

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Wednesday, March 19, 2014
10:15 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 3063, SENATE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO DISPOSITION OF LANDS IN WAIPIO VALLEY

Senate Bill 3063, Senate Draft 2, proposes to establish a working group and appropriate unspecified general funds for the purchase of land located in Waipi'o Valley, Island of Hawai'i, from the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill and also suggests minor revision.**

The Department supports collaborating with the proposed working group members to explore the most beneficial actions for the possible acquisition. Identification of important natural, cultural, and historic resources for protection is the first step in determining how to strategically manage and protect these resources. Any acquisition of lands or interests in lands would be subject to regular due diligence procedures of the Department, including the approval of the Board of Land and Natural Resources under Section 171-30, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), and the approval of the Attorney General required under Section 107-10, HRS.

Additionally, the Department suggests the following edits as ways to improve the flexibility and efficiency of the working group:

- For the first eight members of the working group, allow each member to designate a representative (e.g., "The mayor of the county of Hawaii *or the mayor's designee*;"); and
- Revise SECTION 3 to read as follows: "A landowner of lands within Waipio Valley, or the landowner's designee, if willing, shall chair the working group. If no landowner is willing to chair the working group, the chairperson of the board of land and natural resources or the chair's designee shall chair the working group."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

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

JESSIE 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

House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at 10:15 a.m.
Conference Room 325

FROM: Blair D. Collis
President & CEO
Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum
1525 Bernice Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

RE: Senate Bill 3063, SD2: Relating to Disposition of Lands in Waipio Valley

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of Bishop Museum with respect to SB 3063, SD2 relating to the disposition of lands in Waipio Valley. We acknowledge the cultural and historical importance of Waipio Valley and seeking the best stewardship of an invaluable resource is always at the forefront of Bishop Museum's mission.

The purpose of this bill is to make an appropriation for the purchase of land in Waipio Valley. We thank the legislature for taking up this important issue. We wish to work collaboratively with legislators involved in crafting this measure and to contribute positively to the ongoing discussion about the feasibility of the state acquiring Waipio Valley lands.

We support the intent of SB 3063, SD2 and note that our request to be a part of the ongoing conversation about the specific details should this bill move forward has been addressed by adding us to the working group. We would request that this measure either continue to blank out the funding amounts or to defect the date so that concerns about implementation can be identified and addressed prior to final passage.

Bishop Museum was founded in 1889 by Charles Reed Bishop in honor of his late wife, Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop, the last descendant of the royal Kamehameha family. Bishop Museum is designated the State Museum of Cultural and Natural History and is a non-profit organization with the mission to engage people in the presentation, exploration and preservation of Hawaii's cultural heritage and natural history.

Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum • 1525 Bernice Street • Honolulu • Hawai'i • 96817

www.bishopmuseum.org



Pōhāhā I Ka Lani
P.O. Box 412
Kurtistown, HI 96760
pohahaikalani@gmail.com
www.pohahaikalani.com

FROM: Jesse Keone Potter
President
Pōhāhā I Ka Lani
P.O. Box 412
Kurtistown, HI 96760

TO: House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, and Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at 10:15 a.m.
Conference Room 325

RE: Senate Bill 3063: Relating to Disposition of Lands in Waipi'o Valley

Welina mai kakou,

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on behalf of Pōhāhā I Ka Lani in regards to SB 3063 relating to the disposition of lands in Waipi'o Valley on Hawai'i Island. Our organization would be more than willing to participate in the process of setting forth an action plan for Waipi'o Valley.

We appreciate the effort to protect the natural, cultural, and historic resources of Waipi'o Valley, as this is concurrent with our purpose and ongoing programs in Waipi'o Valley. However, we feel SB 3063 in it's current form is misguided and lacking. **Therefore, we oppose SB 3063 unless significant amendments are made to address issues relating to community input, public access, and acknowledgment of current vested interests of Bishop Museum lessee's and community organizations prior to appropriation of funds for purchase of land.** Unless significant amendments addressing these issues are made, we request SB 3063 be deferred this legislative session.

Many valley residents, community members, and organizations like ours have only become aware of SB 3063 through indirect means rather than direct community engagement. A matter involving the future of Waipi'o Valley should be brought to the community prior to legislative appropriation of funds.

We are not aware of legislators from the Hamakua District having brought the proposed actions of SB 3063 to Waipi'o Valley residents and the surrounding communities. Community input is essential for such a valuable resource that will affect not only current residents (lessee's and owners) of Waipi'o Valley, but the surrounding communities as well.

