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KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOĀ
KAHO'OLAWÉ ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

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Michael K. Nāho'opi'i
Executive Director

**Testimony of
MICHAEL K. NAHO'OPI'I
Executive Director**

**Before the House Committee on
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

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

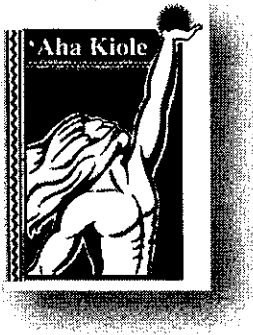
**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1224
RELATING TO THE KAHO'OLAWÉ ISLAND RESERVE**

House Bill 1224 authorizes a portion of the conveyance tax revenues to be used to replenish the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund for the long-term restoration of Kaho'olawe. The Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) supports this measure that would provide permanent state statutory funding for the restoration of Kaho'olawe.

When the State of Hawaii accepted the return of the island of Kaho'olawe in 1994, it accepted the responsibility "to preserve and protect a corner of their island state so that future generations can become familiar with their island's past human and natural heritage. For many Native Hawaiians and others, Kaho'olawe is a special place that has been sanctified by the loss of life in a struggle between traditional values and Western concepts of land use and management" (Restoring a Cultural Treasure, Kaho'olawe Island Conveyance Commission).

As stated in the Federally-mandated Kaho'olawe Island Conveyance Commission (KICC) final report to Congress in 1993, "in the short term, federal funds will provide the bulk of the program support for specific soil conservation projects and related activities. In the longer term, however, state revenues will be needed to continue and enhance those activities initiated with federal funds." For the past 16 years, the initial Federal funding has allowed the KIRC to establish many of its innovative programs that emphasize ancestral and traditional knowledge, provide a cultural approach of respect and connectivity to the environment, and integrate ancient and modern resource management techniques.

Without a secure future funding source, the KIRC estimates approximately three to possibly four years of funding are left. With 25% of the island still uncleared of unexploded ordnance and only 10% cleared for intensive use, the KIRC's continuing presence on Kaho'olawe is needed to ensure the protection of the general public. Passage of this measure is critical for fulfilling the State of Hawaii's long-term commitment to restore and protect this one last untouched corner of Hawaii.



Aha Kiole Advisory Committee

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1224,
Relating to the Kahoolawe Island Reserve

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: Leslie Kuloloio, Kiole for Kahoolawe, and Vice-Chair of the Aha Kiole Advisory Committee.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 1224 that authorizes a portion of the conveyance tax revenues to be used to replenish the Kahoolawe rehabilitation trust fund for the long-term restoration of Kahoolawe.

As a lawai'a (fisherman) and mahiai (farmer) traditional practitioner who has spent my entire life protecting and perpetuating the sustainability of Kahoolawe through knowledge passed on to me by my kupuna of Honuaua, I must support efforts made by the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) to continue with their innovative programs that emphasize ancestral and traditional knowledge. Funding is critical towards this end, and Kahoolawe is held in trust for Native Hawaiians by the State of Hawaii.

Previously funded temporarily by the federal government, the Kuleana for Kahoolawe has always been with the Native Hawaiian people and the State of Hawaii until such time as it can be turned over to a sovereign Hawaiian entity. This Kuleana must include fiscal responsibility.

We urge you to support the passage of H.B. 1224.

Mahalo nui loa,

Leslie Kuloloio, Kiole, Kahoolawe

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Testimony of

Eric. A. Brundage

**Before the House Committees on
Hawaiian Affairs:**

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

**In Consideration Of
HOUSE BILL 1224
RELATING TO THE KAHO`OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE**

I support House Bill 1224 which apportions ten percent of the conveyance tax to the Kaho`olawe rehabilitation trust fund.

Restoration of the `aina on Kaho`olawe has been funded for the last 16 years from a trust fund established and funded by a federal apportionment. It was not intended that this federal apportionment would be sufficient to fund restoration activities in perpetuity and now the funds available are insufficient to permit sustained restoration efforts.

The staff of the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission have made extremely effective use of the available restoration funds to repair the extensive damage to the island caused by decades of overgrazing and use as a military bombing target. They are aided in this effort by the numerous volunteer individuals and groups that have spent many hours in often harsh conditions to restore native species to the island and prevent further damage from wind and sediment run-off. In addition to the positive accomplishments these volunteers get from their restoration efforts, they also gain a deep appreciation for the unique culture and history of the island. The work done on Kaho`olawe is good for the island and benefits the people of Hawai`i.

Without funding from the conveyance tax apportionment, these restoration efforts will soon be forced to stop and the many gains over the years will be lost. Without continued care many of the current restoration projects will fail and further destruction and degradation of the island's resources will follow.

I humbly ask for your kokua to approve House Bill 1224.