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## STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Testimony of WILLIAM J. AILA, JR. Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on WATER, LAND AND HOUSING

Thursday, February 3, 2011 1:15 PM State Capitol, Conference Room 225

> In consideration of SENATE BILL 1220 RELATING TO FISHING

DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RE

POST OFFICE BOX 621

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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LAND
STATE PARKS

Senate Bill 1220 would establish a community-based fishery resource management area around the Island of Lanai, an advisory committee within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department), to develop traditional fishery management practices, and to advise the Department on proposed rules for the take of fishery resources. It also proposes an unspecified sum to be expended in Fiscal Year 2012 for the program's development. The Department opposes this bill.

Establishing an advisory committee within the Department to provide advice on bill provisions relating to developing a plan for rule adoption, prioritizing important species for management and understanding their life cycles, other education and enforcement initiatives, would conflict with the existing mission of the Department, and would add another layer of management to the decision-making process. This would require Department staff to assist the committee on the bill's new initiatives, increase expenses, and tax an already-deficient manpower situation.



The Voice for Hawaii's Ocean Tourism Industry

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Testimony to the Senate WLH Committee Thursday, February 3, 2011; 1:15 p.m. Conference Room 225

Speaking in Support

RE:

SB 1220

Chair Senator Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Senator Solomon and Members of the Water, Land, Housing Committee:

My name is James E. Coon, President of the Ocean Tourism Coalition. The OTC represents over 300 small ocean tourism businesses state wide. We appreciate the efforts being made by the Legislature in addressing the need for local communities to be involved in managing their resources.

We believe this bill will go a long way in helping to restore this very important fishery which is so important for the people of Lanai. When this area is managed property, the reef will also be able to support the rich variety of marine life as it had in the not so distant past.

Please pass this bill which will help with restoring the fisheries and the reef.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. If you have any questions, please contact me at 808-870-9115.

Sincerely,

James E. Coon, President

## Testimony before the Senate Committee on

Water, Land, and Housing

S.B. 1220 -- Relating to Fishing

Thursday, February 3, 2011 1:15 pm, Conference Room 225

By Robbie Alm Executive Vice-President Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee,

This testimony is being submitted on behalf of Hawaiian Electric Company and its subsidiary utility, Maui Electric Company.

We support S.B. 1220 which is intended to incorporate indigenous resource practices in establishing a community-based fishery resource management area for the island of Lanai. During community meetings on the proposed wind farm project and in discussions during the community's visioning process we heard concerns about overfishing and how it threatened the island's subsistence lifestyle. This bill will help to address those concerns by creating an advisory committee of Lanai residents with knowledge of traditional practices in the management of fishery resources. It enables the committee to develop and implement a community-based fishery resource management area program for the island to promote the sustainable use of marine resources.

This bill is among several bills that have been introduced this legislative session which address some concerns and desires raised by residents during community discussions on the wind farm project. If the wind farm is built on Lanai and the power sent to Oahu, it seems only fair to provide the island with the resources necessary to meet critical community needs. We strongly urge this committee to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.