide it in its Recreational Renaissance.

Such a program will help it to keep detailed inventories of all assets and to monitor their condition, maintenance requirements, life cycles, and replacement costs. It will also help, when needed, to create adjustable projections and priorities for unforeseen circumstances.

Will the DLNR come out of the Dark Ages as this renaissance implies? Only your legislators can make it happen.

**Ray Pendleton** is a free-lance writer based in Honolulu. He can be reached by e-mail at [raypendleton@mac.com](mailto:raypendleton@mac.com)

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Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.



January 18, 2009

## State shows good sense in plan to upgrade parks

It's heartening to look out over the landscape of a new year, even one as economically bleak as 2009, and see hope for growth and improvement in some of Hawaii's most valuable treasures: its natural resources.

The new blueprint for improving and maintaining state parks and marine facilities provides reason for that hope. The state Department of Land and Natural Resources last week unveiled a five-year plan, one that's crafted to be sustainable despite declining tax revenues.

The proposal would enable the investment of \$240 million in upgrades and repairs to dozens of state parks, shorelines, trails and harbors, many of which have taken a beating from increased use by residents and tourists and spotty maintenance.

The Legislature should support this plan, even in tight fiscal times. It's to be financed by bonds, with loan payments covered through existing and proposed revenue streams.

So the state isn't proposing a sudden expenditure of \$240 million; that total would come over time by borrowing money and making improvements designed to help generate new revenues. This includes income from lease rents, commercial and park fees — the latter to be paid by tourists, not residents.

Lawmakers should give the approval DLNR needs to proceed with key elements:

- Authorization of the capital improvement expenditures on the list so DLNR can borrow the funds needed for the first two years of upgrades.
- Authorization of now-prohibited commercial fees at Ala Wai and Ke'ehi small-boat harbors for limited commercial boating use. Thielen said no recreational boaters would be displaced and ultimately recreational space would be enhanced, with rebuilt, expanded mooring slips.
- Creation of a new special fund for the revenue from which debt service on the loans would be paid.

DLNR will need to monitor economic developments carefully, because they will affect the capacity to raise the rents, fees and other revenue streams that support the plan.

Secondly, the department needs to be creative in finding public and private partners in the improvements, including expansions to educational programs that explain the resources to visitors.

But from the looks of it, DLNR is open to such creativity and is thinking through the economic challenges, penciling in conservative financial projections in its plan.

There's much to like about this businesslike approach to resource management, which includes a regular maintenance program that will extend the life of the improvements — thus protecting the investment.

And the planned repairs and replacements are being bundled together so that there will be marked improvement at the targeted locations. Visitors will be much more willing to contribute user fees to a park that's visibly undergoing a facelift.

Finally, the various divisions of DLNR are cooperating in projects that cross bureaucratic bailiwicks — trails that intersect parks, for example — with the goal of enhancing the resources that are Hawaii's most precious, and most bankable, assets.

Simply scanning the list of places to receive this care underscores the importance of the initiative: Nu'uuanu Pali, Ka Iwi, 'Iao, Makena, 'Akaka Falls and Koke'e, to name only a few.

These are truly places of beauty, treasures that we want our children and grandchildren to know and cherish as we do.

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Garden Island article 1/17/09

## **Recreational Renaissance' launched**

### ***DLNR seeks \$240M in loans to upgrade state parks, harbors***

**By Nathan Eagle - The Garden Island**

Published: Saturday, January 17, 2009 3:10 AM HST

Hikers, campers, beach-goers and boaters may soon experience drastic improvements to neglected trails, roads and other public facilities under a five-year comprehensive plan launched yesterday by Gov. Linda Lingle's administration.

The Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources is seeking \$240 million in loans to upgrade state parks and harbors, combat erosion and improve safety, boost enforcement and establish more interpretative programs.

DLNR Chair Laura Thielen said in an interview yesterday that the "Recreational Renaissance" initiative would be funded by \$40 million in general obligation bonds in the first two years and \$200 million in general obligation reimbursable bonds over the full five years.

