

February 29, 2012

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF H.B. 2246, H.D.1, RELATING TO HAIKU VALLEY

To: Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair / & Members
House Finance Committee

From: Leialoha "Rocky" Kaluhiwa
Kupa`aina Families of Ha`iku Valley

Aloha! My name is Leialoha "Rocky" Kaluhiwa, and I would like to speak on behalf of my family in support of House Bill 2246, House Draft 1, to establish a cultural preserve in Ha`iku Valley.

My family comes from the Komomua line, and have lived in Ha`iku Valley and the ahupua`a of He`eia for over 200 years. Many of us were moved out of the valley in the 1930s and early 1940s when the military came in to build the station at Ha`iku. We still have kuleana lands up there.

We also have many family burials and, after our families were relocated, we still had access to visit the graves, had no problem with the military. I remember we just had to drive up to the entry gate, speak into a box, and they would open the gate for us to come in. After the Department of Hawaiian Homes took over, we have had a hard time getting access. They want us to buy liability insurance before they will let us go in to visit our iwi kupuna.

We are grateful to the Legislature for passing a similar bill in 2008, but we were disappointed when then Governor Lingle vetoed the bill. We thank those of you committee members who supported this bill in the past hearing, and respectfully ask all of you to support it once again and pass it out of this committee.

Mahalo.