

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Wednesday, March 12, 2014
9:30 A.M.**

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2678, SENATE DRAFT 2
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO SUPPORT CULTURAL RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT**

Senate Bill 2678, Senate Draft 2 proposes to appropriate funds for the administration and operational expenses of the Aha Moku Advisory Committee and community education on the administrative structure regarding the Aha Moku system and on natural and cultural resource management. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill and offers the following suggestion.**

The Department notes that in support of the Aha Moku Advisory Committee, the Department has submitted an Executive Supplement Budget request of \$110,000 for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. By comparison, Senate Bill 2678, Senate Draft 2 has changed the amount of the appropriation to an unspecified sum. The Department suggests that this measure be amended to reallocate the funds to be appropriated, with \$75,000 being set aside for administration and \$35,000 for community education purposes.

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

JESSE K. SOUKI
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
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March 7, 2014

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

IN SUPPORT OF

**SB2678 SD2, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO SUPPORT
CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

Hearing, March 12, 2014, 9:30 a.m., Room 325

Rep. Faye P. Hanohano, Chair

Rep. Ty J. K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Members, Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources & Hawaiian Affairs

Aloha mai kākou

The Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii is in strong support of this Measure and the appropriations as listed in SB2678 SD1.

The 'Aha Moku Advisory Committee was established pursuant to Act 288, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, to serve in an advisory capacity to the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources on issues related to land and natural resources management through the 'Aha Moku System, a system of best practices that is based upon the indigenous resource management practices of moku (regional) boundaries, which acknowledges the natural contours of land, the specific resources located within those areas, and the methodology necessary to sustain natural resources and the community.

Without immediate funding, the 'Aha Moku Advisory Committee cannot fulfill the mandate as envisioned by the legislature and the administration. Their work is essential to help the state of Hawaii to make informed decisions about Hawaii's land and natural resources.

Respectfully

/s/ Leimomi Khan by on-line testimony

LEIMOMI KHAN

Co-Chair, Legislative Committee

Hawaiian Affairs Caucus

**Aha Moku Advisory Committee
Testimony of Leimana DaMate**

Before the House Committee on
Ocean, Marine Resources & Hawaiian Affairs

Wednesday, March 12, 2014
9:30 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

**In Support of
S.B. 2678, S.D. 2**

**MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO SUPPORT CULTURAL RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT**

Senate Bill 2678 SD 2 appropriates an unspecified amount for the Aha Moku Advisory Committee for administration and community education purposes.

One of the purposes of Act 288, Hawaii Session Laws 2012, under which the Aha Moku Advisory Committee (Committee) is established is to “formally recognize the Aha Moku System, a system of best practices that is based upon the indigenous resource management practices of moku boundaries, which acknowledges the natural contours of land, the specific resources located within those areas, and the methodology necessary to sustain resources and the community.”

Under Act 288, the Committee may provide advice on the following:

- 1) Integrating indigenous resource management practices with western practices in each moku;
- 2) Identifying a comprehensive set of indigenous practices for natural resource management;
- 3) Fostering the understanding and practical use of native Hawaiian knowledge, methodology, and expertise;
- 4) Sustaining the State’s marine, land, cultural, agricultural, and natural resources;
- 5) Providing community education and fostering cultural awareness on the benefits of the aha moku system;
- 6) Fostering protection and conservation of the State’s natural resources; and,
- 7) Developing an administrative structure that oversees the aha moku system.

When the Bill that created the Act was passed, the legislators made it clear that the voices of the Native Hawaiian whose expertise in natural and cultural resource methodology, handed down through generational and traditional knowledge, was brought forward to the attention of the State’s land and natural resources regulatory agencies and included those mandates.

Since the Committee became officially operational in July, 2013 they have established a strong and good rapport with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), the agency they are attached to, and are working to fulfill the mandates of Act 288. Unfortunately, the legislature did not fund FY 2013-14. However, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs assisted by funding operational expenses in the amount of \$76,500 so that the Committee's programs could be started. Those funds were planned to be matched by the Legislature, however that did not happen. Currently, funds will be depleted very shortly and we have asked OHA to assist for the few months left in this fiscal year. We are waiting approval for that request.

The Aha Moku System is inclusive of eight main Hawaiian Islands and forty-three (43) traditional moku districts. In the nine months that we have been in operation, in addressing each of the mandates in the Act, we have begun with the official organization of a communications route for each of the moku and all of the islands. However, with just one staff member working on the administration and operation of the Committee, it has been difficult to fully integrate the mandates of Act 288 into all of the moku.

The funds appropriated in this Bill will be truly helpful. The DLNR has appropriated in their package to the governor the sum of \$110,000 for the operational expenses for FY 2014-2015, and we are very grateful for that. However, that amount is for the salary of one position and some travel for the Committee to meet.

It is important that the Aha Moku System become fully operational so that the mandates of the Act are fulfilled. Community outreach is critical and that entails public community meetings, moku meetings and the expenses incurred in these operations.

The Aha Moku System is comprised of Hawaiian communities and the general public within an ahupua'a and moku who are dedicated to the sustainability of Hawaii's natural and cultural resources.

We are strongly in support of the Aha Moku system and urge the Legislature to support S.B. 2678 S.D.2

Respectfully yours,

Leimana DaMate, Executive Director
Aha Moku Advisory Committee
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