

TESTIMONY
SB 2485



SB 2485

RELATING TO MOKAUEA ISLAND

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian
Affairs

February 8, 2010

3:15 pm

Room: 229

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB 2485, which would authorize the Department of Land and Natural Resources to renegotiate and enter into long-term residential leases on Mokauea Island and create a Mokauea Island Advisory Committee.

Mokauea Island residents, volunteers and community groups have spent countless hours working to restore the environment and cultural resources on the Island, and their efforts to create a self-sustaining community can serve as a model for others. It is critical that those residents with a demonstrated connection to Mokauea and their families be allowed to maintain their connections to Mokauea and participate in planning for its future. This bill accomplishes both.

OHA urges the Committee to PASS SB 2485. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2010 3:11 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: ddbowen-coleman@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2485 on 2/8/2010 3:15:00 PM

Testimony for WTL 2/8/2010 3:15:00 PM SB2485

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: DD Bowen-Coleman
Organization: Individual
Address: Honolulu, Hawaii
Phone:
E-mail: ddbowen-coleman@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2010

Comments:

Mokauea Island is an important resource for all of Hawaii. It is an important educational center for all ages and is culturally significant. Participants learn about self-sustainability, the history and workings of a Hawaiian fishing village, native plants as well as invasive plants, and Hawaiian values, just to name a few. They learn about the ocean, marine debris and its effects on the marine life. Participants are also introduced to canoe paddling since one needs to paddle a canoe to reach the island. With this they learn about how the inhabitants deal with transportation to and from work or school as well as how to remove waste and garbage in an eco-friendly manner. I am a Girl Scout leader, and for the last 3 years, I have taken Girl Scouts out to this island so that they have the opportunity to not only learn all that this place has to teach, but also so that they learn to give back to their community. In this way, these students and parents of Hawaii become better stewards for our islands. Please support this important educational and culturally significant resource for all of Hawaii now and for our generations to come. Thank You.



Monday, February 8, 2010
3:15p.m.
Conference Room 229

**TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND,
AGRICULTURE & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

RE: SB 2485-RELATING TO MOKAUEA ISLAND

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jenna Ishii and I represent Kai Makana Foundation which is a not-for-profit organization leading the effort to environmentally and culturally restore Mokauea Island for future generations.

Kai Makana Foundation is in strong support of Senate Bill 2485, which will authorize DLNR to renegotiate leases with residents of Mokauea Island to facilitate the creation of an educational center where students, teachers, and other members of the public can learn the traditional methods used in a self sustaining Hawaiian fishing village and establishes the Mokauea Island Advisory Committee.

Mokauea Island is the site of O'ahu's last Hawaiian fishing village, and one of the only two left in Hawai'i where hundreds such villages thrived in pre-European times. Since 2005, Kai Makana has worked together with Mokauea Island residents and community volunteers to recreate a living example of a traditional Hawaiian subsistence fishing village as a learning center that will allow for the perpetuation and practice of Hawaiian fishing and seafaring culture. In 2009, over 1,300 students, teachers, and community members participated in service projects on Mokauea Island, which involved: restoration of the fishpond, removal of marine debris, introduction of native plants, removal of invasive seaweed, and learning about the traditional Hawaiian seafaring culture.

This measure proposes to facilitate the creation of an educational center where students, teachers, and other members of the public can learn the traditional methods used in a self sustaining Hawaiian fishing village. In order for our children to learn where they come from, we must protect and preserve this historical island.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this very important measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2010 3:43 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: mhesketts@mac.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2485 on 2/8/2010 3:15:00 PM

Testimony for WTL 2/8/2010 3:15:00 PM SB2485

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marvin Heskett
Organization: Individual
Address: 419A Atkinson Dr. #1207 honolulu, HI 96814
Phone: 808.728.4617
E-mail: mhesketts@mac.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2010

Comments:

Aloha,

After having spent time on Mokauea, cleaning up the beach and listening to volunteers share their stories and knowledge of the island and the rich fishing village history of the region, I know I was taking part of something very special. The state must embrace this last remaining fish pond of the region, celebrate it, enhance it and educate future generations about this vital cultural tradition. This is a rare opportunity to do something really good, rather easily. Pass this bill for the establishment of an educational center and become a hero.

Mahalo,
Marvin

Monday, February 8, 2010

3:15p.m.

Conference Room 229

**TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND,
AGRICULTURE & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

SB2485: Relating to Mokauea Island

Aloha Chair Hee, Vice Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committee:

On January 28, 2010, Boa Sr, the last surviving member of the Bo Tribe of the Andaman Islands, died. With her passing, the chain linking a community that existed for 65,000 years was permanently broken. The ancient Bo language lost its last speaker. A native people became extinct.

As the last member of her tribe, Boa Sr took to history the spirit of an ancient language with all of its nuances, customs passed down through generations, songs of birth and death, and dances of celebration. For the last 30 years of her life, Boa Sr had no living soul with whom to converse in her native tongue. She learned to communicate in a language and adopted ways that were foreign to her. As I reflected on that unique loneliness, I was deeply moved. I envisioned the Last Hawaiian.

That's why I'm asking for your support of SB2485 and the creation of an education and learning center on Mokauea Island.

Having participated in several community projects sponsored by Kai Makana Foundation, I am continually humbled by the commitment and dedication of its leadership and community volunteers. A permanent education and learning center on Mokauea Island would provide the opportunity for Native Hawaiians to touch one another through a shared history and an ancestral past. For all of us, it is a chance to learn about the traditions and practices that lived and breathed in this place that we love – our home – Hawai'i.

