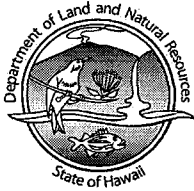


**TESTIMONY**  
**HB1665 HD1**

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
LAURA H. THIELEN  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Wednesday, March 18, 2009  
3:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1665, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO HAWAIIAN FISHPONDS**

House Bill 1665, House Draft 1 proposes to prohibit the sale of public lands on which government-owned Hawaiian fishponds are located. Whereas government-owned fishponds are considered ceded lands, the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) respectfully defers to the Department of the Attorney General with regard to providing specific comments on this measure as part of the overall ceded lands issue before this Legislature.

**LAURA H. THIELEN**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**RUSSELL Y. TSUJI**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**KEN C. KAWAHARA**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

THE SENATE  
THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2009

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, March 18, 2009  
TIME: 3:00 p.m.  
PLACE: Conference Room 229  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1665 HD1

From: Tony Costa  
Hawaii Nearshore Fishermen  
Honolulu, Hawaii  
540-1308 office

Testimony

HNF are in strong support of HB1665 HD1

Fishermen believe there is nothing more important you can do for our nearshore fisheries than rehabilitate the nearshore estuarine habitat – one most important first step component being the fresh spring water revival.

Much has been proclaimed over the past ten years or so about “resource decline” and failed fisheries or other negative assessments about our oceans and reef. Never before has so much attention been given to nearshore resource conditions.

As the various groups rush to promote favorite measures to “save the reef”, we note that habitat loss, fresh water diversion, siltation or pollution rarely gets any attention as an important component in the condition of the reef. Yet, most all State and Non-Governmental groups do seem keener to focus on and malign traditional fishing practices as the single most urgent thing to prohibit as a fix.

While we understand the shortsighted world view most lay people have regarding the nearshore, fishermen remain optimistic that the misunderstanding about our ocean environments and the fishermen themselves will in time, evolve into a better awareness that will eventually lead to a spirit of shared responsibility and coexistence.

The fishermen believe habitat loss is the primary culprit of any downside in fish population with recruitment being the important factor. Recruitment (new babies surviving) depends on many factors but condition of habitat surely is great. You can't have one without the other.

Biologists also tell us that recruitment is independent of spawning stock biomass (amount of pregnant egg bearing mothers). In other words, if conditions are just right (nursery habitat, water, temp, nutrients, stars lining up etc.) one single pregnant female can be responsible for millions of offspring (hypothetical).

When the *kalalimu* disappeared from Maunalua Bay due to the siltation associated from the dredging of Koko Marina in the 1950's, the *Kala* (fish) also disappeared -

We believe the single most effective thing you could do to help in recruitment of nearshore reef species and nearshore pelagic species would be to rehab the nursery grounds. One important ingredient in our nearshore nursery ground is the underground artesian spring waters that naturally percolate into our nearshore areas.

HB 1665 is one small step in insuring that some of these nearshore spring water systems remain not disturbed and as functional as possible by not allowing the sale of public fishpond lands.

Currently, there are public owned fishponds on Oahu, Maui, Molokai, Hawaii, and Kauai.

HB1665 would protect fishponds on all these islands in each of their respective districts.

For example, Oahu has 26 government owned fishponds. One in Kapalama, one in Kahana, two in Kaneohe, two in Moanalua, one in Waikeke, one in Waiale'e, two in Kualoa, one in Kailua, five in Halawa, one in Kalauao, one in Waimano, one in Honouliuli, one in Puuloa, one in Waikele, one in Waianae, one in Kahana, one in Kahauiki, one in Niu, one in Kuliouou, one in Kalihi (Mokauea).

For an inventory of all government owned and privately owned fishponds in Hawaii, I have a list documented by UH Manoa Department of Ocean and Resources Engineering available should you have further interest.

The Fishermen want to commend the efforts and energies by all legislators and community members who wrote and are in support of this bill.

