

**TESTIMONY**  
**SB 412**

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
LAURA H. THIELEN  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on  
WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
AND ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Monday, February 2, 2009  
3:00PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of  
Senate Bill 412  
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

Senate Bill 412 would amend Section 8-12, Hawaii Revised Statutes, observing Ocean Day on the first Wednesday of June each year, to World Ocean Day, to be observed on June 8 of each year. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources has no objections to this measure, and hopes that it will bring increased awareness to ocean conservation issues.**

LAURA H. THIELEN  
CHAIRPERSON  
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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Supporting S.B. 412 Relating to the Environment  
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, & Hawaiian Affairs  
Senate Committee on Energy & Environment  
Monday, February 2, 2009, 3:00pm, Rm. 229

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*The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of Hawaii's native plants, animals, and ecosystems. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands for native species in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 32,000 acres in 11 nature preserves on O'ahu, Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i. We also work closely with government agencies, private parties and communities on cooperative land and marine management projects.*

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The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i supports S.B. 412 to establish June 8 of each year as World Ocean Day.

The world's oceans cover 70 percent of the surface of our planet. Yet, less than 1 percent of these habitats are protected.

With the health of these oceans deteriorating at a rapid decline due to irresponsible fishing, pollution, global climate change and unsustainable development, we need to become active stewards in protecting this precious natural resource, which provides food, protection and economic value.

Hawaii's location in the middle of the Pacific Ocean makes our state an ideal participant in World Ocean Day, held every year on June 8.

This day, established in 1992 at the United Nations Earth Summit, is an opportunity to celebrate our world ocean and our personal connection to the sea. It's a chance to educate the public about how to conserve and protect our fragile marine environment, which generates more than \$350 million annually to the state's economy.

Hawaii's coral reefs and nearshore waters are homes to more than 7,000 marine life forms – a quarter of them found nowhere else in the world. But land-based pollution, sedimentation, alien invasive species, destructive fishing methods and other threats have degraded our reefs. Scientists estimate that our nearshore fisheries have declined by 75 percent over the last century.

The Nature Conservancy, together with members and conservation partners, has protected more than 200,000 acres of critical natural lands in Hawai'i, including those that directly impact the ocean and its precious ecosystem.

Last year, we partnered with the state's Division of Aquatic Resources to promote International Year of the Reef, a worldwide campaign and call-to-action that raises awareness about the importance of our coral reefs and the various threats to their sustainability. During this yearlong campaign, we spread the message about the state of Hawaii's reefs and what we can do to help preserve and conserve this important natural resource.

The quality of our lives depends on the health of our ocean, reefs and their ecosystems. In this International Year of the Reef, we should come together as stewards of our ocean to preserve this resource for generations to come.

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OCEAN EDUCATION THROUGH ACTION

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND  
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS AND ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

TWENTY-FIFTH STATE LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION, 2009

**TIME/DATE: 3:00 p.m., Monday, February 2, 2009**

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO 412 – “RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.”

TO THE HONORABLE CLAYTON HEE, CHAIR  
AND MEMBERS OF THE WATER, LAND AND  
OCEAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

AND

TO THE HONORABLE MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR  
AND MEMBERS OF THE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE:

Kai Makana appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 412. My name is Donna Kahakui, founder of Kai Makana, a non-profit community organization whose purpose is to educate and mobilize the public to better understand and preserve our marine life and the ocean environment throughout Hawaii and the world.

Let me begin by clarifying that the State of Hawaii does recognize the first Wednesday in June of every year as Ocean Day, however, the bill before us today seeks to bring recognition of World Ocean Day not only in the islands, but to the nation and throughout the globe.

The purpose of this bill is to bring international awareness of our planet's fragile ecosystem and to recognize its role in the well-being and health of each individual. Many of us do not understand the importance of the ocean and how it impacts us in our everyday lives. The world's oceans encompass approximately 70 percent of the surface of our planet, yet less than one percent of the world's habitat is protected. In addition, approximately 25 percent of Hawaiian corals are found no where else in the world. It is our kuleana (responsibility) to perpetuate awareness by preserving and respecting the ocean life with which we coexist.

