

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



JORDAN LOWE
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL VINCENT
Deputy Director
Administration

JARED K. REDULLA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR
KE KE'ENA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai

715 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 124
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT TO CONVENE A
SEARCH AND RESCUE WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP AND MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS TO DETER HIKERS FROM ENTERING ILLEGAL HIKING
TRAILS AND TO ADDRESS RISING SEARCH AND RESCUE COSTS FACING THE
STATE AND COUNTIES DUE TO INCREASED ILLEGAL HIKING TRAFFIC.

Before the Senate Committee on
Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Wednesday, April 17, 2024; 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 225, Via Videoconference

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) **supports** this resolution urging the DLE to convene a working group to develop and make recommendations to deter hikers from entering illegal hiking trails and to address rising search and rescue costs facing the State and counties.

The DLE continues to support efforts to address the recovery of search and rescue costs incurred by reason of people who have ignored posted warnings, left defined hiking trails, and ventured into closed areas that have been posted. The DLE is supportive of the goals and objectives of this resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this resolution.

HCR-124

Submitted on: 4/12/2024 9:56:36 AM

Testimony for PSM on 4/17/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
LorrieAnn Santos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senator Wakai, Senator Elefante, and Members of the Committee on Public Safety & Intergovernmental & Military Affairs,

I strongly support HCR124. As a resident of Hokulele in Ha'iku Village, which extends from Kahekili Hwy, mauka to Kahuhipa Street and the adjacent properties below Haiku Stairs I ask for your support to pass HCR124. Despite the trail being closed for over 30 years, hikers continue to access the trail illegally. Fences, no trespassing and trail closed signs, fines of \$1,000, and law enforcement presence have not deter this ongoing problem in my neighborhood and community.

I believe that this working group is needed to address not only illegal hikers, but also to save the State and County financial and people resources used almost daily to rescue illegal hikers.

Mahalo. Lorrie Ann Santos