

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
WATER, LAND, AND OCEAN RESOURCES**

**Monday, February 7, 2011
Time 9:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 377
RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS**

House Bill 377 proposes to provide state lease preferences to developers of Hawaiian fishponds. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the general intent of this bill, however, is not in a position to implement the mandate to adopt rules at this time.

The Department continues to face severe budget cutbacks. The Department's general fund appropriations and special fund revenues have dropped significantly over the last several years, and the Department lost more than 10% of its positions over the past two years. The bill imposes duties that would require a substantial amount of staff time and funding. The Department simply does not have the resources and staffing necessary to undertake the additional duties that would be required under this bill.