

LATE Testimony

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Hearing Notice
Wednesday, February 3, 2010
1:30PM/ State Capitol Conference Room 224

Senate Committee on Transportation, International & Intergovernmental Affairs (TIA)
Chair: Senator J Kalani English / Vice Chair: Senator Mike Gabbard

Senate Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources (WLH)
Chair: Senator Clayton Hee / Vice Chair: Senator Jill Tokuda

RE: Testimony of Strong Support for SB 2362 (Relating to Conservation Outreach)

Aloha Chair's English, Hee & Committee Members,

I'm a lifetime resident of *Mokule'ia* with lineage spanning several generations and active in numerous *Community and Cultural Affairs* which includes serving as *Cultural Advisor of the Mokule'ia Community Association (MCA)* and currently serving on the *Ka'ena Point Advisory Group (KPAG)* as an *Alternate Cultural Representative Delegate* for this entity whose mission is to *Malama Ka'ena*.

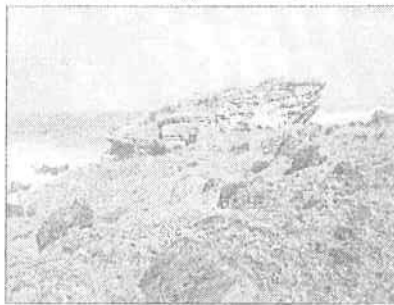
I'm providing testimony as an individual strongly supporting SB 2362. This expands the purpose of education about such areas as the *Ka'ena Natural Area Reserve (NAR)* and efforts such as a *Predator Proof Fence* which will protect *Flora, Fauna, Marine Life and Cultural Sites* within this area. Below is a video link done by *Pacific Rim Conservation* and the *Department of Land & Natural Resources*:

<http://www.restorekaena.org/gallery-videos.html>

Another area here on the *North Shore of Oahu* is the *Pupukea Marine Life Conservation District (MLCD)* which this legislation is also applicable to.

Every bit counts towards protecting these places thru education. Lastly, I share the simplistic *mana'o* of my *Grandpa (David Peahi Keao Jr)* which is the word "TOMMOROW." Attached is an article I wrote featured in *Hawaii Fishing News (December 2009)*. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony strongly supporting SB 2362. *Malama Ka'ena*.

Thomas T Shirai Jr
Mokule'ia, Waialua

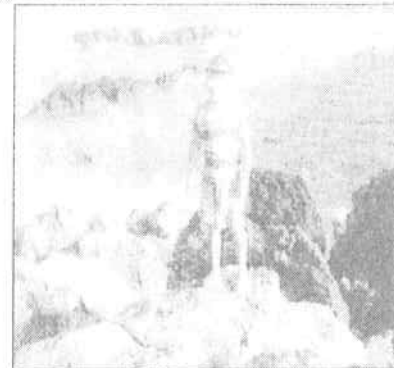


Aloha Chuck.

In the December 2006 issue, Hawaii Fishing News featured an article I wrote about *Ka'ena Point* and my family's legacy. Included are pictures from my photo album taken in 1968 when my Grandparents (*David & Abigail Keao*) and I were also accompanied by my Father (*Thomas Shirai*) on this *holoholo* to *Ka'ena*. The primary seafood subsistence area that my Grandparents would go to was located on *Ohana Aina* situated at the tip of *Ka'ena*. That parcel dates back to *The Mahele* (*Grant 1665*) when my Grandpa's *Kupuna* owned a portion of it and continued until *World War II* when the *US Military* condemned parcels such as this one to established their installations and training areas. After *WWII* ended *aina* (land) such as this was to revert back to owners however, many never did.

Regardless of this, my Grandparents continued to frequent there for subsistence purposes after my birth. These photos were taken in 1968 and a few years later, we stopped going to *Ka'ena* due to increased recreational and subsistence usage and along with the lack of stewardship such as conservation that defeating the concept of *Malama Aina*. Among the subsistence affected is gathering and making *paikai* (sea salt). In recent years entities such as the *Mokule'ia Community Association* have been a tremendous part of clearing *Opala* from this *Wahi Pana*.