This bill is a means to inspire and empower each one of us to make a difference and to change our habits, if you will, for the benefit of our ocean. This is a bill to let each individual in the State of Hawaii understand their kuleana to the ocean as being a member of this community, our community, and to know that on this day June 8<sup>th</sup>, they can make a difference along with other communities, states and countries around the world. Establishing this day as World Ocean Day is a way for the citizens of this earth to come together and realize how one day of the year can make a difference in the future of our oceans.

For me, this concept is simple. I was raised by my grandmother who told me stories of growing up on a small island off of Sand Island. She spoke of how her mother would carry a traditional two person canoe by herself to catch he'e (octopus), or how she could just open her front door and pull a fish (by hand) out of the ocean for dinner, or even how there was so much limu that often times they would take it to market to sell. She would talk about that time in her life as "being a time of plenty," and then tears

would well up in her eyes as she thought of this place that now only remained in her dreams.

My grandmother taught me the values of a single fish and to never take more than I needed or waste a single part. She taught me to respect all of nature's creations especially those which come from the ocean. I was given the Hawaiian name, Kahiwaokawailani, the chosen one of the heavenly waters, which was truly a gift, but with it came a greater responsibility to care for our ocean as I would care for any member of my family past and present.

I have been fortunate to have grown up at a time when the ocean thrived with sea life as all types of fish were plentiful and turtles were free from tumors. It was a time when plastic bags floating in the ocean were a rarity, and as a result, more turtles, birds, monk seals and other various animals live longer and a time when you could pick native limu off of reefs in Honolulu. This time has since passed and the ocean is struggling. It is our turn to give back, to respect this element of nature which embodies our culture and lifestyle. Without the ocean, no Polynesian traveler would have discovered Hawaii. Without the ocean, there would be no coral, no fish and no sea life. Without the ocean, Hawaii as the paradise we know would not exist.

The time is now to be a part of the global movement to recognize the significance of our ocean. The hope is that one day of ocean awareness will lead into several days and several days will lead into everyday. The goal is simple. Leave the ocean better than when we received it in order for the next generation to have a chance to experience all that we have and more. My greatest fear is that one day I may find myself like my

grandmother with tears flowing down my face as I am only left with memories of an ocean long past.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 412, and I respectfully ask that you support passage of this measure.

Hawai'i  
Arts  
Alliance



A member of  
the Kennedy Center  
Alliance  
for Arts Education  
Network

January 30, 2009

NOTE PRESENT

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and  
Hawaiian Affairs and

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

RE: In SUPPORT OF SB 412 – "RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT."

Hearing Date: Monday, February 2, 2009, 3:00 p.m., Conference Rm. 229

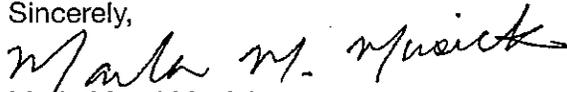
Dear Chairs Hee and Gabbard and Members of the Senate Committees on Water,  
Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs and Energy and Environment:

My name is Marla Momi Musick, Communications Director, Hawai'i Arts  
Alliance. Hawai'i Arts Alliance is an organization that represents all the arts, in the  
State of Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 412.

Hawai'i Arts Alliance supports the passage of SB 412 which amends §8-12,  
HRS, by establishing June 8 of each year as World Ocean Day. Currently the stat-  
ute recognizes the first Wednesday of June as Ocean Day in our State, however, it  
is important to increase public awareness throughout the planet. The ocean is one  
of our greatest resources, and it is imperative that globally we protect this precious  
commodity. The ocean environments around the world are collapsing, primarily due  
to over-fishing, pollution, invasive species, and unsustainable coastal development.  
Therefore the need to promote public awareness, educate communities and increase  
the understanding of the importance of conserving and protecting our fragile marine  
environment are essential to preserving it for our children and our children's' children.

Lastly, the ocean plays an integral part in the lives of the people of our great  
state and around the world, and it is vital that we preserve it for future generations to  
come - **and is essential to promoting and sustaining our unique cultural heri-  
tage.** For these reasons, I humbly ask you to support the passage of SB 412. Thank  
you once again for the opportunity to submit written testimony on this measure.

