



Ka Moku'aina 'O Hawai'i Aha Moku O Pae'Aina State of Hawai'i Aha Moku

P. O. Box 621 Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Testimony of the Hawaii State Aha Moku
Before the House Committee on Water and Land
Tuesday, February 14, 2023
9:30 A.M.

Conference Room 430 & Videoconference

IN SUPPORT of House Bill 1267

Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources

House Bill 1267 requires the department of land and natural resources (DLNR) to develop and implement a management system for Ka'ena point state park, Makua, and Keawa'ula regions. It appropriates funds.

The Hawaii State Aha Moku (Aha Moku) strongly supports this measure.

Known for its exceptional beauty, cultural and historical significance, Ka'ena, Makua and Keawa'ula Ahupua'a in the Moku of Waianae are held in reverence by the communities and Native Hawaiian generational families of those places. For the Hawaiian communities, these lands are known for their *la'au* (medicinal), historical *lua* (warrior training) and endemic and indigenous plants and wildlife. The mo'olelo (histories) of these ahupua'a are significant. Ka'ena is also particularly revered as a *Leina a ka'uhane*, a place where when one dies, their spirit leaps into the nether world.

DLNR has done their best to manage this state park with their limited capacities such as closing the park at night. However, because these places have no communities living in them, illegal driving on the beaches, unmanaged camping, illegal drug activities, dangerous accretions of needles, drug paraphernalia and human waste, the residents of Waianae do not often go to these places.

Additionally, tourism will grow significantly as the pandemic is better managed. The anticipated growth of 10,000,000 visitors by 2025 to Ka'ena, Keawaula and Makua is daunting. We need a better plan to better protect our natural and cultural resources, and to protect the sacredness of these places. The people of Waianae need to be able to utilize their traditional gathering and fishing practices safely. These include fishing at night, a practice that Waianae was once known for by generational families. Continuous illegal activities do not recognize or practice resource sustainability.

The concerns of the Public Trust including the generational and lineal descendants of the kanaka maoli of Ka'ena, Makua and Keawa'ula are carefully stated in SB 1258. The solutions that will finally protect our lands, waters, marine resources lay in the requirement of the DLNR to develop and implement an improved management system for Ka'ena, Keawa'ula and Maku to make these places thriving and safe now and for future generations. We ask this committee to adopt HB 1267.

Respectfully,

Leimana DaMate, Luna Alaka'i/Executive Director

Hawaii State Aha Moku

808-640-1214, Leimana.k.damate@hawaii.gov

Pae'Aina: Moku O Keawe, Moku O Piilani, Moku O Kanaloa, Nana'i Kaula, Moloka'i Pule O'o, Moku O Kakuhihewa, Manokalanipo, Ka'Aina O Kawelonakala

JOSH GREEN, M.D.

SYLVIA LUKELIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA





STATE OF HAWAI'I | 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 House Committee on WATER & LAND

Tuesday, February 14, 2023 8:30 AM State Capitol, Conference Room 430

In consideration of HOUSE BILL 1267 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill 1267 proposes to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to develop and implement a management system for Ka'ena Point State Park, Mākua, and Keawa'ula regions and appropriates funds. The Department supports this measure and suggests the following amendments.

There is considerable interest statewide to replicate the destination management system that the Department's State Parks Division (State Parks) pioneered with the Hā'ena, Kaua'i community and implemented under a Governor's Disaster Proclamation in 2018. However, the planning and community engagement process to produce the final EIS and master plan to calibrate and establish visitor limits took over a decade of engagement. Establishing temporal limits and fee-based access for out-of-state visitors requires on site presence and knowledge of visitation patterns. Wai'ānapanapa State Park and Diamond Head State Monument, the subsequent park units with reservation and fee-based access, both have on-site private sector parking managers to ensure compliance and monitor and as warranted, adjust the hourly and substantial influx of visitors.

