

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
WAYS AND MEANS

Tuesday, February 25, 2014
9:10 AM
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 211

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2743, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE

Senate Bill 2743, Senate Draft 1 proposes that 10% of conveyance tax revenue shall be paid each year into the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund, up to a maximum of \$3.5 million, and provides for repeal on June 26, 2026 or upon the recognition of a sovereign Native Hawaiian governing entity, whichever occurs sooner. **The Department offers the following comments.**

Currently, beneficiaries of the Conveyance Tax include the Department's Natural Area Reserve Fund and Land Conservation Fund. To protect Hawaii's invaluable ecosystems and water supplies, the Natural Area Reserve Fund was created for the Natural Area Partnership Program, the Natural Area Reserves, projects undertaken in accordance with watershed management plans, and the Youth Conservation Corps. The Land Conservation Fund supports the Legacy Land Conservation Program (LLCP). The LLCP protects rare and unique cultural, natural, agricultural, and recreational resources from destruction by funding the acquisition of fee title or conservation easements by nonprofits, counties, and state agencies.

The Legislature has determined that there is a clear nexus between the source of the Conveyance Tax and providing funding for watershed protection and other natural resource preservation programs. The development, sale, and improvement of real estate in Hawaii adds additional pressure on natural areas, coastal access, agricultural production, and Hawaii's water resources and watershed recharge areas (Act 156, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005).

These programs support active land management and acquisition, including defending important conservation areas against threats from development and invasive species and also by restoring these areas by planting native species and monitoring recovery, which increases property values and provides a direct nexus to real estate. Dedicated funding for these programs is critical for the protection of these public trust resources.

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

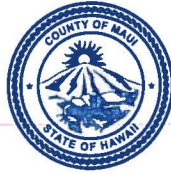
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LAND
STATE PARKS



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Mayor

WILLIAM R. SPENCE
Director

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Deputy Director



COUNTY OF MAUI
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Committee Members,

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR SB2743

Please accept this testimony in support Senate Bill 2743, which would establish a secure funding source for the long-term restoration and management of the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve (Reserve), which includes the island of Kaho`olawe and its surrounding waters.

As the Chair and Maui County representative for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission, I can attest to the urgency and importance of providing this secure, short-term source of funding. Those of you who have recently been to Kaho`olawe would hopefully agree!

Under this proposal, ten percent of state conveyance tax revenue would be used to replenish the Kaho`olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund with a cap of \$3.5 million annually and a sunset date in 2026. This is a reasonable funding source for two reasons: first, the funding responsibility for Kaho`olawe rests with the State and, second, there is a rational basis for conveyance tax revenue to fund Kaho`olawe's programs and operations.

When the State accepted the return of Kaho`olawe from the United States in 1994, it clearly accepted the responsibility to preserve and manage the Reserve. The terms of this acceptance were also stated in the federally-mandated Kaho`olawe Island Conveyance Commission final report to Congress in 1993: "in the short term, federal funds will provide the bulk of the program support for specific soil conservation projects and related activities. **In the longer term, however, state revenues will be needed to continue and enhance those activities initiated with federal funds**" (emphasis added). This funding responsibility, therefore, belongs to the State.

Two current recipients of conveyance tax revenue have similar purposes as the Kaho`olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund: the Land Conservation Fund and the Natural Area Reserve Fund. The Land Conservation Fund is used to acquire and manage certain special lands and can be used for land management techniques such as erosion control, reforestation and invasive species control, while the Natural Area Reserve System preserves, protects and manages unique natural resources. Both mirror the mission of the Kaho`olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund to support management of the Reserve.

It makes sense to fund these programs through conveyance tax revenue. Our population increases each year, due both to natural growth of local families and to new people moving to Hawai'i. As our population increases, it becomes even more important to protect our natural, cultural and marine resources for the benefit of all of Hawaii's people. Conveyance tax revenue is, therefore, a logical method to fund resources protection.

Without a secure funding source, Kaho'olawe's programs could continue for perhaps two more years. With 25 percent of the island remaining uncleared of unexploded ordnance, a continued round-the-clock 24/7 presence on Kaho'olawe is needed to ensure the protection of the general public. SB2743 provides secure funding, with a reasonable annual cap that will allow ongoing operations and programs to continue, and sunset date that coincides with the current strategic planning cycle.

