



KO'OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

February 11, 2009

LATE TESTIMONY

TO: Rep. Mele Carroll, Chair
And Members
House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Mahealani Cypher, President
Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club

SUBJECT: H. B. 1665, Relating to Hawaiian Fishponds

The Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club supports House Bill 1665 and urges this committee to pass this bill.

There has long been a call for greater sustainability in our islands, with one objective to improve our own capacity to provide food supplies for our local population. Preservation of fishponds for economic and food-producing purposes should be among the highest priorities.

We therefore urge that this bill be passed and that the administration refrain from the sale or exchange of any lands that include Hawaiian fishponds.

In ancient times, these fishponds provided food supplies for a large population. With some mitigation of upland non-point source pollution, many remaining fishponds can be restored to productive use again.

Mahalo for this opportunity to share our mana`o.

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Preserve Kamilo Nui Valley
Hold the Urban Growth Boundary
Enforce Public Right of Way Beach Access
Uphold the East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan
Protect the authentic characteristics & natural beauty of East Honolulu

February 11, 2009

Elizabeth Reilly
President

Marian Grey
Vice President

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

Tai Hong
Treasurer

Aloha Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Honorable Committee Members,

Jeannine
Johnson
Director

Livable Hawai'i Kai Hui (LHKH) is a non-profit, bipartisan 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).

Jacquelin Miller
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.

Allen Tateishi
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 Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center whose mission is to preserve Maunalua's last fishponds for education. We strongly support HB1665 which prevents the sale of public land on which government-owned Hawaiian fishponds are located and humbly as for your support.

Gary Weller
Director

Thomas Yamabe
Director

Sincerely,

Elizabeth

Elizabeth Reilly, President

Jeannine Johnson, Legislative Sub-Committee Chair

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

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February 10, 2009

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mele Carroll, Chair

Rep. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

LATE TESTIMONY

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,

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 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 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