Ka'ena Point State Park (KPSP) has two unique and distinctly different public access patterns and management. The entire park is a cultural landscape and is considered a leina: a culturally significant place on every island where, after death, spirits would jump into the next world. The Mokule'ia section has unlimited hiking and a permit requirement for vehicular access via a controlled gate. Hiking and fishing are the primary activities. The Mākua/Keawa'ula section has a series of gates and as the bill accurately states, the coastal Mākua gates have been closed since 2016, eliminating the huge impacts of upwards of 800 people illegally camping on 3-day weekends at a park unit with no restrooms. The Keawa'ula gate is now closed each night through a contract with a security company and currently costs approximately

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
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

\$100,000 a year for this service. While there is still occasional illegal camping, the impacts have been substantially reduced. Ocean recreation, beach use, and fishing are the dominant recreational activities.

Regarding House Bill 1267, State Parks has been engaged in some preliminary discussion over the years with community and legislators on the need for enhanced management at the Mākua and Keawa'ula sections of KPSP. However, State Parks does not feel the Hā'ena advanced reservation model is the best fit at KPSP. For reservation-based access there must be a critical mass of out-of-state visitors that congest the park unit to warrant a reservation and a fee for access – to pay for the staff to manage the access restrictions. These parks may not have patronage numbers that would make this model economically viable.

State Parks could consider, as our special fund revenue increases, to contract and pay for additional management services, such as we do now for the gate closing at Keawa'ula. Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funds in the amount of \$2.15 million dollars was approved for KPSP in both Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 (Act 88, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021) and FY2023 (Act 248, 2022). This is \$4.3 million dollars out of which planning is going to be conducted. Planning, such as is called out in the bill, could be accomplished while implementing the CIP. As such, additional funding is *not* needed to implement this measure.

It is important to note the KPSP has been nominated for a three-year study as to the eligibility of this park unit to be designated as a National Heritage Area. It is anticipated that if so designated, additional resources may become available for enhanced management.

The Department agrees that KPSP and its Mākua and Keawa'ula sections need updated community-based management planning and implementation and wants to and will conduct the community-based management planning that SECTION 2 requires. However, the Department has a responsibility to all park units and therefore as a matter of policy, does not want a specific park unit to be singled out as a top priority via legislation. respectfully requests that SECTION 2(a) be deleted. All of SECTION 3 should also be deleted. The Department will be able to fulfill the requirements of Section 2 without SECTION 2(a) and SECTION 3.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.



Founder of PROTECTORS OF PARADISE

Hawai'i State Parks Ka'ena Point State Park – Mākua & Keawa'ula Section, Curator

Aha Moku Representative

Lineal Descendant of Mākua

Before the COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 8:30am - State Capitol, Conference Room 430

In consideration of

HB1267 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES. Requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to develop and implement a management system for Ka'ena Point State Park, Mākua and Keawa'ula Regions. Appropriates funds.

POSTITION: SUPPORT WITHOUT RESERVATION

HB1267 proposes to create a management system for Ka'ena Point State Park, Mākua and Keawa'ula Regions that is unique and tailored to the specific criteria and needs of the area. **We strongly support this measure without reservation.**

The Leeward Coastline, home to the largest population of Native Hawaiians, has much deep rooted, rich, cultural history, many of which dates back to some of the first people here on this island. Due to limited resources and isolated locations, preserving the 'Āina and the culture of these areas has been an ongoing challenge and struggle. Ka'ena Point State Park, Mākua and Keawa'ula regions have been subject to desecration for decades.

Metaphorically speaking, if we were to compare the 'Āina to a person, it could be viewed as an individual who holds great mana and beauty and is admired for all that it possesses. Yet, it has been exploited, mistreated, and neglected for far too long. Its natural resources and cultural significance are being raped and ignored at the same time. How much longer will we continue to allow it to be taken for granted and advantage of? It is our kuleana to prioritize the implementation of solutions to ensure that the desecration and abuse comes to an end. That would be a good *start*. A major concern is that these places are being put on the map via social media, travel, film, torusim industries, etc., without the proper infrastructure in place to support this influx of visitors from all over the world. This imbalance has directly affected and has had many negative impacts on the 'Āina, Leeward communities and its people.

Emphasis and priority needs to be placed on the preservation and sustainability of Mākua and Keawa'ula to ensure that the life of this land, through the values and teachings of the Hawaiian culture, will flourish and harmoniously live through its people in connection with the 'Āina from Mauka to Makai. Many solutions have been presented in these regards, but have yet to be implemented due to lack of resources and proper support.