Public access to Waipi'o Valley is a contentious and sensitive issue. Waipi'o Valley is an enclave of living Hawaiian history and culture for the community as well as productive farmland and an attractive destination for tourists and residents alike. Public access is already an issue in regards to: 1) increased vehicle traffic on the dangerous and under-maintained road into the valley; 2) unregulated private and commercial hiking groups into the valley and especially to Hi'ilawe Waterfall, a dangerous trek through private land; and 3) residents feeling a lack of privacy and sensitivity for the valley. Community input should be gathered for the most immediate knowledge of public access issues. An environmental and cultural impact assessment should be performed to assess the safety hazards and cultural changes enhanced public access would pose.

Current Bishop Museum lessee's and community organizations have a history with Waipi'o Valley that is invaluable to developing an action plan. Furthermore, they also have vested interests in terms of their land management and program development in Waipi'o Valley that should be honored and be considered through any future changes. A working group to discuss the future of Waipi'o Valley should include: 1) representation from lessee's, whereas many are not members of the Waipi'o Taro Farmers Association and therefore are not represented; and 2) representation of organizations that are already active in working towards the protection of the valley's natural, cultural, and historic resources.

Pōhāhā I Ka Lani is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2009 whose purpose is to work for the preservation and restoration of indigenous Hawaiian culture. Our current Kāhuli program is rooted directly in Waipi'o Valley, gathering K-12, university, and community groups to contribute to the environment restoration of the land and promote Hawaiian cultural practices and history in this culturally significant place. We manage and restore 6.2 acres in the Nāpo'opo'o area, including the historic Tea House and the furthestmost parcel towards Hi'ilawe waterfall.

Once again, we look forward to taking part in the discussion relating to the future of sacred Waipi'o Valley.

Me ke ha'aha'a a me mahalo (With humility and gratitude)

TO: House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, and Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at 10:15 a.m.
Conference Room 325

FROM: Kulia Kauhi Tolentino-Potter
P.O. Box 412
Kurtistown, HI 96760

RE: Senate Bill 3063: Relating to Disposition of Lands in Waipi'o Valley

Aloha mai kakou,

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in regards to SB 3063 relating to the disposition of lands in Waipi'o Valley on Hawai'i Island.

I appreciate the effort to protect the natural, cultural, and historic resources of Waipi'o Valley, as I have been a leaseholder in Waipi'o Valley since 2007 and am the founding member of the non-profit organization Pōhāhā I Ka Lani which operates restoration and cultural education programs in the valley. However, I feel SB 3063 in it's current form is misguided and lacking. **Therefore, I oppose SB 3063 unless significant amendments are made to address issues relating to community input, public access, and acknowledgment of current vested interests of Bishop Museum lessee's and community organizations prior to appropriation of funds for purchase of land.** Unless significant amendments addressing these issues are made, I request SB 3063 be deferred this legislative session.

Many valley residents and community members like myself have only become aware of SB 3063 through indirect means rather than direct community engagement. A matter involving the future of Waipi'o Valley should be brought to the community prior to legislative appropriation of funds. I am not aware of legislators from the Hamakua District having brought the proposed actions of SB 3063 to Waipi'o Valley residents and the surrounding communities. Community input is essential for such a valuable resource that will affect not only current residents (lessee's and owners) of Waipi'o Valley, but the surrounding communities as well.

Public access to Waipi'o Valley is a contentious and sensitive issue. Waipi'o Valley is an enclave of living Hawaiian history and culture for the community as well as productive farmland and an attractive destination for tourists and residents alike. Public access is already an issue in regards to: 1) increased vehicle traffic on the dangerous and under-maintained road into the valley; 2) unregulated private and commercial hiking groups into the valley and especially to Hi'ilawe Waterfall, a dangerous trek through private land; and 3) residents feeling a lack of privacy and sensitivity for the valley. Community input should be gathered for the most immediate knowledge of public access issues. An environmental and cultural impact assessment should be performed to assess the safety hazards and cultural changes enhanced public access would pose.

Current Bishop Museum lessee's and community organizations have a history with Waipi'o Valley that is invaluable to developing an action plan. Furthermore, they also have vested interests in terms of their land management and program development in Waipi'o Valley that should be honored and be considered through any future changes. A working group to discuss the future of Waipi'o Valley should include: 1) representation from lessee's, whereas many are not members of the Waipi'o Taro Farmers Association and therefore are not represented; and 2) representation of organizations that are already active in working towards the protection of the valley's natural, cultural, and historic resources.

