



KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA

KAHO‘OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

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Michael K. Nāho‘opi‘i
Executive Director

Testimony of MICHAEL K. NAHO‘OPTI Executive Director

Before the House Committee on

WATER & LAND

**Monday, March 17, 2014
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE RESOLUTION 119**

URGING MEMBERS OF HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO INTRODUCE FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE THE KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION WITH FUNDING FOR THE LONG-TERM RESTORATION OF KAHOOLAWE.

House Resolution 119 urges the members of Hawaii’s Congressional delegation to introduce Federal legislation to fund the long-term restoration of Kaho‘olawe. The Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) supports this measure that would provide funding for the restoration of Kaho‘olawe.

While the initial investment into the Kaho‘olawe Island Rehabilitation Fund was from Federal legislation in 1994, that funding has been the primary means for the KIRC to implement its State-mandate to manage and control the use of the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve (Reserve). After 20 years, this Federal investment will be completely used by 2016. Unless additional funds are deposited into the Kaho‘olawe Island Rehabilitation Fund, the KIRC will be unable to fulfill its mission to provide for safe and meaningful use of the Reserve and to protect and restore the natural, cultural and historic resource of the Reserve.

Even if our Congressional delegation is successful in securing financial support for the island of the Kaho‘olawe, this should not diminish the State’s responsibility “to preserve and protect a corner of their island state so that future generations can become familiar with their island’s past human and natural heritage.