"We don't have the money. We're asking permission to borrow it," she said. "We will use our sweat equity and ingenuity in the DLNR, combined with modest user fees, and work to repay the debt. All we have to do is be able to make the annual payments. We're not taking anything away from anybody else."

To help "kick start" the plan, the department is asking the state Legislature to take out a \$40 million loan, Thielen said.

The department would then use that money to implement its plans to produce the extra revenue, roughly \$20 million, needed to pay back the debt service on that loan and an additional \$200 million loan it would take out. The current low interest rates should help, Thielen said.

The extra revenue would be generated in three ways:

- The department is proposing to dedicate lease rents from existing leases and to also create new leases on state-owned commercial and industrial lands that will help repay the loan.
- The state has some limited leases and concessions on land around harbors, and in a few cases in parks, and those rents would help repay the loan and go toward running the operations of those areas.
- The department is proposing entrance fees for tourists at eight state parks, including Waimea Canyon, Koke'e and Ha'ena. Entrance will remain free for residents. The fee being proposed is the fee currently being paid at Diamond Head on O'ahu — \$1 for walk-ins, \$5 for vehicles, slightly more for commercial users.

“Having an entry fee may allow you to have better management of the area,” Thielen said.

In Ha‘ena, for instance, residents have complained for years about people parking their vehicles all over the place, she said.

The department’s approach is multi-fold. Thielen said it’s part “let’s fix these places up” and part “let’s do business differently.”

“Even though we’re in this horrible economic situation, we must make a choice,” she said. “You can say stewardship of the land takes a back seat ... Or people in the department can come up with a way to create a new pie and do a better job of managing the resources.”

The state Legislature and governor have been “quite good” about funding DLNR capital improvement projects, Thielen said, but she likened the effort to “investing in botox for a 90-year-old field hand. It’s not making a lot of difference.”

The chair said the department has spent a lot of time preserving places such as historical or cultural sites but has not taken the time to study the cost of managing those places over time.

“This was a real renaissance within the DLNR,” Thielen said, noting communication improvements within divisions.

The business community likes the idea of upgrading “green infrastructure,” Thielen said.

“This is what people are coming to see and these are the same places our residents go,” she said. “We all deserve better facilities.”

Before any user fees are implemented on Kaua‘i, the chair said the state plans to make improvements to restroom facilities and other areas that are too run-down to be able to justify an entrance fee.

A Hawai‘i Tourism Authority survey found that in 2007 statewide there were 10 million visits to state parks — 6 million of them were tourists, Thielen said.

The five-year plan is slated to start July 1. The department plans to spend the first two years doing projects that have already been designed or budgeted.

For instance, \$3.4 million is budgeted for a wide-range of improvements to Port Allen Small Boat Harbor in the first year of the plan and an additional \$2.5 million for it in the second year, according to state documents that were embargoed for release today.

For forestry on Kaua‘i, the first year would see \$450,000 the design of bridge restoration at Keahua Stream, N. Fork Wailua River and Kawai Koi Stream, plus \$50,000 to design the

replacement of two miles of the Alakai Boardwalk. The second year would see the construction of these two projects, totaling \$4.5 million and \$500,000, respectively.

State parks on Kaua'i in the first year would see significant funding in the first two years. At Koke'e state park, \$8 million is budgeted for the construction of Koke'e Road improvements, plus \$610,000 for design work for improvements to rental cabins, water systems, parking, interpretive displays and a new Ni'ihau lookout at Hinahina. Construction on those projects the following year is expected to total \$6.9 million.

On the Eastside, \$400,000 is budgeted to renovate the comfort station at Old Smith's Landing at Wailua River State Park.

On the North Shore, the second year of the plan calls for \$480,000 of design work for Na Pali Coast State Park trail restoration and stability improvements, protection improvements of archaeological sites at Nualolo Kai and water system improvements at Miloli'i.

While some proposals have been made, more input will be sought for what to spend the money on during the last three years of the plan.

"It could be beyond anything we've seen before," Thielen said.

In years three through five, the plan calls for more than \$1 million dollars to be spent at Koke'e State Park to develop parking areas for Kukui Trail, Awa'awapuhi Trail and Nualolo Trail along with interpretive displays.

