Testimony by:

FORD N. FUCHIGAMI DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors JADE T. BUTAY ROSS M. HIGASHI EDWIN H. SNIFFEN DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

#### STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION 869 PUNCHBOWL STREET HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 6, 2017 2:00 PM State Capitol, Room 225

## S.B. 842 RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION

Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy & Senate Committee on Water and Land

The Department of Transportation provides **comments** on this measure that calls for a feasibility study for a harbor or port at Kapoho Bay to accommodate vessels that transport cargo and passengers.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has considered the feasibility of such a harbor at Kapoho Bay and concluded that it is not feasible. In at least two separate evaluations of the development of a harbor facility at Pohiki Bay over the past 40 years, the USACE considered and ruled out Kapoho Bay as a viable alternate site because of the bay's natural features and the extensive dredging and infrastructure construction required for the harbor facility.

The Department of Transportation will provide copies of the USACE reports to the committees upon request.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Monday, February 6, 2017 10:10 AM
То:	TRE Testimony
Cc:	rgaffney@pacificboatsales.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB842 on Feb 6, 2017 14:00PM

Submitted on: 2/6/2017 Testimony for TRE/WTL on Feb 6, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rick Gaffney	Hawaii Fishing & Boating Association	Support	No

Comments: The proposal to build a harbor at Kapoho to support Puna in the event of an emergency makes great sense. Also, the demand for a safer launch facility for fishermen and ocean recreation vessels on that coast is high, and the proposed harbor facility should also be considered to supplement the marginal launch ramp at Pohoiki. Federal funds should be available through the US Army Corps of Engineers for a majority of the cost of this critical infrastructure improvement on the island, and this bill will justify that request. Mahalo, Rick Gaffney Hawaii Fishing & Boating Association

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Saturday, February 4, 2017 7:30 PM
То:	TRE Testimony
Cc:	alinhawaii 98@hotmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB842 on Feb 6, 2017 14:00PM

Submitted on: 2/4/2017 Testimony for TRE/WTL on Feb 6, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
dennis kitsman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I URGE YOU TO PASS THIS BILL SO THAT PUNA CAN HAVE A SAFE HARBOR TO TRANSPORT PEOPLE AND GOODS IN TIME OF NEED. POHOIKI IS A DANGEROUS PLACE FOR SWIMMWERS, SURFERS AND BOATERS AS THEY ALL USE THE SAME AREA. SINCE PUNA IS THE FASTEST GROWING DISTRICT IN THE STATE, WE SHOULD BE GIVEN MONEY TO FUND THESE PROJECTS THAT ARE SO DESPERATELY NEEDED. THANK YOU

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Saturday, February 4, 2017 11:05 AM
То:	TRE Testimony
Cc:	ghenkel@haaspcs.net
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB842 on Feb 6, 2017 14:00PM

Submitted on: 2/4/2017 Testimony for TRE/WTL on Feb 6, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Greg Henkel	Individual	Support	No

Comments: "Pohoiki bay harbor, at Isaac Hale beach park, is the only harbor in the lower portion of the Puna district of the island of Hawaii. The harbor includes a one-lane boat ramp and a ninety-foot breakwater. The harbor can only accommodate small boats, and launching them can be difficult because of the harbor's small size and the rough ocean conditions that are often present. The legislature finds that in 2014, lava flow had threatened to cross Highway 130 in the county of Hawaii, possibly preventing fifteen to twenty thousand households from going to school or work and denying them access to the nearby hospital. A ferry from the Pohoiki bay harbor was deemed not feasible because of ingress and egress dangers posed by the surf. The legislature further finds that Kapoho bay, near the eastern tip of the Puna district, is a naturally protected bay where it may be feasible to establish a harbor or port to accommodate vessels that transport cargo and passengers. Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the director of transportation to contract for a feasibility study for a harbor or port at Kapoho bay." Furthermore; There are currently commercial vessels operating out of Pohoiki that are much too large for a "Small Boat Harbor". They cannot maneuver within the harbor and present a danger to other craft. Please consider a size limit on vessels operating at Pohoiki Bay.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Saturday, February 4, 2017 10:38 AM
То:	TRE Testimony
Cc:	richard@bidleman.net
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB842 on Feb 6, 2017 14:00PM