Passage of SB2743 will fulfill the State's commitment to restore and protect the Reserve; your support will be sincerely appreciated.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Sincerely,



MICHELE MCLEAN
Deputy Planning Director, County of Maui
Chair, Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission



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 Senate Committees on

WAYS AND MEANS

Tuesday, February 25, 2014

9:10 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of SENATE BILL 2743 SD1 RELATING TO THE KAHO`OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE

Senate Bill 2743 SD1 authorizes a portion of the conveyance tax revenues to be used to replenish the Kaho`olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund for the long-term restoration of Kaho`olawe. The Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) supports this measure that would provide permanent state statutory funding for the restoration of Kaho`olawe.

When the State of Hawaii accepted the return of the island of Kaho`olawe in 1994, it accepted the 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. For many Native Hawaiians and others, Kaho`olawe is a special place that has been sanctified by the loss of life in a struggle between traditional values and Western concepts of land use and management" (Restoring a Cultural Treasure, Kaho`olawe Island Conveyance Commission).

In addition to the KIRC's previous submitted testimony of February 3, 2014 before the Senate Committees on Water & Land and Hawaiian Affairs, the KIRC would like to submit the following comments regarding this measure:

1. A clear nexus exist between the Conveyance Tax and the Kaho`olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund (KRTF).

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism's (DBEDT) Research and Economic Analysis Division (READ) recently published a comprehensive economic report on the Construction Industry in Hawaii. In this report, "Hawaii's population growth is 1% per year, which represents about 14,000 new residents on the island annually. For an average household size of 2.9 and vacancy rate of 12.4 percent (as reflected in the U.S. Census Bureau data for Hawaii), Hawaii's current housing need is about 5,500 new units per year. However, during the last 5 years, the average authorized units was only 3,400 per year. This has resulted in a housing shortage."

READ's March 2012 report on "Population and Economic Projects for the State of Hawaii to 2040" shows that the bulk of this population growth will be in the Neighbor Islands where Maui County expected grow at 1.4 percent.

This expected increase in population, especially in the Neighbor Islands, and the corresponding housing pressure of this population will increase the pressure on all of Hawaii's land and marine natural resources. As Hawaii's natural resource managers work to maintain the balance between land use and natural resources, there still needs to be remote intact ecosystems that will serve to counteract this growth and provide a means of recover should the other main Hawaiian Island's ecosystems collapse. Kaho`olawe's rich marine ecosystem is that buffer that will serve to support and if necessary repopulate neighboring waters as necessary. KIRC's ocean and land based programs serve to ensure, protect and restore the rich natural biodiversity and biomass of the Kaho`olawe Reserve that one day, may be the key to Hawaii's future survival. Therefore, a clear nexus is established between the expected increase population and corresponding housing development and the benefit to maintain a large portion of Hawaii intact for our future generations.

2. The KIRC has exhausted all available sources of other funding as specified in HRS Section 6K-9.5.

HRS Section 6K-9.5(a) specifically identifies several sources of funding for the KRTF and the rehabilitation and environmental restoration of the island of Kaho`olawe, or purposes consistent with this chapter. Under this section of the law, the possible sources of KRTF funding, are as follows:

- “(1) All moneys received from the federal government for the rehabilitation and environmental restoration of the island of Kaho`olawe or other purposes consistent with this chapter;
- (2) Any moneys appropriated by the legislature to the trust fund;
- (3) Any moneys received from grants, donations, or the proceeds from contributions; and
- (4) The interest or return on investments earned from the moneys in the trust fund.”

The KIRC has continuously sought funding from many external sources as listed above, but has not been able to successfully secure a permanent source of funding that will allow the continued restoration of the Kaho`olawe Reserve. The KIRC has no statutory control to effect or manage the interest or rate of investment earned from the moneys in the KRTF, therefore the KIRC is subject to the same market trends and investment policies realized by the other State funds including the general fund.

