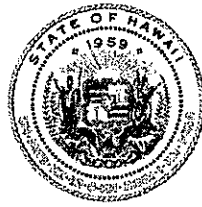


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

GUY H. KAULUKUKUI
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAIKOOLOAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Testimony Transmittal Cover Sheet**

Date Submitted: January 31, 2011

Testifier's Name/Title: Francis Oishi, DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources,
Program Manager

Committee Name: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS (HAW)

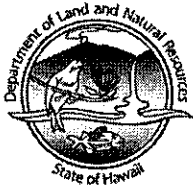
Day and Date: Wednesday, February 02, 2011

Time/Location: 8:30 AM, Conference Room 329

Measure Number: HB 1154 – RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIANS

Requested Copies: 3 (including original) to Room 313 in the State Capitol

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Wednesday, February 2, 2011
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1154
RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIANS**

House Bill 1154 would establish an aha kiole commission within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to advise the Governor, pursuant to Section 26-35, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), but not to Sections 26-34 and 78-4, HRS, to advise on natural resource management decisions based on an aha moku system, and to appropriate an unspecified sum to support administrative costs. The Department opposes this bill.

Establishing a commission within the Department to advise the Governor on natural resource management decisions would conflict the existing mission of the Board of Land and Natural Resources and the Commission on Water Resource Management, would add another layer of management to the decision-making process and require Department staff to assist in new initiatives, and would increase expenses and tax an already-deficient manpower situation.

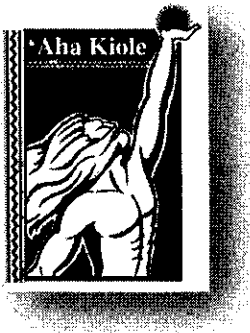
Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

GUY H. KAULUKUKUI
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
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AQUATIC RESOURCES
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KAIHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



Aha Kiole Advisory Committee

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1154,
RELATING TO THE 'AHA KIOLE
ADVISORY COMMISSION

Submitted to: Hearing of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair Representative Faye Hanohano and Members of the Committee

Hearing Date: February 2, 2011, 9:00 a.m.

Submitted by: Leslie Kuloloio, Kiole for Kahoolawe, and Vice-Chair of the Aha Kiole Advisory Committee. Testimony is submitted on behalf of the other Members of the Aha Kiole Advisory Committee and the 43 moku from each island they represent: Vanda Hanakahi, Moloka'i (Chair); Timmy Bailey, Maui; Winifred Basques, Lana'i; Pi'ilani Ka'awaloa, (Po'o) Hawai'i; Charles Kapua, O'ahu; Sharon Pomroy, Kaua'i; Keith Robinson, (Konohiki) Ni'ihau.

Aloha Chair Hanohano and Members of the House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of H.B. 1154, the bill that creates the Aha Kiole Commission within the State Department of Land and Natural Resources. It was this Legislature who, in 2007, in answer to the critical and on-going concerns of Hawai'i residents on the continuing decline of the health of our natural and cultural resources, passed Act 212 through which the Aha Kiole Advisory Committee (AKAC) was created. The purpose of Act 212 was to initiate the process to create a system of best practices that is based upon the indigenous resource management practices of moku (regional) boundaries, which acknowledges the natural contours of land and ocean, the specific resources located within those areas, and the methodology necessary to sustain resources and the community.

The AKAC have met the mandates of Act 212 through six statewide public puwala (conferences), island puwala held on every island, and many public moku and ahupua'a meetings convened from 2006 through 2010. All of the conferences, meetings and gatherings were attended by the Native Hawaiian communities and general public including lawai'a (fishermen), mahiai (farmers), environmentalists, educators, organizations, agencies and many residents of the different ahupua'a and moku on each island. Consensus was reached on supporting the formal recognition of the Aha Moku System into current government policy through an Aha Kiole Commission as reported to the Legislature in the Aha Kiole Advisory Committee Final Reports of 2009 and 2011.

