

**SB 2770**

**LATE  
TESTIMONY**

February 4, 2014

Senator Malama Solomon

Members of the Water Land Committee

Hawaii State Senate

Aloha Senator Solomon and Committee Members,

I am Charles Pe`ape`pe`a Makawalu Burrows.

I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 2770 relating to the establishment of the Kawainui Advisory Council (KAC). As a Kailua descendent, having been raised in the 1930's and 40's in the Kailua ahupua`a and then returning as a resident in the 70's and 80's, I have seen numerous changes, most of which have not been beneficial to the `aina, especially the water resources, such as, the wetlands and wildlife of Kawainui/Hamakua and Kaelepulu. The increase in the Kailua population from a 1,000 when I was growing up to now 50,000+ and its consequent urbanization have also been detrimental to the Hawaiian cultural resources and wahi pana of Kawainui and the ahupua'a of Kailua.

Fortunately, I have been involved since the 70's not only as a Kamehameha Schools environmental and cultural science teacher bringing my students to study the natural and cultural resources of Kawainui but also working with the various environmental and Hawaiian organizations to protect, conserve and restore these degenerated resources in Kailua. The organizations have been the Kawainui Heritage Foundation, Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club, Ahahui Malama I Ka Lokahi, Kailua Historical Society and Ho`olaulima, a coalition of several Kailua nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). These organizations partnered with the governmental agencies, such as DLNR/DOFAW and the State Parks, which has the legal jurisdiction for the Kawainui/Hamakua wetlands, and with private landowners in Kailua. All came together with the common purpose and mission of ensuring the ecological and cultural integrity of Kawainui/Hamakua wetlands and the environs of the Kailua ahupua'a.

We, the Hawaiian organizations in Kailua, have a cultural kuleana (responsibility) to malama our sacred places that surround and are also in Kawainui and to perpetuate our ancient and modified cultural practices (in which we have been engaged since time immemorial) now and in the generations to come. The revised and updated Kawainui 1994 Master Plan affords our Kanaka Maoli organizations a cultural presence once again in Kawainui and Kailua since the time of Ali'i Kakuhiwa when he established Pamoia, the largest governmental and cultural center in the 1400s.

From my personal belief, the establishment of a Kawainui Advisory Council (KAC) as outlined with additional amendments in S.B. 2770 and its companion H.B. 2559 is critical because it will bring together a smaller working group with representatives from the Kailua community NGOs, to collaborate with the governmental State DLNR divisions and private landowners, such as, Alexander and Baldwin, Castle Foundation and the John/Paul King Enterprise as well as other Kailua businesses. The primary purpose of the KAC is to seek common goals and to implement the proposed revised DLNR/Haster, Helber and Fee Kawainui/Hamakua Master Plan.

We in the Kailua community along with the State DLNR have been “talking” about a Kawainui Plan for the past 40 years. If we do not have a legal and established KAC with a proposed strategic action plan and funding for the KAC, the Kailua community will continue “talking” for the next 40 years and beyond when most of us will be looking down from up above.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Charles P.M.K. Burrows, Ed.D.

Hawaiian naturalist, practioner and educator.