After reading about Boa Sr, I asked myself how an entire way of life could become extinct. It seemed so unreal that an ancient people could be lost forever. I asked myself how it could be prevented. It is through the education, promotion and preservation of its indigenous people, cultural identity, unique language, colors and customs.

I ask that you help light the past and protect the future by supporting SB2485 and the creation of a learning center on Mokauea Island.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Aria St. John

Monday, February 8, 2010
3:15p.m.
Conference Room 229

**TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND,
AGRICULTURE, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

RE: SB 2485-MOKAUEA ISLAND

Welina mai me ke aloha,

My name is Ka'ano'ani Akaka and I am from Mō'ili'ili, O'ahu. As a student of Nā Pua No'eau, a program for gifted and talented Native Hawaiian children, I took part in a mentorship program through which I had the opportunity to visit Mokauea, and to benefit from the overwhelming wealth of knowledge that it has to offer.

I am in strong support of Senate Bill 2485, that will work towards creating an educational center for the vast community. I believe wholly in the restoration and perpetuation of the Hawaiian culture. The establishment of an educational center where all walks of life, especially the youth of Hawai'i Nei, can learn about methods practiced traditionally in a Hawaiian fishing village, is imperative. Nowhere else can such knowledge be attained.

The island of Mokauea was traditionally the center of highly prosperous marine life. Over the past decades, outside influences have desecrated and decimated such precious resources that once thrived there. It is of great importance that we protect and maintain O'ahu's last Hawaiian fishing village, so that the generations to come will also have the opportunity to learn about its rich culture.

Personally, I have participated and witnessed various service projects in which school and community groups benefited from the island. Private, public, and charter schools, to name a few, have visited Mokauea to assist in the restoration process. Such service projects include disposing of harmful debris, eradication of invasive species, and cultivation of native plants. The primary form of traditional Hawaiian transportation, canoe paddling, is also taught and practiced as a way of accessing Mokauea from the main island.

Mokauea possesses an endless amount of traditional knowledge that awaits to be shared with all who call Hawai'i their home. For this reason, I humbly ask for the passage of this bill, that tens of thousands more may benefit from it.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in support of such a precious resource.

Mokauea Fishermen's Association



4 Sand Island Access Road #3, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96819

Monday, February 8, 2010

3:15p.m.

State Capitol, Room 229

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

RE: SB 2485: RELATING TO MOKAUEA ISLAND

Aloha Senator Clayton Hee, Chair / Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Joan Bagood and I represent the Mokauea Fishermen's Association (MFA) which is a not-for-profit organization whose sole purpose for Mokauea Island is to preserve, maintain and operate a modified Hawaiian fishing village for the perpetuation of living Hawaiian history, and other educational purposes. MFA consists of families that have gone through and currently going through heartbreaking, painful and challenging times to keep Mokauea a living fishing village.

The Mokauea Fishermen's Association are in strong support of Senate Bill SB 2485 which will authorize DLNR to renegotiate leases with residents of Mokauea Island to facilitate creation of an educational center where students, teachers, and other members of the public can learn the traditional methods used in a self sustaining Hawaiian fishing village and establishes the Mokauea Island advisory committee.

Mokauea Island is a fishing village on a small 10-acre land located just off of Sand Island, between the Honolulu Harbor and the Honolulu International Airport. It is such a unique place, that when standing and looking mauka (mountain), you'll see the industrial business and just a half mile away is the bustling urban downtown Honolulu. On the opposite side, you'll see the beauty of God's creation, the vast blue ocean. The Mokauea Fishing Village is the last of its kind on the island of 'Oahu being one of the only two left in Hawai'i where hundreds of such villages thrived in pre-European times. Much of the knowledge and skills of a traditional self-sustaining Hawaiian fishing village have been lost in the past century.

The measure of this Bill will facilitate creation of an educational center where all may learn to preserve this historical island, a treasured place we must protect. It will also unite individuals and families of diverse ethnic origins through volunteer work on a common cause.

Monday, February 8, 2010

3:15p.m.

State Capitol, room 229

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This Bill will help fulfill the true purpose of the Mokauea Fishermen's Association, which is an educational, scientific mission and it will bring a very positive result in the community. Mokauea Island can become the perfect of example of self-sustainability!

Mahalo for allowing us to testify and we truly appreciate your consideration in this very special Bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fran Bagood". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

Board of Directors of the Mokauea
Fishermen's Association

Monday, February 08, 2010
3:15p.m.
State Capitol, Room 229

**TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND,
AGRICULTURE & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

RE: SB 2485: RELATING TO MOKAUEA ISLAND

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee

Aloha,

My name is Eleu Bagood, 22years old and I have been a resident of Mokauea Island for most of my life but my 'o'hana has lived here since before the 1970's. I strongly support Senate Bill 2485 which will authorize DLNR to renegotiate leases with residents of Mokauea Island to facilitate creation of an educational center where students, teachers, and other members of the public can learn the traditional methods used in a self sustaining Hawaiian fishing village and establishes the Mokauea Island advisory committee.

I have been blessed to have been raised on Mokauea Island by parents who have the knowledge of the old Hawaiian fishing ways and have many fond memories growing up here. In my years growing up and spending time with my father in and around the ocean of Mokauea, has given me a unique appreciation and outlook of this treasured island that not many young adults will ever experience.

In passing this Bill, it will open up a possibility for this educational facility to be built and in time, give the future generations an opportunity to learn and create similar experiences that I've been blessed with. Also, through this facility, we would be able to share and be an example to the rest of Hawai'i in how to use natural resources, be a self-sustaining island and not having to depend on foreign imports.

Mahalo for your time in considering this testimony.

Sincerely,



Eleu Bagood
P.O. Box 17405
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

TESTIMONY
SB 2485
(END)