The Aha Moku System is a true community consultation process through which communities can promote, educate and organize traditional resource management principles, practices and knowledge gleaned from thousands of years of Native Hawaiian kupuna (ancestral) knowledge and history that is site-specific. Everything focuses on the sustainability and protection of natural and cultural resources in Hawai'i. Every resident in Hawai'i, and every stakeholder interested in the health and welfare of our ecosystem and environment should be a participant in this process.

The Aha Kiole Commission shall continue to provide input based on the indigenous management practices of each moku to state and county agencies; to aide in the comprehensive set of best practices for natural and cultural resource management; to continue to foster understanding of and the practical use of knowledge including Native Hawaiian methodology and expertise; and, to enhance community education and cultural awareness.

The current Aha Kiole Advisory Committee, per Act 39, sunsets in June of 2011. To continue the work of the residents, both Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian who make up the Aha Moku Councils and the 500+ ahupua'a in Hawai'i, the Aha Kiole Commission must be created and the Aha Moku System formally recognized in the State of Hawai'i.

We urge you to support the passage of H.B. 1154.

Mahalo nui loa,

Leslie Kuloloio, Kiole, Káhoolawe

Vice-Chair, Aha Kiole Advisory Committee

469 Maalo Street, Kahului, HI 96732

Phone: 808-281-7652, Email: pokaiuli@yahoo.com

(Or contact the following for further information)

Leimana DaMate, Administrative Director

Phone: 808-497-0800, email: Leimana@fastnethi.com

ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS
Testimony of President Soulee Stroud

Supporting House Bill 1154

Before the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
February 2, 2011; 8:30 a.m.; Room 329

Aloha Madam Chair, vice chair Lee and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs. It is a pleasure to be here today to continue support of HB 1154 that establishes an `Aha Kiole Advisory Commission in the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs has been involved in Puwalu meetings that created the `Aha Kiole Advisory committee since its inception, passing supportive resolutions in several of our annual conventions.

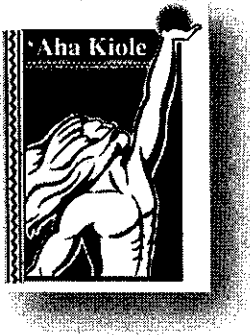
Members of the `Aha Kiole represent practitioners of traditional Hawaiian cultural practices of various `ahupua`a on all islands. These practitioners strive to preserve and exercise those excellent systems of sustaining natural resources of the islands used by past generations of Native Hawaiians. It is a race to gather, preserve and protect this precious cultural knowledge before all is lost.

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs has witnessed steady progress as the `Aha Kiole organized itself despite no support from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to which it was assigned, and the refusal of the past Governor to release operational funds appropriated by the legislature.

We will continue to support the `Aha Kiole as yet another way to maintain the native culture and natural resources of these islands. The bill before you provides an opportunity to join a special effort at cultural preservation and we urge you to support this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Contact person: Jalna Keala. Jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net



Aha Kiole Advisory Committee

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1154,
RELATING TO THE 'AHA KIOLE
ADVISORY COMMISSION

Submitted to: Hearing of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair Representative Faye Hanohano and Members of the Committee

Hearing Date: February 2, 2011, 9:00 a.m.

Submitted by: Pi'ilani Ka'awaloa, (Po'o) Hawai'i

Aloha Chair Hanohano and Members of the House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

Aloha Mai Representative Hanohano,

I would like to ask your continued support to the Aha Moku bill. This bill was put together because of the aloha of our people for their kai and 'aina. It was a collaboration of many Kupuna, makua, opio for the preservation and the ability to sustain the future generation in a manner and practice that best suits each moku in it's own way. It's time to stop generalizing the 'aina and really look at what is best for the individual moku, ahupua'a and 'ili.

We have to look at nature and learn, does the wind only blow in one direction, is there only 1 type of rain, the the currents only run in 1 direction? We all know the answer is no.

I again ask you support to this Aha moku bill to allow each moku to determine the what is the best practice for their own individual moku.

Mahalo nui loa,

Ms. Piilani Kaawaloa

Cultural Practioner and Educator of our 'Opio Hawai'i.

