

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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LATE

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND WATER, LAND AND
HOUSING

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2011
2:45 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 229

HOUSE BILL NO. 568 HD2
RELATING TO AQUACULTURE

Chairpersons Nishihara and Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 568 that increases aquaculture leases from 35 to 45 years and allows a maximum term of 65 years for ventures in good standing for 10 years or more. The House Bill also provides lessees in good standing the right of first refusal for the property and allows for supportive activities that are relating to aquaculture. The effective date of this bill is July 1, 2030.

The Department supports the intent of the bill but defers discussion of lease terms to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) which is the State's lease administering entity.

Thank you for your consideration of House Bill No. 568 as the Department recognizes that we must continue to support aquaculture as the State pushes toward self-sufficiency.



Aha Kiole Advisory Committee

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 568 HD 2
RELATING TO AQUACULTURE

LATE

Committee on Agriculture

Committee on Water, Land and Housing

March 22, 2011

2:00 p.m.

Room 225

Submitted by: The Aha Kiole Advisory Committee (AKAC): Vanda Hanakahi, Moloka'i (Chair), Leslie Kuloloio, Kahoolawe, (Vice-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 Nishihara, Vice-Chair Kahele; Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Solomon and members of the Committees,

My name is Leslie Kuloloio and I am the Kiole of Kahoolawe, and the Vice-Chair of the Aha Kiole Advisory Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition on HB 568 HD 2 on behalf of the Aha Kiole Advisory Committee.

While we are not opposed to aquaculture production in the State of Hawaii, we are opposed to direct leasing of public submerged lands without the necessary research, or scientific data on open ocean farming or the impacts of fish cages on the marine ecosystem to ensure that this industry has no adverse effect on the surrounding ecosystem or on Native Hawaiian fishing rights or gathering rights. As an example, recently a developer sought to erect 10 huge fish cages off the harbor in Lana'i to raise opakapaka. The site chosen was the last traditional fishing ko'a for opakapaka that had been used by three islands (Lana'i, Maui and Kahoolawe) for generations. Further, the supportive activities such as the juvenile fish hatcheries that would ensure the success of this operation was located on the coast of Kahakuloa ahupua'a, Wailuku, Maui where injection wells were built to dispose of the hatchery waste. There was no research of the effect of the cages on Lana'i, or of the impact on the shoreline of Maui.

Another example is the fish cages off of Keauhou, Island of Hawaii. No research was done and no Native Hawaiians were consulted when these cages were built over a decade ago. Kupuna from the Kawaihae area were concerned because the currents off of Kona carried the fish cage waste along the Kohala coastline and adversely affected the ecosystem of the entire Kohala coast according to the lawai'a who traditionally fished in those areas.

This practice of granting permits to anyone who wants to increase an industry, especially in aquaculture must not follow in the footsteps of the pineapple or sugar cane industry where huge tracts of land were virtually destroyed to promote the agricultural industry. History tells us that indiscriminate use of the land without forethought for the future is dangerous to Hawaii's fragile ecosystem.

There is only the ocean left. Permitting agencies do not know enough of the currents, habitats or marine environment – all of which are diverse and different on each of the main Hawaiian Islands to give forty-five to sixty-five year leases for submerged lands indiscriminately. They must consult with Native Hawaiians of the ahupua'a and moku of those ocean areas slated for fish farming. These are the people who have tended these areas for generations and fully know their marine habitat.

The AKAC's mandate is 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.

For the reasons stated, we ask that this bill not be passed.

Mahalo nui loa,

Leslie Kuloloio, Kiole for Kahoolawe, Vice-Chair

Aha Kiole Advisory Committee

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