

P. O. Box 420
Volcano, HI 96785

Mar 1, 2011

RE: In opposition to SCR14, "Kulani NAR and Prison."

Dear Sir or Madam:

I strongly oppose this bill that proposes to "disapprove the reset aside of the former Kulani Correctional Facility lands from the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Land and Natural Resources as an extension of Pu`u Maka`ala Natural Area Reserve and to the Department of Defense for a youth challenge academy."

This action would seriously undermine protection of the unique Kulani forest and its numerous endangered birds and plants. The Kulani forest supports one of the few intact forest bird communities on the Big Island and has been the focus of research and conservation spanning 4 decades. Expansion of the Pu`u Maka`ala NAR to include these Kulani lands would be the best means to ensure future protection of these native species and the forests that are their home.

Respectfully yours,

Thane K. Pratt

From: mailnotst@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLH Testimony](#)
Cc: medeiros_matthew@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR14 on 3/1/2011 1:15:00 PM
Date: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 5:43:36 AM

Testimony for WLH 3/1/2011 1:15:00 PM SCR14

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dr. Matthew Medeiros
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: medeiros_matthew@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/1/2011

Comments:
I oppose withdrawing 6,600 acres at Kulani from the Pu'u Maka'ala Natural Area Reserve.

The BLNR received overwhelming support for adding native forest at Kulani to the Natural Area Reserves System. The area provides habitat for rare and endangered unique Hawaiian plants and animals. A Natural Area Reserve is the most appropriate designation and highest and best use of the 6,600 acres.

I support withdrawing the land at Kulani currently used by the Department of Defense for the Youth Challenge Academy.
Keeping the Natural Area Reserve intact will NOT affect reopening of the Kulani Correctional Facility because the Reserve is not within the developed portions of Kulani that would be used for a reopened correctional facility.

Protecting native forest in the NAR is compatible with the correctional facility.
In the past, state agencies, including the Department of Land and Natural Resources and Hawai'i Department of Public Safety, worked in partnership to protect the native forest at Kulani and provide a safe and productive environment for low-risk inmates at the correctional facility.

Inmates at the reopened correctional facility could help protect the native forest at Kulani, and gain knowledge about the importance of the forest to the environment and Native Hawaiian culture. They could also gain skills and experience which they could apply upon their release.

Testimony by:

Jolene Molinaro

SCR14

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

1:15 pm

Rm 225

In Support of SCR14 Relating to Disapproving Transfer of Kulani Correctional Facility

Dear Committee Members:

My name is Jolene Molinaro, and I would like to submit testimony in strong support of SB 1358 regarding the disapproval of the transfer of Kulani Correctional Facility. As an ex-offender, I know how important it is for a person who is released from prison to have a strong support network, which hopefully begins while still incarcerated. This is much easier to achieve when the inmate has access to their family members and friends who reside in the community in which the inmate will be released to. Successful reentry requires the smoothest transition as possible and being incarcerated thousands of miles away from any familiar contacts and family members alienates prisoners in many ways. Since the facility already exists, it would be a waste and a shame not to utilize it to keep Hawaii's inmates at home where their children and support systems reside.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jolene Molinaro

TESTMONY RE. SCR 14, DISAPPROVING THE RESET ASIDE OF THE FORMER KULANI CORRECTIONAL FACILITY LAND

Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing, 1 MARCH 2011

I write to oppose the withdrawal of the 6600 acres piece of former Kulani Prison land that was previously added to the Natural area Reserve (NAR) System. I know the area well, having done conservation biology there over a ten-year period. The birds and plants are a very special relict of native vegetation. I even found a new species of native shrub, a *Dubautia*, there that is not known from anywhere else. There are numerous other special and rare native plant and bird species thriving on this land. It deserves and needs the protection that a NAR provides.

Numerous people worked over many years to explore the biology of the area, control alien plants, save disappearing native species and to fence the whole area for its long-term protection. All the major expense of management was completed before the 6600 acres was lawfully incorporated into the Pu'u Maka'ala Natural Area Reserve. The protection efforts were enabled by the inmate conservation work crews that built the essential conservation fences and help to grow native species used in restoring damaged areas. While the prison has since closed, the conservation efforts were perpetuated by incorporation into the NAR. There is no significant cost burden to the Nar to continue keeping this 6600 acres.

