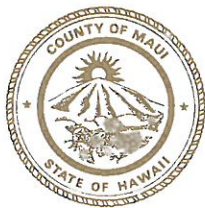


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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Ke'ena O Ka Meia

COUNTY OF MAUI – Kalana O Maui

TESTIMONY OF ALAN ARAKAWA, MAYOR COUNTY OF MAUI

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Monday, March 30, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 211

HB 1489, HD1, SD1 RELATING TO SPECIALITY LICENSE PLATES FOR NATIONAL PARKS

Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice-chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT of HB 1489, HD1, SD1.**

This measure would allow any owner of a passenger motor vehicle who is a resident of the state to apply for a special license plate for Haleakala National Park or Volcanoes National Park in order to observe the importance of our Hawaii national parks.

- The Hawaii Volcanoes and Haleakala National Parks Specialty License Plate Program would help generate revenue for the State of Hawaii and these two national parks.
- Implementation of this program also coincides with the celebration of the 100th birthdays of both national parks in 2016.

As Mayor of Maui County, I support this for reasons, including:

- Haleakala National Park, one of the state's largest national parks, extends from sea level on the south side of Maui to the summit of Haleakala volcano at 10,023 feet. It encompasses diverse ecosystems within the park which are home to hundreds of native flora and fauna, some of which are not found anywhere else in the world. The nene goose, ua'u (Hawaiian petrel), four species of honeycreeper, the Hawaiian hoary bat, and Haleakala Silversword make their homes in the park.
- In 2012, 1.1 million park visitors spent \$64 million in Maui County in association with park visits.

For these reasons I support HB 1489, HD1, SD1.

HB1489

Submitted on: 3/27/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 30, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gwen Ohashi Hiraga	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Mahalo nui loa for your support of HB1489, HD1, SD1 "RELATING TO SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES FOR NATIONAL PARKS"

I am in support of this measure, which authorizes special license plates for Haleakala National Park and Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

I support this measure because these two parks are both celebrating their centennial anniversary in 2016 and this measure would help celebrate the importance of these parks to Hawaii and the nation.

Specialty park license plate programs have been successfully launched by other national parks, including Yellowstone, Yosemite and Washington's National Park Fund. The plate program would be implemented in partnership with Hawai'i Pacific Parks Association (HPPA), formerly known as Hawai'i Natural History Association (HNHA) which has been in existence since 1933. HPPA is one of over 60 such associations nationwide whose mission is to partner with our national parks to provide financial and other support beyond what government is able to provide.

I appreciate your continued support of this bill in the days ahead, which will give Hawai'i state residents a means to observe and support the importance of the national parks in Hawai'i, as both parks commemorate their 100th anniversary as national parks in 2016.

Sincerely,

Tanya Rubenstein
Honolulu, HI 96816