



HB 3440 RELATING TO NIŪIHAU

House Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources & Hawaiian
Affairs

February 8, 2008

8:30 a.m.

Room: 312

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** H.B. 3440, which would designate Niūihau as a community-based subsistence fishing area. The bill also directs the Department of Land and Natural Resources to consult with the ūAha Moku Council to adopt management strategies and other rules that ensure a long-term sustainable population of fish and other marine species; address onshore and offshore recreational activities; and provide an enforcement officer within the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement for the Niūihau fisheries management area.

As a general rule, OHA supports any legitimate effort to protect the marine resources of our state. Native Hawaiians have historically depended upon the ocean for their sustenance, and strict kapu, or restrictions, ensured the long-term sustainability of marine resources. Community-based subsistence fishing area designations have proven to be promising protection tools in other important traditional fishing areas. The people of Niūihau live in almost complete isolation. The water around them is truly their "icebox," and efforts are needed to ensure that their icebox remains filled.

OHA urges the Committee to PASS H.B. 3440. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.