Submitted on: 2/4/2017 Testimony for TRE/WTL on Feb 6, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Richard Bidleman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The current ramp is also being used as a swimming area. As a former boat owner of 35 years, it is difficult enough launching a boat. I can't imagine what must be on the skippers mind coming into the area having to make a hard right turn and not knowing if there are swimmers on the ramp. In the event that Highway 130 were cut off by a lava flow, this would provide a needed way out to Hilo. As the population grows (Puna is the fast growing district in all of Hawaii) ferry service could relieve some congestion on the highway and provide another commute option into Hilo.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Saturday, February 4, 2017 7:41 AM
То:	TRE Testimony
Cc:	dccdesigns@hotmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB842 on Feb 6, 2017 14:00PM

Submitted on: 2/4/2017 Testimony for TRE/WTL on Feb 6, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dean Cail	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a Wa'a Wa'a resident in a tsunami evacuation area, I feel a new harbor and boatramp would be of benefit in any emergency. Looking at Puna development plan, a gas station in Pohoiki would also solve the needs of boat owners and locals. We drive ten miles to Pahoa every time we need gas.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Friday, February 3, 2017 10:15 PM
То:	TRE Testimony
Cc:	kenneth.b.reid@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB842 on Feb 6, 2017 14:00PM

Submitted on: 2/3/2017 Testimony for TRE/WTL on Feb 6, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
kenny reid	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Aloha! I am a resident of Pahoa and support this bill. I have a construction company that serves coastal Puna. I am working with at-risk youth and the homeless to better our community. An added boat ramp would increase safety at Pohoiki boat ramp and bring much needed economic growth to our developing town. Through fishing, tours, and ocean education our town would become a true fishing town and would make a presence in the islands. All of this would likely be added by a second major channel into our wonderful ocean!

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2/03/17

Re: SB842, Feb 6, 2017 2:00 PM, TRE/WTL Rm 225, Testimoney of Robert Petricci, Position: strong support, Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair, TRE Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair, Committee members, Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair, WTL Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair, Committee members,

Aloha Senators

As you know Puna is one of the fastest growing communities in Hawaii. Isaac Hale beach park at Pohoiki, is the only beach access for residents with facilities in lower Puna. Pohoiki is also the only harbor for the district. it consist of a one-lane boat ramp and a ninety-foot breakwater. The harbor can only accommodate small boats, and launching them can be difficult because of the children, surfers, divers, and other residents and tourist who access Pohoiki bay here. The harbor's small size and the rough ocean conditions that are often present make it challenging for everyone. The lava tour boats, and fishing boats provide good jobs and economic activity for our community but compete for ocean access with recreational activities of area residents at Pohoiki at times.

We saw lava flows threaten highway 130 in 2014 and remind us that there is a real and present threat to the only improved access road in the entire lower Pun area. Losing Highway 130 would cut off access to vital services for vast residential communities that have developed in lower Puna. A ferry from the Pohoiki bay harbor was deemed not feasible because of ingress and egress dangers posed by the surf.

Please support SB842, the proposed feasibility study to see if Kapoho bay near the eastern tip of the Puna district, a naturally protected bay may be developed to establish a harbor or port to accommodate vessels that transport cargo and passengers, it would also go a long way to help relieve the congestion that exist now between recreational and commercial use at Pohoiki. Mahalo for your consideration.

Robert Petricci, Resident of Pohoiki

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Friday, February 3, 2017 4:38 PM
То:	TRE Testimony
Cc:	steve_hirakami@notes.k12.hi.us
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB842 on Feb 6, 2017 14:00PM

Submitted on: 2/3/2017 Testimony for TRE/WTL on Feb 6, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Steve Hirakami	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Puna is a huge district on Hawaii Island. It is about the size of all of Oahu. In this huge district, residents have only one open ocean entry and that is at Pohoiki. Pohoiki also has the only small boat launch in the district so there exists a terrible mix of ocean activities. The mix of commercial and recreational boaters using the same ocean entry as the swimmers, snorkelers, divers, surfers, and others is an accident waiting to happen. With the lava viewing boats in full force at this time, a very dangerous situation can turn lethal. Kapoho would make an ideal boat launch area and even a harbor like in Honokahau. There could be expanded ocean recreational areas like was created first in Magic Island and repeated in Kapolei, Wailea, Mauna Lani Orchid. These protected swimming areas were carved into the land. Since most of the land is "accreded" land this would make good use of State land that Pele gifted us. Please pass this measure.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Friday, February 3, 2017 1:54 PM
То:	TRE Testimony
Cc:	panther_dave@yahoo.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB842 on Feb 6, 2017 14:00PM

