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Testimony of  
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE  
Acting Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on  
WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Wednesday, February 4, 2026  
1:00 PM  
State Capitol Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 2477  
RELATING TO CULTURAL RECOGNITION

Senate Bill 2477 amends Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 6E to add a new section requiring historical markers be placed at Maunaloa Island in Hawai'i Kai on the Island of Oahu. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) submits the follow comments for consideration.**

HRS Chapter 6E provides the framework for a comprehensive statewide historic preservation program in Hawai'i. The identification and documentation of historic properties is a significant part of the State's historic preservation program. It is necessary to develop interpretive programs, as outlined at HRS section 6E-3(9), in addition to informing historic preservation reviews. Thus, the Department recognizes the value of placing markers in locations of historic significance and recommends the following additions.

Pg. 1, lines 4-7

It would be useful to clarify the number of markers to be installed, the budget allocated or funding source used to support their installation, the historic properties they will interpret, and the responsible entity for executing the interpretation program to ensure its successful execution. A set budget will inform the size, material, and installation method feasible in addition to the design. Identifying the historic properties to be interpreted and the responsible entity for executing this interpretation program will eliminate any confusion regarding the intent and purpose of this measure.

Additionally, it might be useful to broaden the scope of this measure, to establish a statewide historic marker program that would create a process for identifying and interpreting historic properties across the State in a manner that supports heritage tourism, engages the public, and promotes the use and

conservation of historic properties for the education, inspiration, pleasure, and enrichment of its citizens, in accordance with HRS section 6E-1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.