

galuteria1 - Davis

To: Dale Uno
Subject: RE: Fishpond Bill Testimony from Uncle Joe

Late Testimony on HB 2529
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
From Uncle Joe Tassil
3/14/2012

From: Dale Uno
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:12 PM
To: galuteria1 - Davis
Subject: Fishpond Bill Testimony from Uncle Joe

Tuesday March 13, 2012

Testimony on Wainiha Fishpond

I was asked by the Senate Hawaiian Affairs Committee Chairperson to submit my testimony on Wainiha fish pond.

Wainiha Fishpond located in Kuliouou north west of the largest fishpond on the island of Oahu in the Ahupuaa of Waimanalo, Kuapa Fishpond today known as the Hawaii Kai marina. It was one of the few fish-ponds on the south west side of the island where there was a mixture of fresh and salt water, an ideal place to raise certain limu, seaweeds and anai, small fish. In one of the testimonies it was stated the the fishpond was in the backyard of a number of land owners, I say no, their backyards were in the front of the Wainiha fishpond.

On the other hand Kuapa played a major roll in both the Old Hawaii and the recent, pre Hawaii Kai era where it was capable of feeding almost all of the population of the island of Oahu. It was also where mullet would migrate tp from the north to spawn and lay the eggs to regenerate the fish population and the anai or young would grow and were protected from larger fish.

I can remember two fishermen that played an important part with the annual migration and regeneration of the mullet population.

Leo Ohai a commercial fishermen and light plane pilot, who was a spotter of the annual fish migration. Faniliar with the different fish and movements he would fly his plane, spot fish and radio to his fishing boat as to where the was at the time.

I only remember the other man by one name, Lukela. He was the konahiki of Kiapa. Now, he and Leo Ohai would always keep in touch with each other and at a certain time of the year the millet would be in migration and Leo would make contact with Lukela and let him know that the fish had come around Diamond Head and were on their way to Maunalua bay and Kuapa fishpond. Lukela would await their arrival and at low tied when the pond waters were emptying and on its way out he woul open the makana or gates tp the fishpond and the mullet would enter and start their annuel spawnn thereby regenerate the spicie. This is what happened year after year after year. I can remember stopping to see Lukela to visit or buy fish from him on our way home to Waimanalo. Oh by the way refore I forget, just to remind everyone Hawaii Kai belongs to the Ahupuaa of Waimanalo.

Mahalo

Uncle Joe