State documents describe the "renaissance" as "a re-birth in the way we care for our land and ocean recreational spaces, our natural and cultural resources, and the residents and visitors at Hawai'i's state parks, small boat harbors, boat ramps, hiking trails, natural area reserves, forest reserves and beaches."

The DLNR is charged with meeting these needs through 54 state parks, 20 small boat harbors, 25 boat ramps or landings, 275 miles of hiking trails, 19 natural area reserves, 55 forest reserves and hundreds of miles of state beaches, according to DLNR documents.

There are nine state parks, including lookouts, on Kaua'i, Thielen said. If the plan moves forward as scheduled, Kaua'i would get the second highest (O'ahu would receive the most) amount of funding in the state during the first two years with \$21.89 million worth of improvements to its state parks, forests and harbors.

Visit <http://hawaii.gov/dlnr/recreate> for more details of the plan.

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**Legislators get a sound plan:**

*January 17, 2009*

Laura Thielen, who chairs the Board of Land and Natural Resources, is taking an overall plan to the Legislature for the future of the department charged with protecting the state's natural environment while managing state parks, forests, natural area reserves, small-boat harbors and ramps, beaches and the ocean out to three miles. It also enforces fishing and hunting regulations. The state Department of Land and Natural Resources comes in contact with outdoor-loving residents and visitors more than any other state agency. Thielen calls the plan "DLNR Recreation Renaissance." In her presentation to the Legislature, Thielen wants to finance overdue improvements to state parks with user fees — but just for visitors and only after improvements are made. One state facility on Maui comes as a surprise. Under "Park and Trail Improvements," the plan lists "Wahikuli Off Highway Vehicle Trail." If the trail is what the name implies, it would be the first public place where dirt bikes, dirt buggies, four-wheel drive cars and trucks can legally be used to kick up some dust. The state has had an off-road park on Oahu for decades. The plan going to the Legislature doesn't mention the Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement, the DLNR's undermanned police force. However, Thielen says her long-term goal is to allow DOCARE to concentrate on protecting nature, including fish and coral, rather than providing security for state parks and small-boat harbors. Her approach is to contract with private firms to handle security for the likes of Makena State Park and Lahaina Small-Boat Harbor. The plan signals a continuation of a turnaround for the department once known largely for granting leases to state lands. Thielen acknowledges administration problems, saying "DLNR is inefficiently organized." That's an understatement and underscores a history of lawmakers using the department as a kind of dumping ground for any concern even remotely connected with environment. Under Thielen, the DLNR appears to be taking protection and enjoyment of the environment more seriously. It remains to be seen if legislators can recognized one simple fact: In Hawaii, the environment is the economy. \* Editorials reflect the opinion of the publisher.

# THE MAUI NEWS

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## Improvement plan relies on land leases, visitor fees

By EDWIN TANJI, City Editor

POSTED: January 17, 2009

The state Department of Land and Natural Resources is proposing a \$240 million program to upgrade facilities at state parks and small-boat harbors that will hinge on revenues from new land leases and fees on use of parks by visitors.

Laura Thielen, chairwoman of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, released the "Recreational Renaissance" plan Friday aimed at restoring facilities and cultural resources.

The plan will require legislative approval of a request for \$40 million in general obligation bonds and \$200 million in general obligation reimbursable bonds - bonds that will be paid from new revenues that are part of the plan.

Thielen said that the Legislature will need to approve a special fund to handle revenues from rents and fees that will be targeted for parks and harbors facilities.

"A lot of it depends on that. Even if we have the fees to do the projects, we cannot do any capital improvements unless the Legislature approves them," she said.

A key element is the funding, which will be a combination of new lease revenues from state lands, entry fees for visitors to state parks and partnerships to manage facilities such as the Ala Wai Harbor parking lot.

The proposal for entry fees to be charged to visitors, but not Hawaii residents, is modeled on the fee system already imposed at Diamond Head Monument State Park, she said. On Maui, the proposal is considering entry fees for Iao State Park and Makena State Park.

But the fees would not be imposed without consultations with affected communities and until the park facilities have been upgraded, Thielen said.

A key benefit is the partnerships that will provide for security and public safety at heavily used parks and harbors also will allow the Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement to focus on protecting the state's natural and cultural resources, she said.

