DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER



CRAIG K. HIRAI DIRECTOR

ROBERT YU DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAI'I DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE P.O. BOX 150 HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

### WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE ON SENATE BILL NO. 1412, S.D. 2, H.D. 1

### April 1, 2021 2:30 P.M. Via Videoconference

RELATING TO SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS FOR THE HONOKEA SURF VILLAGE

The Department of Budget and Finance offers the following comments on Senate Bill No. 1412, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, which authorizes the issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds (SPRB) to assist HK Management, LLC, a Hawaii limited liability company, in financing or refinancing of costs of planning, designing, constructing, reconstructing, renovating, acquiring, equipping, and improving surf industry center facilities pursuant to Part V, Chapter 39A, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The Department would like to inform the Legislature and prospective SPRB parties that should the legislation be approved, approval of the SPRB issuance and conduit loan will require further review of the financing proposal to ensure compliance with all federal, state and credit underwriting requirements. For additional information, please consult our FAQ located at the following link: <u>http://budget.hawaii.gov/wp-</u>

content/uploads/2012/11/SPRB-FAQ.pdf.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 11:55:22 AM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Ş	Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
	Jackie Lucas	Treehouse Coworking	Support	No

Comments:

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 12:09:31 PM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dawn Hunt	Hawaii Ocean Education Foundation	Support	No

### Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Dawn Hunt, co-founder of 501(c)3 Hawaii Ocean Education Foundation. I am in strong support of SB1412 as it will provide a platform for education for our keiki and a place for activity and growth.

It is also a great way to stimulate the local economy without requiring the State's capital. This will create revenue for the State, create 200 local jobs, stimulate the film and surf industries, support local retailers, and help our community stay healthy.

Hawaii is the birthplace of surfing, and this project helps us to maintain our place in surfing history. COVID-19 has highlighted the need to be less reliant on tourism, and this project can help to achieve that goal.

Mahalo.





74 Kihapai Street, Kailua, HI 96734 Ph: 808.346.3239 Em: kailaw.la@gmail.com

March 31, 2021

Chair, Sylvia Luke

Vice Chair, Ty Cullen

Members, Patrick Pihana Branco, Amy A. Perruso, Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Jackson D. Sayama, Daniel Holt, Adrian K. Tam, Greggor Ilagan Tina Wildberger, Bertrand Kobayashi, Kyle T. Yamashita, Lisa Marten, Bob McDermott, & Scott Y. Nishimoto

# RE: SB1412 SD2 HD1 RELATING TO SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS FOR THE HONOKEA SURF VILLAGE.

Aloha Distinguished Chair, Vice Chair, and Members,

My name is Kai Lawrence, and I am the Surfing Lawyer (www.hikailaw.com). I focus primarily on Appellate Law, but I have intentionally embraced my surf background, as well as my love of the ocean, and have made them an integral part of my practice.

I am writing today in strong support of the above bill both as an avid surfer and as an accomplished attorney. Passage of this bill will allow for more economic development and opportunity in our state while not requiring State funds and resources. Not only will the above bill and the resulting development create annual revenue for the state, but it will create jobs, stimulate non-tourism related industries such as surf and film, it will support local retailers, and it will help our community stay focused on health and wellness. For these and other reasons, I strongly favor this bill.

Thank you for your time and attention. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or if you would like to schedule a "board" meeting. Have a great day.

Sincerely,

Kai Lawrence, Surfing Lawyer

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 11:43:45 AM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew Rozwood	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill for many reasons. It is a great way to stimulate the local economy without requiring the State's capital. It will create revenue for the State, create jobs, stimulate the film and surf industries, support local retailers, and help our community stay healthy. I also have a daughter that I would love to be able to take here to teach her how to surf in a safe and controlled maner. Hawaii is the birthplace of surfing, and this project helps us to maintain our place in surfing history. COVID-19 has highlighted the need to be less reliant on tourism and this project helps achieve that goal.