Me ka ha'aha'a a ka 'o ia 'i'o,
Kulia Kauhi Tolentino-Potter

RE: Senate Bill 3063: Relating to Disposition of Lands in Waipi'o Valley

Aloha mai,

Please do not put the “cart” and the “horse” together in one bill. A study group is fine, as long as it includes those who have lived and worked in the valley the longest. Their experience and expertise would lend valuable insights to any future use or ownership of the valley. But we should wait for the results of the study before committing funds for purchase.

Aloha,

~Joan Lander

PO Box 29

Naalehu, Hawaii 96772

cullen2

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 8:26 AM
To: omhstestimony
Cc: tarogifts@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3063 on Mar 19, 2014 10:15AM

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SB3063

Submitted on: 3/18/2014

Testimony for OMH on Mar 19, 2014 10:15AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edie Bikle	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha, my name is Edie Bikle and I live in Honoka'a on the Big Island. As a former resident and taro farmer in Waipi'o Valley, I am going to oppose the state buying Bishop Estate properties until I learn more about the motives behind this aquisition. If anything, the money available should be used to build a state of the art museum/visitor center/gift and snack shop on the property already purchased by the county. With the Hamakua ditch in close proximity, some taro patches could be built and maintained on the property so that visitors could have a close look at them instead of having to actually go down the hill. An authentic Hawaiian village could also be an attraction there. If anything, if the Bishop properties are for sale-wouldn't it be better for private parties to purchase in order to cultivate taro? It is my feeling that government is getting too big with too many regulations. I would prefer to see them out of the picture in this sacred and special place. Thank-you for your kind consideration. Warm Aloha, Edie Bikle po box 1888 Honoka'a, Hi. 96727 tarogifts@aol.com

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cullen2

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 8:46 AM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: llyerly7@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3063 on Mar 19, 2014 10:15AM

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SB3063

Submitted on: 3/18/2014
Testimony for OMH on Mar 19, 2014 10:15AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Lyerly	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Relating to SB 3063 SD2 disposition of lands in Waipio Valley, Hawaii I understand the sentiment of saving Waipio for the future but there seems to be a lack of community input at this time which has caused real concern among the kamaaina community. If such a working group is formed there must be more community members and not just the taro Assoc. The testimony of Kulia and Jessie Potter has many good and important considerations which I know you will take seriously. Thank you for your malama and aloha for our special sacred and historical Waipio Valley. Sincerely with aloha, Linda Lyerly former resident of the Big Island

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 9:08 AM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: alohaland@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3063 on Mar 19, 2014 10:15AM

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SB3063

Submitted on: 3/18/2014

Testimony for OMH on Mar 19, 2014 10:15AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James & Kathleen Love	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: TO: House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, and Hawaiian Affairs Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at 10:15 a.m. Conference Room 325 FROM: James & Kathleen Love, Honoka'a, HI RE: Senate Bill 3063: Relating to Disposition of Lands in Waipi'o Valley Aloha mai kakou, Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in regards to SB 3063 relating to the disposition of lands in Waipi'o Valley on Hawai'i Island. I appreciate the effort to protect the natural, cultural, and historic resources of Waipi'o Valley. However, I feel SB 3063 in it's current form is misguided and lacking. Therefore, I oppose SB 3063 unless significant amendments are made to address issues relating to community input, public access, and acknowledgment of current vested interests of Bishop Museum lessee's and community organizations prior to appropriation of funds for purchase of land. Unless significant amendments addressing these issues are made, I request SB 3063 be deferred this legislative session. Many valley residents, community members along with myself have only become aware of SB 3063 through indirect means rather than direct community engagement. A matter involving the future of Waipi'o Valley should be brought to the community prior to legislative appropriation of funds. I am not aware of legislators from the Hamakua District having brought the proposed actions of SB 3063 to Waipi'o Valley residents and the surrounding communities. Community input is essential for such a valuable resource that will affect not only current residents (lessee's and owners) of Waipi'o Valley, but the surrounding communities as well. Public access to Waipi'o Valley is a contentious and sensitive issue. Waipi'o Valley is an enclave of living Hawaiian history and culture for the community as well as productive farmland and an attractive destination for tourists and residents alike. Public access is already an issue in regards to: 1) increased vehicle traffic on the dangerous and under-maintained road into the valley; 2) unregulated private and commercial hiking groups into the valley and especially to Hi'ilawe Waterfall, a dangerous trek through private land; and 3) residents feeling a lack of privacy and sensitivity for the valley. Community input should be gathered for the most immediate knowledge of public access issues. An environmental and cultural impact assessment should be performed to assess the safety hazards and cultural changes enhanced public access would pose. Current Bishop Museum lessee's and community organizations have a history with Waipi'o Valley that is invaluable to developing an action plan. Furthermore, they also have vested interests in terms of their land management and program development in Waipi'o Valley that should be honored and be considered through any future changes. A working group to discuss the future of Waipi'o Valley