We staunchly believe that this bill will help provide sustainable protection and perpetuation of the 'Āina, culture, and its people—by prioritizing the specific regions of Mākua and Keawa'ula of Ka'ena Point State Park and creating a management system in collaboration with community stakeholders, this process can begin.

If one were to visit a museum where the world's most beautiful and precious gemstones were on display, the failure to have the necessary safeguards and protection in place would surely result in a loss with the possiblity of

the gems being stolen and never found again. In the Hawaiian culture, the 'Āina is not only our gem, it is our lifeline, and it is our kuleana to ensure that it is not lost and that the mana it possesses continues to thrive for future generations to come.

Mahalo nui loa for respectfully taking these concerns into consideration and the willingness to work with and support the local community so that solutions and balance can be obtained in the most pono fashion.

Mālama pono,

Micah Doane

Founder of Protectors of Paradise Hawai'i State Parks Ka'ena Point State Park — Mākua & Keawa'ula Section, Curator Aha Moku Representative

Lineal Descendant of Mākua

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 1:02:01 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Bishop	Friends of Hanauma Bay	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee members,

Please pass this bill to develop and implement a natural resource management system for these critical ecosystems.

With Aloha,

Lisa Bishop

President

Friends of Hanauma Bay



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February 13, 2023

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT FOR HB 1267 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

Dear Senate Committee Members,

The Outdoor Circle has advocated for beautiful and scenic roads and landscapes for over 110 years, and has backed up that advocacy with projects throughout the state that have resulted in many beautiful and treed roadways, parks, schools, military bases and much more. We seek to advance policies and practices that protect and preserve our unique beauty of Hawaii.

We support the HB 1267 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES plan to develop and implement a management system for Ka'ena Point State Park, Makua and Keawa'ula regions.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify,

Mulet

Winston Welch Executive Director

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 5:25:58 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT this bill which requires the department of land and natural resources to develop and implement a management system for Ka'ena point state park, Makua, and Keawa'ula regions. Appropriates funds. I believe this is necessary and would like to suggest that this bill includes a way that the public/legislator can oversee that this happens. The DLNR needs increased accountability

Cynthia K.L. Rezentes

Email: rezentesc@aol.com

February 14, 2023

Committee on Water & Land February 14, 2023, 8:30 a.m.

SUBJECT: HB 1267 RELATING OT THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Aloha Chair Ichiyama and members of the Committe,

As along-time resident of the Wai`anae Community who has been involved in various proposed management schemes for the Makua, Ke'awaula and Ka'ena portions of the Leeward Coast I support the intent of this bill.

I question why no reference to the Makua-Kaena State Park Final Environmental Impact Statement-1978 is made to address the numerous recommendations made in that document and never implemented by the Department of Land and Natural Resources. It may be appropriate to re-visit this FEIS in conjunction with the recommendations in SB 1258 to provide a complete oversight of the area for the betterment of the environment and community.

In addition, I would also recommend that reference should be made to a National Heritage Area consideration as has been introduced by both Congressman Case and Senator Hirono in past Congressional Sessions. The study that is being proposed would involve the community in helping to determine how to assist in the management of the area if approved and provide funds to do that management.

While looking at the Hāena State Park implementation of management is a good start, looking at past recommendations and keeping in mind the potential of future resources to assist in managing the area should be done at one time rather than piece meal where we may have to un-do some management schemes implemented now further down the road.

In summary, I support the intent of the bill but would love to see it expanded to take into account past considerations/recommendations and the potential for future assistance now rather than re-do efforts in the future.

Mahalo,

Cynthia K.L. Rezentes

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 7:06:57 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023~8:30:00~AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Amato	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1267

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 9:41:39 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
joseph simpliciano	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Aloha, members of the committee,

My name is Joseph K. Simpliciano Jr, and I am a lifelong resident and lineal descendant of Wai'anae. I am also a community advocate who speaks on behalf of and represents the Native Hawaiian community that consists of hunters and fishermen.

First, I OPPOSE BILL SB 1258 and HB 1267 for various reasons. I have reviewed that these bills did not make it to the Wai'anae and Nanakuli Neighborhood Boards. No committee meetings or resolutions or any such voting to approve these bills that would directly impact the community it intends to benefit. These bills are premature and need to be clearer and more concise to meet their wintends.

