

The Twenty-Fourth Legislature
Regular Session of 2008

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources & Hawaiian Affairs
Rep. Ken Ito, Chair
Rep. Jon Riki Karamatsu, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 312
Friday, March 14, 2008; 10:00 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 2421, SD2
RELATING TO LAND ACQUISITION**

The ILWU Local 142 supports S.B. 2421, SD2, which authorizes the Department of Land and Natural Resources to acquire lands owned by the Galbraith Estate in Central Oahu and appropriates funds for the acquisition.

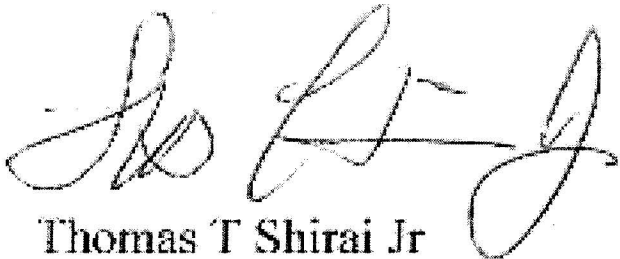
The Galbraith lands constitute a huge parcel that is considered by some to be among the best agricultural lands on Oahu. For years, the land had been in pineapple cultivation. With Del Monte's decision to cease production on the Galbraith lands several years ago, the land has been fallow, growing weeds instead of crops that could be beneficial to Hawaii's residents both for food and for jobs.

Agriculture should be promoted on Oahu. If the State acquires the Galbraith lands, preservation of agriculture can become a reality for generations to come.

The ILWU urges passage of S.B. 2421, SD2. Thank you for considering our testimony.

Ha'ina 'ia mai ana kapuana – Tell the refrain
O ka lua o na lani e o mai – The graves of the chiefs, they call

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony supporting SB 2421 SD2. *Malama Kukaniloko. Malama Iwi Kupuna.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Shirai Jr.', written in a cursive style.

Thomas T Shirai Jr
Kawaihapai Ohana – Po'o

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House Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources & Hawaiian Affairs
Representative Ken Ito, Chair

RE: Testimony Supporting SB 2421 SD2 (Relating to Land Acquisition)

Aloha Chair Ito & Committee Members,

The *Kawaihapai Ohana* supports SB 2421 SD2 which would provide funding for the Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR) an opportunity to purchase land of the Galbraith Estate with the understand that this would perpetuate **agricultural use and zoning**. Along with this is that long term leases (55 years) will be offered to those wishing to pursue or continue **agricultural ventures and no gentlemen farms**.

Part of the mission statement of the *Kawaihapai Ohana* is protection and preservation of Hawaiian Cultural and Historical sites within *Waialua Moku*. Located within the Galbraith Estate is a *wahi pana* which is referred as the *Piko of Oahu* called ***Kukanihiko: Birthplace of Alii***. The chronological history (*kinohiwa*) of *Kukanihiko*, dates back to when it was established by *Nanakaoko (k)* and his wife *Kahikiokalani (w)*. Their son is *Kapawa* and he's the first Chief of *Waialua Moku*.

The Bishop Museum's *Waialua Moku* informants shared their *mana'o* regarding *Kukanihiko* thru the efforts of a beloved *kupuna* named *Elizabeth Lahlahi Webb* who was a member of *The Daughters of Hawaii* which originated and formed at *Mokuleia Ahupua'a* where Dillingham Ranch is situated. Later she was employed by Bishop Museum. She had an intimate relationship with some *Kupuna of Kawaihapai Ohana* which included my *tutu kane (David Peahi Kewo Jr)* and his *Ohana* and asked them to share *Aoolelo and Na Mea Hawaii'i* of *Waialua Moku* which included *Kukanihiko*.

This is one of the foremost reasons why *Kawaihapai Ohana* supports SB 2421 SD2 because it also honor's our *Kupuna*. Therefore we are hoping that land immediately surrounding *Kukanihiko* be purchased to increase the **buffer zone** for further protection of this sacred *wahi pana*.

In conclusion, I share more *mana'o* of *Kukanihiko* in a chant composed by *King Kamehameha II (Liholiho)* entitled *Kalena Kai* which pays tribute to *wahi pana* he visited within *Waialua Moku* in the early 1820's while gathering *mea ai* before going to *Kawai*:



Legislative Testimony

SB 2421 SD2, RELATING TO LAND ACQUISITION-GALBRAITH
COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, OCEAN RESOURCES & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Friday, March 14, 2008

10:00 a.m.

Room: 312

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS with AMENDMENTS** SB 2421, which directs the Department of Land and Natural Resources or any appropriate entity of the State to acquire land situated in central O`ahu owned by the Galbraith Estate by negotiation or condemnation.

OHA agrees that the Galbraith Estate lands should be protected. In particular, however, OHA's interests in these lands goes beyond the agricultural value of the land, and encompasses their significant cultural values.

The spiritual site known as Kūkaniloko is located within this area. Kūkaniloko has been dated as being established in the 12th century 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 kapu space). Native Hawaiian practitioners continue to access Kūkaniloko, serving as a living facet to Native Hawaiian livelihood and perpetuation.

OHA would like to see that the bill is amended to 1) acknowledges the cultural values on this land and 2) specifically calls for consultation with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs before any leases, sales or eminent domain condemnation action be instigated to assure the cultural integrity of the land.

OHA compliments the Legislature on this bill's intent. OHA urges the Committee to PASS SB 2421 SD2, taking the above concerns and proposed amendments into account. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.