Please do not negate all this great conservation effort and product by rescinding the 6600 acres portion from the NAR. While there may be competing uses for the remaining developed portion of the former prison facility, please do not drag the NAR portion into the dispute.

Thank you for considering my comments,

Rick Warshauer, Volcano

From: [Harvey Arkin](#)
To: [WLR Testimony](#)
Subject: SCR 14 Kulani NAR and Prison
Date: Monday, February 28, 2011 8:57:24 PM

Aloha,

I OPPOSE the withdrawal of 6,600 acres of choice native Hawaiian forest at Kulani from the Natural Area Reserves System on the Big Island. This area was added to the Pu'u Maka'ala Natural Area Reserve by the Board of Land and Natural Resources in 2010.

The Resolution also calls for the withdrawal of land currently used by the Department of Defense for the Youth Challenge Academy with a goal to reopen the Kulani Correctional Facility, which would be operated by the Department of Public Safety as it has in the past. CCH **OPPOSES** the NAR withdrawal, **SUPPORTS** the withdrawal of the DOD land. Please **OPPOSE** the NAR withdrawal, and **SUPPORT** the withdrawal of Department of Defense land.

- I oppose withdrawing 6,600 acres at Kulani from the Pu'u Maka'ala Natural Area Reserve.
- The BLNR received overwhelming support for adding native forest at Kulani to the Natural Area Reserves System. The area provides habitat for rare and endangered unique Hawaiian plants and animals. A Natural Area Reserve is the most appropriate designation and highest and best use of the 6,600 acres.
- I support withdrawing the land at Kulani currently used by the Department of Defense for the Youth Challenge Academy.
- Keeping the Natural Area Reserve intact will NOT affect reopening of the Kulani Correctional Facility because the Reserve is not within the developed portions of Kulani that would be used for a reopened correctional facility.
- Protecting native forest in the NAR is compatible with the correctional facility.
- In the past, state agencies, including the Department of Land and Natural Resources and Hawai'i Department of Public Safety, worked in partnership to protect the native forest at Kulani and provide a safe and productive environment for low-risk inmates at the correctional facility.
- Inmates at the reopened correctional facility could help protect the native forest at Kulani, and gain knowledge about the importance of the forest to the environment and Native Hawaiian culture. They could also gain skills and experience which they could apply upon their release.

Thank you,
Harvey Arkin
Honolulu

From: [Christine Ahia](#)
To: [WLH Testimony](#)
Subject: SCR 14
Date: Monday, February 28, 2011 8:28:05 PM

Hearing: Tuesday, March 2, 2011 at 1:15 pm in Room 225

Dear Legislators,

I am opposed to the withdrawing of 6,600 acres at Kulani from the Pu'u Maka'ala Natural Area Reserve. This addition to the NARS provides a habitat for our rare and endangered Hawaiian plants and animals. Keeping this NARS designation, which is the highest and best use of these 6,600 acres, is crucial to protecting and maintaining this valuable natural resource. There are few remaining areas in our state that are as pristine as the forest in Kulani, which is a treasure for us to nurture and manage well. Cattle grazing in these lands opened them up to invasive species which need to be controlled, so part of the management task would be to eradicate the invasive species and replant more of the forest plants and trees that are native to Kulani.

It is important that the protection of these lands continue, regardless of any changes made to the Kulani Correctional Facility parcel. Please note that the NARS designated lands are **not** within the developed portions of the correctional facility parcel, so a space conflict is nonexistent. Protecting our native forest in the NAR is compatible with a reopened correctional facility, and in the past, inmates collaborated with the protection by installing fencing, tending to and outplanting native plants, expanding their knowledge base, and gaining skills and experience that could be applied upon their release. The native forest around the correctional facility provided a safe and productive environment for the inmates to partner with state agencies, such as the DLNR, to protect it.

