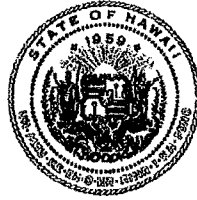


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Wednesday, February 11, 2009
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1665
RELATING TO HAWAIIAN FISHPONDS**

House Bill 1665 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
KAIHOLOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS**



MAUNALUA FISHPOND HERITAGE CENTER

February 10, 2009

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COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mele Carroll, Chair

Rep. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Hearing: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 at 9 am in Conference Room 329
HB 1665 - RELATING TO HAWAIIAN FISHPONDS

Aloha Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Shimabukuro 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 at times that they would stretch as far as the eye could see. The 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 shoreline 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 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 is respectfully requested.

Mahalo nui loa,

Chris Cramer, President

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2009

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mele Carroll, Chair
Rep. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Rep. Della Au Belatti Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto
Rep. Joe Bertram, III Rep. Ryan I. Yamane
Rep. Tom Brower Rep. Gene Ward
Rep. John M. Mizuno

DATE: Wednesday, February 11, 2009
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 329
 State Capitol
 415 South Beretania Street

Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1665

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

Testimony

HNF are in strong support of HB1665

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.

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

**TO: Representative Mele Carrol
And Members of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee**

FROM: Brian F. Funai

RE: HB 1665

My name is Brian F. Funai and I am in support of HB 1665.

Fishponds were once a critical component of the health of our ocean resources but today most are neglected or at worst, destroyed. Many are in the hands of private owners and there is greater potential for even more loss due to their removal or neglect, either out of fear of liability issues or plain indifference.

Please give the people who want to restore our ocean resources a chance by keeping fishponds in public hands. I urge you to please support passage of HB 1665.

Thank you,

Brian Funai
Kaneohe, Hawaii

February 10, 2009

As a life long resident of Hawaii and an active community member who is helping to improve & restore the health of Maunalua Bay, I am in support of HB 1665 & SB 1644.

All remaining Hawaiian fishponds should be saved and these ponds should be restored where possible. Too many have been covered up and lost already. The existing ponds are cultural treasures and can become a great resource for learning, aquaculture and maintaining a healthy environment. Way too much has been lost already and this trend must stop.

Kimo Franklin
Maunalua

Rep. Maile Shimabukuro

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 2:18 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: mjellings@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1665 on 2/11/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HAW 2/11/2009 9:00:00 AM HB1665

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Carl Jellings
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: mjellings@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/10/2009

Comments:
In Strong Support

Mahalo and a hui hou