We strongly support HB1665

Tony Costa  
Hawaii Nearshore Fishermen

Jeannine Johnson, Legislative Sub-Committee Chair

## **Kuli'ou'ou / Kalani Iki Neighborhood Board #2**

5648 Pia Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96821

Phone: 373-2874 (h) / 537-7261 (w)

March 14, 2009

### COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

Hearing: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at 3:00 pm in Conference Room 229  
HB 1665, HD1 - RELATING TO HAWAIIAN FISHPONDS

Aloha Chair Hee, Vice Chair Tokuda and Honorable Committee Members,

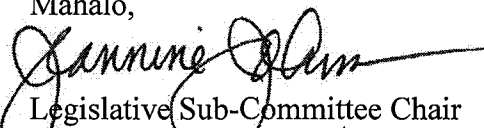
As Committee Chair of the **Kuli'ou'ou / Kalani Iki Neighborhood Board #2** Legislative Sub-Committee, I am pleased to inform you **Neighborhood Board #2** supports HB1665 HD1 which prohibits the sale of public lands on which government-owned Hawaiian fishponds are located. **Neighborhood Board #2** represents over 6,000 households, with a population of almost 20,000 people (State of Hawaii Data Book 2002) in East Honolulu.

Before Westerners arrived in Hawai'i, native Hawaiians lived a life of self-subsistence and harmony with the land and sea. Native Hawaiians understood that by caring for the land and sea, they too, would be cared for by the land and sea. A great example of this is a native Hawaiian fishpond (loko i'a or loko kuapā) which were first built around the fifteenth century. Hawaiians built 488 fishponds statewide, however only about 60 fishponds remain recognizable today. O'ahu alone had 97 fishponds, but only six accessible ponds remain today and all are located on the windward side. Thirteen fishponds have been restored statewide, with six ponds currently in use: three on Moloka'i, one on the island of Hawai'i, and two on O'ahu.

Currently, the Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center is working to stop the sale of two remaining fishponds at auction by the Department of Transportation. They are Kanewai Fishpond, a royal pond assessed to have the properties that make it eligible for listing on the National Historic Register, and Kalauha'eha'e (Lucas Spring and Fishpond) reported to be the location of a summer home of Kamehameha I and where Ka'ahumanu was said to have stayed.

Recognizing the important cultural significance these fishponds represent, at its November 6, 2008 meeting, **Neighborhood Board #2** voted to support preventing any governmental entity from selling culturally significant Native Hawaiian treasurers such as fishponds. Your support of HB1665 HD1 is respectfully requested.

Mahalo,



Legislative Sub-Committee Chair  
**Kuli'ou'ou / Kalani Iki Neighborhood Board #2**

cc via email: Chair Robert Chuck  
Sen. Sam Slom  
Rep. Lyla Berg  
Rep. Barbara Marumoto

**JEANNINE JOHNSON**

5648 Pia Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96821

Phone: 373-2874 (h) / 537-7261 (w)

March 14, 2009

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

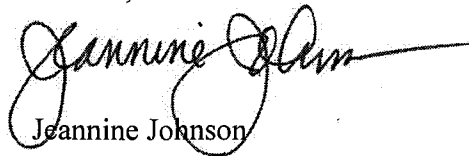
Hearing: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at 3:00 pm in Conference Room 229  
HB 1665, HD1 - RELATING TO HAWAIIAN FISHPONDS

Aloha Chair Hee, Vice Chair Tokuda and Honorable Committee Members,

I strongly support HB1665 HD1 which prevents the sale of public land on which government-owned Hawaiian fishponds are located. Many Hawaiian communities are becoming revitalized by strengthening cultural and spiritual connections and using the knowledge of cultural practitioners that was passed down through our kupuna (elders) and experienced farmers (mahi'ai) and fishers (lawai'a) to engage and enhance both sustainability and subsistence and self-sufficiency. My father was a fisherman from Miloli'i and my 'ohana knows how important it is to protect our valuable resources we have left so that our keiki and mo'opuna will be able to fish like our kūpuna.

E ola ke kai, e ola kākou (as the ocean thrives, so do we.) Please kōkua and help preserve fishponds wherever they are located, and especially those on government lands.