The State Parks directive and working group had solver seven years to procure a management plan, propose it to the community and submit it to the legislation. Instead, this Bill states they want to mimic a program at Haena State Parks in Kauai, vaguely suggesting that parking development would be inevitable for our community. However, Keawa'ula has only ten parking stalls; the rest areas, like Mākua, are undeveloped. The Wai'anae community wants to keep portions of Kaena State Park and Mākua undeveloped to deter commercialization which often brings overuse to preserve its natural beauty.

The parking charge? No more than ten developed parking stalls exist to include the proper signage, used legally for "charged parking," throughout the whole Kaena State Park from Kaneana Cave (Mākua) to Kaena Point. Can you legally charge someone for parking off the road on the dirt and then issue a fine or tow away their vehicles when there are no signs about parking on the side of the road? Would this mean portions of state parks would become developed parking stalls to gain revenue? Let alone no checkpoint to distinguish the change from City and County of Honolulu Property to State Property? No, because that only opens the State to a potential lawsuit or payout of taxpayer's money to include it will take more funds to install proper signage along the road from Kaneana cave to the end of Keawa'ula. This will eventually become an eyesore instead of maintaining the beauty of Kaena State Park.

The Haena model collects data from tourist use, not community use, as we see in Wai'anae. The

10,000,000 visitors mentioned in this Bill to describe the number of people coming to Hawaii does not reflect the number of people coming out to Kaena State Park. In comparison, that number is much lower than the number of locals using Kaena State Park, so the parking fees invalidate these bills. Instead, the legislature should find and support the GREEN FEE, which is much more beneficial, and its implementation of collecting visitors fee is more transparent and effective.

The goal for the State of Hawaii as a public trust entity should always be about implementing a permanent and quick solution rather than letting issues fester year after year. For example, is there the right amount of General Laborers at Kaena State Park to focus on the environment and conservational efforts, which this Bill mentions? As General Laborers at a State Park, their job is to collect and remove trash daily from the Park, so why didn't this Bill go much more into depth and look at staffing? Instead, no one researches the issues but would rather have a round table meeting with a small group.

As stated within this Bill, there's an apparent disconnection between the Wai'anae community and a small group of people. No offense to anyone, but again, these bills did not meet the minimum requirements, including the Wai'anae community, LCA, and Royal Patent holders of Mākua Valley. No one in that category has been made aware of the proposed Bill. These bills are very vague and do not represent a public trust entity.

From the Bill

*The abuse and harmful activities have plagued these ahupua'a of Makua, Kahanahaiki, and Keawa'ula for over a century. The legislature finds that a proper management system for these areas is long overdue and implementing a system to improve public safety and environmental protection is necessary.

A Kaena State Park manned by State of Hawaii employees such as a Park Ranger and DOCARE could manage the activities, entry, and exit of Kaena State Park and control parking and everyday business within the color of law. Ensuring that DLNR has the funds appropriated and released by the Governor to create a Ranger Program would have much more effective results than any applicable nonprofit, as the Bill states. The legislature should ensure funds are available to train and hire more DOCARE officers in the "event of loss of manpower." It would be more effective to manage a State park and the Conservation efforts rather than relying on any nonprofit because, at some point, if there is anything illegal, it will ultimately fall on the Ranger or DOCARE. The Ranger and DOCARE officers are well-equipped to cite or handle any issues that arise.

The activities have gotten worse, with the people currently at Makua sexually harassing a woman in front of her child on social media and issuing death threats. Threats of bodily harm to tourists and other people from around the island, and these people have been here for over a year now, so

I would like to ask you all these two questions. 1. Why is this allowed for so long in a State park? 2. Who is legally working there on behalf of State parks daily? These people are also responsible for what is happening over there and its effect on the victims!

A group of people has been occupying the end of Makua beach. DOCARE and the community told them they could not stay there, but it opened the community up to potential lawsuits rather than allowing law enforcement to do their due diligence. Then the group sought help from other people to find loopholes. The first loophole was Native gathering rights, but when they found out to gather Native is a temporary act, not a permanent one. The group of people went into "protecting the dolphins" and, during this time, sexually harassed a female in front of her child on multiple social media outlets. In addition, they threatened to cause bodily harm to people of different skin colors and threatened people with death by chopping their children up and feeding them to the pigs. Most people were from Wai'anae, but because of their skin color were issued threats.

