
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIANS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, over the past two
2 hundred years, Hawai'i has seen and experienced severe changes in
3 a variety of instances. One such instance includes the
4 deterioration of the Hawaiian culture, language, values, and
5 land tenure system, which have in part resulted in the over-
6 development of the coastline, alteration of fresh water streams,
7 destruction of the life-giving watersheds, decimation of the
8 coral reefs, and the decline of endemic marine and terrestrial
9 species.

10 Native Hawaiian culture has knowledge that has been passed
11 on for generations, and is still living for the purposes of
12 perpetuating traditional protocols, caring for and protecting
13 the environment, and strengthening cultural and spiritual
14 connections. It is through the 'aha moku councils that native
15 Hawaiians protected their environment and sustained the
16 abundance of resources that they depended upon for thousands of
17 years.



1 Today, many Hawaiian communities are becoming revitalized
2 by using the knowledge of cultural practitioners that was passed
3 down through kupuna, and experienced farmers (mahi'ai) and
4 fishers (lawai'a) to engage and enhance sustainability,
5 subsistence, and self-sufficiency. Furthermore, many Hawaiian
6 communities are interested, concerned, involved, willing, and
7 able to advise government agencies, organizations, and other
8 interested groups in integrating traditional knowledge and
9 ahupua'a management practices.

10 The legislature further finds that on August 15 to 17,
11 2006, the Ho'ohanohano I Na Kupuna Puwalu series began and native
12 Hawaiian cultural and traditional practitioners who are versed
13 in lawai'a and mahi'ai, ocean, and land ahupua'a methods gathered
14 to discuss and bring forth the wisdom of the kupuna and
15 ancestors. It was a gathering of empirical knowledge handed
16 down from generation to generation on traditional fishing,
17 agriculture, streams, fishponds, and land use methodology based
18 on the ahupua'a system. Representatives from thirty-seven moku
19 in the State and over one hundred ahupua'a practitioners,
20 including kupuna and the acknowledged traditional experts of



1 each moku, all joined together to come forth with their mana'o
2 and concerns.

3 The conclusion of Puwalu 'Ekahi was the creation of a
4 resolution calling on native Hawaiians to begin a process to
5 uphold and continue Hawaiian traditional land and ocean
6 practices. Perpetuating and preserving the knowledge of the
7 practitioners through the continuation of the konohiki
8 management, the kapu system, and the creation of an 'aha moku and
9 the ahupua'a management system was the consensus.

10 On November 8 and 9, 2006, Puwalu 'Elua brought together
11 educators, administrators, cultural practitioners, and kupuna to
12 discuss the values and the spiritual connection between natural
13 resources and native Hawaiians; the ahupua'a concept;
14 generational knowledge and learning; the importance of place
15 names and mo'olelo; seasonal closures and lunar calendars;
16 fishing practices; the Northwestern Hawaiian islands; konohiki
17 connections; marine protected areas; 'upena (nets); placed-based
18 kapu; limu; and pu'uhonua concepts that could be developed as an
19 educational framework to integrate this knowledge into a
20 curricula for all public, private, charter, and Hawaiian
21 immersion schools in Hawai'i.



1 On December 19 and 20, 2006, Puwalu 'Ekolu brought together
2 major policymakers and stakeholders in the protection of the
3 Hawai'i ecosystem. Native Hawaiian practitioners and experts in
4 traditional methods of sustainability, government policymakers
5 including members of the legislature, state agency directors,
6 environmental groups, educational leaders, and Hawaiian
7 community organizations discussed existing programs and their
8 successes and failures in community building. In conclusion, it
9 was agreed that statutes, ordinances, and a framework for
10 community consultation using the Hawaiian perspective and
11 traditional methods such as the ahupua'a management system are
12 needed, and the creation of the 'aha moku councils should be
13 established.

14 Between 2006 and 2010, three more puwalu were convened to
15 gather additional community input on best practices in the area
16 of native Hawaiian resource management. All puwalu were open to
17 the public and included farmers, fishers, environmentalists,
18 educators, organizations and agencies, and governmental
19 representatives who, through discussions on the integration of
20 these practices into regulation and common utilization, came to
21 the consensus of the necessity to integrate the 'aha moku system
22 into government policy. The information gathered from all



1 puwalu has been compiled into a comprehensive report to the
2 legislature as required by Act 212, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007.

3 The purpose of this Act is to create an 'aha kiolo
4 commission, which will be located within the department of land
5 and natural resources and shall serve in an advisory capacity to
6 the governor and the legislature. The 'aha kiolo commission will
7 advise the governor and legislature on issues related to land
8 and natural resource management through the 'aha moku system, a
9 system of best practices that is based upon the indigenous
10 resource management practices of moku (regional) boundaries,
11 that acknowledges the natural contours of land, the specific
12 resources located within those areas, and the methodology
13 necessary to sustain resources and the community.

14 SECTION 2. (a) There is established the 'aha kiolo
15 commission to be placed within the department of land and
16 natural resources for administrative purposes as provided in
17 section 26-35, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The commission shall
18 advise the governor and the legislature in carrying out the
19 purposes of this Act. The commission shall consist of eight
20 members selected by the 'aha moku councils of the respective
21 islands without regard to sections 26-34 and 78-4, Hawaii
22 Revised Statutes. The commission members shall select the



1 chairperson of the commission. The members shall not receive
2 compensation for their service but shall be reimbursed for
3 necessary expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in the
4 performance of their duties under this Act.

5 (b) The commission shall:

- 6 (1) Provide advisory input based upon the indigenous
7 resource management practices of each moku to state
8 and county agencies;
- 9 (2) Aid in the implementation of a comprehensive set of
10 best practices for natural resource management;
- 11 (3) Foster the understanding and practical use of
12 knowledge, including native Hawaiian methodology and
13 expertise;
- 14 (4) Ensure the future sustainable use of the State's
15 marine, land, cultural, agricultural, and natural
16 resources;
- 17 (5) Enhance community education and cultural awareness;
- 18 (6) Participate in the protection and preservation of the
19 State's natural resources;
- 20 (7) Engage in discussion with and participate in meetings
21 and events held by the various moku statewide;



1 (8) Establish an administrative structure that oversees
2 the 'aha moku system; and

3 (9) Select an executive director.

4 (c) The commission shall submit an annual report to the
5 governor and legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
6 convening of each regular legislative session. The annual
7 report shall include a list of all recommendations made by the
8 commission and the resulting action taken by state and county
9 agencies over the course of the year.

10 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

11



Report Title:

Aha Kiole Advisory Commission

Description:

Establishes an aha kiole advisory commission placed within the department of land and natural resources to serve in an advisory capacity to the governor and the legislature on all matters regarding the management of the State's land and natural resources. (SD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

