

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2008
COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, OCEAN RESOURCES & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Testimony regarding
SD 3206, SD 2
RELATING TO KAWAI NUI MARSH

March 12, 2008

Chairman Ito and members of the Committee:

I am Susan Miller, President of Kawai Nui Heritage Foundation. The Foundation appreciates the efforts of Senator Tokuda in introducing S.B. 3206, but believes it is premature, and that a resolution would better serve the present situation. We cannot be present for the hearing, but we urge you to defer this bill.

Kawai Nui Marsh is not a simple management problem -- it has aspects of a wildlife refuge, a cultural monument, an agricultural park (taro), and a recreational area. There is no model for an appropriate management structure in Hawai'i, so one will have to be developed or sought elsewhere. Whatever management structure is chosen will affect both the updating of the 1994 Master Plan and the composition of an advisory body.

Kawai Nui is called the piko of the ahupua`a of Kailua, but it does not exist in a vacuum; there is the need to view Kawai Nui in the context of the ahupua`a, which includes Kaelepulu (Enchanted Lake), and not as an isolated entity. This needs to be taken into account by a management structure and an advisory body.

For these reasons, and those presented by Hawaii Audubon Society and others, we support deferral and look forward to supporting the resolution that is being developed by Senator Tokuda and Representative Chong.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

/s/ Susan Elliott Miller
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