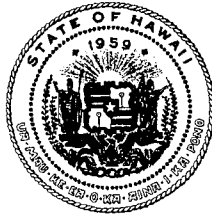


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**TESTIMONY OF THE CHAIRPERSON
OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**On Senate Bill 2402 – Making an Appropriation for Improvements to the Old Kailua
Airport Park in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

February 7, 2006

Senate Bill 2402 appropriates funds to provide improvements to the old Kailua airport park to create a usable, safe public beach park with recreation related facilities.

The Department opposes this bill as funds are not included in the Executive Budget.

Old Kona Airport State Recreation Areas is located in Kailua-Kona and is a popular beach park with picnicking, surfing, tidepooling, shore and spear fishing, and other beach-related activities. The park encompasses 103.7 acres. There is a jogging path covering 0.8 miles and a pavilion that can be rented. Many community special events are held at the park such as the yearly Big Island Farm Fair.

DLNR has been in discussion over the possible transfer of the park to the County. We understand the County is willing to accept the park once we complete certain improvements.

The State has funded several improvement projects in consultation with Hawaii County with the goal of transferring the park to the County. There is an ADA barrier removal project in progress costing \$343,063 and a wastewater improvement project (\$635,000 appropriation) is in the planning stage. The North picnic area comfort station improvements, part of the ADA project, was completed and opened to the public in November 2005.