"A component is the security of these facilities and how can we make those places secure and safe for our residents and visitors," Thielen said. "With partnerships to manage these facilities, we relieve the DOCARE officers from having the mundane police work to be able to focus on their primary responsibility of resource protection."

The plan includes new strategies for education on natural and cultural resources while setting up a schedule for repairs and maintenance to prevent deterioration of facilities that are being restored.

"We're also looking at developing new opportunities through public-private or public-public partnership so we can have other people helping us to manage and maintain those facilities," Thielen told The Maui News.

State parks and ocean recreation facilities are used by both residents and visitors, and are essential as an attraction to visitors, but have suffered from neglect over the years, she said.

The Recreational Renaissance is a long-term program to renovate and upgrade the facilities and establish a financial program to pay for the improvements without relying on tax revenues.

"For a small upfront investment we can leverage a 5-to-1 return in new revenues that can support this \$240 million program," Thielen said.

She said the impetus for the program is the recognition that the state harbors and parks have deteriorated over the years, under heavy use by visitors and residents. They also provide access to the natural environment and to cultural resources of the state, she said.

"We have reached the end of the life span for many of the recreational facilities in the state. We will have to do a surge of infrastructural improvements and adopt a schedule for routine repairs and maintenance," Thielen said.

### Article Photos



The Maui News / MATTHEW THAYER photo

People enjoy Oneloa Beach in Makena in February last year. A proposal for \$240 million in upgrades to state parks and small-boat harbors hinges on revenues from new land leases and fees on use of state parks such as Makena State Park and Iao State Park.

If the state does not move to invest in needed renovations and repairs, she said the department will have to look at closing parks.

"This is infrastructure that serves all of the people in Hawaii. It's green infrastructure that attracts 6 million tourists a year to visit the islands," she said.

As part of the plan, the department is working with the Hawaii Tourism Authority to determine which parks draw the highest number of tourists, and which are suitable for imposing an entry fee at controlled access points.

Thielen said that Hanauma Bay on Oahu, at which the City and County of Honolulu has set up entrance fees but also developed an education center to instruct visitors on appropriate activities in the Marine Life Conservation District, can be a model for a park facility with fees and an educational component.

"But that may not be the model that many of the Neighbor Islands will want to follow," she said.

Thielen said that the department will hold community meetings to plan infrastructural improvements and whether to impose entrance fees.

Many projects will involve partnerships with businesses or other agencies.

Thielen cited a contract awarded for management of parking at the Ala Wai Harbor on Oahu - which provides for parking for surfers and fishers as well as boat owners - as an example of a public-private partnership that has the contractor also providing security and management services for the state-owned facility.

She referred to an agreement with the National Park Service for management of the Ala Kahakai historic trail on the Kona-Kohala coast of the Big Island as an example of possible public-public partnerships that has the state putting up signs and necessary public facilities along the cultural resource, while the federal agency manages it.

"With each individual area, we would have to work with the community to look at what would work. We would work with our staff and the local community to figure out what would be appropriate, site by site," Thielen said.

With a comprehensive statewide plan, she said the department also can plan for projects that will be more effective and efficient. Where the state typically will break up projects to spread funds over several areas, she said the Recreational Renaissance will focus on all needed improvements at a site, combining projects where a harbor and state park are located together.

"We are proposing here to coordinate land and ocean facilities improvements, and bundle them . . . so when we approach the project, we're cost efficient."

Thielen said the department also has consulted with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs in planning leases on state lands to assure the agency that it will be allotted its legally mandated 20 percent of revenues from ceded lands.

"The 20 percent would come off the top of the lease rents. There are no sales of ceded lands in this plan," she said.

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January 16, 2009

## Hawaii plans \$240M upgrade of trails, parks, beaches

A decade ago, the Manoa Falls trail attracted about 30 visitors a day. These days, it's not unusual for some 200 nature-seekers to trod the well-worn, out-and-back trail from sunup to sundown — and it shows.