P.O. Box 688

Pahoa, Hawaii 96778

Phone: 808-4172

Email: punatita7@yahoo.com

clee2 - Matt

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 9:52 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1154 on 2/2/2011 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for HAW 2/2/2011 8:30:00 AM HB1154

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Penny Levin
Organization: Individual
Address: Wailuku, Maui
Phone:
E-mail: pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2011

Comments:
Aloha members of the House Hawaiian Affairs Committee;

I am testifying in support of HB1154.

The Aha Ki'ole Advisory Commission has been an 'idea' for several years but has yet to be fully implemented. There has been much talk about Hawaiian cultural values and knowledge to guide decision-making within DLNR and other state agencies, most importantly when it comes to the management of natural resources. Too often, this intention gets watered down or is applied only in words but not followed through with during the application of policy or implementation of actions and projects.

House Bill 1154 will bring the Aha Ki'ole to fruition and has the potential to allow for greater cultural representation and participation in the care of our islands. The Aha Ki'ole would provide a seat at the table for Hawaiian cultural practitioners as full partners in the management of island resources. Their knowledge and involvement can only lead to improved understanding and management of the resources in our care.

Please support House Bill 1154.
Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

clee2 - Matt

From: walter ritte [rittew@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 8:42 AM
To: HAWtestimony
Subject: FW: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)
Attachments: ATT00001

From: postmaster@mail.hotmail.com
To: rittew@hotmail.com
Date: Tue, 1 Feb 2011 10:38:55 -0800
Subject: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)

This is an automatically generated Delivery Status Notification.

Delivery to the following recipients failed.

hawtestimony@capital.hawaii.gov

--Forwarded Message Attachment--

From: rittew@hotmail.com
To: hawtestimony@capital.hawaii.gov
Subject: HB 1154 Aha Kiole
Date: Tue, 1 Feb 2011 08:38:55 -1000

I am in strong support of HB 1154. This bill will help protect and save our natural resources and get local people involved in government.

Ke'eaumoku and Uilani Kapu

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1154

RELATING TO THE AHA KIOLE COMMISSION

Submitted to: Hearing of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair Representative Faye Hanohano and Members of the Committee

Hearing Date: February 2, 2011, 8:30 a.m.

Submitted by: Ke'eaumoku and Uilani Kapu

Aloha no, Representative Hanohano and distinguished House.

I would like to extend my utmost gratitude for your leadership and commitment to all the continued dedication that all of you have done for the People of Hawaii.

I know that one of the most important issues that have come to light for all of us which is the most challenging and that is the care ship of our Land and Ocean environment.

We have seen our traditions get watered down to contemporary ideas but never to the point of it ever being applied to policies, we have seen many people use the term's a lot but only for development profit and not for what it needs to be.

We have a dedicated society that is willing to step up in their roles as leader's and I know that House Bill 1154 will be the tool that would bring all together proud, happy and united, for this would allow for public participation to join true ideas on how we will forever be able to care for our islands, to sit at the table working for the benefit of all.

It is time to bring the minority to the table and discuss true management and policies for all who chose Hawaii to be their home.

Please support House Bill 1154.

Thank you for your time.

Ke'eaumoku and Uilani Kapu
P.O. Box 11524
Lahaina, HI 96761
Phone: 808-250-1479
Email: kuleanavalley@yahoo.com

clee2 - Matt

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 9:13 AM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: kekahunakeaweiwi@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1154 on 2/2/2011 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for HAW 2/2/2011 8:30:00 AM HB1154

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Foster Ampong
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: kekahunakeaweiwi@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

I am in support of HB 1154. In these times of social and geopolitical uncertainties, economic and financial distress for thousands throughout our Island communities HB 1154 is a viable and sustainable remedy.

Robert DaMate

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1154

RELATING TO THE AHA KIOLE COMMISSION

Submitted to: Hearing of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee, Chair Representative Faye Hanohano and Members of the Committee

Hearing Date: February 2, 2011, 8:30 a.m.

