



LATE TESTIMONY

**HB 895**  
**RELATING TO STATE AGENCIES**  
House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

February 2, 2011

8:30 a.m.

Room 329

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following comments on HB 895, which would increase the membership of the Commission on Water Resource Management, Board of Land and Natural Resources, and Land Use Commission, respectively, by one member who represents the interests of OHA.

The OHA Administration will recommend that the OHA Board of Trustees support HB 895 with amendments. Too often, state boards and commissions render decisions that do not give full and thorough consideration to the impact state actions have on constitutionally-protected traditional and customary Native Hawaiian rights. By providing OHA a seat at the table, HB 895 would ensure that Native Hawaiians will have greater influence on the manner in which our natural and cultural resources – as well as the traditional Native Hawaiian practices that are intrinsically connected to those resources – are protected.

We respectfully suggest that the bill be amended to delete the phrase “to represent the interests of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs,” which is used three times in the bill where the OHA appointments are required. In our view, the phrase is unnecessary.

The OHA Administration will make this recommendation to our Board at its meeting on Feb. 3, 2011. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



**Papa Ola Lokahi**  
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

**LATE TESTIMONY**

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**Papa Ola Lokahi**  
Non-profit Native Hawaiian organization founded in 1988 for the purpose of improving the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians and other native peoples of the Pacific and continental United States.

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**Executive Director:**  
*Hardy Spoehr*

**TESTIMONY: HB 895, RELATING TO STATE AGENCIES**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**  
Rep. Faye Hanohano, Chair  
Sen. Chris Lee, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 2, 2011  
8:30 am  
Conference Room 329  
State Capitol

Hardy Spoehr, Executive Director

Aloha Chairman Hanohano, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs. Papa Ola Lokahi expresses its strong support for this measure.

Water is life as clearly stated in the oli 'Na Wai o Kane.' It is important that the Native Hawaiian public policy perspective be represented on the Water Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide strong supportive testimony for this important measure.