



## DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

### News Release

**LINDA LINGLE**  
GOVERNOR

---

LAURA H. THIELEN, CHAIRPERSON

---

For Immediate Release: February 3, 2010

### **COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS WORK TO HELP DLNR PROTECT KA'ENA POINT**

HONOLULU – At the very end of the road on O‘ahu’s north shore lies a stunning and fragile landscape. Buffered on both sides by Ka‘ena Point State Park, Ka‘ena Point Natural Area Reserve protects a unique dune system which provides critical habitat for nesting seabirds and rare native plant communities.

It is also a favored destination for a variety of outdoor enthusiasts, from wildlife watchers to off-road vehicle devotees. The range of visitor uses of the area combined with a lack of management resources has had a detrimental effect on Ka‘ena Point in recent decades. In particular, the motorized use has been the subject of numerous discussions and debates.

On a recent Saturday, ten volunteers joined DLNR staff to install light fencing materials to protect native dune vegetation and cultural sites at Ka‘ena Point. This was a project envisioned by the Ka‘ena Point Advisory Committee as an emergency measure to deter use of inappropriate routes for vehicular access along the sensitive shoreline area.

“It is the sincere hope of DLNR that the public honors and respects this community effort to protect these resources. The Ka‘ena Point Natural Area Reserve hosts ground nesting seabirds, Hawaiian monk seals, and native coastal vegetation,” said Laura Thielen, DLNR Chairperson.

“We’re very fortunate there are community members who are committed to helping DLNR improve the management of this area. DLNR’s Recreational Renaissance recognizes that in the midst of our limited resources we need to work together with communities that care about these places, to keep them clean, protected, and preserved,” Thielen said.

The group, made up of fishermen, members of the Friends of Ka‘ena, conservationists and cultural practitioners, met at Camp Erdman early in the morning, and loaded into 3 vehicles laden with work materials for the slow, bumpy drive along a heavily eroded and impacted access

road.

Once at the project site, the volunteers took turns vigorously pounding approximately 120 steel fence posts into the oftentimes compacted and rocky soil along the *mauka* edge of the dunes, the preferred and primary management and public access road.

Others followed and pulled yellow nylon rope tight and attached it to the posts with plastic zip ties. Funding for the project was derived from the State Parks' portion of the Transient Accommodations Tax, as this area is frequented by global visitors.

Signs were attached at key sections to inform and educate park visitors about the need to eliminate vehicle use in this specific area.

The advisory committee hopes to extend the quality of the Natural Area Reserve into the adjacent State Park, improving and enhancing not only the environment but also the aesthetic and cultural satisfaction of users who visit the area.

At the end of the day, approximately 1,500 feet of coastal dune had been marked as sensitive habitat. While the rope line is clearly not a significant physical deterrent -- the line clearly delineates the area that community groups and DLNR management staff agree should be protected from the now rampant vehicle use.

Dedicated community stewards intend to frequently inspect and repair the line and signs as needed.

For more information - please visit the DLNR Ka'ena Point stewardship website:  
<http://hawaii.gov/dlnr/kpsa>

###

For more information, media may contact:  
Deborah Ward, DLNR Public Information Specialist  
Phone: (808) 587-0320

DLNR Kaena Point Restoration Project  
Saturday January 16, 2010



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6