should include: 1) representation from lessee's, whereas many are not members of the Waipi'o Taro Farmers Association and therefore are not represented; and 2) representation of organizations that are already active in working towards the protection of the valley's natural, cultural, and historic resources. Mahalo nui loa

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 9:15 AM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: kenineshiga@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3063 on Mar 19, 2014 10:15AM

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SB3063

Submitted on: 3/18/2014

Testimony for OMH on Mar 19, 2014 10:15AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kenrock Higa	Representing my entire family	Support	Yes

Comments: Testimony is still in draft, will provide hard copy at tomorrows hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 9:28 AM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: lindsey.ohana@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3063 on Mar 19, 2014 10:15AM

SB3063

Submitted on: 3/18/2014

Testimony for OMH on Mar 19, 2014 10:15AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ciara Lindsey	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Re: Bill 3063: Relating to Disposition of Lands in Waipi'o Valley Aloha mai kakou, Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in regards to SB 3063 relating to the disposition of lands in Waipi'o Valley on Hawai'i Island. I appreciate the effort to protect the natural, cultural, and historic resources of Waipi'o Valley. However, I feel SB 3063 in it's current form is misguided and lacking. Therefore, I oppose SB 3063 unless significant amendments are made to address issues relating to community input, public access, and acknowledgment of current vested interests of Bishop Museum lessee's and community organizations prior to appropriation of funds for purchase of land. Unless significant amendments addressing these issues are made, I request SB 3063 be deferred this legislative session. Many valley residents, community members along with myself have only become aware of SB 3063 through indirect means rather than direct community engagement. A matter involving the future of Waipi'o Valley should be brought to the community prior to legislative appropriation of funds. I am not aware of legislators from the Hamakua District having brought the proposed actions of SB 3063 to Waipi'o Valley residents and the surrounding communities. Community input is essential for such a valuable resource that will affect not only current residents (lessee's and owners) of Waipi'o Valley, but the surrounding communities as well. Public access to Waipi'o Valley is a contentious and sensitive issue. Waipi'o Valley is an enclave of living Hawaiian history and culture for the community as well as productive farmland and an attractive destination for tourists and residents alike. Public access is already an issue in regards to: 1) increased vehicle traffic on the dangerous and under-maintained road into the valley; 2) unregulated private and commercial hiking groups into the valley and especially to Hi'ilawe Waterfall, a dangerous trek through private land; and 3) residents feeling a lack of privacy and sensitivity for the valley. Community input should be gathered for the most immediate knowledge of public access issues. An environmental and cultural impact assessment should be performed to assess the safety hazards and cultural changes enhanced public access would pose. Current Bishop Museum lessee's and community organizations have a history with Waipi'o Valley that is invaluable to developing an action plan. Furthermore, they also have vested interests in terms of their land management and program development in Waipi'o Valley that should be honored and be considered through any future changes. A working group to discuss the future of Waipi'o Valley should include: 1) representation from lessee's, whereas many are not members of the Waipi'o Taro Farmers Association and therefore are not represented; and 2) representation of organizations that are already active in working towards the protection of the valley's natural, cultural, and historic resources. I come from generations and generations from the Valley. I would hate to see it being used for the wrong purpose. The valley should be kept in its purest form. Mahalo nui loa.

Ciara Lindsey

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cullen2

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 9:30 AM
To: omhstestimony
Cc: matt.mhughes@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3063 on Mar 19, 2014 10:15AM

