



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

July 11, 2007

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Madam President and Members of the Senate:

Re: Senate Bill No. 138 SD1 HD1 CD1

On July 10, 2007, Senate Bill No. 138, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Diamond Head State Monument" became law without my signature, pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

This bill creates a sub-account of the State Parks Special Fund into which fifty-five percent (55%) of the proceeds of the admission fees for the Diamond Head State Monument will be allocated to be used for the maintenance, repair, and operations of the Monument.

This bill raises concerns because it could have an adverse impact on the maintenance and upkeep of our statewide system of parks.

The establishment of a sub-account within the State Parks Special Fund may set a precedent for other revenue generating parks to request sub-accounts for their use. The State Parks Special Fund is used to support the maintenance and operation of all parks statewide. This will be the first sub-account for a special purpose in this fund. Earmarking moneys within the fund will make it difficult to allocate funds where they are needed for the operations of park facilities. The Department of Land and Natural Resources estimates funding available for other parks will decrease by approximately \$250,000, based upon fiscal year 2006-2007 revenues as a result of this measure.

It should be pointed out that Diamond Head State Monument also receives general fund money and capital improvement funds from the State Treasury, in excess of the amounts it generates. Isolating its admission fees and making it impossible to use these fees for other recreational needs will make it harder to justify using general taxpayer dollars for this particular facility.

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Diamond Head State Monument is a universally recognized landmark. Providing a funding stream for this monument is an understandable objective but, unfortunately, this approach may jeopardize other natural assets within our state.

For the foregoing reasons, I allowed Senate Bill No. 138 to become law as Act 292, effective July 10, 2007, without my signature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Lingle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and a stylized "Lingle".

LINDA LINGLE