



## LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony of Kāko‘o ‘Ōiwi of Hawai‘i  
Supporting H.B. 389 Relating to Land Use  
House Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources  
House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Wednesday, February 16, 2011, 10:30am, Room 329

Kāko‘o ‘Ōiwi  
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Kāko‘o ‘Ōiwi supports H.B. 389 and its purpose to create the He‘eia Community Development District. We believe the establishment of the development district will be in the best interest of the community and increase our ability to manage the Heeia wetlands through the restoration of Lo‘i kalo, orchards, cultural areas, wetlands and streams.

Kāko‘o ‘Ōiwi’s vision is that He‘eia wetlands or Hoi is an abundant food-producing land: native forests, lo‘i kalo, organic farms, fishponds, and the ocean extend as far as the eye can see. Agricultural production serves to educate, feed, and sustain the community. Families gather for celebration, learning, and healing. Traditional and modern arts and sciences strengthen the He‘eia community. Our ability to implement this vision is greatly enhanced with the passage of HB 389.

The He‘eia ahupua‘a was once a thriving lo‘i system with streams, pools, a wetland, and an estuary for juvenile fish habitat, but today it is overrun with non-native grasses, trees and weeds. Surrounding development and two major highways that extend through the watershed contribute to urban sources of land-based pollution and sediment, which flow to the sea during heavy rains and choke the bay’s reefs.

For the He‘eia community and for Kāko‘o ‘Ōiwi, the goal is not only to malama these lands and ocean, but also provide alternative sources of food through taro cultivation, other crops, and a suite of agricultural and aquacultural jobs for our local families. Increase the presence of native species in our natural resources and increase our ability to educate and provide opportunities for the future generations on what resource we have, and the actions we need to take to preserve these precious resources and food supply. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

**J. Kanekoa Kukea-Shultz**

Executive Director