
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Recent news articles have brought to the
2 public's attention the recent use by the boating public of the
3 small sand bar situated in Kaneohe bay, known to native
4 Hawaiians as Ahu o Laka. According to recent news articles, the
5 sand bar is named after an Oahu chief, Laka, who died there.
6 However, other oral historical sources from native Hawaiians
7 residing on the windward side of Oahu indicate that the sand bar
8 is named as an altar to the ancient goddess of hula, Laka. When
9 the sacred art of hula was banned by western influences, many
10 followers would practice the art of hula surreptitiously in
11 hidden and remote places. The sand bar was deemed to be an
12 excellent locale for this practice since it was remote.
13 Further, the sand was an excellent medium to dance upon.

14 Recent news articles described public concerts on the sand
15 bar which attracted hundreds of persons, resulting in drinking,
16 littering, and fighting. These reports raise concerns relating
17 to the desecration of a culturally significant place and the
18 degradation of an important aesthetical resource of the state.



1 The purpose of this Act is to designate Ahu o Laka as a
2 state monument and to adopt rules for the protection and
3 maintenance of the Ahu o Laka state monument.

4 SECTION 2. Chapter 6E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
5 by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately
6 designated and to read as follows:

7 "§6E- Ahu o Laka state monument. (a) There shall be an
8 Ahu o Laka state monument as a historical, cultural, and
9 aesthetically valued site at Kaneohe, Oahu, to be administered
10 by the department of land and natural resources and to consist
11 of:

12 (1) The approximately three-acre sand bar in Kaneohe bay,
13 off Heeia, that is above the water's surface at low
14 tide; and

15 (2) The surrounding state marine waters, as that term is
16 defined in section 190D-3, that the department of land
17 and natural resources determines is necessary for the
18 preservation of the historical, cultural, and
19 aesthetic resources of the Ahu o Laka state monument.

20 (b) The department of land and natural resources, pursuant
21 to chapter 91, shall adopt rules for the protection and

1 maintenance of the Ahu o Laka state monument, to include but not
2 be limited to:

- 3 (1) Imposing conditions focused on regulating large
4 gatherings at the Ahu o Laka state monument, taking
5 into consideration safety, security, and sanitary
6 concerns; and
7 (2) Any other rules deemed necessary to protect the
8 aesthetic environment and the cultural sensitivity of
9 the Ahu o Laka state monument."

10 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

11 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Report Title:

Historic Preservation; Ahu o Laka

Description:

Establishes Ahu o Laka state monument; directs DLNR to adopt rules for the protection and maintenance of the Ahu o Laka state monument. (CD1)