The KIRC is currently receiving limited federal grants from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for marine debris removal coastal habitat restoration and from the Native Hawaiian Education Act for continuing technical educations for internships. The KIRC receives limited State and County grants from the Department of Health. Clean Water Branch for surface water run-off reduction and from Maui County for a demonstration photovoltaic system. Grants provide necessary program funding, but

contribute very little to the infrastructure and operational requirements that the KIRC also maintains with the Kaho`olawe Reserve and “ often restricted to paying the direct costs of performing specific restoration activities and typically do not cover the KIRC’s general administrative and operating costs, which are significant and continue to drain the trust fund, Hawaii State Auditor’s Report 2014.” Most other State agencies do not have to produce and maintain their own electricity, water and waste management, nor do they provide their own shipping and transportation for supplies, equipment and personnel. On top of all these requirements, dealing with the residual risk associated with a former bombing range.

3. The Hawaii State Auditor’s Report 2014 states “the trust fund will be depleted 2016.”

“By law, the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission is responsible for stewardship of Kaho`olawe island until a native Hawaiian sovereign entity is formed and assumes responsibility...The commission has also lobbied the federal government and the State Legislature, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the state Department of Defense, and other state departments in its efforts to secure funding. It even obtained a \$400,000 capital improvement project (CIP) award from the Legislature; however, the commission has been unable to secure any other federal or state support for its general administrative and operating costs. Without such support, the commission is rapidly expending the trust fund corpus and at its current rate of spending, the trust fund will be completely drained by 2016, Hawaii State Auditor’s Report 2014.”

In order to continue the work of the KIRC and the dreams of the people that fought for the return of Kaho`olawe, the time to act is now. Passage of this measure is critical for fulfilling the State of Hawai'i's long-term commitment to restore and protect this one last untouched corner of Hawai'i.

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SUBJECT: CONVEYANCE, Disposition for Kaho'olawe rehabilitation trust fund

BILL NUMBER: SB 2743, SD-1

INTRODUCED BY: Senate Committees on Water and Land and Hawaiian Affairs

BRIEF SUMMARY: Amends HRS section 247-7 to provide that 10% of conveyance tax revenues shall be paid into the Kaho'olawe rehabilitation trust fund; provided the amount shall not exceed \$3.5 million annually.

This act shall be repealed on June 30, 2026 or upon the recognition of the sovereign Native Hawaiian entity by the State of Hawaii and the United States, whichever occurs sooner.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval

STAFF COMMENTS: The conveyance tax was enacted by the 1966 legislature after the repeal of the federal law requiring stamps for transfers of real property. It was enacted for the sole purpose of providing the department of taxation (which at that time also administered the real property tax) with additional data for the determination of market value of properties transferred. This information was also to assist the department in establishing real property assessed values and at that time the department stated that the conveyance tax was not intended to be a revenue raising device. The conveyance tax is imposed each time property changes title or ownership.

Prior to 1993, the conveyance tax was imposed at the rate of 5 cents per \$100 of actual and full consideration paid for a transfer of property. At the time all revenues from the tax went to the general fund. The legislature by Act 195, SLH 1993, increased the conveyance tax to 10 cents per \$100 and earmarked 25% of the tax to the rental housing trust fund and another 25% to the natural area reserve fund. As a result of legislation in 2005 and in 2009, the conveyance tax rates were substantially increased and bifurcated between nonowner-occupied residential properties and all other properties. Tax brackets were based on the amount of the value transferred. Until 2005, 50% of the receipts went into the general fund and the other half was split with the affordable rental housing program and the natural area reserve program. Beginning in 2005, another 10% was taken for the land conservation fund. When the state general fund began to hemorrhage, the allocation was reshuffled after rates were again increased and the portion that went to the state general fund rose from 35% of collections in 2007 to 45% beginning in 2009. Currently, 10% of conveyance tax revenues is earmarked for the land conservation fund, 30% for the rental housing trust fund and 25% for the natural area reserve fund with the remainder deposited into the general fund. The proposed measure would earmark another 10% and deposit it into the Kaho'olawe trust fund - so each time a transfer or conveyance of realty by way of deeds, leases, subleases, assignments of lease, agreements of sale, assignments of agreement of sale, instruments, writings, or any other document occurs, a portion of the conveyance tax would be used for the long-term restoration of Kaho'olawe.

The proposed measure would earmark conveyance tax revenues for another program. If the legislature deems any of the programs for which conveyance tax revenues are earmarked to be such a high priority, then it should maintain the accountability for these funds by appropriating the funds as it does with other programs. Earmarking revenues is not desirable for a number of reasons. First, it absolves elected officials from setting priorities. Second, the beneficiaries of such earmarked sources look upon the receipts as “their” money and refuse to be held accountable for the use of those funds while all other programs not so favored like education, public safety, and health and human services, are cut when general fund tax revenues either shrink or do not increase in line with expectations.