Submitted by: Robert DaMate

Aloha Chair Hanohano and Members of the House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

Mahalo for giving me this opportunity to tell you how important this Bill is. I live in the ahupua'a of Kahuku, the moku of Ka'u, Mokupuni of Moku O Keawe and I am the Ahupua'a representative for my ahupua'a, Kahuku. I am a lawai'a and a mahiai, a beneficiary of generational knowledge handed down to me by my father who was hanai'd by the Kealoha family in Waianae in the early 1920's. I do not have Hawaiian blood. I am a third-generation Korean/Filipino whose parents were raised by Hawaiians to love the land and ocean. I bring this up because the Aha Moku System does not depend on being Hawaiian. It's foundation is generational Hawaiian knowledge of the natural and cultural resources. Like every local resident, especially those who were born and raised in Hawaii, I am a keiki o ka 'aina. I am Hawaiian in my beliefs and in my practices. I have taught my own children and grandchildren, who do have Hawaiian blood how to sustain the marine resources; how to know when to fish and for what; how to know when to plant and why; how to follow our lunar calendars that balances our environment, specific to Ka'u.

All of this is encompassed in the Aha Moku System. We must formally recognize this system so that practices we have used for generations and have proven to work can be handed down and shared – the whole focus of the Aha Moku System is to keep the natural balance intact and protect our ecosystem. The beauty of the Moku System is that it is site-specific. What works in Ka'u does not work in Kaua'i. Laws must be changed to protect our resources as they are, not as some would wish them to be. I want my children and grandchildren, and the generations to come after me, to be able to fish in the same places that my father taught me to fish. HB 1154 would ensure that.

I ask, on behalf of my 'ohana, my children and grandchildren - Please support the passage of HB 1154.

Mahalo,

Robert DaMate

P.O. Box 6573

Oceanview, HI 96737

Phone: 808-497-0834

Email: bob@fastnethi.com

Timmy Paulokaleioku Bailey

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1154

RELATING TO THE AHA KIOLE COMMISSION

Submitted to: Hearing of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee, Chair Representative Faye Hanohano and Members of the Committee

Hearing Date: February 2, 2011, 8:30 a.m.

Submitted by: Timmy Paulokaleioku Bailey, Aha Kiole Mokupuni O Maui, Moku O Kula

Aloha Chair Hanohano and Members of the House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

In regarding to ACT 212, I would like to submit testimony for House Bill 1154 to establish the Aha Kiole Commission, and formally recognize the Aha Moku system.

It is my understanding that opposition of this ACT 212 has been strong from the "environmentalist groups". This is an interesting thought for me, since I have worked for an "environmentalist type agency" for 20 years, in the field of resources management. Haleakala National Park was mandated by a legislative body, to protect preserve, cultivates and manages the natural and cultural resources found within the (moku's) regional boundaries.

It has (NPS) embraced the "Aha Moku System" and is now leading all environmental groups, in incorporating our Native Hawaiian resource management methods and practices. It seem to me that if a Federal agency is willing to learn and understand this process of the Aha Moku System, that all people in favor of preserving our natural and cultural resources, such as the so called "Environmental Groups" would embrace another source of knowledge, in the continue efforts in protecting the environment so unique to the Hawaiian islands.

Regardless of their non-support, it is in the Senate and House representatives, best interest to pass ACT 212, and create this commission, since it is mandated in Federal law to consult with native organizations under Section 106.

In closing, creating a "tool" like ACT 212 will only benefit the natural and cultural resources of Hawaii. Do not look at the Aha Kiole Commission as a title or a rank, but view it as a responsibility, duty, a kuleana. This kuleana has been around long before any western concept arrived in these islands. Looking at a time frame, 1778 in certain history books, defines an era that eliminated certain parts of our culture. Prior to 1778, the Aha Moku System was in full force. The last 200 plus years, have lead to confusion, blame, and unacceptable neglect of our resources. What worked best in the past, can still work best today. We need to give this ancient concept a chance to strive again.

