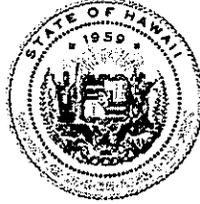


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
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**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**April 01, 2011
3:00 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 308

**In consideration of:
SENATE BILL 1215, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS**

Senate Bill 1215, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1, proposes to turn over approximately 1.5 acres of a parcel of land currently under the control and critical use of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) as the Division of State Parks (DSP) Oahu District Baseyard and Office, to the University of Hawaii, to construct a Legacy Center for the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team. The Department holds the 100th/442nd RCT in highest regard and supports a facility such as this situated in an appropriate location. The Department supports the intent of this measure with the following comments:

The Department's DSP Baseyard and Office is the base of field operations for servicing and maintaining the 20 Oahu State Parks, Waysides, Scenic Shorelines, Recreational Areas and Cultural Parks and Features. The land is within the boundary of the Diamond Head State Monument, and classified as Conservation District land. In addition, the Baseyard and Office is within the Diamond Head Special Design District and the Fort Ruger Historic District. One of the warehouse buildings in the Baseyard, Building 34, is a historic structure, dating from the 1910s to early 1920s when the area was part of Fort Ruger Military Reservation. The warehouse is one of the few remaining historic structures associated with the initial construction of Fort Ruger and is eligible for listing on the Register of Historic Places. The Monument lands, including the baseyard, also lie within the City and County of Honolulu's Special Management Area. The intersection of Diamond Head Road and Makapuu Avenue is subject to periods of heavy traffic. Due to all of the criteria listed above, the establishment of a new public space with a library and research center, classrooms and gathering place requires consultation and resolution of a variety of factors and issues.

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

GUY H. KAULUKUKUI
FIRST DEPUTY

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ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Since previous legislative hearings on this measure, when the proposed project was first brought to the Department's attention, there have been discussions with the University of Hawaii and Kapiolani Community College representatives on both identifying an appropriate location for this project and the respective constraints with placing the project within a portion of the DSP Baseyard and Office. There has been a purely conceptual discussion on both the feasibility and impediments and impact to the DSP on Oahu if this facility is to be reconfigured to occupy approximately half of the approximate three (3) acre parcel.

The Department supports the effort to evaluate sites both within Kapiolani Community College and other lands to provide for the perpetual remembrance of the significant role the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to testify on this measure.