Instead of further clouding the financial picture of the state, all of these earmarked funds and the programs they underwrite, should be brought back to the general fund table so that they can be measured against all the other pressing needs of the state. Only then will lawmakers and taxpayers be able to set priorities for what little tax resources taxpayers have to share especially in these difficult economic times. Earmarking resources, especially those that bear little relationship to the program being funded, represents poor public finance policy.

Digested 2/23/14

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2743 on Feb 25, 2014 09:10AM*
Date: Monday, February 24, 2014 8:55:00 AM

SB2743

Submitted on: 2/24/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2014 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anela Evans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB2743

Submitted on: 2/23/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2014 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bobby-John Campbell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2743 on Feb 25, 2014 09:10AM
Date: Monday, February 24, 2014 8:36:26 AM

SB2743

Submitted on: 2/24/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2014 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carol-Marie K. Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments: When the State of Hawaii signed the documents at Palauea, Maui, Hawaii, accepting the return of the island to the State for the people of Hawaii, it accepted more than just a devastated island, the State of Hawaii accepted the KULEANA to restore the island. As a resident of Maui and a kamalei of the moku of Honuaua, I see the evidence of the work of the KIRC. The island is not "red" like it used to be prior to the return. You also see the cloud banks returning between Maui and Kaho`olawe. That is progress which cannot be measured by the number of acres of plantings that are growing, though there is that evidence. I humbly ask for your kokua in assisting the agency that have been working ever so diligently to fulfill the kuleana accepted by the State of Hawaii at Palauea, Maui Hawaii. Mahalo for your time.

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SB2743

Submitted on: 2/24/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2014 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David L. DeMark	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Pleas vote for this measure

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SB2743

Submitted on: 2/24/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2014 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dean Tokishi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Date: Monday, February 24, 2014 8:15:32 AM

SB2743

Submitted on: 2/24/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2014 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emily White	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha. I support this bill. As the only island listed on the National Register of Historic Places in its entirety, containing nearly 3,000 archaeological sites and features, it is imperative that the State preserves this important resource for current and future generations through this financial support system. Without the KIRC's ongoing protection of Kaho'olawe's coastal ecosystem, including the adjacent nearshore environment and coral reefs that can be covered with, and choked by, derelict fishing gear, nets, a huge variety of plastics and other debris items, species including the endangered Hawaiian monk seal, threatened green sea turtle, endangered hawksbill sea turtle, endangered humpback whale, endangered Hawaiian dark-rumped petrel, and endangered Newell's shearwater will be put at risk. It is imperative that a trust fund be stabilized to continue this work. Kaho'olawe is a unique ecosystem preserving immensely valuable cultural and biological resources. It is surrounded by the richest marine ecosystems remaining in the Main Hawaiian islands and providing replenishment of fish and invertebrates to other islands' waters. The KIRC's massive restoration program designed to revitalize the ecology and cultural history of the island will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. Please support bill (SB2743 or HB2101). As the only Island Reserve set up entirely in trust for a Native Hawaiian Sovereign Entity, the KIRC is well poised to change the economic landscape and life quality of Native Hawaiians and the communities in which they reside by means of a truly unique experience on the island of Kaho'olawe. The State must maintain the responsibility of supporting the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund. Mahalo, Emily White, JD, MA Kahului, Maui

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SB2743

Submitted on: 2/24/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2014 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Bruch	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Kaho‘olawe is a unique ecosystem preserving immensely valuable cultural and biological resources. It is surrounded by the richest marine ecosystems remaining in the Main Hawaiian islands and providing replenishment of fish and invertebrates to other islands’ waters. The KIRC’s massive restoration program designed to revitalize the ecology and cultural history of the island will benefit all of Hawai‘i’s people for generations to come. Please support bill (SB2743 or HB2101).

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SB2743

Submitted on: 2/24/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2014 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelly McHugh	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As the only Island Reserve set up entirely in trust for a Native Hawaiian Sovereign Entity, the KIRC is well poised to change the economic landscape and life quality of Native Hawaiians and the communities in which they reside by means of a truly unique experience on the island of Kaho'olawe. The State must maintain the responsibility of supporting the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund.

