



LATE

Legislative Testimony
SB 2421 SD2, RELATING TO LAND ACQUISITION-GALBRAITH
Committee on Finance

March 31, 2008

2:00 p.m.

Room: 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) SUPPORTS with AMENDMENTS SB 2421 SD2, which authorizes the Department of Land and natural Resources to acquire lands owned by the Galbraith Estate in central O`ahu; Appropriates funds for the acquisition of land in Wahiawa, O`ahu, currently owned by the George Galbraith Estate.

OHA advocates the acquisition of mentioned Galbraith Estate lands with respect to preserving and protecting Hawai`i's fleeting natural environment and valuable cultural resources. OHA acknowledges the State's reference to Article XI, section 3 of the Hawai`i State Constitution and proposes to amend SB 2421 SD2 by adding reference to Article XII, section 7 of the Hawai`i State Constitution. While Galbraith Estate lands serve as agriculturally suitable lands, Galbraith Estate Lands and all contents therein more importantly serve as vital and crucial vestiges of Native Hawaiian identity and perpetuation.

The spiritual epicenter site known as Kūkaniloko is located within mentioned Galbraith Estate lands. Kūkaniloko has been dated as being established in the 12th century (Fornander) and serves as the birth place of Native Hawaiian Ali`i. The overall significance of this site, which encompasses land beyond the immediate site of Kūkaniloko, commands one of the highest protocols and therefore is referred as a wahi kapu (sacred and taboo space). Native Hawaiian practitioners continue to access Kūkaniloko, serving as a living facet to Native Hawaiian livelihood and perpetuation.

OHA acknowledges property assessment value as determined by the City and County of Honolulu, but proposes to amend SB 2421 SD2 by proposing that an assessment of mentioned TMKs be verified as Galbraith Estate holdings and a fair appraisal be executed for verified parcels.

OHA compliments the Legislature on this bill's intent in the promotion and protection of Hawai`i's host, the Native Hawaiian, and the preservation of Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights. OHA urges the Committee to PASS SB 2421 SD2, taking the above concerns and amendments into account. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE TESTIMONY



**THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND'S TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
SB 2421 SD 2**

House Committee on Finance

Monday, March 31, 2008, 2:00 p.m., Room 308

FINtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Dear Chairperson Oshiro and Vice Chair Lee:

Hawai'i Office
212 Merchant St.
Suite 320
Honolulu, HI
96813
T 808-524-8560
F 808-524-8565
www.tpl.org

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) supports SB 2421 SD 2 Relating to Land Acquisition. TPL is hopeful that additional funding from the Army and other sources may be compiled to effect a public purchase.

TPL conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come. Nationwide, TPL has five program initiatives: (1) providing parks for people, (2) protecting working lands (farms, ranches, and forests), (3) conserving natural lands (wilderness, wildlife habitat), (4) safeguarding heritage lands (cultural and historical resources), and (5) preserving land to ensure clean drinking water and the natural beauty of our coasts and waterways. In Hawai'i, TPL has worked with public and private partners to conserve over 36,000 acres of land in the State, including Pūpūkea-Paumalū and Waimea Valley on O'ahu, Wao Kele o Puna on Hawai'i Island and Mū'olea Point on Maui, and Lumaha'i Beach on Kaua'i.

As development pressures and urban sprawl increase on O'ahu, our local community has become increasingly concerned about land use, food self-sufficiency and security, natural resource depletion, and economic dependency on imported food and products. The people of Hawai'i have agreed that agricultural preservation and self-sufficiency are important and embodied these values in our State Constitution, which requires the State to "conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands." Art. XI, sec. 3.

Agricultural land located in Central O'ahu, such as the 2,100 acres currently for sale by the Galbraith Estate, are key to Hawai'i's future food security and self-sufficiency. These lands are close to local markets and transportation corridors, and have ample supplies of irrigation water. The Galbraith lands also serve as an important recharge area over our drinking water aquifer. The lands are the gateway to the rural North Shore, and are the "first domino" parcel of agricultural lands that will inevitably convert to gentlemen's estates or residential subdivisions, if we do not act in a timely fashion.

TPL supports SB 2421 SD 2 because acquisition of the Galbraith lands furthers the values of Hawai'i's people and preserves essential resources for future generations. SB 2421 also allows the State to work with other conservation minded partners to

acquire and manage the lands. Further, acquisition would resolve some of the issues concerning the ownership of, and liability for Lake Wilson.

TPL supports SB 2421 SD 2, is conducting an appraisal and is ready to assist the State and other conservation partners in collaborative efforts to acquire the Galbraith lands.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lea Hong". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Lea Hong
Hawaiian Islands Program Director