



**SB 23 SD1**  
**RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIANS**  
House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
House Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources

March 23, 2011

10:00 a.m.

Room 329

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs offers the following comments on SB23, which would establish an 'Aha Kiole Advisory Commission placed within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to advise the Governor and the Legislature on the management of the state's land and natural resources.

OHA supports the intent of SB 23 SD1 as the bill would allow the state to improve its resource management policies through the adoption of traditional, community-based natural resource management.

Creating an 'Aha Kiole Commission would empower Native Hawaiians to participate in the management of Hawai'i's natural, cultural, and historical resources. It would also aid the State in making better resource management decisions. Local communities that have lived off the resources of their respective ahupua'a and have studied the area's conditions and resources over generations, have the best knowledge on when it is the proper time to harvest, to kapu, to heal, to monitor, to inspect, and to take accountings. Native Hawaiians have centuries of traditional knowledge upon which to draw and have an interest in perpetuating Native Hawaiian traditions and customs and the resources they rely upon, for generations to come. The 'Aha Kiole Commission can provide much needed input to state agencies, particularly those agencies and divisions that may not have institutional knowledge of Native Hawaiians traditional, community-based natural resource management. Ultimately, there is potential for the commission to assist the state in becoming better resource managers.

OHA supports an open and fair selection process of the proposed eight-member 'Aha Kiole Commission and believes that a transparent and inclusive selection process would strengthen the commission and any actions it may undertake.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

*ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS*

Testimony of President Soulee Stroud

**Senate Bill 23, SD1**

**RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIANS**

Before the

**HOUSE JOINT COMMITTEES ON**

**HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS and**

**WATER, LAND & OCEAN RESOURCES**

**Wednesday; March 23, 2011;10:00a.;Rm. 329**

Aloha Madam Chair Hanohano of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee and Chairman Chang of the Water, Land and Ocean Resources Committee. I am Soulee Stroud here to speak in support of Senate Bill 23SD1, Relating to Native Hawaiians.

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs has been involved in Puwala meetings that created the `Aha Kiole Advisory committee since its inception, passing supportive resolutions in several of our annual conventions. Over these several years we have not seen any reason to change our position to support the righteous intent of this organization and its members.

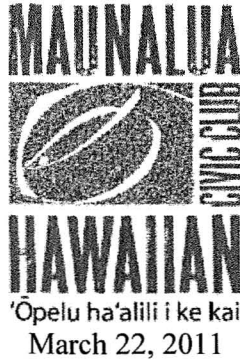
Members of the `Aha Kiole represent practitioners of traditional Hawaiian cultural practices of various `ahupua`a on all islands. These practitioners strive to preserve and exercise those excellent systems of sustaining natural resources of the islands used by past generations of Native Hawaiians. It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

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs has witnessed steady progress as the `Aha Kiole organized itself despite little or no support from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to which it was assigned, and the refusal of the previous 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 and natural resources preservation and we urge you to support this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration.

For further information please contact our Government Relations Chair, Jalna Keala at [jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net)



## Testimony in support of SB23, Relating to Native Hawaiians

Submitted to: The Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources and Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

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

Aloha Chairman Jerry Chang and members of the Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources, and Chairwoman Faye Hanohano and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

SB23 proposes the establishment of an Aha Kiole Advisory Commission within the Department of Land and Natural Resources. The Commission will advise the Governor and the Legislature on the management of the State's land and natural resources. The Maunalua Hawaiian Civic Club supports this.

We believe that the intent of the Legislation is to **formally recognize the traditional Aha Moku resource management system and to create the Aha Ki'ole Commission** (SECTION 1, para. 9) The Aha Moku system through the Aha Ki'ole Commission is the process whereby the voices of native practitioners are heard and their recommendations duly considered in the management of resources of Hawaii. There needs to be, for this initiative, **funds appropriated and expended for the purposes of this Act** (SECTION 3). DLNR should fully support traditional practices and the participation of native Hawaiians in the natural resource management process. By constitutional mandate native Hawaiians are double beneficiaries of the public trust: as native Hawaiian beneficiaries and as members of the general public. Their mana`o is important and should have the support and be afforded greater consideration by DLNR. Traditional natural resource management is holistic. The Commission will have the ability to advise all levels of government.

We believe that traditional management of natural resources will benefit the environment and all of the people of Hawaii. We appreciate the Legislature's support.

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