This allowance eventually pulled in another group to having issues with these people and even had an impact of removing the already small number of island-wide DOCARE officers away from their districts to respond to harassment at Mākua. I had to insert myself as a community advocate to bring these activities up to law enforcement, which the community should never be involved in, especially at a State Park meant for public use.

From the Bill

*In 2016, due to years of overuse and abuse from illegal driving on the beach, unmanaged camping, harmful fishing and gathering practices, and other recreational uses that created unacceptable, potentially hazardous accumulations of dangerous rubbish and human waste, areas of Ka'ena point state park, Makua, and Keawa'ula regions were closed to overnight access.

This results from residents and military personnel stationed on Oahu, not tourists. The closure of a State Park is to be enforced by law enforcement and no one else. Suppose a management plan is needed because of years and years of no management plan at DLNR, specifically STATE PARKS, for the welfare of Kaena State Park. The bills should mention the main pillars of the strategy, which are law enforcement, Park staffing, and a proactive department that implement repairs and upkeep within a timely manner, all of which are not in these bills. In that case, the account is an open book for anyone to write in without being truthful or the best representation of the Waianae community. It also gives the department a "pass" to do things on their own time and allows all of the nonprofits involved to be a "cushion" for State parks. We should be looking at implementing permanent solutions promptly rather than allowing them to drag out year after year. As time will tell you, there was and never has been any genuine consultation from State Parks to the community.

Very Respectfully,

Joseph K. Simpliciano Community Advocate.

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 11:04:03 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carmen Guzman- Simpliciano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, members of the Committee

My name is Carmen Guzman-Simpliciano I am testifying to OPPOSE HB1267 strongly, "Require the department of DLNR resources to develop and implement a management system for Ka'ena Point State parks, Mākua, and Keawa'ula regions. Appropriate funds."

I urge the Committee to reaccess this bill as it is vaguely written and recommends mimicking the Haena State Parks management and revenue generator through park passes and parking fees.

As it has a suggestive tone, a call for the development of parking stalls would be inevitable for our community to generate funds. However, without due process, I feel our community would be blindsided by the consultation of only a few groups rather than the due process of the Nanakuli and Wai'anae Neighborhood Board #24. Having been given a chance to speak on the management direction, I'm afraid I have to disagree.

For this reason, I would have proposed that this measure implement and keep our coastal areas undeveloped and managed with equipped and trained such as DOCARE officers and Park Rangers to protect, maintain and preserve the diverse regions of our coastal lands.

I would have proffered that the GREEN FEE bill would be better suited to help our community as it is a clear pathway to protecting, restoring, and enhancing our specific problematic areas for future generations to come without the need for development. In addition, it would help supplement the essential need for DOCARE officers, Park Rangers, and local community-based organizations that increase preservation and conservation efforts.

Mahalo Nui for the opportunity to testify, Carmen Guzman-Simpliciano Director of Kingdom Pathways

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 6:10:00 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Poki?i Magallanes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

On behalf of the real lineal decendans of Wai'anae Moku, Koa Mana and 'Aha Kukaniloko oppose HB1267. This bill will undermine and do everlasting damage to our ohana resources and sacred areas. The leadership of Waianae, Maile Shimubokuro and Cedric Gates did not bring this before the Wai'anae Neighborhood Board for community consultation. Protectors of Paradise do not speak on behalf of the real lineal decendants. Also, the so called Wai'anae Kupuna Council is an advisory commity and not made up of real Wai'anae kupuna. They do not speak for our community or nā 'ohana. To consider Ha'eana as an exsample is hewa. Ha'ena is a fail, it's over run by tourists, commercial use and the ocean smells like urine. In closing, A'ole, no, no, no, oppose, oppose and oppose.

- Poki'i

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 8:23:51 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carl M Jellings Sr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Carl Jellings Sr. I am in opposition; my grandfather, my father, myself, and my son have been fishing these waters for over one hundred years. On behalf of my family, I oppose HB 1267.

Mahalo, Chairwoman, Vice Chair, and members