

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

**Before the Senate Committee on**  
**WAYS AND MEANS**

**Friday, March 28, 2014**  
**9:20 A.M.**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of**  
**HOUSE BILL 1553, SENATE DRAFT 1**  
**MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE AHA MOKU ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

House Bill 1553, Senate Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds for the administrative and operational expenses of the Aha Moku Advisory Committee and appropriate funds for the 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 supports this measure as the funds proposed for appropriation is consistent with the Administration's supplemental budget request for funding for the Aha Moku Advisory Committee.**

**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  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

## **HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS CAUCUS**

Democratic Party of Hawaii

e-mail: mkhan@hawaiiantel.net or raytanv@aol.com

March 25, 2014

**LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY  
IN SUPPORT OF  
HB1553 SD1, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE  
'AHA MOKU ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Hearing, Friday, March 28, 2014, 9:20 a.m., Rom 211**

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members, Committee on Ways and Means

Aloha mai kākou

The Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports HB1553 SD1, 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 '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.

The appropriation of funds will allow the 'Aha Moku Advisory Committee to fulfill its mandate as envisioned by the legislature and the administration, and their work should benefit the state of Hawaii to make informed decisions about Hawaii's land and natural resources.

Please support HB1553SD1!

Respectfully

/s/ Davis Price by on-line testimony

DAVIS PRICE  
Chair, Hawaiian Affairs Caucus



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

Before the Senate Committee on  
Water and Land

Monday, March 17, 2014  
1:15 P.M.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

**In Support of  
H.B. 1553, S.D. 1**

**MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE AHA MOKU ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE**

House Bill 1553 appropriates funds for the administration and operational expenses of the aha moku advisory committee. It appropriates funds for the community education on the administrative structure regarding the aha moku system and on natural and cultural resource management.

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 the legislators; 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.

The Aha Moku System is inclusive of eight main Hawaiian Islands and forty-three (43) traditional moku districts. In the eight 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 organization of 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 ahupua'a and moku Hawaiian communities and the general public 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 H.B. 1553 S.D. 1.

Respectfully yours,

Leimana DaMate, Executive Director  
Aha Moku Advisory Committee  
Ph: 808-587-1498