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 Senate Committee on WATER AND LAND

Monday, February 13, 2023 12:30 PM State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of SENATE BILL 1258 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Senate Bill 1258 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 Environmental Impact Statement 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
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

\$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 Senate Bill 1258, 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.





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 Senate Committee on Water and Land
Monday, February 13, 2023
12:30 PM

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

IN SUPPORT of Senate Bill 1258

Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources

Senate Bill 1258 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 SB 1258.

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



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

Monday, February 13, 2023, 12:30pm – State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of

SB1258 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

SB1258 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



SB 1258 Ka'ena

RESCUE OF ANIMAL RIGHTS

.

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair & the WTL Committee,

the Senate

Committees

WTL

ROAR testifies to in strong support for SB 1258.

The Hawaii State Legislature

Implemented management plans have shown to improve and promote a more harmonious relationship between public use and park maintenance & preservation. Ka'ena point state park, Makua, and Keawa'ula regions are in need of such a plan. The plan will prove public safety concerns and enhance environmental protection. The purpose of this act is to require DLNR to develop & implement a management plan for Ka'ena point.

from
Zhizi Xiong
(Angela
Melody
Young)
Creator

It is vital to support proper management of our beaches which have historical, cultural & economic value. Well maintained beach communities will result in healthy marine ecosystems and healthy coastlines. Thank you.

Blessings,

Angela Melody Young

Founder of ROAR

alohadivinedesign@gmail.com

IRON WORKERS STABILIZATION FUND

February 13, 2023 12:30 pm

Senate Committee on Water and Land

Conference Room 016 & Videoconference State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Re: SB1258 – RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Aloha Chair Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair Brandon Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

We <u>SUPPORT</u> the intent of SB1258. The bill 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 and it appropriates funds. The purpose of this Act is to require the department of land and natural resources to develop and implement an improved management system for Ka'ena point state park, Mākua, and Keawa'ula regions.

The Ka'ena point state park is a highly used recreation area for many of our locals and in recent years we have seen a rise in visitor use as well. Many working families use the park for their rest and recuperation and the area. In recent years, we have seen increased unmanaged camping, illegal off-roading, rise in squatting by our homeless community members, illegal drag racing, drug trafficking, harmful fishing and gathering, and increased amounts of trash being left around.

A management system for the Ka'ena point state park, Mākua, and Keawa'ula regions will help to address the rising problems in the area by bridging management best practices from other park management areas and melding them with local solutions based in Hawaiian cultural values. Please direct DLNR to make a management plan for the area to help improve the experience for all park users.

We urge the committee to PASS SB1258.

<u>SB-1258</u> Submitted on: 2/9/2023 6:42:28 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/13/2023 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lu Ann Faborito	Testifying for Makaha Hawaiian Civic Club	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a group who performs adopt a park work, we are in strong support of efforts to protect & manage within our Moku of Waianae.

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 4:41:36 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/13/2023 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ka'ena Point, Makua, aand Keawa'ula regions should be protected and supported with the resources of DLNR. Protection of the shoreline is critical to protecting the reefs and ocean that are HIROC's main concern.

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo!

Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 9:36:56 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/13/2023 12:30:00 PM

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 believe that the community it intends to benefit.

The State Parks directive and working group had working group had working group had working group had 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.

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 Mākua 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.

<u>SB-1258</u> Submitted on: 2/9/2023 6:45:07 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/13/2023 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mahiki Lankford	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

protecting the aina is very important for makua. Strong support

<u>SB-1258</u> Submitted on: 2/9/2023 8:07:49 PM Testimony for WTL on 2/13/2023 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY support this Bill.

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 8:47:04 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/13/2023 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Duane DeSoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kaena, Makua, and Keawaula have benefited from controlled access. I support further discussion and implementation of stewardship and perpetuation of these assests.

Cynthia K.L. Rezentes

Email: rezentesc@aol.com

February 13, 2023

Committee on Water and Land February 13, 2023, 12:30 p.m.

SUBJECT: SB 1258 RELATING OT THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Aloha Chair Inouye 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

Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair Senator Brandon Elefante, Vice Chair

Water and Land

Aloha Chair Inouye,

My name is David K. Keawe – I am here today to testify on SB 1258 as a private citizen. I do want to disclose to you that I am a DLNR/DOCARE Officer however I am not here in any official capacity.

I am a citizen of the Leeward Coast Community and a DLNR/DOCARE Officer. I am submitting my testimony in support of S.B. N.O. 1258. I believe that this BILL should be passed to benefit the community of the Leeward Coast. By implementing a system that will help minimize illegal and unwanted activities. I also feel that this is an opportunity to engage and educate our residents of the Leeward Coast and visitors to the Island of Oahu.

Thank you, David K. Keawe

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 8:31:52 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/13/2023 12:30:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carissa Cabrera	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Members of the Commitee,

My name is Carissa Cabrera and I am testifying today as an individual providing comments on this measure. While the success of Ha'ena State Park has provided a pathway to visitor management, the additional development of Ka'ena State Park doesn't seem to be aligned with the wants and needs of the community there.

I support the intent of this bill but would respectfully like to direct leadership to a statewide visitor impact fee program represented in measures like SB304 and HB1162 that could provide additional management and conservation funding for Ka'ena, including DOCARE officers and rangers to protect this park, among many others.

Mahalo for hearing my testimony today.

Carissa Cabrera