Sincerely,

  
Marla Momi Musick

Communications Director,

Hawai'i State Captain, Arts Advocacy, Americans for the Arts  
Hawai'i Arts Alliance

Hawai'i State  
Captain -  
Arts Advocacy,  
Americans for  
the Arts



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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, January 30, 2009 1:56 PM  
**To:** WTLTestimony  
**Cc:** captcoon@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB412 on 1/30/2009 3:00:00 PM

Testimony for WTL 1/30/2009 3:00:00 PM SB412

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: James Coon  
Organization: Ocean Tourism Coalition  
Address: 820 Mililani St. Ste 810 Honolulu, HI 96813-2938  
Phone: 808-537-4308  
E-mail: [captcoon@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:captcoon@hawaiiantel.net)  
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

**Comments:**

We support this bill. We believe that to bring this focus on our Ocean and environment every year will effect long term positive change. Hawaii can lead the world in these efforts. Please pass this bill.



**Surfrider  
Foundation.**

***Oahu Chapter***

January 30, 2009

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on  
Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

and

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on  
Energy and Environment

RE: In SUPPORT OF SB 412 – “RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.”  
Hearing Date: Monday, February 2, 2009, 3:00 p.m., Conference Rm. 229

Dear Chairs Hee and Gabbard and Members of the  
Senate Committees on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian  
Affairs and Energy and Environment:

My name is Ryo Kubota, co-chair of Surfrider Foundation Oahu chapter. Surfrider Foundation Oahu chapter is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's oceans, waves and beaches for all people, through conservation, activism, research and education in the State of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 412.

The Surfrider Foundation Oahu chapter supports the passage of SB 412 which amends §8-12, HRS, by establishing June 8 of each year as World Ocean Day. Currently the statute recognizes the first Wednesday of June as Ocean Day in our State, however, it is important to increase public awareness throughout the planet. The ocean is one of our greatest resources, and it is imperative that globally we protect this precious commodity. The ocean environments around the world are collapsing, primarily due to over-fishing, pollution, invasive species, and unsustainable coastal development. Therefore the need to promote public awareness, educate communities and increase the understanding of the importance of conserving and protecting our fragile marine environment are essential to preserving it for our children and our children's children.

Lastly, the ocean plays an integral part in the lives of the people of our great state and around the world, and it is vital that we preserve it for future generations to come. For these reasons, I humbly ask you to support the passage of SB 412. Thank you once again for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

**RYO KUBOTA**

Co-chair / Surfrider Foundation Oahu chapter

Surfrider Foundation Oahu Chapter  
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[www.surfrider.org/oahu](http://www.surfrider.org/oahu)

Co-chair Tim Tybuszewski  
Co-chair Ryo Kubota

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*For the Protection of Hawaii's Native Wildlife*  
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**TO: Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair and Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair**

**Committee on Energy and Environment  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair and Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair**

**HEARING: Monday, February 2, 2009; 3:00 P.M., Conference Rm. 229**

**Re: SB412, Relating to the Environment**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

Chairs Hee and Gabbard, and members of the Committee on Land, Water, Agriculture, Hawaiian Affairs and the Committee on Energy and Environment. My name is George Massengale and I am a member of the Hawai'i Audubon Society and also serve as their legislative analyst during session. We are happy to be here today to testify in support SB412, proclaiming June 8 of each year as "World Ocean Day."

As the committee members are aware, the Society's primary mission is the protection of Hawai'i's native birds, wildlife & habitats, our ocean resources, and restoration of ecosystems and the conservation of natural resources through education, science and advocacy in Hawai'i and the Pacific. The Society has an established and active partnership with the Pacific Fisheries Coalition, and together we've advocated for various measure that would further protect our oceans and coastal waters from the Big Island of Hawai'i to Kure in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

The Society believes that proclaiming June 8<sup>th</sup> as World Ocean Day will garner more attention on how important and fragile our marine environments truly are.

We would urge the committee to pass this measure.

Sincerely,

George Massengale, JD  
Legislative Analyst

**TESTIMONY**

**SB 412**

**(END)**