

HB1553

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Submit Testimony

Measure Title: MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE AHA MOKU ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Report Title: Aha Moku Advisory Committee; Appropriations (\$)

Description: Appropriates funds for the administrative and operational expenses of the Aha Moku Advisory Committee. Appropriates funds for the community education on the administrative structure regarding the aha moku system and on natural and cultural resource management.

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: WTL, WAM

Introducer(s): HANOHANO

Sort by Date		Status Text
3/4/2014	S	Received from House (Hse. Com. No. 123).
3/4/2014	S	Passed First Reading.
3/6/2014	S	Referred to WTL, WAM.
3/10/2014	S	The committee(s) on WTL has scheduled a public hearing on 03-17-14 1:15PM in conference room 225.

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 Senate Committee on
WATER AND LAND

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

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1553
MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE AHA MOKU ADVISORY COMMITTEE

House Bill 1553 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 bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget request.**

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

**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**

**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 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 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.

Respectfully yours,

Leimana DaMate, Executive Director
Aha Moku Advisory Committee
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Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

HB1553 (HSCR755-14) MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE AHA MOKU ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Monday, 3/17/14; 1:15 pm; Room 225

Aloha Madam Chair Solomon, vice chair Galuteria and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs is pleased to once again support the Aha Moku Advisory Committee in the next steps of its growth and progress. This bill would provide funds needed for Aha Moku management and operation, to include administrative structure, community meetings and travel of the committee.

At a time when several bills in the legislative hopper are recognizing the value of having persons with traditional and cultural knowledge sitting as members of boards and commissions, it seems logical to also be able to tap into the experiences of the Aha Moku committee. The members are identified and readily available through the auspices of the Executive Director based in the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this bill.

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1553 on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM*
Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 3:08:11 PM

HB1553

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 17, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Davlantes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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