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 11:45:39 AM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matt Lozano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 11:48:14 AM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maile Thompson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 11:52:28 AM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lars Fitter	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 11:58:07 AM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
danny kokee coscina	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 12:34:36 PM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeffrey Laupola	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

Tuesday, March 30, 2021

Jeffrey Laupola

# **Support** for S.B. No. 1412 SD2 HD1, RELATING TO SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS FOR THE HONOKEA SURF VILLAGE

I am submitting testimony in **support** of The Honokea Surf Village.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging for so many of our Ohanas in Hawaii. The coming budget revenue shortfalls will impact government services and any means to bring in additional revenue to our economy for our local jobs, businesses, and government should be supported by all. Special Purpose Revenue Bonds is such a vehicle to help our local Hawaii economy without straining government resources.

Furthermore, this project belongs in Hawaii because Hawaii is the birthplace of surfing. While we all prefer the ocean for surfing and watersports, this project provides

a safe environment for locals and visitors to enjoy when waves are non-existent or too hazardous.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. Mahalo for your service to the people of Hawaii as our elected leaders.

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 12:41:40 PM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Hayashida	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 12:46:05 PM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Blair Suzuki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in STRONG SUPPORT of this bill.

I believe this is a great way to stimulate the local economy without requiring the State's capital. This will create revenue for the State, create 200 jobs, stimulate the film and surf industries, support local retailers, and help our community stay healthy.

Hawaii is the birthplace of surfing, and this project helps us to maintain our place in surfing history. COVID-19 has highlighted the need to be less reliant on tourism and this project helps achieve that goal.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

<u>SB-1412-HD-1</u> Submitted on: 3/30/2021 1:08:14 PM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John D. Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this to be passed through legislature.

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 1:41:20 PM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sevren Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 1:53:43 PM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Miles Jones	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill because it is a great way to stimulate our local Hawaii economy without raising taxes or state capital. This plan will create jobs while also stimulating local surf businesses. Hawaii is the birthplace of surfing and this is a way to share our heritage and culture with our visitors and locals. This will be beneficial to both local and visitors, and will make use of land that is currently unused.

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 2:11:05 PM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 2:42:47 PM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Kinoshita	Individual	Support	No

### Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill because it is a great way to stimulate the local economy without requiring the State's capital. This will create revenue for the State, create 200 jobs, stimulate the film and surf industries, support local retailers, and help our community stay healthy. Hawaii is the birthplace of surfing, and this project helps us to maintain our place in surfing history. COVID-19 has highlighted the need to be less reliant on tourism and this project helps achieve that goal.

As a former surfer, windsurfer and water enthusiast, these kinds of recreational facilities provides our community with positive, wholesome, healthy recreational options. While helping our economy to be less reliant on tourism it also supports it helping us to maintain our status as a favored tourist destination.

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 6:04:55 PM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katie Knieriem	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill because it is a great way to stimulate the local economy without requiring the stat's capital. This will create revenue for the state, add 200 jobs, stimulate the film and surf industries, support local retailers, and help our community stay healthy. Hawaii is the birthplace of surfing, and this project helps us to maintain our place in surfing history. COVID-19 has highlighted the need to be less reliant on tourism and this project helps achieve that goal.

Thank you for supporting us, it is greatly appreciated.

### SB-1412-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 7:20:16 PM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Davin Kazama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha All,

I am in strong support of this bill because it is a great way to stimulate the local economy without requiring the State's capital. This will create revenue for the State, create 200 jobs, stimulate the film and surf industries, support local retailers, and help our community stay healthy. Hawaii is the birthplace of surfing, and this project helps us to maintain our place in surfing history. COVID-19 has highlighted the need to be less reliant on tourism and this project helps achieve that goal.

Surfing is an important part of many local lives, including those of my family. I have seen the self-confidence of my children grow as their surfing skills developed. I believe that when people are afforded a platform to develop their work ethic and self-confidence, they grow into productive and life-giving citizens. Thus, the Honokea Surf Village and Resort is truly more than a surfing development, it is an investment into the future health and well-being of our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

### SB-1412-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 7:59:27 PM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael D'Addario	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii is the birthplace of surfing, and this park will enable our state to continue to grow our surf legacy and culture. This park will stimulate our local economy, boost tourism without destroying our natural resources, and give residents another healthy activity.