Na Ala Hele, the state's trails and access program, has used gravel fill and recycled plastic lumber steps to stem the inevitable erosion, but some sections of the trail are still in serious disrepair, creating potentially hazardous conditions for local and visiting hikers. Many less-used trails receive little or no maintenance.

Under a five-year, \$240 million plan scheduled to be introduced by the Department of Land and Natural Resources and Gov. Linda Lingle, Manoa Falls and dozens of other state trails, parks, harbors and beaches would receive repairs and upgrades to meet increased demands by locals and tourists.

The Recreational Renaissance Plan would be funded by \$40 million in general obligation bonds in the first two years and \$200 million in general obligation reimbursable bonds over the full five years.

DLNR head Laura Thielen was unavailable for comment yesterday.

According to a financial plan obtained by The Advertiser, DLNR will have to raise roughly \$19.8 million in new revenue, via commercial and industrial leases on state lands, by fiscal year 2020 to support the debt service on the GOR bonds.

The plan also calls for fee increases at boat harbors and parks, including entry fees for the eight "high-tourist" parks: Nu'uuanu Pali, Ka Iwi, 'Iao, Makena, Kekaha Kai, 'Akaka Falls, Koke'e /Waimea and Ha'ena.

In addition to improving key recreation areas across the state, the plan calls for increased educational and interpretive programs on Hawaii's history, culture and environment; adoption of national standards for maintenance; increased "transparency and accountability" for DLNR; and preparation for future infrastructure improvements, particularly through public-private partnerships.

The improvement projects would be coordinated island by island, and implemented on a rotational schedule to minimize disruption.

Aaron Lowe, a trails and access specialist with DLNR, would not comment specifically about the plan, but said more money is needed to maintain public recreation areas on O'ahu and across the state.

"There's definitely a need," Lowe said. "More people are using these recreational areas and we need to be able to make them safe and enjoyable while preserving our natural resources and making sure that the surrounding community is not negatively impacted."

### many new facilities

Manoa Falls Trail would be one of 29 O'ahu facilities to receive significant upgrades. The plan budgets \$200,000 in design and \$400,000 in construction for the trail.

If approved, the plan would bring:

- A new marina at Ke'ehi Lagoon with slips, ocean education facilities, canoe club storage and practice area, boat ramps, boat storage and dry dock, beach park and picnic area.
- A new ocean recreational facility at Sand Island, with boat ramp, club pavilion, canoe sheds, kayak launch, camping and picnic areas, walking and bike trails, a fishing pier, a marina with slips, boat storage and parking.
- A new network of trails and designated ocean landings that link Hapuna, Kiholo and Kekaha Kai State Parks and the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail on the Big Island.
- A "linear park" along the base of Diamond Head Crater's outer slope with walk, jog and bike paths, rest stops and interpretive signs.
- New wilderness camping sites along Ka'ena Point and on inland Forest Reserve lands.
- Restoration of the two-mile Alaka'i Swamp boardwalk in the Alaka'i Wilderness Preserve.
- A new 665-acre off-highway vehicle park at Waihikuli, Maui, for off-road recreation.
- A statewide interpretive signage system with information on Hawai'i's history, culture, and environment.
- A statewide demarcation buoy system to ensure separation of maritime and ocean-recreation activities.

Other major investments called for by the plan include \$5.3 million for park and rental cabin improvements at Wai'anapanapa State Park on Maui; \$4 million for rockfall mitigation at Diamond Head State Monument; and \$3.4 million in dock improvements at Port Allen Small Boat Harbor on Kaua'i.

Under the plan, DLNR would adopt the National Parks Service assets management program and model boating facility standards to help maintain the recreational infrastructure.

The new standards would include detailed inventories of all land and ocean assets, close monitoring of conditions and replacement costs, "best life-cycle practices" for repair and maintenance, data and reports to justify spending and use decisions, and a 10-year budget for long-term planning and staffing.

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# West Hawaii Today

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## Park renovations, upgrades

### DLNR seeks Legislature approval of \$240M for improvements

by Erin Miller  
West Hawaii Today  
emiller@westhawaii.com  
Friday, January 16, 2009 9:25 AM HST

The Department of Land and Natural Resources is looking to put \$240 million into renovations, upgrades and improvements at state parks, harbors and other facilities over the next five years.

