

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 House Committee on**  
**WATER & LAND**

**Monday, March 10, 2014**  
**8:45 AM**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of**  
**SENATE BILL 2875**  
**RELATING TO THE ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY COMMITTEE**

Senate Bill 2875 proposes to establish a new member to Hawaii State's Endangered Species Recovery Committee, which consults to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) and the Board of Land and Natural Resources on matters relating to endangered, threatened, proposed, and candidate species. **The Department strongly supports this Administrative bill.**

Currently, nearly all of the boards and commissions under the Department require a member with a background in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices. Last session, legislation was enacted requiring such expertise for the Natural Area Reserves System Commission. The remaining Department boards and commissions that need such expertise are the Board of Land and Natural Resources and the Endangered Species Recovery Committee.

As the Department is obligated under the Hawaii Constitution and Hawaii statutory and case law to preserve and protect the exercise of traditional and customary native Hawaiian rights, it would provide great value to have a member on the Endangered Species Recovery Committee to have expertise in this area to provide guidance on natural resource protection and management decisions.

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

**JESSE K. SOUKI**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**WILLIAM M. TAM**  
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

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**SB2875**

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for WAL on Mar 10, 2014 08:45AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Willie-Joe Camara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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