The only thing that shall have a "Title" in this ACT 212.....is the resources itself.

Mahalo nui loa,

Timmy Paulokaleioku Bailey

90 Alae Road

Kula, HI 96790

Phone: 808-357-2934

Email: paulokealeioku@hawaiiantel.net



February 1, 2011

Testimony in Support of HB1154, Relating to the `Aha Ki`ole Commission

Submitted to: The Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Representative Faye Hanohano and members of the Committee

From: Kitty M. Simonds, President Maunalua Hawaiian Civic Club

Aloha Representative Hanohano and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

The Maunalua Hawaiian Civic Club fully supports HB1154 to implement the Aha Moku system and develop the Aha Ki`ole Commission as an advisory commission on cultural and natural resource management.

This bill establishes a formal mechanism for traditional ecological knowledge held by Native Hawaiians and other cultural practitioners to contribute much needed conservation and management of Hawaii's natural resources and our environment. It supports and advances the findings of the `Aha Kiole Advisory Committee (AKAC), which was established by the Legislature and appointed by the Governor in 2007. In its 2009 report to the Legislature, the AKAC described the Aha Moku system as a method of natural resource management that was coherent, holistic, appropriate and cultural. It reported that revitalization of this traditional system of best practices required 1) regulatory changes, 2) a non-regulatory process, 3) educational programs, 4) development of a community consultation process and (5) eligibility requirements to participate.

The AKAC, reauthorized in 2009 under Act 39, vetted the implementation of the Aha Moku system through the communities. Working with the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, it held a series of island Puwalu culminating in a statewide Puwalu at the Hawaii Convention Center on November 19 and 20, 2010. The outcome was a report that addressed current issues island by island and described a structure that included adaptive management as a regulatory system, a code of conduct as a non-regulatory process, community consultation and education in support of adaptive management and eligibility criteria to participate in Aha Moku management. The eligibility criteria specified generational, site-specific knowledge that promoted the use of

Maunalua Hawaiian Civic Club
P.O. Box 240388, Aina Haina Station
Honolulu, Hawai`I 96824

empirical knowledge to replace the use of proxies so prevalent in natural resource management in modern times. The use of information from other areas has not proven to be particularly beneficial when applied to specific sites and locations in Hawai'i.

The Aha Moku system places the burden of resource management on the communities, the immediate beneficiaries of good management or sufferers of bad management. The current system allows managers to rationalize bad management and avoid responsibility for poor performance. Under community-based management the community will reap the benefits of good management and suffer the consequences of bad management. The State can provide a safety net for unforeseen anomalies that may occur, such as natural disasters.

Under the Aha Moku system, the 'Aha Kiole Commission would be the conduit between the community managers and the State. This system represents a major paradigm shift in management of natural resources for Hawai'i. It means improved natural resource management that entails responsibility and accountability, at the community as well as at the State level. It is a system that worked for millennia for the indigenous communities of Hawaii. Today, those communities are faced with coastal development, fresh water diversion, ocean user conflicts and much more.

The Maunalua Hawaiian Civic Club urges the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs to pass HB1145 as written so that effective community-based management can begin immediately.

Maunalua Hawaiian Civic Club
P.O. Box 240388, Aina Haina Station
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96824

Herman Costa

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1154

RELATING TO THE AHA KIOLE COMMISSION

Submitted to: Hearing of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee, Chair Representative Faye Hanohano and Members of the Committee

Hearing Date: February 2, 2011, 8:30 a.m.

Submitted by: Herman Costa

Aloha Chair Hanohano and Members of the House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

Mahalo for giving me the opportunity to say how important HB 1154 is. I am the moku representative for the Waiakea Moku on the Island of Hawai'i. We are located in South Hilo, the windward coast of Moku O Keawe. For years, the people of the King's Landing Village in Waiakea have struggles to protect our coastline and fishing areas and to sustain our farmlands to no avail. The Aha Moku System gives our community the consultation process and input into decision-making that has continuously been denied us by government previously. No matter how agencies previously have said they wanted to help us, we were never given the real opportunity to help ourselves or to be part of this process.