Covid 19 has devastated our economy, and many of the lost jobs may never return. This project will create new jobs and add much needed revenue to the state of Hawaii, without requiring State capital to be invested.

I strongly support this project, as I see limited downside risk to the state.

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 1:03:07 AM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Trevor D Williams	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill because it is a great way to stimulate the local economy without requiring the State's capital. This will create revenue for the State, create 200 jobs, stimulate the film and surf industries, support local retailers, and help our community stay healthy. Hawaii is the birthplace of surfing, and this project helps us to maintain our place in surfing history. COVID-19 has highlighted the need to be less reliant on tourism and this project helps achieve that goal. I have personally worked with the Honeokea team and can vouch for their character and dedication to preserving the Hawaiian culture.

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 7:33:49 AM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
alyssa creps	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill because it is a great way to stimulate the local economy without requiring the State's capital. This will create revenue for the State, create 200 jobs, stimulate the film and surf industries, support local retailers, and help our community stay healthy. Hawaii is the birthplace of surfing, and this project helps us to maintain our place in surfing history. COVID-19 has highlighted the need to be less reliant on tourism and this project helps achieve that goal. [insert any personal comments here]

Thank you for supporting us, it's greatly appreciated. Please let us know if you have any questions."

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 7:45:55 AM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Ledesma	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

<u>SB-1412-HD-1</u> Submitted on: 3/31/2021 7:57:38 AM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexsandro Arasawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a great way to help our economy without costing the tax payers any capital. Looking forward we need to look at more solutions like this for smart tourism. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Mahalo,

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 8:48:39 AM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judith B Knieriem	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a strong support of this bill because it is a great way to stimulate the local economy without requiring the State's capital. This will create revenue for the State, create 200 jobs, stimulate the film and surf industries, support local retailers, and help our community stay healthy. Hawaii is the birthplace of surfing, and this project helps us maintain our place in surfing history. COVID-19 has highlighted the need to be less reliant on tourism and this project helps achieve that goal.

Thank you,

Judy Knieriem

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 9:06:39 AM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Will Housel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 9:23:14 AM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emilee Turner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representatives,

I strongly support SB1412 for many reasons. I see this bill as an opportunity to stimulate the Hawaii economy in a sustainable and culturally relevant manner. This bill will create numerous jobs for decades to come and will bring revenue to an area of Oahu in need of development and greater opportunites for the local community. The bill will create jobs in the film, surf, retail, service, hospitality, and construction fields. The bill will help Hawaii to become less dependent on tourism for jobs and revenue. Additionally this bill has the potential to create educational programs for youth and visitors about ocean and water safety, as well as Hawaiian surf history and culture. I cannot think of a better project for Hawaii and I fully support this bill. Mahalo.

<u>SB-1412-HD-1</u> Submitted on: 3/31/2021 10:24:15 AM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
antony j ellman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support this measure to improve the economy of O'ahu and celebrate the great sport of surfing!

### SB-1412-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 10:33:42 AM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrew Sutton	Individual	Support	No

### Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill because it is a great way to stimulate the local economy. This will create revenue for the State, create jobs, stimulate the film and surf industries, support local retailers, and help our community stay healthy. Hawaii is the birthplace of surfing, and this project helps us to maintain our place in surfing history. COVID-19 has highlighted the need to be less reliant on tourism and this project helps achieve that goal.

The Honokea team are dedicated to creating a sustainable development that respects and gives back to the local community. I truly believe the development would bring a world-class project to our backyard, a community resource and gathering place that honors and celebrates Hawaii's unique culture, its place in surfing history, wellness, arts, and the future of sports.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Sutton

### Regarding SB 1412

Rarely does the Legislature have the opportunity to make a defining decision regarding a project that will enhance the State's revenue stream, stimulate the film and surf industries and support local retailers. SB1412 which you are considering supporting is undoubtedly one of those opportunities.

