

LATE TESTIMONY

HB414

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Testimony for FIN on Feb 13, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeremy K. Hopkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE TESTIMONY

Taro Security and Purity Task Force
TESTIMONY

**HOUSE BILL HB414
RELATING TO WAIPĪ'O VALLEY**

House Bills HB4184 Relating to Waipi'o Valley establishes the Waipi'o Valley Advisory Commission to advise Department of Land and Natural Resources on the development of a long term plan for ensuring the proper stewardship and maintenance of Waipi'o Valley. It requires DLNR to conduct a flood study for the valley and defines the list of stakeholders that shall be invited to participate in the Advisory Committee.

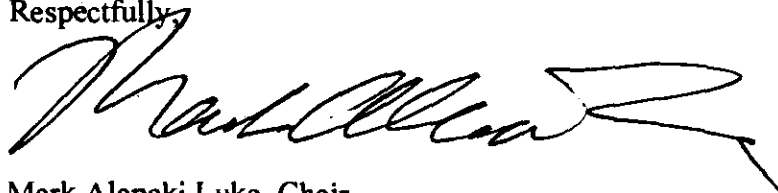
The Taro Security and Purity Task Force visited Waipi'o Valley during its fact finding in 2009 and again in 2011. Waipi'o Valley has unique challenges to managing its water resources and community assets, particularly in finding balance between the traditional taro farming lifestyle of the valley and the appropriate forms and impacts of tourism, and between the natural cycles of the river in a changing environment and the need to protect the homes and farms of the valley.

Taro farmers, private landowners, 'ohana and cultural practitioners have wanted a voice in decision-making for Waipi'o for many years. They are the source of expertise regarding its history, sacred places, rhythms and cycles. Their efforts to partner with County, State and Federal agencies to manage changes in the river and muliwai (estuary area) and to guide visitors experiences in the valley in a manner that reduces conflict and respects the culture and livelihoods of residents has been a tremendous commitment that needs to be matched by the State.

We honor and recognize Waipi'o Valley, its taro farmers and kupuna for keeping the traditions of the valley alive. We appreciate the willingness of the Department of Land and Natural Resources to involve the community of Waipi'o in decision-making.

The Taro Security and Purity Task Force strongly supports this measure.

Respectfully,



Mark Alapaki Luke, Chair
Taro Security and Purity Task Force