



HB 2820
RELATING TO HAWAIIAN FISHPONDS
House Committee on Water, Land, & Ocean Resources

February 3, 2012

9:00 a.m.

Room 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** on HB2820, which would require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to establish the east Honolulu fishpond heritage area.

Fishponds were and continue to be important cultural resources to Native Hawaiians. While fishponds today still serve as a source of sustenance for communities, they also offer a wide range of educational opportunities. Fishponds are used to teach students about math, science and Hawaiian culture. In addition, fishpond restoration has become a major part of the Hawaiian cultural revival movement, with a number of groups across Hawai'i taking on the kuleana of bringing once-forgotten fishponds back to life.

Kalauha'iha'i and Kanewai are two of a very few remaining intact Hawaiian fishponds in Honolulu. Kalauha'iha'i fishpond was actively used up until the 1990s, when the spring that fed it was damaged during the Kalani'ana'ole Highway widening project. And although Kanewai fishpond has not been used since it came under state care, its historic value is so great that it has been recognized in the State Historic Register. The restoration of these ponds holds great potential for the future health of the surrounding region as well as the cultural and educational opportunities for the surrounding community.

OHA urges the committee to PASS HB2820. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



MAUNALUA FISHPOND HERITAGE CENTER

February 3, 2012

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In Strong Support of HB2820

Aloha Chair Chang, Vice Chair Har and Committee members,

On behalf of the Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center I want to thank you for hearing this important bill. HB 2820 requires the DLNR to establish the East Honolulu Fishpond Heritage area on state property at Kalauha'iha'i Fishpond and nearby Kanewai Fishpond.

For centuries East Honolulu has been known for massive fishponds. The 523 acre Keahupua-o-Maunalua, was the largest in the Hawaiian Islands. The 41 acre Wailupe Fishpond and numerous others were all located in the region. These ponds supplied hundreds of pounds daily of mullet and awa that fed our island. The destruction of these fishponds over the last fifty years has damaged the fishery and overall ecosystem considerably.

With HB2820 the legislature has the opportunity to recognize the importance of our last remaining shoreline fishponds in East Honolulu by establishing a fishpond heritage area for their protection and revival. Our community 501(c)(3) organization has been working since 2007 to educate the public regarding these sites and would like to provide stewardship and restoration for these neglected sites.

Through our restoration project at Kanewai Spring adjacent to Kanewai Fishpond we have seen how ecosystems and traditional practices can rebound once proper care is provided by the community. These ponds were designed to feed the people of Hawai'i. To continue to lock them up from the community while they deteriorate is not beneficial to anyone. Your passage of HB2820 is critical in preserving these fishponds for the future.

Mahalo nui loa ,

Chris Cramer

Chris Cramer, President
Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center

Jeannine Johnson, Legislative Sub-Committee Chair

Kuli'ou'ou / Kalani Iki Neighborhood Board #2

5648 Pia Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96821

Phone: 373-2874 (h) / 691-7261 (w)

February 3, 2012

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

Rep. Jerry L. Chang, Chair

Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

Re: HB 2820 - Relating to Hawaiian Fishponds

Hrg: Friday, February 3, 2012 at 9:00 pm in Conf. Room 325

Aloha mai kākou,

Under Section 2-14-125 of the Neighborhood Board Plan, I have been appointed as a Delegate with responsibilities to represent the **Kuli'ou'ou / Kalani Iki Neighborhood Board #2** on matters approved by the Board. As Committee Chair of the **Kuli'ou'ou / Kalani Iki Neighborhood Board #2** Legislative Sub-Committee, I am pleased to inform you **Neighborhood Board #2** supports HB 2820 which requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to establish the east Honolulu fishpond heritage area. **Neighborhood Board #2** represents over 6,000 households, with a population of almost 20,000 people (State of Hawaii Data Book 2002) in East Honolulu.

Before Westerners arrived in Hawai'i, native Hawaiians lived a life of self-subsistence and harmony with the land and sea. Native Hawaiians understood that by caring for the land and sea, they too, would be cared for by the land and sea. A great example of this is a native Hawaiian fishpond (loko i'a or loko kuapā) which were first built around the fifteenth century. Hawaiians built 488 fishponds statewide, however only about 60 fishponds remain recognizable today. O'ahu alone had 97 fishponds, but only six accessible ponds remain today. Thirteen fishponds have been restored statewide, with six ponds currently in use: three on Moloka'i, one on the island of Hawai'i, and two on O'ahu.

Currently, the Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center is working to stop the sale of two remaining fishponds at auction by the Department of Transportation and obtain the leases. They are Kanewai Fishpond, a royal pond assessed to have the properties that make it eligible for listing on the National Historic Register, and Kalauha'iha'i (Lucas Spring and Fishpond) reported to be the location of a summer home of Kamehameha I and where Queen Ka'ahumanu was said to have renounced the ancient kapu system at the Kalauha'iha'i Assembly. Kalauha'iha'i refers to the scattering of the leaves and breaking of the ancient kapu.