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SB3063

Submitted on: 3/18/2014

Testimony for OMH on Mar 19, 2014 10:15AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew Hughes	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha mai kakou, Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in regards to SB 3063 relating to the disposition of lands in Waipi'o Valley on Hawai'i Island. I appreciate the effort to protect the natural, cultural, and historic resources of Waipi'o Valley. However, I feel SB 3063 in it's current form is misguided and lacking. Therefore, I oppose SB 3063 unless significant amendments are made to address issues relating to community input, public access, and acknowledgment of current vested interests of Bishop Museum lessee's and community organizations prior to appropriation of funds for purchase of land. Unless significant amendments addressing these issues are made, I request SB 3063 be deferred this legislative session. Many valley residents, community members along with myself have only become aware of SB 3063 through indirect means rather than direct community engagement. A matter involving the future of Waipi'o Valley should be brought to the community prior to legislative appropriation of funds. I am not aware of legislators from the Hamakua District having brought the proposed actions of SB 3063 to Waipi'o Valley residents and the surrounding communities. Community input is essential for such a valuable resource that will affect not only current residents (lessee's and owners) of Waipi'o Valley, but the surrounding communities as well. Public access to Waipi'o Valley is a contentious and sensitive issue. Waipi'o Valley is an enclave of living Hawaiian history and culture for the community as well as productive farmland and an attractive destination for tourists and residents alike. Public access is already an issue in regards to: 1) increased vehicle traffic on the dangerous and under-maintained road into the valley; 2) unregulated private and commercial hiking groups into the valley and especially to Hi'ilawe Waterfall, a dangerous trek through private land; and 3) residents feeling a lack of privacy and sensitivity for the valley. Community input should be gathered for the most immediate knowledge of public access issues. An environmental and cultural impact assessment should be performed to assess the safety hazards and cultural changes enhanced public access would pose. Current Bishop Museum lessee's and community organizations have a history with Waipi'o Valley that is invaluable to developing an action plan. Furthermore, they also have vested interests in terms of their land management and program development in Waipi'o Valley that should be honored and be considered through any future changes. A working group to discuss the future of Waipi'o Valley should include: 1) representation from lessee's, whereas many are not members of the Waipi'o Taro Farmers Association and therefore are not represented; and 2) representation of organizations that are already active in working towards the

protection of the valley's natural, cultural, and historic resources. Mahalo nui loa Matthew Hughes, Ph.D.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 9:40 AM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: bianca@kahea.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3063 on Mar 19, 2014 10:15AM

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SB3063

Submitted on: 3/18/2014

Testimony for OMH on Mar 19, 2014 10:15AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bianca Isaki	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha mai kakou, I appreciate the effort of the authors of SB 3063 to protect the natural, cultural, and historic resources of Waipi'o Valley on Hawai'i Island. However, in its current form, SB 3063 lacks address to issues of community input, public access, and acknowledgment of current vested interests of Bishop Museum lessee's and community organizations prior to appropriation of funds for purchase of land. Many valley residents, community members have stated that they became aware of SB 3063 through indirect means rather than direct community engagement. Because of these concerns, my comment is that SB 3063 should be deferred this legislative session. Community input is essential for such a valuable resource that will affect not only current residents (lessee's and owners) of Waipi'o Valley, but the surrounding communities as well. Public access to Waipi'o Valley is a contentious and sensitive issue. Waipi'o Valley is an enclave of living Hawaiian history and culture as well as productive farmland. Public access is already an issue in regards to: 1) increased vehicle traffic on the dangerous and under-maintained road into the valley; 2) unregulated private and commercial hiking groups into the valley and especially to Hi'ilawe Waterfall, a dangerous trek through private land; and 3) residents feeling a lack of privacy and sensitivity for the valley. An environmental and cultural impact assessment should be performed to assess the safety hazards and cultural changes enhanced public access would pose. Current Bishop Museum lessees and community organizations that have a history with Waipi'o Valley should be consulted to develop an management plan. They have suggested forming a working group to discuss the future of Waipi'o Valley, which would include: 1) representation from lessees, as many are not members of the Waipi'o Taro Farmers Association and therefore are not represented; and 2) representation of organizations that are already active in working towards the protection of the valley's natural, cultural, and historic resources. Me ka `oia`i`o, Bianca Isaki, Ph.D., Esq.

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cullen2

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 9:57 AM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: bodhitaraishere@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3063 on Mar 19, 2014 10:15AM

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SB3063

Submitted on: 3/18/2014

Testimony for OMH on Mar 19, 2014 10:15AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bodhitara Diane Searles	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha, Please hear the requests from Valley residents and farmers to oppose this bill as there seems to be a hidden agenda behind the way it is coming down. It is now common knowledge.....but rare wisdom that allows the people of a place to truly have a say about what happens in their home. Please heed the voices of the valley and oppose this bill so beautiful Waipio can continue to grow and thrive and maintain its cultural significance to the Hawaiian people. Mahalo, Bodhitara Diane Searles

