

**SB 609**  
**LATE TESTIMONY**

SB 609

Committee: Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Committee on Water, Land, Housing

Room: Conference Room 225

Hearing Date: 2/12/2011 10:00:00 AM

Aloha Senators,

I oppose this bill in its current form.

In particular, I do not support the removal of Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana (PKO) from representation on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission because it does not preserve the apolitical intent of the commission. Having an organization with a mission aligned with the purposes of the commission ensures the commission stays on track and will not change its purpose regardless of the people sitting on the commission. Without PKO the commission could create a mission and goals that would not support the future for self-determination by Hawaiians.

If there is any hakaka or hukihuki then it should be mediated within the Administration instead of legislated into a permanent situation that may not be conducive in the future.

Aloha i ke kahi i ke kahi (love one another).

Sincerely,  
Daniel Nahoopii  
1311 Ekaha Ave  
Honolulu, HI 96816



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

**Papa Ola Lokahi**

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### **Papa Ola Lokahi**

is a 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.

### **Board of Directors**

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*Hoola Lahui Hawaii*

*Hui No Ke Ola Pono*

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### **Executive Director**

*Hardy Spoehr*

## **TESTIMONY: SB 609, RELATING TO THE KAHOO LAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION**

### **SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Sen. Brickwood Galuteria, Chair

Sen. Pohai Ryan, Vice Chair

### **SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING**

Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Sen. Malama Solomon, Vice Chair

Saturday, February 12, 2011  
10:00 am

Conference Room 225  
State Capitol

Hardy Spoehr, Executive Director

Aloha Chairs Galuteria and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Ryan and Solomon, and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs and on Water, Land, and Housing. Papa Ola Lokahi (POL) can not support this legislation as proposed.

Kaho`olawe rests today in temporary state trusteeship because of the tireless efforts, work, and sacrifice of members of the Protect Kaho`olawe `Ohana (PKO). Over the years, PKO has had hundreds of members on all the islands and on the continental United States. I need to disclose that I served as staff to the Kaho`olawe Island Conveyance Commission (KICC) and continue to serve on the Kohemalamalama o Kanaloa/PKF. It's critical to remember that Native Hawaiians, PKO members, lost their lives in the struggle for this effort. The island is a designed Native Hawaiian wahipana and pu`uhonua and has changed for the better the health and wellbeing of thousands of island residents and their families over the years under Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) administration.

We can not support the elimination from the KIRC of one member from the PKO as stated in Section 1(a)(1). We would suggest that KIRC remain at seven members with the Governor appointing three members in consultation with Native Hawaiian organizations.

Further, in Section 1(e) there is a restriction of four years placed upon the reappointment of a member who has served on the KIRC. This is almost punitive to all the members of the KIRC who serve as volunteers and are not on the KIRC because of their position, such as the Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. It is not consistent with other state commissions. We would suggest a one or two year waiting period between terms should there be a desire for reappointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Testimony of  
Imaikalani Winchester  
Waipio, Oahu

Before the Senate Committees on  
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS and  
WATER, LAND and HOUSING

Saturday, February 12, 2011  
10:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 609  
RELATING TO THE KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

I **OPPOSE** Senate Bill 609, which will remove all representation by the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission. The Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana **MUST** have a voice on the Commission!

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

My name is Imaikalani Winchester and I am a ten year participant in the traditional ceremonies celebrating the Makahiki season and Lono. In my time I have had the wonderful opportunity to engage with members, young and old, of the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana who have expressed in many ways their devotion and love for this land. Aloha Aina binds the PKO to Kahoolawe. It would thus be a terrible and shameful decision to remove this critical organization from their ability to continue their important work for Kahoolawe, for Kanaka Maoli, and for the greater community at large. This organization has an incredibly unique and special relationship with Kahoolawe and it is important that the Ohana be allowed to maintain the natural and cultural resources the island has to offer.

Again, please **OPPOSE SB 609** and allow the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana to continue to do their work.

Aloha Aina,

Imaikalani Winchester

February 12, 2011

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND HOUSING  
And HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY OF KAPONO CHANG

Saturday, February 12, 2011  
10:00 a.m  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

In consideration of

**SENATE BILL 609**  
RELATING TO THE KAHO‘OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

My name is Kapono Ikalā‘i Chang. I am native Hawaiian and a senior at Stanford University. I respectfully oppose this bill.

When I was a freshman at Kamehameha Schools, Kapālama Campus, I had the honor and privilege to go on a Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana (Ohana) access with the Hawaiian Culture club that a group of students and I created. That visit changed my life. My family has always instilled upon me that we have a kūleana to mālama i ka ‘āina. I really understood what that meant when I went to Kaho‘olawe with the ‘Ohana. From the time we left Mākena beach, the ‘Ohana gave us a safety and cultural orientation, to the time we landed on Kaho‘olawe, it was all about working to heal Kaho‘olawe. It was hard work but I learned not only about taking care of the land, but more importantly about taking care of us as Hawaiians. I thought I would only learn about the island, but the island taught me about myself, and what is my responsibility as a Native Hawaiian kāne moving forward in this contemporary time. The island and the ‘Ohana over the years have helped me to understand that my kūleana is to give back to this community and heal people. Uncle Emmett Aluli in particular has been a great mentor and it has been through his unselfish kōkua that I would like to pursue a career in medicine. I believe that the ‘Ohana’s representation on the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission is necessary to ensure that the vision from people like George Helm for our Hawaiian people is realized.

Upon my return from my first journey to Kaho‘olawe I wrote this poem and I would like to share it with you as it gives you a glimpse of how Kaho‘olawe and the Ohana have changed my life:

*Nā ‘Eha o Kaho‘olawe*

*The ‘āina is no longer my flesh,  
it was ripped from my body and washed out to sea.  
What are left are my bones.  
Fractured by un-earthly craters.  
detonated by greedy foreigners,  
allowed by a “Joint Resolution.”  
UXO’s are scattered across my chest.  
The sun still rises at Haleakalā,  
where my clouds once dwelled.*

*With rain no longer touching my skin,  
I am barren and dry.  
Slowly my face is being repaired,  
while my mana is ready to return.  
The kānaka are my friends,  
the Navy my enemy,  
ke Akua my creator,  
nā 'Aumakua my protectors.  
All have been evacuated.  
I have been damaged,  
now called a hazardous site.  
Where are my people?  
Are they coming back?  
The trees and plants are sprouting,  
but my time is growing old.  
What are left are my stars, winds, and currents,  
smoothing down my pōhaku.  
I give my people life to live,  
but they throw bombs on me to die.  
Aloha is a gentle breeze,  
creeping onto my bloody waters.  
The pono was left on Maui,  
while the hewa was placed on me.*

*My name is Kaho'olawe,  
and these are my pains.*