Mahalo,



Jeannine Johnson

cc: Sen. Sam Slom  
Rep. Gene Ward  
Rep. Lyla Berg  
Rep. Barbara Marumoto

BOARD  
OF  
DIRECTORS

2008



March 14, 2009

Elizabeth Reilly  
President

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

Marian Grey  
Vice President

Hearing: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at 3:00 pm in Conference Room 229  
HB 1665, HD1 – Relating to Hawaiian Fishponds

Gayle Carr  
Secretary

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Tokuda and Honorable Committee Members,

Tai Hong  
Treasurer

Livable Hawai'i Kai Hui (LHKH) is a non-profit, nonpartisan community action group. We strive to promote sensible growth and respect for the land as well as upholding the integrity of the East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan (EHSCP).

Jeannine Johnson  
Director

LHKH encourages grass roots organization, community awareness and education of laws, rules, and regulations that guide sensible growth and development to enhance the quality of life for residents, focusing on the preservation of the agricultural lands in Kamilonui Valley, natural watersheds and adequate open spaces and community stewardship for the protection of watersheds, wetlands, natural and irreplaceable resources and cultural and historic areas in East Honolulu.

Jacquelin Miller  
Director

Fishponds are an irreplaceable cultural and historic resource that must be preserved for future generations. Therefore, as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt corporation, we are the fiscal sponsor for Maunaloa Fishpond Heritage Center whose mission is to preserve Maunaloa's last fishponds for education. **We strongly support HB1665 HD1** which prevents the sale of public land on which government-owned Hawaiian fishponds are located and humbly ask for your support.

Allen Tateishi  
Director

Gary Weller  
Director

Sincerely,

*Elizabeth Reilly*

Thomas Yamabe  
Director

Elizabeth Reilly, President

Livable Hawaii Kai Hui ~ P.O. Box 25493 ~ Honolulu, HI ~ 96825  
Phone: 808.864-8081 Fax: 808.396-5399

Email: [hawaiiikaihui@aol.com](mailto:hawaiiikaihui@aol.com) ~ Website: [www.hawaiiikaihui.org](http://www.hawaiiikaihui.org)

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
(Mark Fox, Director of External Affairs)  
Supporting the Intent of H.B. 1665 HD1 Relating to Hawaiian Fishponds  
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, & Hawaiian Affairs  
Wednesday, March 18, 2009, 3:00pm, Rm. 229**

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*The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of Hawaii's native plants, animals, and ecosystems. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands for native species in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 32,000 acres in 11 nature preserves on O'ahu, Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i. We also work closely with government agencies, private parties and communities on cooperative land and marine management projects.*

---

The Nature Conservancy supports the intent of H.B. 1665 HD1 to help preserve and restore Hawaiian fishponds. In addition to the important historic and cultural values of Hawaiian fishponds, we believe they may serve a valuable role in the conservation of marine resources and mitigation of climate change impacts in the coming years.

Today, Hawaii's marine environment faces threats from anthropogenic sources of pollution, sedimentation, overharvesting, lack of community ownership, and an overall decrease in the competitive advantage of native species over non-natives. Scientists believe that present day reef fish stocks in Hawai'i have decreased by 75% in the past century. We believe fishponds may be able to assist in increasing fish stocks by providing additional juvenile recruitment and relieving fishing pressure on wild stocks of some reef fish species. In addition, fishponds can reduce sediment reaching the reefs, and may help to increase water recharge. Their rock walls may also mitigate some of the effects of sea level rise on coastal areas.

Through partnerships with communities, cultural practitioners, fishers, scientists and others, The Nature Conservancy is exploring ways to systematically test and demonstrate the biological conservation values that Hawaiian fishponds may provide in modern day Hawai'i. Central to this analysis is understanding the role of fishponds in addressing (1) climate change, (2) biodiversity and habitat conservation, (3) invasive species control, and (4) stock enhancement.

By preserving Hawaiian fishponds, we can better understand and restore the cultural, historic, and biological values they bring to Hawai'i.

