



Senate Committee on Ways and Means
SB No. 3206 – To Establish a Kawainui Marsh Advisory Council : Appropriate monies to DLNR for the work of the council.

February 26, 2008
10:45 am
Rm. 211

Chairperson and members of the Committee,

Ahahui Malama I ka Lokahi, a native Hawaiian conservation organization of 2000 members again supports S.B. #3206 S.D.1 as proposed with amendments to support the establishment of a Kawainui Marsh Advisory Council and appropriated funding for its support for the fiscal year 2008-2009.

Ahahui Malama I ka Lokahi has been the leading Hawaiian environmental and cultural organization for the past 12 years in the ecological and cultural restoration in Kawainui Marsh and conducts educational programs for school, college and community groups. Under the DLNR/Division of State Parks, Ahahui is a co-curator with the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club for Ulupo Heiau. It is also the curator for Na Pohaku o Hauwahine and recently signed a contract with the Kailua Bay Advisory Council to maintain a Xeriscape Hawaiian native plant garden at the Kawainui Neighborhood Park .

Ahahui Malama i ka Lokahi is also a member of the Ho'olaulima ia Kawainui, a coalition group of Kailua community and environmental organizations formed to develop an Interpretive Educational Site Plan for Kawainui Marsh. We also support Ho'olaulima's efforts to write a legislative resolution to recognize the accomplishments of Kailua's community organizations to protect, conserve and restore the ecological and cultural sites of Kawainui Marsh and to continue its

mission to work with governmental and all community stakeholders to enhance the conservation of the Ramsar Kawainui/Hamakua Marsh Complex Wetlands of International Importance.

Ahahui Malama I ka Lokahi views the Ho'olaulima ia Kawainui as a larger all inclusive community coalition that could serve as a "parent" or conduit organization to advise and recommend its concerns and issues relating to the Kawainui/Hamakua Wetlands and its related waterways in the Kailua Ahupua'a to the established legislative mandated Kawainui/Kailua Ahupua'a Advisory Council. There would be few if any objections on why a larger Kailua community based group and a smaller and effective State advisory council to the Department of Land and Natural Resources can not co-exist with each other on matters pertaining to the cultural and natural resources of the Kawainui/Hamakua Wetlands and the Kailua Ahupua'a.

Ahahui would like to make the following recommendations and clarifications.

1. Use the one word name KAWAINUI instead of the two part name KAWAI NUI. It is the consensus among Hawaiian linguists and cultural practitioners that it would be preferable to use the one part name because of its use in historical times and is grammatically correct. A soon to be published book of the History of Kailua will use the one part name, Kawainui to be more consistent in future writings.
2. With the inclusion of a student representative there will be six instead of five exofficio members.
3. In line (4) of S 171 it should read – Two cultural representatives (recommended) rather than "appointed" by the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club and 'Ahahui Malama I ka Lokahi; (Only the Governor appoints)
4. Line (6) should read - One "Kailua major" landowner representative; and
5. Line (5) (Five) instead of "four" exofficio members.....
6. It is recommended that the 12 members of the advisory council serve only for a term of four years.
7. It is recommended that the four representatives from environmental and/or educational nonprofit organizations rotate their member NGO organizations every four years from the "parent" Ho'olaulima ia Kawainui coalition.

8. SECTION 3 – In the 5th line should read: revising (and updating) the 1994 Kawainui Marsh Master Plan (and to conduct an Environmental Impact Study (EIS)).

Ahahui Malama I ka Lokahi and other community, environmental and Hawaiian organizations who support SB 3206 appreciate your kind consideration in the appropriation and passage of this significant bill which could serve as a model for other Ahupua'a community and governmental partnerships.

Aloha pumehana,

Charles K. Burrows, Ed.D.
President, Ahahui Malama i ka Lokahi I ka Lokahi

testimony

From: Windward Ahupua`a Alliance [info@waa-hawaii.org]
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2008 11:55 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SB 3206 SD1 - RELATING TO KAWAI NUI MARSH

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COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Sen. Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair

DECISION-MAKING HEARING
10:45 am
Tuesday, February 26, 2008
Conference Room 211

SB 3206 SD1 - RELATING TO KAWAI NUI MARSH
STRONGLY SUPPORT

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS:

Although some opposition to establishing the **Kawai Nui Marsh Advisory Council** has been raised by a few people representing organizations which have been involved over the years in planning the restoration of the *Marsh*, the *Windward Ahupua`a Alliance*, a **501c3** Hawai`i non-profit corporation which has several *on-the-ground* projects in *Kawai Nui Marsh*, continues to support **SB 3206 - SD1**. Their opposition seems to focus on their belief - albeit mistaken - that a **Council** is not necessary.

Although we appreciate their concerns that a **Council** might get caught in a bureaucratic morass, in fact this measure will help provide the necessary resources both human and financial for groups such as *Ahahui Malama I Ka Lokahi*, *the Kailua Bay Advisory Council*, *the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club*, and the *Windward Ahupua`a Alliance* to continue our work in and around *Kawai Nui Marsh*.

At this point in time, *WAA* does not have a suggested dollar amount to be inserted in **SB 3206 - SD1**; however, we would be willing to sit down with the **Committee** and other interested parties to discuss this.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit our written support.