Creative projects of this nature rarely occur and you have the opportunity to support a State revenueneutral project that will strategically advance the "surf culture and industry" of Hawaii – bringing technology to the sport, opening it up to a more residents and increasing the inclusiveness of the sport.

Imagine, in the future, local families and residents streaming to a surf village for a day of enjoyment centered round one of the pillars of Hawaiian uniqueness - the birthplace of surfing! You can further imagine the attractiveness of this village to tourists; and, of course, the resultant importance of tax income generation which is foremost on our minds these days! All of this will occur due to the precepts of sustainability and respect for our history imbedded in the design and operation of the village.

Mahalo for your support so far, look deep into the project, and make a defining decision that will enhance and benefit our Hawaii nei.

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 11:08:05 AM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vailima	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 11:55:23 AM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brandie R Markos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill because it is a great way to stimulate the local economy without requiring the State's capital. This will create revenue for the State, create 200 jobs, stimulate the film and surf industries, support local retailers, and help our community stay healthy. Hawaii is the birthplace of surfing, and this project helps us to maintain our place in surfing history. COVID-19 has highlighted the need to be less reliant on tourism and this project helps achieve that goal.

Mahalo,

**Brandie Markos** 

### SB-1412-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 12:05:12 PM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Devon Chow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill because it is a great way to stimulate the local economy without requiring the State's capital. This will create revenue for the State, create 200 jobs, stimulate the film and surf industries, support local retailers, and help our community stay healthy. Hawaii is the birthplace of surfing, and this project helps to maintain Hawaii's place in surfing history. COVID-19 has highlighted the need to be less reliant on tourism and this project can help achieve that goal.

Thank you for supporting us, it's greatly appreciated.

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 12:29:24 PM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

S	ubmitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
J	lanell Torres	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To Whom it may concern,

I am in strong support of this bill because it is a great way to stimulate the local economy without requiring the State's capital. This will create revenue for the State, create 200 jobs, stimulate the film and surf industries, support local retailers, and help our community stay healthy. Hawaii is the birthplace of surfing, and this project helps us to maintain our place in surfing history. COVID-19 has highlighted the need to be less reliant on tourism and this project helps achieve that goal.

Sincerely,

Janell Torres

<u>SB-1412-HD-1</u> Submitted on: 3/31/2021 12:35:22 PM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Louis DAvanzo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this. We need the jobs and the revenue. Plus, as the birthplace of surfing, this will provide an important cultural education resource to guests from around the world as well as residents. A perfect fit on many levels for our State.

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 12:51:06 PM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Opheim	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 1:39:17 PM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephenie Fleegle	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 1:51:49 PM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maggie Engebretson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in very strong support of this bill as it supports the local evonomy without requiring any State capitol, creating revenue for the State along with hundreds of jobs, stimulus for the surf, film, and related industries, and promoting healthy lifestyles among our community.

I agree strongly that we need to be much less reliant on tourism as an industry, and the surf park development would absolutely be progress toward that goal.

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 1:53:58 PM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr Chloe Panizza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 1:55:34 PM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bryon Milam	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill because it is a great way to stimulate the local economy without requiring the State's capital. This will create revenue for the State, create 200 jobs, stimulate the film and surf industries, support local retailers, and help our community stay healthy. Hawaii is the birthplace of surfing, and this project helps us to maintain our place in surfing history. COVID-19 has highlighted the need to be less reliant on tourism and this project helps achieve that goal.

Respectfully

Bryon Milam

### SB-1412-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 2:08:44 PM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kenan Knieriem	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Cullen, and Committee Members,

I am in very strong support of this bill. This is a non-tourism-related way to strengthen and diversify our economy without costing the state capital or financial risk.

This project doesn't require any state capital while creating revenue, jobs, and supporting a network of local retailers and community members who would directly benefit from the development including the film and surf industries.