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SB2743

Submitted on: 2/24/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2014 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kuiokalani L. Gapero	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As the only island listed on the National Register of Historic Places in its entirety, containing nearly 3,000 archaeological sites and features, it is imperative that the State preserves this important resource for current and future generations through this financial support system. Without the KIRC's ongoing protection of Kaho'olawe's coastal ecosystem, including the adjacent nearshore environment and coral reefs that can be covered with, and choked by, derelict fishing gear, nets, a huge variety of plastics and other debris items, species including the endangered Hawaiian monk seal, threatened green sea turtle, endangered hawksbill sea turtle, endangered humpback whale, endangered Hawaiian dark-rumped petrel, and endangered Newell's shearwater will be put at risk. It is imperative that a trust fund be stabilized to continue this work. Kaho'olawe is a unique ecosystem preserving immensely valuable cultural and biological resources. It is surrounded by the richest marine ecosystems remaining in the Main Hawaiian islands and providing replenishment of fish and invertebrates to other islands' waters. The KIRC's massive restoration program designed to revitalize the ecology and cultural history of the island will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. Please support bill (SB2743 or HB2101). As the only Island Reserve set up entirely in trust for a Native Hawaiian Sovereign Entity, the KIRC is well poised to change the economic landscape and life quality of Native Hawaiians and the communities in which they reside by means of a truly unique experience on the island of Kaho'olawe. The State must maintain the responsibility of supporting the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund.

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SB2743

Submitted on: 2/24/2014

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kylee Mar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted on: 2/24/2014

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lopaka White	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB2743

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Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2014 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lyman Abbott	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB2743

Submitted on: 2/24/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2014 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mei Mailou-Santos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2743 on Feb 25, 2014 09:10AM
Date: Sunday, February 23, 2014 7:51:38 PM

SB2743

Submitted on: 2/23/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2014 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
pookela hanson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Restoration of Kahoolawe is vital to the hawaiian people and culture. As a volunteer for the past 4 years, I see the progress that is happening year after year. Without adequate funding and support of our state leadership, the possibilities will be limited and the fate of the island could be in serious jeopardy.

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2743 on Feb 25, 2014 09:10AM
Date: Saturday, February 22, 2014 11:38:35 PM

SB2743

Submitted on: 2/22/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2014 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Springer Kaye	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I'd like to offer support for this bill. I was lucky enough to join the KIRC restoration program for a week in 2000 as a YCC team leader. It was and is more than just an incredibly successful natural resources restoration program that deserves continued funding. It's a life-affirming program that reminds us that piece by piece, little by little, we can make something pono. Hundreds of students and young people have participated in the restoration, and whether we spent just a week or months on the island, it remains a point of pride, a way to connect, and an inspiration and driving force in the work we do elsewhere. Mahalo for your consideration.

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I, Terri Gavagan, support KIRC bill SB2743 specifying that 10% of conveyance tax revenue be paid each year into the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund.

...

Please support this important measure to provide financial support and stability of the restoration and protection of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come.

...

As the only Island Reserve set up entirely in trust for a Native Hawaiian Sovereign Entity, the KIRC is well poised to change the economic landscape and life quality of Native Hawaiians and the communities in which they reside by means of a truly unique experience on the island of Kaho'olawe. The State must maintain the responsibility of supporting the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund.

...

As the only island listed on the National Register of Historic Places in its entirety, containing nearly 3,000 archaeological sites and features, it is imperative that the State preserves this important resource for current and future generations through this financial support system.

...

Without the KIRC's ongoing protection of Kaho'olawe's coastal ecosystem, including the adjacent nearshore environment and coral reefs that can be covered with, and choked by, derelict fishing gear, nets, a huge variety of plastics and other debris items, species including the endangered Hawaiian monk seal, threatened green sea turtle, endangered hawksbill sea turtle, endangered humpback whale, endangered Hawaiian dark-rumped petrel, and endangered Newell's shearwater will be put at risk. It is imperative that a trust fund be stabilized to continue this work.

...

Kaho'olawe is a unique ecosystem preserving immensely valuable cultural and biological resources. It is surrounded by the richest marine ecosystems remaining in the Main Hawaiian islands and providing replenishment of fish and invertebrates to other islands' waters. The KIRC's massive restoration program designed to revitalize the ecology and cultural history of the island will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. Please support bill SB2743.