

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 22 2013

RE: H.B. No. 414

H.D. 2

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
President of the Senate
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature
Regular Session of 2013
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Water and Land, to which was referred H.B. No. 414, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WAIPIO VALLEY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish the Waipio Valley Advisory Commission to advise the Department of Land and Natural Resources on the development of a long-term plan for ensuring the proper stewardship, preservation, and maintenance of Waipio Valley; and
- (2) Make an appropriation for the design and construction of flood damage reduction and stream stabilization in Waipio Valley.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from two individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources and one individual.

Your Committee finds that Waipio Valley, on the island of Hawaii, has unique challenges to managing its water resources and community assets, particularly in balancing the traditional taro farming lifestyle of the valley with the impacts of tourism, and in balancing the natural cycles of the river in a changing



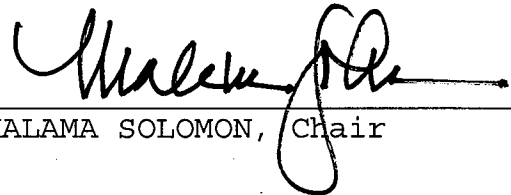
environment with the need to protect the homes and farms of the valley.

Your Committee further finds that taro farmers, private landowners, and cultural practitioners have wanted a voice in decision-making for Waipio Valley for many years. They are the source of expertise regarding the valley's history, sacred places, rhythms, and cycles. They have a tremendous commitment to the prudent and wise management of resources, as well as the protection, preservation, and promulgation of the cultural heritage of Waipio Valley.

Your Committee requests the Waipio Valley Advisory Commission to consult with the Directors of the Mauna Kea Soil and Water Conservation District, which is represented on the Commission.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water and Land that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 414, H.D. 2, and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Water and Land,



MALAMA SOLOMON, Chair



