



SCR 74 / SR 33

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

March 28, 2012

3:15 p.m.

Room 224

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) strongly **SUPPORTS** SCR 74 and SR 33. These resolutions would urge the counties to preserve property-tax exemptions for Kuleana lands.

Pursuant to the Kuleana Act of 1850, several thousand native tenants, or maka'āinana, were granted title to the lands they had occupied and improved. In 2007, responding to growing concern over escalating property taxes affecting the remaining owners of their ancestral Kuleana, the City and County of Honolulu enacted a property tax exemption for Kuleana lands. The counties of Hawai'i, Kaua'i, and Maui soon followed.

Because there are only a few parcels that qualify, the Kuleana exemptions do not significantly impact county tax revenues. For example, in Fiscal Year 2011-2012, the exemption represented only .0005 of Honolulu's total exemption amounts. Therefore, the exemptions provide significant protection to Kuleana property owners with no meaningful impact to State revenue.

We urge your committees to go on record in support of the Kuleana tax exemptions by PASSING SCR 74 and SR 33. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.