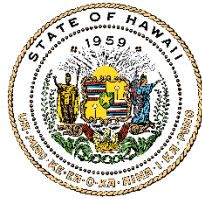


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA**

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Thursday, March 2, 2023
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1136, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO STATE PARKS**

Senate Bill 1136, Senate Draft 1 proposes to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to conduct a study of the carrying capacity of Mākena State Park in the County of Maui and appropriates funds. **The Department respectfully opposes this measure.**

Mākena State Park is comprised of Oneloa (Big Beach) and Pu'u Ōla'i (Little Beach). At nearly two-thirds of a mile long (3,800 ft) Oneloa is one of Maui's largest and one of its most undeveloped beaches. Due to the remote location, Mākena State Park is one of 7 park units across the State with a live in Park Caretaker, who is specifically assigned to Mākena to maintain the park's natural amenities and limited built infrastructure.

The bathymetry of the shoreline creates a significant shore break, which has historically resulted in many severe spinal injuries. The Department's Division of State Parks (State Parks) contracts the services of Maui County Lifeguards, and the length of the beach requires that two lifeguard towers are in place. State Parks' current annual contract cost for lifeguard salaries is \$1,610,237 dollars. The lifeguards have not indicated to State Parks that current patronage exceeds their ability to provide adequate coverage and ocean safety.

Management of rubbish requires only one 8-yard dumpster to collect all the trash gathered throughout the park daily by the Park Caretaker, it is emptied twice a week. Due to the lack of water and comfort stations, there are 10 standard and 2 ADA porta potties within the park that are serviced 3 times per week at a cost to State Parks of \$27,600.00 annually.

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

LAURA H.E. KAAKUA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

There is Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funds that has been deployed for planning and environmental review for the construction of a comfort station and rinsing showers, but that is now subject to a legal challenge that may jeopardize the ability to construct the amenities before the CIP funds lapse. Dune protection measures are underway by replanting with native coastal plants and roping off about 150 feet of dune sections towards the south end of the park where iwi have been inadvertently exposed due to coastal processes.

The Department appreciates this measure's intent to better support Mākena State Park, but asks that State Parks be allowed to keep its focus on implementing parking improvements rather than diverting staff time to conduct or oversee a study. Department management is already working with urgency to address the intent of the bill. Current parking at both paved parking lots consists of a total of 108 marked stalls. State Parks plans to pave and stripe the north and south parking lots and stripe the shoulder areas of the entry road. This will create 97 authorized stalls in the north parking lot and 41 authorized stalls in the south parking lot for a total of 138 stalls. This paving and striping will increase safety but will not significantly add stalls or patronage because the adjacent shoulder areas are already being heavily used informally for parking. The new striping and paving will organize how the public parks in these areas, and establish a limit for the entire park of 246 cars that will be comprise the total parking capacity. There are cars that frequently park along the exterior county roadway. This is partially due to out of state visitors who frequently park along the mauka shoulder of the roadway to avoid paying the parking fee. When others see the cars along the roadway, there is a tendency to follow suit as others may think the lots are full. However, the interior lots rarely are all full.

To deter people from parking along the exterior county roadway and to further stabilize access, State Parks is planning on installing an exterior fence to restrict the people who access from outside the park boundary and to further ensure that capacity is regulated by reducing the exterior parking, as the park boundary is very porous. If Maui County restricts parking along the county roadway shoulder outside the park boundary, this action coupled with a secure fence will allow State Parks to establish a daily patronage limit and deploy a reservation system to implement that limit.

When State Parks rebids the parking contract by the end of the year, a reservation system based on lot turnover can be established that sets a temporal capacity over the span of a day, and ensures that there will always be free parking for local residents as well. These limits can be adjusted to allow for more resident parking and entry on weekends and holidays to ensure free, non-reservation-based access for our local residents, such as in place for Ha'ena and Wai'anapanapa State Parks, and Diamond Head State Monument. In addition, State Parks is analyzing Iao Valley State Monument in collaboration with the current parking vendor to also establish reservation-based access for out of state visitors.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

KEKUHAUPIO R. AKANA
Acting Managing Director



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February 27, 2023

TO: Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Honorable Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor

DATE: February 27, 2023

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF SB 1136, SD1, RELATING TO STATE PARKS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The purpose of this Act is to appropriate moneys for the department of land and natural resources to conduct a carrying capacity study, which will be submitted before the legislature convenes for the regular session of 2024.

I **SUPPORT** this measure for the following reasons:

1. Access to Makena State Park is an ongoing concern for Maui residents due to an excess of visitor traffic. This measure supports means to ensure that residents' public access to these important community assets will be preserved.
2. The measure will reduce the impact of humans on the health and abundance of natural resources, cultural resources, and native species within the park.

For the foregoing reasons, I **SUPPORT** this measure.

SB-1136-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 8:31:17 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Young MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

please pass this bill

SB-1136-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 8:58:19 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lucienne de Naie	Testifying for Sierra Club Maui	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Sierra Club Maui strongly supports this long overdue effort to help understand the best management strategies for Maui's most popular state beach park. Please support this bill. Popular support via surveys and long term consultations with park users and local organizations concerned with recreation, wildlife protection and wetlands protection have all lined up behind the urgent need for a carrying capacity study for makena State park.

Mahalo for your consideration

Lucienne de Naie, Chairperson, Sierra Club maui Group

SB-1136-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 9:41:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Albert Perez	Testifying for Maui Tomorrow Foundation, Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Maui Tomorrow Foundation strongly supports this important bill. This beach park was created through citizen action, but local residents are often unable to find parking due to overwhelming tourist demand. Rather than just accommodating overtourism, this fragile place needs a carrying capacity study to determine what level of use it can handle without destroying the resources that the park was established to protect. Mahalo.