A great way to support the surfing industry in the birthplace of the sport, and help propel this part of Native Hawaiian culture/history into the future.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Kenan Knieriem

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 2:22:25 PM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Su	bmitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
	billy pratt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke and Committee Members,

I am in strong support of this bill because it is a great way to stimulate our local economy without requiring the State's capital. This project will create revenue for the StateI am in strong support of this bill because it is a great way to stimulate our local economy without requiring the states capital. This project will create revenue for the State, open up approximately 200 new jobs, aid in stimulating the film and surf industries, offer additional opportunities for local retailers and in general, help our community to stay healthy. Hawaii is the birthplace of surfing and this project helps our island State to maintain our place in the history and progression of the sport of surfing. Notwithstanding already having the greatest ocean environment in the world, this project will allow us to compete with the innovation already progressing around the world with wave riding parks and family gathering centers. This not only will bolster our economy by providing jobs and generating revenue that stays in Hawaii, but also prove to be a training ground for our future generations of professional and Olympic level competitors. IMUA!

Mahalo for allowing me this opportunity to testify.

Much Aloha,

**Billy Pratt** 

Past President & Board Memeber

Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation

Co-Founder & Chairman

Hawaii Waterman Hall of Fame

LATE \*Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

### <u>SB-1412-HD-1</u>

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 2:50:52 PM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lan A. Masterson	Individual	Support	No

### Comments:

I am in strong support of SB1412 to authorize the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds for the Honokea Surf Village as needed. Without requiring the State's capital, the creation of Honokea Surf Village will allow Hawai'i to establish a technologicallyadvanced presence within a new field of the surfing industry that supports surfing as our Individual State Sport. Not only will this venture create jobs, stimulate the film industries, support local retailers, and help our community stay healthy in these challenging times, it will strongly position surfing as a Hawaiian activity shared with the world.

That is what is unique about Honokea Surf Village, the Hawaiian values inputted by the most advanced and professional watermen and women in the world. It is so important for the future of Hawai'i as well as surfing to ensure that the Hawaiian values which surfing has always centered around are shared out from Hawai'i, so that surfing retains its regal Pacific past and connection to the aloha spirit, even as a growing community of 20 million surfers worldwide.

Surfing is now an Olympic activity, one of the oldest sports in the Olympics. In our Anthropology of Surfing class at UH MÄ• noa, we discuss wave parks in relation to the Olympic Games, recognizing that some countries may be land-bound, or have cold waters or dangerous coastlines; wave parks become an important technological advancement that supports globalized surfing. It also creates economic opportunity where a void once existed, as surfing has become popularized all around the world due to the travel phenomenon that is associated with social media and a surfer's lifelong search for the perfect wave!

As a global surfing destination, O'ahu's economy would benefit from the many surfers from both home and abroad that would want to experience this wave park just as many have enjoyed other wave park destinations across the globe. Our advantage is that we are the cradle of surfing. The gift came from our shores.

The vision here is a green, sustainably-operated surfing park that is thematically Hawaiian by design, utilizing native plants and native technologies to educate patrons along the way, at a wave park where young lifeguards can be trained as well as a generation of surfers grow, all of whom would better understand their relationship to their surfing past as uniquely Hawaiian—a national pastime of the Hawaiian people then and now! Furthermore, in Hawai'i's efforts to create a sustainable future, Honokea Surf Village can serve as an outdoor classroom of new technologies.

By supporting SB 1412, we are ultimately supporting the goals of the proposed Hawai'i State Surfing Commission as well, SB 1459, which promotes surfing industry, roots, and culture, as emanating from Hawai'i. Please give us the opportunity to grow surfing as a traditional Hawaiian cultural activity, the benefits are exponential even long before tourism returns to our shores...

Mahalo, and much aloha. Ian 'Akahi Masterson

LATE \*Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

# <u>SB-1412-HD-1</u>

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 5:59:22 PM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kinsey Clark	Individual	Support	No

Comments: