

# HPACH

919 4th Street  
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782

February 2008

Representative Ken Ito, Chair  
Representative Jon Riki Karamatsu, Vice Chair  
And Committee Members, Committee On Water, Land  
And Ocean Resources And Hawaiian Affairs  
House of Representatives, The Twenty-Fourth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2008, State of Hawaii

Subject: HB 2887, Relating To Tattooing, "SUPPORT"

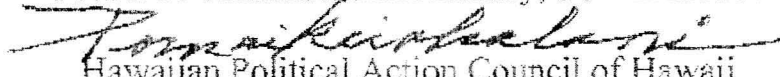
ALOHA Kakou,

My name is Richard Pomaikaiokalani Kinney. As Sovereign of the Hawaiian Political Action Council of Hawaii, I SUPPORT the passage of HB 2887.

Kakau, the practice of traditional Hawaiian tattooing is one of the parts of the Hawaiian Culture that has been dormant for far too many years in the past. As with the Hula, the Hawaiian Language, celebration of Makahiki and other parts of Hawaii's culture, Kakau is also becoming an important cultural role in today's Hawaii.

Once more, HPACH Supports the passage of HB 2887. Mahalo Nui for the opportunity to present testimony of this Bill.

Richard Pomaikaiokalani Kinney, SOVEREIGN



Hawaiian Political Action Council of Hawaii

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**Ken Ito, Chair**  
**Jon Karamatsu, Vice Chair**  
**Committee on Water, Land, Ocean and Hawaiian Affairs (WLH)**

**Kanani Kaaiawahia Bulawan**  
**Kanaka Maoli, Private Citizen**

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**February 11, 2008, 9:30am. Rm 312**

**STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2887: Relating to Traditional Tattooing**

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and members of the committee:

My name is Kanani Kaaiawahia Bulawan, a Kanaka Maoli or what you would call a private citizen. I'm here testifying in Full Support of HB:2887 relating to Traditional Tattooing and the exemption from licensing requirement by your Department or Board of Health.

**It has been my experience with both non-tradition or commercial tattooing and that of traditional tattooing. In these experiences there are very distinct differences. With the commercial process one goes into a shop, pick a design, sign a waiver and statement of understanding, pay the fee and get the work done. With the traditional process one gets to kuka kuka with Ka Kakau, the kuka kuka involves knowing your genealogy, understand your ancestry, and have a general idea of what your kuleana is towards life. This process is more than just putting a design picked out from a group of art graphic. It is a process of which you learn tradition and protocol. Based on your family status and kuleana in the ahu'pua'a. This allow you to know who you are, where you come from, what you are called and responsible to do in this life time for both the past (your kupuna) and your future (keiki).**

Our community has many needs and challenges. The bill identifies the concerns and solutions in addressing the barriers to assuring we have a healthier community and thereby reducing the need for continued government interventions. Allowing and recognizing a traditional practice and cultural believes respects all cultures that Hawaii is known and sensitive for.

Thank you for allowing me this time to submit my testimony and request your favor to support this measure. For more information I can be contacted at 783-9302.

**PROPOSED DRAFT ATTACHMENT 4 TO  
PROPOSED DRAFT CHAPTER 27 TATTOOING, BEAUTY THERAPY,  
SKIN PENETRATION AND PIERCING OF THE  
MANUKAU CITY COUNCIL CONSOLIDATED BYLAW 1992**

**GUIDELINES FOR CULTURAL TATTOO ARTISTS**

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**1. Guidelines for cultural tattoo artists**

The purpose of these guidelines is to set out the practices that are to be followed by Cultural Tattoo Artists in order to protect their clients from illness or injury due to infection or contamination resulting from the tattooing procedure.

Health controls are needed to help protect the client and the tattoo artists from a range of blood-borne infections, including:

- Hepatitis C – can cause long-term illness, liver damage and cancer of the liver
- Hepatitis B – can result in long-term illness, liver damage and liver cancer
- HIV – the virus that causes AIDS – no immunisation, no cure

Common bacteria (like staphylococcus) can also cause nasty skin infections that can damage the piercing or tattoo site.

Tattooing and piercing may also result in scars and disfigurement if not carried out in a safe and hygienic manner.

