

**House Bill No. 1661
RELATING TO KULEANA LANDS**

House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

February 11, 2009
Room 329

9:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members.
While OHA is deeply committed to protecting rights to kuleana lands, OHA **opposes** HB 1661 Relating to Kuleana Lands.

This bill would create a new trust within OHA in which certain inheritable interests in kuleana lands would be held. OHA is not necessarily in a position to administer such a trust at this time. Additionally, the framework for holding and transferring the land interests is not clear in the bill. Several elements of the framework are listed but their interconnection, impact, and sequence is complex. The elements are:

- A ten-year period to allow for any claims to succession to the inheritable interest
- The development by OHA of a land management plan for the use and management of the kuleana properties
- Approval of the plan by the Department of Land and Natural Resources
- The modifier "whichever is later"
- The transfer of the properties to OHA, apparently not in trust

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.