

SB 1172

SB1172

Measure Title: RELATING TO THE NATURAL AREA RESERVES SYSTEM COMMISSION.

Report Title: Natural Area Reserves System Commission; Membership

Description: Amends the composition of the Natural Area Reserves System Commission by adding a member possessing a background in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, and removing the Superintendent of Education as a member.

Companion: [HB941](#)

Package: Gov

Current Referral: WTL/THA

Introducer(s): KIM (Introduced by request of another party)

<u>Sort by Date</u>		Status Text
1/24/2013	S	Introduced.
1/24/2013	S	Passed First Reading.
1/24/2013	S	Referred to WTL/THA.
2/7/2013	S	The committee(s) on WTL/THA has scheduled a public hearing on 02-12-13 1:20PM in conference room 225.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
WATER AND LAND
and
TOURISM AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Tuesday, February 12, 2013
1:20 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1172
RELATING TO THE NATURAL AREA RESERVES SYSTEM COMMISSION**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) is in strong support of Senate Bill 1172, an Administration measure which proposes to amend the composition of the Natural Area Reserves System (NARS) Commission by adding a member possessing a background in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, and to remove the Superintendent of Education as a member.

NARS was established to preserve and protect representative samples of Hawaiian biological ecosystems and geological formations. NARS presently consists of 19 reserves on five islands, encompassing more than 109,000 acres of the State's most unique ecosystems. The diverse areas found in NARS range from marine and coastal environments to lava flows, tropical rainforests, and even an alpine desert. Within these areas one can find rare plants and animals, many of which are on the edge of extinction. NARS also protects some of the major watershed areas which provide our vital sources of fresh water.

The NARS Commission was created to establish criteria to be used in determining whether an area is suitable for inclusion in NARS; recommend to the Governor and the Department areas suitable for inclusion in NARS; establish policies and criteria regarding the management, protection, and permitted uses of areas which are part of NARS; develop ways and means of extending and strengthening presently established preserves, sanctuaries, and refuges with the State; and advise the Department and other public agencies managing state-owned land or natural resources regarding areas under their respective jurisdictions which are or may be

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

ESTHER KIA'AINA
FIRST DEPUTY

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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

appropriate for designation as natural area reserves. Currently, the NARS Commission is made up of 13 members, six of whom possess scientific qualifications as evidenced by an academic degree in wildlife or marine biology, botany, forestry, ecology, resource management, biogeography, zoology, or geology, one member whom shall have membership in a hiking organization organized in the State, and one member whom shall possess membership in a hunting organization in the State.

Having an individual with a background in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices on the NARS Commission will improve the effectiveness of the Commission in overseeing and advising on the management of cultural and archeological resources within natural area reserves.

The Department has consulted with the Department of Education (DOE) regarding the proposed removal of the Superintendent of Education as a member from the NARS Commission and DOE expressed no reservation or opposition.



Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

P. O. Box 1135
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JOINT SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER & LAND
AND
TOURISM & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

SENATE BILL 1172 RELATING TO THE NATURAL AREA RESERVES SYSTEM COMMISSION

Tuesday, February 12, 2013; 1:20pm; Room 225

Aloha Madam Chair Solomon and Chairman Galuteria and members of the joint Senate committees meeting on SB1172 Re: to the Natural Area Reserves System(NARS) Commission. I am Soulee Stroud president of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs (AHCC) speaking in support of this bill.

The AHCC had always supported the preservation of native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices and we do so now in testimony. The NARS Commission works to protect the unique and valuable natural resource assets of Hawaii and it is fitting and appropriate that one member of this commission have expertise in native Hawaiian cultural practices.

We also support the amendment to remove the Superintendent of Education as a member of the commission and the aforementioned cultural expert be appointed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Contact: jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net

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To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: mz@conservehi.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1172 on Feb 12, 2013 13:20PM
Date: Thursday, February 07, 2013 5:00:20 PM

SB1172

Submitted on: 2/7/2013

Testimony for WTL/THA on Feb 12, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marjorie Ziegler	Conservation Council for Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments: There is no need to have the superintendent of the DOE on the NARS Commission.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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