Now, through HB 1154 and the formal recognition of the Aha Moku System and the Aha Kiole Commission, our community can actively be a part of the natural resource process. This system is a real consultation process where we "consult". We are not being "consulted at". We have taken care of our coastline, ahupua'a and moku for generations using methods handed down by our own kupuna. What we do in King's Landing will not work anywhere else. We need to have this bill passed. Please, for the people of South Hilo pass HB 1154.

Mahalo,

Herman Costa

136 King Ave.

Hilo, HI 96720

Phone: 808-640-5917

Email: ua-jr@live.com

clee2 - Matt

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 1:13 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: pomroys001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1154 on 2/2/2011 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for HAW 2/2/2011 8:30:00 AM HB1154

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sharon Pomroy
Organization: Individual
Address: 4561 Hokualele rd. Anahola, HI.
Phone: 808-346-6725
E-mail: pomroys001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB 1154. I also ask that your committee support HB 1154.

Mahelani Sylva – Private Citizen

Puna District / Kaua'i Moku'uni

HB 1154

RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIANS – Aha Kiole Advisory Commission
Establishes the "Aha Kiole Advisory Commission placed within the Department of Land and Natural Resources to serve in an advisory capacity to the governor on all matters regarding the management of the State's land and natural resources.

House Committee of Hawaiian Affairs (HAW)

Rep. Faye P. Hanohano, *Chair*

Rep. Chris Lee, *Vice Chair*

Public Hearing – Wednesday, February 2, 2011

8:30 am, State Capital, Conference Room 329

Madam Chair Hanohano and Members of the House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB 1154**.

It is very rare that a bill comes forward that gives back the voice to the people. Empowering the community to assist in the process of assessment, restoration and protection of their community resources by utilizing the *traditional best management practices of the ahupua'a system* of our kupuna/ancestors, may very well be the saving grace of our land, water and culture.

I have witnessed in the planning process where testimony of the community in opposition to development in an area falls on deaf ears. Although valid reasons of an historical, cultural and environmental nature are presented in opposition to development, it still passes and usually with conditions. I've seen where, as a result of failure to follow conditions, runoff from the development in violation, has destroyed an entire reef. Did you know, depending on the coral, it grows back .2 to 1 inch per year?

The "ahupua'a" methodology, known as the "Watershed" concept in the mainland is being utilized with much success as a method to "meet water quality standards and protect water resources" as indicated by EPA. It is deemed as being useful by the EPA as a method for "persons working with impaired or threatened waters", which we are beginning to see happening in our once pristine waters.

Our ancestors utilized the Ahupua'a system and thrived, then we were forced to live another way and slowly the 'Aina perishes. We were the first to know and live Ahupua'a. Will we be the last to return back?

Please, support the voice of the people; support the empowerment of our communities; support malama 'aina, kai and waiwai; **support the passage of HB 1154**.

Mahalo, for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me:

Respectfully,

Mahelani Sylva
P. O. Box 927
Lihue, HI 96766
Kaua'i Moku'uni
808-635-4735

Winifred Basques, Lana'i

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1154
RELATING TO THE AHA KIOLE COMMISSION

Submitted to: Hearing of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee, Chair Representative Faye Hanohano and Members of the Committee

Hearing Date: February 2, 2011, 8:30 a.m.

Submitted by: Winifred Basques, Aha Kiole, Lana'i

Aloha Chair Hanohano and Members of the House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

Please support House Bill 1154, we all started in 2006 with all your help with the 6 Puwalu. All were present when we gave the information to the Representative.

Please this is going to be our last mana'o from all the Native Hawaiians. For best culture practice, from all the Ahupua'a on each islands. And if it does past Bill#1154, then i think we will be having a Puwalu.

Aloha. Fay;

From Aunty Winifred Basques Aha Kiole
(LANA'I)

P.O. Box 630521
Lanai City, HI 96763
Phone: 808-565-6871
Email: winniebjr@yahoo.com