

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

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

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Wednesday, February 13, 2013
2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 414, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO WAIPIO VALLEY**

House Bill 414, House Draft 1 proposes to: 1) Establish the Waipio Valley Advisory Commission (Commission) to advise the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) on the development of a long term plan for ensuring the proper stewardship and maintenance of Waipio Valley; 2) Require the Department to conduct a flood study for Waipio Valley; and 3) Appropriate unspecified funds for a flood study. **The Department appreciates the intent of this Bill, the Department nevertheless is concerned with the cost implications any appropriation will have on the Department's priorities in the Executive Budget.**

The Department manages only a small portion of land in Waipio Valley (Valley) with the north-west valley wall managed by the Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife. The Valley bottom is composed of subsistence landowner tenants who cultivate taro and other sustainable agriculture producers. Many obtain their farm leases from Bishop Museum and Kamehameha Schools who are the major landowners in the Valley with many other individual landowners.

With regard to a flood study, in order for proper analyses, recommendations, and cost estimates to be made, detailed hydrologic and hydraulic modeling of the Valley would need to be performed, along with the collection of required topographic data and investigation and interviews relating to flood incidents and histories within the community. The Department estimates a study of this scope could cost at a minimum \$500,000. Without appropriate funding, the Department will be unable to implement and complete the study requested. Once contracted, such a study would take 12 to 18 months to complete, well beyond the requested reporting period.