

Haunani Olds

From: Moses K Haia [mohaia@nhlchi.org]
Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2008 8:56 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Subject: HB 3238, Relating to Applied Archaeology
Importance: High

TO: Representative Jerry L. Chang, Chair
Representative Joe Bertram, III, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education

FROM: Moses K. N. Haia III, Esq.

HEARING: Thursday, January 31, 2008, 3:00 pm, Conference Room 309

SUBJECT: Support of HB 3238, Relating to Applied Archaeology

Aloha. My name is Moses Haia and I stand in full and enthusiastic support of HB 3238, Relating to Applied Archaeology.

As a Native Hawaiian resident of Hawaii I am concerned with the dismal shape of our historic preservation program. This legislature has previously declared "that it shall be the public policy of this State to provide leadership in preserving, restoring, and maintaining historic and cultural property, to ensure the administration of such historic and cultural property in a spirit of stewardship and trusteeship for future generations, and to conduct activities, plans, and programs in a manner consistent with the preservation and enhancement of historic and cultural property." That policy has, unfortunately, been too long ignored. The cultural heritage of all Hawaiians has, as a result, needlessly and greatly suffered.

It is my sincere belief that this piece of legislation will greatly assist the realization of this honorable body's above cited eloquent pronouncement. It will do so by providing training in Hawaiian archaeology to professionals involved in the identification and protection of human burials and grave goods, cultural resources, and archaeological sites. Adequately funding an Applied Archaeology Masters program at UH-Mānoa will enable the State to comply with its moral obligation and legislative mandate to protect Hawai'i's cultural heritage and strengthen ties between the university and the public. The program and the proposed planning sessions will create a public dialogue on historic preservation among numerous communities, state agencies, and private interests. The Applied MA program at Mānoa will also provide distance learning across the state and involve faculty from other UH campuses. Students will receive paid internships that will directly contribute to their education and to the increased protection of cultural sites and resources.

For these and many other reasons, I humbly urge this committee's passage of HB 3238.

1/31/2008

Mahalo for allowing me to testify in strong support of this very important piece of legislation.