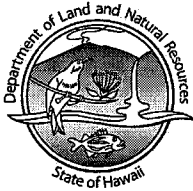


HB 1665

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
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Thursday, April 2, 2009
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

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

House Bill 1665, House Draft 1, Senate 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

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KEN C. KAWAHARA
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LAND
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**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting the Intent of H.B. 1665 SD1 Relating to Hawaiian Fishponds
Senate Committee on Ways & Means
Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30am, Rm. 211**

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of Hawai'i'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 SD1 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, Hawai'i'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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5648 Pia Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96821

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

March 31, 2009

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Hearing: Thursday April 2, 2009, at 9:30 am in Conference Room 211
HB 1665, HD1, SD1 – Relating to Hawaiian Fishponds

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Honorable Committee Members,

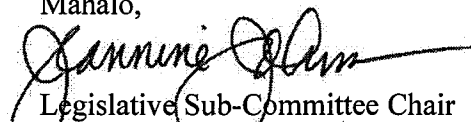
As Committee Chair of the **Kuli'ou'ou / Kalani Iki Neighborhood Board #2** Legislative Sub-Committee, I am pleased to inform you **Neighborhood Board #2** supports HB1665 HD1 SD1 which prohibits the sale of public lands on which government-owned Hawaiian fishponds are located. **Neighborhood Board #2** 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 Maunaloa 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 SD1 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

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2008



March 31, 2009

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COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Hearing: Thursday April 2, 2009, at 9:30 am in Conference Room 211
HB 1665, HD1, SD1 – Relating to Hawaiian Fishponds

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Honorable Committee Members,

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).

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.

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 SD1** which prohibits the sale of public lands on which government-owned Hawaiian fishponds are located and humbly ask for your support.

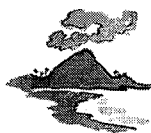
Sincerely,

Elizabeth Reilly

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 ~ Website: www.hawaiiikaihui.org



MAUNALUA FISHPOND HERITAGE CENTER

March 31, 2009

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COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Hearing: Thursday April 2, 2009, at 9:30 am in Conference Room 211
HB 1665, HD1, SD1 – Relating to Hawaiian Fishponds

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui 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 SD1 which prohibits the sale of public lands 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 SD1 is respectfully requested.

Mahalo nui loa,

Chris Cramer, President

JEANNINE JOHNSON

5648 Pia Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96821

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

March 31, 2009

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

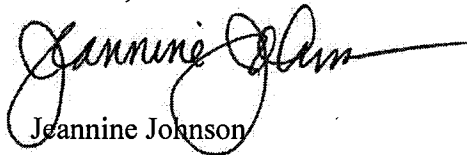
Hearing: Thursday April 2, 2009, at 9:30 am in Conference Room 211
HB 1665, HD1, SD1 – Relating to Hawaiian Fishponds

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Honorable Committee Members,

I strongly support HB1665 HD1 SD1 which prohibits the sale of public lands 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