I've had the privilege to visit and enjoy these lands four times over the last 10 years. Two of the times were to participate in the Christmas Bird Count, in connection with the Audubon Society. One time was through a workshop for educators, and we were shown the lands that were recently fenced, and saw the recovery of the forest understory once ungulates were eradicated. We saw and learned about some very rare plants on those lands, such as the Mauna Loa bog silversword. We also learned of the past abuse of the land by groups of people, during which time the nene residing there were butchered senselessly.

The most recent trip I was involved with was a service project with the DLNR at Kulani NARS for three days in January, 2011. We worked on fences, collected native plant and tree seeds (to be propagated and later outplanted in the area), poisoned invasives, and outplanted native plants. It is our hope that more forest restoration work and management will be done in the near future so that the forest can recover and become an even greater habitat for our rare and endangered native species.

Please remember that there are many of us who have overwhelmingly supported and welcomed this NARS designation and would like to see it continue.

Also, that a conflict over land would not exist regardless of which agency controls the Kulani

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLH Testimony](#)
Cc: ann.kobsa@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR14 on 3/1/2011 1:15:00 PM
Date: Monday, February 28, 2011 7:34:24 PM

Testimony for WLH 3/1/2011 1:15:00 PM SCR14

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ann Kobsa
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: ann.kobsa@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

Comments:

The forest in question is very high-quality and highly deserving of protection, as I testified when this NAR addition was approved. It is a very bad idea to withdraw the NAR, but the DOD land around the buildings could be withdrawn without affecting the preservation of the forest. This would give inmates the opportunity to make meaningful contributions to the preservation of secure forest, to enhance its value. I have a friend who was at Kulani and worked in the forest there as part of his rehabilitation, weeding and planting native plants. He considered that a valuable contribution to the forest, and I am sure that the work he did in the forest helped him become a more balanced person through a strengthened connection with nature. Please do not take away the protective NAR status of this forest treasure. We have lost way too much of the high-quality forest already.



Aha Kiolo Advisory Committee

TESTIMONY to SUPPORT SCR 14
Relating to Kulani Lands; Disapprove
Transfer

Submitted to: Committee on Water, Land and Housing

Hearing Date: March 1, 2011, 1:15p.m., Room 225

Submitted by: Piilani Kaawaloa, Kiolo, Hawaii Island

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Solomon, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SCR 14 relating to the Kulani Prison and the lands surrounding it. We support the addition of the 6,600 acres to the Pu'u Maka'ala Natural Reserve. We do not wish to see this land taken away from the National Area Reserves. And, we support withdrawing the land at Kulani Prison currently used by the Dept. of Defense for the Youth Challenge Academy. We agree that these lands be restored to the Dept. of Public Safety to be reinstated as a correctional facility for the State of Hawaii.

Mahalo nui loa,

Piilani Kaawaloa, Kiolo, Island of Hawaii

P.O. Box 688

Pahoa, HI 96778

Phone: 808-896-4172

Email: punatita7@yahoo.com



LATE

March 1, 2011

Testimony in support of SCR14, Disapproving the Reset Aside of
the former Kulani Correctional Facility Lands from the
Department of Public Safety to the Department of Land and
Natural Resources as an extension of Pu`u Maka`ala Natural
Reserve Ares and to the Department of Defense for a Youth
Challenge Academy

Submitted to: The Committee on Water Land and Housing

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

Aloha Senator Dela Cruz and members of the Committee on water, Land and Housing,

We support SCR14. We found that the closing of this facility was unjustified in 2009. Closing this facility, outsourcing inmate care and sending employment opportunities to other out of State facilities was egregious. While housing minimum security, Kulani provided education and rehabilitation. Rehabilitation and reintroduction to family is key to reducing recidivism in our penal system. Sending inmates away took away any opportunity for our local inmates to re-establish ties with family.

We would also like to see the Youth Challenge Program supported in some way. The program takes disadvantaged and at-risk youth, many Hawaiian and native Hawaiian youth for whom traditional education is not working, and gives them an opportunity to succeed through vocational training and general equivalency. Hawaii Job Corps once had a facility at Kulani and we believe that was an appropriate if not the highest and best use of the area.

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