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Thomas T Shirai Jr  
P O Box 601  
Waialua, HI 96791  
Email: [Kawaihapai@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:Kawaihapai@hawaii.rr.com)

Hearing Notice  
Wednesday, March 18, 2009  
3:00PM/ State Capitol Conference Room 309  
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture & Hawaiian Affairs (WTL)  
Senator Clayton Hee (Chair) / Senator Jill N Tokuda (Vice Chair)

March 16, 2009

RE: Testimony of Strong Support for HB 1665 HD1 (Relating to Hawaiian Fishponds)

Aloha Chair Hee, Vice Chair Tokuda & Committee Members,

I'm a lifetime resident of *Mokule'ia* which is located with *Waialua Moku*. I strongly support HB 1665 HD1. Within *Waialua Moku* is *Loko Ea* fishpond which is owned by *Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate (KSBE)*. They currently are active in cleaning up *Loko Ea* with community participation to eventually restoring this great subsistence resource. During the era of our *Po'e Kahiko*, land that contained a *loko l'a* was considered *aina momona (fat land)*. No where else in *Polynesia* did those inhabitants implement and devised such an advance form of engineering to enhance food sustainability.

During this 2009 Legislative Session, SB 786 SD1 (Relating to Historic Places) was also introduced as a form of protection for our cultural and historical sites currently listed on the *Hawaii Registry of Historic Places*. The listed fishponds below are currently on the *Hawaii Registry of Historic Places* for the *Island of Oahu*:

*Huilua Fishpond – Kahana*  
*Moli'i Fishpond – Kualoa*

The *Waikalua Loko l'a* restoration project in *Kaneohe* is another example of community participation to restoring this cultural, historical and subsistence resource. Therefore, it's hopeful that *Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estates (KSBE)* would be receptive to having *Loko Ea* placed on the *Hawaii Registry of Historic Places* to be afforded additional protection contained in HB 1665 and/or SB 786 SD1.

Much of our *Loko l'a* on *Oahu* are no longer existing and have either been filled in for urbanization or polluted where it can no longer produce edible fish. The best examples of this are the *Loko Kuapa (Hawai'i Kai)*, *Kaneohe Bay (includes part of Marine Corps Hawai'i)* and *Pu'uloa (Pearl Harbor)*. This legislation protects our remaining *Loko l'a* from being sold as a commodity or investment. Last year *Kukaniloko Birth Stones* (although not a fishpond) faced similarity due to the closure of *Del Monte* and therefore the effective date for HB 1665 HD1 should be amended and reverted back to take effect upon approval from this legislative session. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony strongly supporting HB 1665 HD1 for future generations. *Malama Aina*.

*Thomas T Shirai Jr*  
*Mokule'ia, Waialua*

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2009 7:10 AM  
**To:** WTLTestimony  
**Cc:** bkfisle@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1665 on 3/18/2009 3:00:00 PM

Testimony for WTL 3/18/2009 3:00:00 PM HB1665

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Kimo Franklin  
Organization: Individual  
Address: PO Box 240752 Hon. HI.  
Phone: 808-395-7809  
E-mail: [bkfisle@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:bkfisle@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 3/17/2009

**Comments:**

I support keeping government owned Hawaiian fishponds in the public trust. This would make a big difference.

Traditional Hawaiian fish ponds were once a great resource for the people. The ponds that remain can become a valuable resource of the people of Hawaii again. Education, aquaculture, habitat restoration are just a few of the benefits that can be derived from the remaining ponds.

All ponds should be saved and restoration should be done where possible. To many of these cultural resources have been lost already and this trend must stop for the sake of future generations.

I am in full support of HB1665.

Kimo Franklin  
Maunalua, Oahu



# MAUNALUA FISHPOND HERITAGE CENTER

March 14, 2009

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Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

Hearing: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at 3:00 pm in Conference Room 229  
HB 1665, HD1 - RELATING TO HAWAIIAN FISHPONDS

Aloha Chair Hee, Vice Chair Tokuda and Honorable Committee Members,

Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center is a non-profit community organization whose mission is to preserve Maunalua's last fishponds for education. It is a sad fact that many O'ahu youth have never seen a traditional fishpond. East O'ahu was formerly home to a great abundance of fish and fishponds. Since ancient times, stories recorded the great schools of mullet that traveled through Maunalua each year. Fish were so abundant that they would stretch as far as the eye could see. The Punakou (Wailupe) and Kupapa (Niu) Fishponds were filled in the '50s. In the '60s, Henry J. Kaiser dredged and filled in most of the 523 acre Keahupua-o-Maunalua Pond, the largest fishpond in Polynesia. In addition to the Kamoana Fishpond, at least five other smaller fishponds whose names were not recorded were destroyed. Today, the only remaining fishponds in Honolulu are still located in Maunalua.

The Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center has a vision for East O'ahu where the fish are once again plentiful, cultural and historical Hawaiian sites, especially fishponds, are restored and Native Hawaiian practices are perpetuated. We strongly support HB1665 HD1 which prevents the sale of public land on which government-owned Hawaiian fishponds are located. Fishponds are a valuable cultural resource that must be preserved for future generations. Your support of HB1665 HD1 is respectfully requested.

Mahalo nui loa,

Chris Cramer, President

**COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair**

DATE: Wednesday, March 18, 2009  
TIME: 3:00 p.m.  
PLACE: Conference Room 229, State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

March 17, 2009

**My name is Brian F. Funai and I am testifying in support of HB1665 HD1.**

Countless research efforts and historical records have shown that the fishpond, a man made feature, was an integral part of the vitality of the Hawaiian ecosystem. The productivity of the near shore ocean resource was amplified by the active management of fishponds and the implementation of the fishpond system. This system, in essence, created a reciprocating balance which used cultivated sea life (primarily fish) to supplement the natural stock, which in turn was used as seed stock to maintain the continuous cycle. This made it possible for large communities throughout the island chain to subsist on primarily fish and seafood diets without jeopardizing the natural resource.

In addition, many of these fishpond sites were chosen to take advantage of freshwater streams and springs that flowed naturally. Today, while a few remain, most of these springs have been cut off and streams channelized or diverted due to development. On the island of Oahu alone where there were over 100 as late as 1900, most have been destroyed, covered over or filled in again for development. Today there are only 30 fishponds left, with most in disrepair. The following handful are the only fishponds on Oahu owned by the State:

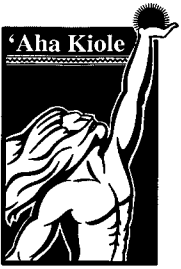
Kalou	Waiale'e/5-8-01: 15
Nameless	Kualoa/submerged
Pouhala	Waikele/9-3-01 :4
Pukoko	Kahana
Huilua	Kahanaj5-2-05:21

The situation is similar on the Island of Hawaii, Kauai and Maui. On Molokai, the majority of ponds are owned by the State but on Lanai, all are owned by private landowners. As there are precious few fishponds left to begin with and even fewer that remain throughout the island chain as property of the State of Hawaii, we must assure that they remain in **public** hands so that future generations and our marine ecosystem can benefit from their restoration and preservation.

Please pass HB1665 for the continuation of our island culture and the health of Hawaii's ocean resource.

Thank you for your time and allowing me to testify.

Brian F. Funai  
Kaneohe, HI 96744



TESTIMONY OF CHARLES KAPUA, O'AHU KIOLE  
AHA KIOLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**IN SUPPORT OF**  
**HB 1665, HD 1**

Description: Prohibits the sale of public lands on which government-owned Hawaiian fishponds are located. Effective July 1, 2020. (HB1665 HD1)

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs (WTL)  
Conference Room 229, Time: 3:00 p.m.  
Date: March 18, 2009

Aloha Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Tokuda and members of the Committee:

The Aha Kiolo Advisory Committee (AKAC) was created through Act 212 in Legislative Session 2007 to create a system of best practices based upon the indigenous resource management practices of traditional moku (regional) boundaries of the State of Hawaii. It is the belief of Native Hawaiian practitioners that restoring the traditional methodology of resource management on all islands will strengthen resource sustainability.

The Island of O'ahu, traditionally known as Moku O Kakuhihewa was once known for its abundant natural resources and numerous fishponds located throughout the island. Prior to western contact, Moku O Kakuhihewa boasted a population of hundreds of thousands of Hawaiians living comfortably through sustained natural practices. Much of this was due to the existence and protection of fishponds. Now, the majority of these fishponds have been destroyed to make way for development and commercialism.