Submitted on: 2/3/2017 Testimony for TRE/WTL on Feb 6, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Dave Kisor	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Although many Kapoho residents may squawk loudly, a large number of them are only here for part of them are snowbirds and here only part of the year. A boat harbor is needed in the event there is another lava flow and also to alleviate much of the traffic on highway 130 from Hilo. Both persons (I don't mean the mythical corporate type) and cargo could be shipped in this manner, along with being used by fishing and tour boats. It's just a good idea to have a boat harbor in Puna Makai.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Friday, February 3, 2017 1:38 PM
То:	TRE Testimony
Cc:	hourandahalf@icloud.com
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for SB842 on Feb 6, 2017 14:00PM*

Submitted on: 2/3/2017 Testimony for TRE/WTL on Feb 6, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Rosemarie Patronette	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Friday, February 3, 2017 1:29 PM
То:	TRE Testimony
Cc:	johnnaylor@kula.us
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB842 on Feb 6, 2017 14:00PM

Submitted on: 2/3/2017 Testimony for TRE/WTL on Feb 6, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submit	ted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
John N	AYLOR	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Access to the ocean and alternative transport solutions are crucial to all Hawaii residents.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov		
Sent:	Saturday, February 4, 2017 9:24 AM		
То:	TRE Testimony		
Cc:	lwparisfrance@hotmail.com		
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB842 on Feb 6, 2017 14:00PM		

Submitted on: 2/4/2017 Testimony for TRE/WTL on Feb 6, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
linda willaby	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am most concerned about the environmental impacts of a harbor at Kapoho Bay or further development at Pohoiki and increased traffic and development on the Red Road. A channel would have to be dredged across the coral reef at Kapoho. There are private residences all along that area that would be impacted. I am against any development of a harbor in the Kapoho Bay area.

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I have been a current resident of the small community surrounding Kapoho Bay for the last 29 years. I swim in the bay weekly and see Green sea turtles almost every time I swim. There are also many schools of small tropical fish of various types. In addition to that there is a ancient Hawaiian fishpond which is zone conservation at the very head of the bay. The bay is very shallow in many places and the surf breaks on to large Pahoehoe slabs. The bay is surrounded by residential houses except for where the lava flowed in 1960 from the lighthouse by Cape Kumukahi, the easternmost point of the Big Island

I hold a Masters Degree in Ocean Engineering from the University of Miami, Coral Gables. In order to make Kapoho Bay into a commercial boat harbor extensive blasting and dredging would be required. When my wife and I moved to the Big Island in 1975 from Oahu there were plans to build a boat harbor in the still uninhabited area down by the lighthouse, similar to what was built in Honokohau in 1970. I suggest you research and modify that plan instead of wasting our money on another feasibility study that will most likely go nowhere because of the obvious environmental impact.

James Morlock 808 965 7510 jimtricia@hawaiiantel.net

## A Lono Lyman

P. O. Box 374 Hilo, Hawaii 96721-0374 (808) 935-5810

February 5, 2017

Subject: Testimony on Senate Bill 842, Relating to a Kapoho Bay Harbor Feasibility Study

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

I am Lono Lyman and a direct linear descendent of Rufus and Hualani Lyman, who were my great-great-grandparents. They acquired, from the estate of Charles Kanaina, the Ahupua'a of Kapoho and Kula and the Ili of Halekamahina, and the Kapoho Ahupua'a includes Kapoho Bay. Land Commission Boundary testimony for certificates 124 and 126 state that the Kapoho Ahupua'a included fishing rights that extended out to sea.

According to the United States Geological Service, Hawaii Volcano Observatory: "Kapoho, which means 'the depression,' hosts a prominent graben that down-dropped abruptly in 1868, 1924, and 1960-less than one day before an eruption." The coastline between Cape Kumukahi and Kaimu has been subject to these subsidence events and on-going subsidence. Further, Kapoho bay has intact submerged fishponds.

Respectful, I request that Senate Bill 842 be tabled.

Mahalo a nui loa,

# A Lono Lyman

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Sunday, February 5, 2017 11:38 AM
То:	TRE Testimony
Cc:	budscasa@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB842 on Feb 6, 2017 14:00PM

Submitted on: 2/5/2017 Testimony for TRE/WTL on Feb 6, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Lloyd Kinsey	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Comments: Creating a boat harbor in Kapoho Bay would ruin both the bay and the beautiful coral gardens that are just south of the bay in the marine preserve. It would destroy one of the few areas for snorkeling on the eastern side of the Big Island. It would diminish the quality of life for those who live here. We have seen how dredging for a harbor in Oceanside, CA ruined beaches for many miles south. Please don't let that happen to one of the few water recreation areas we have on this side of the island. Please don't waste our tax money on a study of this bad idea. Lloyd Kinsey

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Harald Barkhoff RR2 Box 3944 Pahoa HI 96778 Kapoho Beach Lots

**Testimony SB 842** 

February 4, 17

Aloha kākou,

Herewith I strongly oppose SB 842 looking into the feasibility of building a harbor at Kapoho Bay on Hawai'i Island.

