



Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs
P. O. Box 1135
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96807

TESTIMONY OF LEIMOMI KHAN, PRESIDENT
IN SUPPORT OF

LATE
Testimony

HB 3424 - RELATING TO TARO

**HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE; CONSUMER PROTECTION &
COMMERCE; AND TRANSPORTATION**

Hearing date and time: February 8, 2008

February 7, 2008

Aloha Chairpersons Tsuji, Herkes and Souki; Vice-Chairs Brower, McKelvey and Nishimoto; and Members of the House Committees on Agriculture; Consumer Protection & Commerce; and Transportation.

The Association is a growing national confederation of fifty-three Hawaiian Civic Clubs, located throughout the State of Hawai'i and in the States of Alaska, California, Colorado, Illinois, Nevada, Utah, Virginia and Washington State. It initiates and works to support actions that enhance the civic, economic, educational, health and social welfare of our communities, and in particular, the culture and welfare of the Native Hawaiian community.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 3424, which requires the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture to report on the status of agricultural opportunities in the State to expand taro farming. Represented among our membership are many taro farmers, and the Association has passed resolutions supporting traditional and cultural practices, including taro farming.

On behalf of our members, we would ask that if this bill passes there be a mechanism to assure full and meaningful consultation with taro farmers and taro farming families, communities where actual farming is occurring and communities where there is interest in the community to open up lo'i. These families and individuals are the most knowledgeable about the many tasks outlined in this bill -- the suitability and amount of acreage required; water availability; the unique character of traditional communities in which families share taro cultivation responsibilities across generations, families and communities. They are best qualified to say what qualities make a capable farmer and what does not.

We support this bill with the understanding that it will support the growth of a viable taro industry based on the perpetuation of our Kanaka Maoli culture and traditional practices. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Clift Tsuji, Chair
House Agriculture Committee

From: Penny Levin, Executive Director
E Keopaku Ka'aina


LATE
Testimony

Re: HB 3424 relating to taro

Date: 8 FEB 2008

My name is Penny Levin; I am a conservation planner and taro farmer on Maui. I support HB 3424 and urge coordination with the Taro Security & Purity Task Force upon implementation of this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify


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