We believe that the restoration and protection of the remaining fishponds is imperative to the re-establishment of natural resources on Moku O Kakuhihewa now known as the "gathering place" in the main Hawaiian Island chain. To effectively do this, we must not lose any more fishponds to the sale of public lands on which these fishponds are located.

**We support HB 1665, HD1 but ask that the effective date currently listed on the bill as July 1, 2020 be changed to July 1, 2009.**

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Kapua, Kiolo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Charles Kapua, Kiolo  
Moku O Kakuhihewa  
Aha Kiolo Advisory Committee

March 3, 2009 - via email.

**Testimony in Favor of HB 1665**

**Government-owned Fishponds**

The ancient Hawaiian fishponds (*loko i'a*) and fishtraps are unique cultural resources and food production systems. Although practically every culture has practiced aquaculture to some degree, the ancient Hawaiians and their extensive system of fishponds are cited as one of the premier examples of successful fish farming in the world. Nowhere else is there found such a diversity and profusion of aquacultural devices as in prehistoric Hawai'i. Fish, crustaceans, shellfish, and seaweed were some of the products of the totally indigenous aquacultural system.

Fishponds have declined statewide in importance and value yet many of them are in restorable condition and can be a vehicle for providing employment, economic opportunity, fisheries enhancement, education and cultural values for the people of Hawaii.

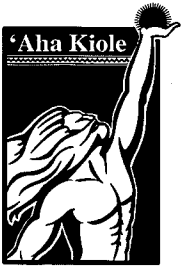
There is a growing movement statewide to restore and reuse the fishponds. Community-based organizations have restored a number of the fishponds and once again are cultivating fish and other products in addition to hosting students and visitors interested in these ancient sustainable aquaculture systems.

We need to protect all the remaining fishpond, regardless of the condition, so that future generations will have the opportunity to reuse them. They are cultural treasures and a direct link to the past that have much to teach us today about protecting and enhancing our land and water resources, mauka to makai.

I support **HB 1665** to keep government owned Hawaiian fishponds in the public trust.

Mahalos,

Joseph Farber  
2722 Ferdinand Ave.  
Honolulu HI 96822  
[joefarber@hotmail.com](mailto:joefarber@hotmail.com)



TESTIMONY OF AHA KIOLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE: ISLANDS OF  
MOLOKA'I, LANA'I, HAWAI'I, AND O'AHU

IN SUPPORT OF  
HB 1665, HD 1

Description: Prohibits the sale of public lands on which government-owned Hawaiian fishponds are located. Effective July 1, 2020. (HB1665 HD1)

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs (WTL)  
Conference Room 229, Time: 3:00 p.m.  
Date: March 18, 2009

Aloha Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Tokuda and members of the Committee:

The Aha Kiole Advisory Committee (AKAC) through Act 212 is tasked to restore the Aha Moku System, an ancient proven system of traditional land and ocean resource management used universally in Hawaii prior to the 9<sup>th</sup> century A.D. and brought forth through oral history and generational practices. AKAC answers directly to the Legislature and is charged to aide government in its goal of ecosystem sustainability in Hawaii today through the restoration of this system.

Throughout the main Hawaiian Islands, fishponds traditionally were created and maintained by the Hawaiian people for subsistence through a complex yet simple system of ocean farming. We believe that the protection and restoration of fishponds in Hawaii can be instrumental in a sustained healthy ecosystem. Further, the perpetuation and use of fishponds can be an effective tool in educating others on the merits of traditional ocean farming. However, for this goal to be achieved, the existing fishponds must be protected now.

**We support HB 1665, HD1 but ask that the effective date currently listed on the bill as July 1, 2020 be changed to July 1, 2009. We urge passage of this bill.**

Respectfully,

Vanda Hanakahi, Moloka'i, Chair

Winifred Basques, Lana'i

Charles Kapua, O'ahu

Hugh Lovell, Hawai'i

**TESTIMONY**  
**HB1665 HD1**  
**(END)**