Recognizing the important cultural significance these fishponds represent, at its November 6, 2008 meeting, **Neighborhood Board #2** voted to support preventing any governmental entity from selling culturally significant Native Hawaiian treasurers such

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

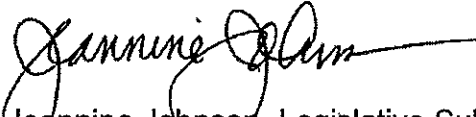
February 3, 2012

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as fishponds. Requiring the DLNR to establish the east Honolulu fishpond heritage area that contains the state-owned parcels with Kanewai Fishpond and Kalauha'iha'i Spring and Fishpond will safeguard Maunalua's last remaining fishponds for future generations.

Your support of HB 2820 is respectfully requested.

'O au iho nō me ke aloha,



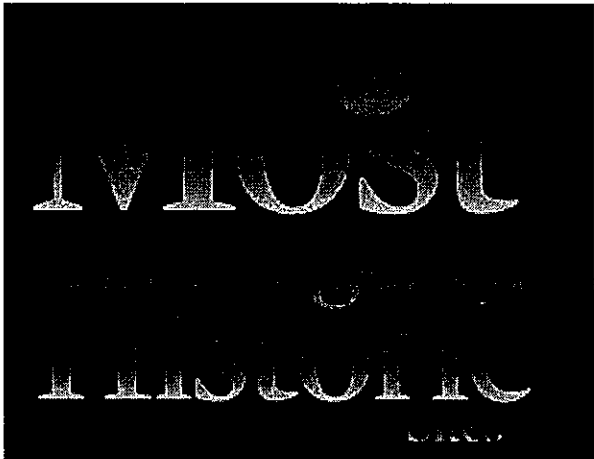
Jeannine Johnson, Legislative Sub-Committee Chair

Kuli'ou'ou / Kalani Iki Neighborhood Board #2

5648 Pia Street, Honolulu, HI 96821

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Email: jeannine@hawaii.rr.com



har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:25 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: bkfisle@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2820 on 2/3/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/3/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2820

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kimo Franklin
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bkfisle@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

I am in full support of HB2820. The protection of these rare type of fish ponds in East Honolulu is of hugh importance to the community. The preservation of these fish ponds will provide a tremendous educational & cultural benefit for the community. Also, their preservation will match well with other community led restoration work occuring in Maunalua Bay.

Fish ponds have a significant history in East Honolulu. We cannot afford to loose the last remaining fish ponds in East Honolulu. To much has been lost already.

Mahalo,
Kimo Franklin
Maunalua, Island of O'ahu, Hawai'i

HB 2820- Relating to Hawaiian Fishponds - In Support

House Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources
Friday, Feb. 3rd, 2012 9:00AM in House conference room 325

Aloha to the House Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources,

I am writing to ask for your SUPPORT of HB 2820 relating to Hawaiian Fishponds and the establishment of the East Honolulu Fishpond Heritage Area.

The first radio carbon dating in the Pacific was conducted by Dr. Emory of the Bishop Museum. It began with wood charcoal taken from Kuli'ou'ou Bluff Shelter in East O'ahu in the 1950's. The radio carbon dating estimated the wood of the charcoal was formed 946 years ago, plus or minus 180 years. This means the shelter was occupied by our Hawaiian ancestors over a 1,000 years ago.

The Kuli'ou'ou bluff shelter offered an incredible view for our ancestors of the fishponds of Maunalua. Two of these fishponds, Kanewai and Kalauha'iha'i, have the opportunity today - in 2012, through the guidance of the Department of Land and Natural Resources and work by our community members and groups - to become fully protected, stocked, restored and functioning fishponds in the East Honolulu Fishpond Heritage Area by the passage of HB 2820.

What an exciting chance we all have here, both our State Agencies and our Community, to honor the traditions of those who came before us. And we can teach our community today, and future generations, about the exceptional skills of our Hawaiian ancestors and how their technology, culminated over a millennium, continues to gift us today with the chance to have a fully protected and fully functioning Hawaiian fishpond in Maunalua following the traditions and work they started many generations ago.

There is an old saying, "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day.
Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."

I would humbly, humbly add a third line -- Give a community a fishpond to work and learn from and watch them educate and feed the bodies and minds of their community members for generations to come.

Please support HB 2820 relating to Hawaiian Fishponds in East O'ahu and the establishment of the East Honolulu Fishpond Heritage Area.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Ann Marie Kirk

Livable Hawai'i Kai Hui
Natural Resource and Cultural Committee Member

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 11:51 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: kaleopaik@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2820 on 2/3/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/3/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2820

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kaleo Paik
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kaleopaik@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:
Our fishponds need to be returned to production and this bill will help to move in that direction. The State needs to look at all opportunities for food production and fishponds food production is a viable source. Our ancestors did not intend for their manao to sit idle.