To pay for the work, which Director Laura Thielen said is long overdue, the department is seeking Legislature approval for \$40 million in General Obligation bonds, then paying off an additional \$200 million in General Obligation Reimbursable bonds. Thielen said the department expects to recoup those costs by charging fees to nonresidents using select parks -- Kekaha Kai State Park and Akaka Falls on the Big Island -- and by increasing revenue through commercial leases of DLNR land.

"We are proposing to recreate the entire way that DLNR manages, maintains and protects these spaces," Thielen said. "The conditions of our facilities are intolerable, for residents and for tourists."

Many of the state's parks, piers and harbors were built around the same time, 30 to 40 years ago, she said. Now, those parks, suffering from years of minimal maintenance because DLNR received "1 percent of the state budget and a modest amount of Capital Improvements" funding, the facilities are failing at the same time. Thielen acknowledged, more than once, that some of the state facilities can be an embarrassment to the state residents and island visitors who use them.

DLNR already holds commercial leases for some of its land, and could put more of the property out to bid for long-term leases.

"DLNR has essentially been the land bank for the state," Thielen said. "We hold the inventory of state lands."

An example in West Hawaii is land near Kawaihae Harbor, mixed commercial and industrial ground

leases that were auctioned last year. The lease rent is \$69,000 annually, and the winning bidder is in the process of receiving a Special Management Area approval before the lease is approved. Nonindustrial examples include pasture leases, such as one on the Big Island that raises \$32,015 each year. Thielen claimed the projected revenues show a 5-to-1 return, which she thought would improve the plan's chances before state legislators.

The plan would allow DLNR to raise about \$20 million annually to pay the debt service on the bonds, she said. The estimates are based the state's current economic conditions and the declining visitor arrivals, which translates into fewer fees collected from visitors, she said.

"Obviously, we'll have to keep adjusting our projections," Thielen said.

The proposal, though a five-year plan, would need to be approved by the Legislature in two-year increments. DLNR has the funding to cover the \$21 million General Obligation bond being requested for this year, and Thielen said she believed her department could also cover the \$40 million request for next year. If, when the next two-year Legislative session begins in 2010, the economic situation continues worsen, maybe the department wouldn't request the additional bonds, she said.

The plan projects raising about \$4 million annually in entrance fees at eight parks, including Kekaha Kai and Akaka Falls on the Big Island. The fees would likely be \$1 for walk-in visitors and \$5 for private vehicles, with a higher rate for commercial vehicles.

A portion of the entrance fees would be directed to a new special fund, from which money for DLNR facility maintenance and repair would come. But a fixed percentage of a particular park's revenue would not be automatically directed back to that park, Thielen said.

Before those fees would begin, however, Thielen said those parks in particular would need improvements.

The proposal does not include hiring any new DLNR employees, either for enforcement or to run the entry gates at the eight parks where fees would be collected. Thielen said DLNR would draft contracts, possibly for nonprofit organizations, to staff the gates and collect the fees.

Another area where Thielen envisioned similar partnerships is in the Ala Kahakai trail system, which DLNR proposed to improve and maintain as a link between Kekaha Kai, Kiholo and Kekaha Kai State Parks. The National Parks Service will then

manage the trail system, she said.

During the plan's first year, nearly half of the funding would be spent on projects on Oahu. Hawaii Island projects would receive the greatest expenditure in the second year. The order of the first two years' projects is based on what projects have already been designed and ready to go, or projects in the parks where DLNR would like to begin charging entrance fees, Thielen said.

Other suggestions in the plan include creating more camping areas at Hapuna Beach State Park, as well as along the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail and developing trails, interpretive signs and parking areas in Kipuka 21 Wildlife Viewing and Hiking Area along Saddle Road. DLNR would also like to open a public shooting range in West Hawaii, for public and law enforcement use.

Thielen described the modernization plan as a renaissance for DLNR facilities. The parks and harbors haven't been properly maintained, and she said she has seen her employees, in the last year, begin talking about how to fix the persistent problems in those areas.

"We're hitting a point where repair and maintenance just isn't going to cut it," Thielen said.

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