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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 Committees on
OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
and
WATER & LAND**

**Monday, January 27, 2014
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2103
RELATING TO THE AHA MOKU ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

House Bill 2103 proposes to 1) Permanently assign the Aha Moku Advisory Committee to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department), 2) Require that the Aha Moku Advisory Committee (AMAC) hire an executive director who shall be included in all matters pertaining to natural resources, 3) Require AMAC to submit a progress report to the Legislature 20 days after the close of each fiscal year (FY), and 4) Appropriate funds to AMAC for FY 2014-2015. **While the Department understands the intent of this legislation, it believes it is unnecessary**

AMAC was established by Act 288, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, to advise on issues related to land and natural resources management through the Aha Moku System and became operational the last week of June 2013 when the Executive Director was selected by AMAC as mandated by the Act. AMAC is comprised of eight Native Hawaiian resource practitioners, each of whom represents one of the eight main Hawaiian Islands within the Hawaiian archipelago. There are 43 distinct traditional moku (districts) within the islands - all of them are working on integrating traditional Hawaiian resource methodology into the fabric of state policy through the Department. To do this is challenging, yet productive because it will assist the State in its sustainability efforts for Hawaii's ecosystem.

Through the Aha Moku there is an opportunity for native Hawaiian resource practitioners who have generational knowledge of site-specific resource areas to share their knowledge and expertise with government. And, there is the additional opportunity for the different divisions of the Department to gain an accessible roadmap to native Hawaiian resource expertise that could be helpful in resource decisions. Except for the need to secure continued funding for operations, the Department is pleased with the role that AMAC and its Executive Director have played

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

ESTHER KIA'AINA
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

within the Department. The provisions under House Bill 2103 raise concerns and puts unnecessary requirements on the Department and AMAC that it cannot support.

The Department asks that the measure not move forward.

cullen3

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HB2103

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

Testimony for OMH/WAL on Jan 27, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Unmani Cynthia Groves	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Testimony of Leslie Kuloloio

LATE TESTIMONY

Before the House Committees on
Ocean, Marine Resources and Hawaiian Affairs
And
Water & Land

Monday, January 27, 2014
9:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

**In Support H.B. 2103
RELATING TO THE AHA MOKU ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Aloha Chair Hanohano, Chair Evans and Members of the Committees on Ocean, Marine Resources and Hawaiian Affairs; and, Water and Land,

Mahalo for the opportunity to give you our mana'o on this bill that relates to the Aha Moku Advisory Committee. I speak on behalf of my 'ohana, my community, my moku and all Hawaiians who believe in the Aha Moku System. For years, our voices were not heard in government. Being attached to DLNR has given us that voice.

While there are portions of the bill that we feel could be amended, we stand strong in the belief that we can work with DLNR and move forward.

Respectfully yours,

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