I have been a permanent resident of Kapoho Beach Lots for over five years. For over a decade I have been visiting Kapoho Bay and Pohoiki (for surfing and swimming). I am a Professor and current Chair of the Department of Kinesiology & Exercise Sciences at UH Hilo. My research is focusing on water sports within our Hawai'i environments. I believe I have an understanding of the current situation at Kapoho bay as well as the possible impact a harbor would have on it.

Kapoho Bay is one of the very few places on the east side of Hawai'i Island where people can safely enter fairly clean and warm water for swimming, surfing, paddling, snorkeling etc. The world famous Champagne Ponds in the northern part of Kapoho Bay and the UH Hilo Marine Preserve in Vacationland in the southern part of the bay are providing locals as well as tourists a very unique and sensitive natural environment. Both parts are protected by an outer reef from swells and large waves. From almost daily swims in the bay I know that there are only a few very narrow parts in the outer reef that (only at high tide) make it possible to get through with a small canoe or paddle board. Trying to launch a boat (not even talking about a larger passenger boat than used currently at Pohoiki harbor) would require to cut away large parts of the reef and/or rocks. This means destroying a unique and sensitive environment and puts residents and their homes at risk for incoming swells and large waves. It also would change the whole natural balance of the unique water world in the bay that is currently protected by the reef so that larger fish cannot get through.

I have seen over all these years an increase in boats and their sizes at Pohoiki Bay to bring tourists out to watch the lava. Keiki are swimming in the bay and are in constant danger to be run over by the bigger and bigger boats. In fact those boats that now come on trailers do not fit even on the roads coming down from Pahoa passing Kapoho going to Pohoiki. They need to drive in the middle of the 2 lane road (1 lane each side) creating additional danger on the roads. I cannot even imagine what this would mean for Kapoho Bay where residences are very close to each other around the whole bay. I have also experienced the additional pollution that a harbor and large boats bring to the ocean, and the whole environment around it. While I believe having an option for an additional harbor is beneficial, Kapoho is surely not the place for it. There was a document years back that indicated harbor plans at a protected bay close to Kumukahi Light house. I believe that could be a solution. There are no residents, and the infrastructure could possibly be build.

Mahalo nui loa for taking the time to read my testimony. I also thank you for your kind consideration of my strong opposition to SB842.

I lā maika'i aloharald

(harald barkhoff) harald@hawaii.edu 808-9909939

#### **TESTIMONY ON SB842 - NO**

I agree with expanding the boat harbor at Pohoiki, but am against spending money or effort on a feasibility study for Kapoho Bay, an area that is already seeing so much illegal camping on DLNR land. Overuse near the Champagne Pond has led to a decline in the amount and quantity of marine life and water quality in the bay. A new marina, wharf, dock, port in Kapoho Bay is sure to accelerate the degradation. Why not use monies that would be spent on a feasibility study regarding Kapoho Bay, instead to upgrade the Pohoiki harbor so that it can be used by larger boats safely? In other words, I cannot support SB 842.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Friday, February 3, 2017 1:53 PM
То:	TRE Testimony
Cc:	rrh38114@yahoo.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB842 on Feb 6, 2017 14:00PM

Submitted on: 2/3/2017 Testimony for TRE/WTL on Feb 6, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Roger Harris	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I have lived in Kapoho for 12+ years and have seen, even in that relatively short time span, a decline in the amount and quantity of marine life and water quality. A new marina, wharf, dock, port in Kapoho Bay is sure to accelerate the degradation. Why not use monies to upgrade the Pohoiki harbor so that it can be used by larger boats safely? In other words, I ask you to vote NO on SB 842.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov		
Sent:	Sunday, February 5, 2017 5:34 PM		
То:	TRE Testimony		
Cc:	john@sustainableislandproducts.com		
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB842 on Feb 6, 2017 14:00PM		

Submitted on: 2/5/2017 Testimony for TRE/WTL on Feb 6, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
JOHN ELKJER	Individual	Support	No

Comments: A much needed harbor in a highly used area for both recreation as well as commerce.

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