Today this parcel is now known as the *Ka'ena Natural Area Reserve (NAR)* where *Wildlife (Flora and Fauna)* are protected. Gone are those memoirs of abundant seafood subsistence and vehicular transiting to *Keauaula* and the *Waiānae Coastline* due to erosion of the road years ago which was part of the *O R & L* train track. The *Natural Area Reserve* also protects several cultural sites within it which includes *Letno Ka Uhane* and *Fishing Ko'a (shrines)* for the once abundant subsistence. Off Shore of the *NARS*, is an established *Bottom Fish Restricted Fishing Area (BFRA - A)*. The *Ka'ena Natural Area Reserve Predator-Proof Fencing Project* will give this area of *Ka'ena Ahupua'a* the afforded protection it is highly deserving of.



Information including a video about this project can be found on the *Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR)* website: dlnr.hawaii.gov

Thank you for the opportunity to share some of my *Ohana* legacy and *mana'o*.
Molama Ka'ena, Thomas T Shirai Jr. Makule'ia, Waiānae

February 3, 2010 Senate Hearing WTL/ TIA Committees
Testimony for Senate Bill 2362 Conservation Outreach PSA on Airlines

Save Our Seal Campaign
Keiko Bonk 732-6411

Aloha Chair Clayton Hee and Chair Kalani English and all committee members:

Thank you so very much for hearing SB 2362. Thank you Senator Gabbard for introducing this legislation that addresses the urgent need for conservation outreach directed at our traveling resident population of 1.3 million and the approximate 6 million visitors who come to our islands.

As many of you know I coordinate a network called the SOS or Save Our Seal Campaign, this is a network of conservation and cultural organizations and individuals working to recover the critically endangered Hawaiian Monk Seal. The seal has become an icon for protecting all of Hawaii's environment that is rapidly being depleted.

I support Senator Gabbard's bill that initiates a short informational public service announcement (PSA) on all airlines entering Hawaii. NOAA is already producing an informational video of his nature. The State of Hawaii could use this PSA or rework it to meet their requirements.

There are only 120 Hawaiian Monk Seals in the Main Hawaiian Islands. Our 6 million visitors and our residents are responsible for knowing the endangered species laws and they need to learn the appropriate behavior when they encounter a monk seal and the other endangered species in their habitat.

With 6 million or more tourist visiting our islands each year and only 120 seals, it is imperative that this overwhelming larger population knows the rules and regulations. Out of ignorance our visitors may harm or inappropriately approach the seals when they are hauled out to rest, molt, birth or pup.

It is our hope that we can increase the population of Hawaiian monk seals to a healthy number that will save the species. With this in mind, we need to have a well informed resident population and the appropriate messaging for our transient population. And we don't have the luxury of time on our hands to have the airlines step up to voluntarily and come up with their message. We need to make this a high priority for HTA and make this happen now.

Conservation groups and individuals have gone to talk to the airlines about PSA's and have not got results. This is not a job for the non-government sector. We can produce the PSA's, but it is a government job to inform people of serious laws and encourage them not to break these laws.



All the airlines coming to Hawaii use our land, the airports, and they market to people who want to come to our state and enjoy our natural resources. They use our beaches and parks and ocean and the taxpayers pay more for them, than we get back in profits and taxes. Much of the corporate profit from airlines don't stay in Hawaii, it goes elsewhere to corporate headquarters.

It would have been admirable if the airlines had done some conservation outreach on their own, as a kind gesture to "the place that feeds them", but they haven't. taken this initiative, and so we are here today to ask if you, our leaders, to do everything in your legal power to have them play a short 3 minute PSA to protect our natural environment.

On my last trip home from the mainland, I attentively watched all the airline video programming. There were ads for dolphin excursions and swimming with marine mammals and reminders to visit beautiful Poipu beach where you can see a real Hawaiian Monk Seal. but not a peep about this place having the most endangered species in the world and needing your help to care for what is left.

Please take the action we elected you to do. Help us rebrand Hawaii and become a better and caring place for our valuable natural resources.

Thank you.