Cultural tattoo artists operating in accordance with these guidelines are exempt from the requirement to hold a permit under Chapter 27 Tattooing, Beauty Therapy, Skin Penetration and Piercing of Manukau City Council Consolidated Bylaw 1992. These guidelines have been developed by Manukau City Council in consultation with cultural tattooists and the people of Manukau City.

**1.1 In accordance with Clause 4.4 of Chapter 27 Tattooing, Beauty Therapy, Skin Penetration and Piercing of the Manukau City Council Consolidated Bylaw 1992, the Council resolves to make the following guidelines for cultural tattoo artists:**

**(a) Before tattooing**

- (i) Prepare the work area
- Ensure that the work area is clean and tidy
  - Have all the items you are using within easy reach:
    - New/clean wipes for wiping away existing ink/blood
    - Container for disposing of contaminated wipes or holding prior to cleaning
    - Fresh gloves for the tattoo artist and all persons helping

- (ii) Preparation of the ink
  - Fresh ink should be used for each tattooing session, either freshly made or decanted from another bottle.
  - Disposable ink containers are to be used
  - Any unused ink should be disposed of at the end of each session and not reused for another session or client
  
- (iii) Preparation of tattooist
  - Remove all jewellery
  - Wash hands thoroughly with soap and warm water for at least 30 seconds, include wrist and forearm up to the elbow
  - Dry hands thoroughly with a disposable towel or freshly laundered towel
  - Put on gloves
  
- (iv) Prepare clients skin
  - Check medical history of client
  - Check to ensure that skin is clean and free from infection
  - If shaving is necessary, use a new, clean disposable razor and dispose of after use
  - Disinfect the area around where the tattoo will take place

**(b) During tattoo and after tattoo**

- (i) During tattoo
  - Ensure that the work area is kept tidy
  - Only work on one client at a time, or use separate tools on each client
  - Any ink used must be pre-purchased ink specifically manufactured for tattooing purposes
  - All ink containers must be one use only, and be carefully disposed of
  - Hand cleaning must occur as often as necessary, and at least prior to commencing any new procedure.
  - Wash your hands:
    - Before and after each session and/or client
    - Immediately after removing soiled gloves
    - Immediately after going to the toilet
    - Immediately after eating or smoking
    - Immediately before putting on clean gloves
  
- (ii) Waste management
  - Place all contaminated material – blood contaminated wipes, soiled gloves, ink, ink pots, etc, in an approved biological waste container
  - Dispose of all waste at an approved biological waste management facility
  - Clean all reuseable sheets, towels etc

- (iii) Provide aftercare instructions:
  - “Guidelines for the Safe Piercing of Skin”, Ministry of Health 1998
  - When the client should return for their next session
  - What to do if pain persists

**(d) Cleaning of Tattooing implements**

This procedure is to take place both before and immediately after any tattooing process is undertaken.

- (i) Cleaning and Sterilising Traditional Tattooing Tools
  - Scrub tools with brush and cleaning agent
  - If possible clean tools and scrubbing implements in ultra-sonic cleaner to manufacturers instruction
  - Soak tools and scrubbing implements in Perasafe solution (or equivalent) mixed according to manufacturers instructions, and soaked for at least 20 minutes
  - Cleanse with sterile water
  - Allow to air dry for at least 45 minutes before reuse, but protect from contaminants
  - Store in sterile bag if possible

It is much easier to scrub the tools clean straight after the tattoo is finished, before the ink and blood has had a chance to completely dry on the tools.

Ideally, there should be a separate sink that is used for cleaning the tools. Otherwise, a stainless steel or glass bowl can be used, but it is not to be used for anything else. The toothbrush and the part of the tool being scrubbed should be kept immersed in water during the cleaning process to prevent ink and blood from being flicked around.

Perasafe is a product developed to sterilize items made of plastic and rubber and other materials that cannot be cleaned in an autoclaved (special cleaning machine). This makes it the best option for sterilizing the porous materials used in the traditional tools. It is important that the Perasafe solution is mixed correctly. If not enough powder is used, it may not be totally effective, and if too much powder is used, it may damage the tools.

The Perasafe instructions say to soak the tool for 10 minutes, the 20 minute soak is an extra precaution

Drying the tool completely before it is used on another person is a further precaution. If 45 minutes is too long to wait, then a second set of sterilized tools should be on hand for use.

End