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cullen2

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 11:38 AM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: mamoaaliokalani@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3063 on Mar 19, 2014 10:15AM

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SB3063

Submitted on: 3/18/2014
Testimony for OMH on Mar 19, 2014 10:15AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Grace Bezilla	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I think that the language of this bill is potentially detrimental to Waipi`o. WAIPi`O shouldn` t be monopolized. _ Hilo

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MEMORANDUM

To: House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, and Hawaiian Affairs Committee
From: Hokulani K. Aikau
Date: 18 March 2014
Subject: Testimony in opposition to SB 3063

Aloha,

I am writing to oppose Senate Bill 3063 because I do not believe the DLNR has the capacity to manage the cultural and natural resources in Waipi'o valley. The people who should be managing the 'āina are the kupa'āina who live and work on the land. What we also know, is that once land moves from private management to public management, it is in jeopardy of development and further dispossession. The state has a poor record of managing land and resources and given the historical and cultural significance of this site, I do not support the transfer of lands from Bishop Museum to the State of Hawai'i via the DLNR.

Indeed, public access to Waipi'o Valley is already a contentious and sensitive issue. Waipi'o Valley is an enclave of living Hawaiian history and culture for the community as well as productive farmland and an attractive destination for tourists and residents alike. Public access is already an issue in regards to: 1) increased vehicle traffic on the dangerous and under-maintained road into the valley; 2) unregulated private and commercial hiking groups into the valley and especially to Hi'ilawe Waterfall, a dangerous trek through private land; and 3) residents feeling a lack of privacy and sensitivity for the valley. Community input should be gathered for the most immediate knowledge of public access issues. An environmental and cultural impact assessment should be performed to assess the safety hazards and cultural changes enhanced public access would pose. As we know from other examples around Hawai'i nei, the State does not always abide by its laws when it comes to environmental and cultural impact assessments. Thus, any argument that asserts that under state management these issues will be address and remedied are inspirational only, not actual.

Current Bishop Museum lessee's and community organizations have a history with Waipi'o Valley that is invaluable to developing an action plan. Furthermore, they also have vested interests in terms of their land management and program development in Waipi'o Valley that should honored and be considered through any future changes. A working group to discuss the future of Waipi'o Valley should include: 1) representation from lessee's, whereas many are not members of the Waipi'o Taro Farmers Association and therefore are not represented; and 2) representation of organizations that are already active in working towards the protection of the valley's natural, cultural, and historic resources.

Aloha 'Āina!

cullen2

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 11:59 AM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: bokahui@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3063 on Mar 19, 2014 10:15AM

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SB3063

Submitted on: 3/18/2014

Testimony for OMH on Mar 19, 2014 10:15AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Craig "Bo" Kahui	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: RE: Senate Bill 3063: Relating to Disposition of Lands in Waipi'o Valley Aloha mai kakou, Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in regards to SB 3063 relating to the disposition of lands in Waipi'o Valley on Hawai'i Island. I appreciate the effort to protect the natural, cultural, and historic resources of Waipi'o Valley. However, I feel SB 3063 in it's current form is lacking substantive protection measures for the future of Waipio Valley . Therefore, I oppose SB 3063 unless significant amendments are made to address issues relating to community input, public access, and acknowledgment of current vested interests of Bishop Museum lessee's community organizations and, most important a public hearing prior to appropriation of funds for purchase of land. Therefore, I request SB 3063 be deferred this legislative session and respectfully request the legislative bodies ensure community input and a public hearing is conducted. Mahalo Nui, Craig "Bo" Kahui Native Hawaiian Homesteader

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cullen2

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 5:52 PM
To: omhstestimony
Cc: randy@picturethisgraphics.com
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SB3063

Submitted on: 3/18/2014

Testimony for OMH on Mar 19, 2014 10:15AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy C. Horne	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha mai kakou, Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in regards to SB 3063 relating to the disposition of lands in Waipi'o Valley on Hawai'i Island. I appreciate the effort to protect the natural, cultural, and historic resources of Waipi'o Valley. However, I feel SB 3063 in it's current form is misguided and lacking. Therefore, I oppose SB 3063 unless significant amendments are made to address issues relating to community input, public access, and acknowledgment of current vested interests of Bishop Museum lessee's and community organizations prior to appropriation of funds for purchase of land. Unless significant amendments addressing these issues are made, I request SB 3063 be deferred this legislative session. Many valley residents, community members along with myself have only become aware of SB 3063 through indirect means rather than direct community engagement. A matter involving the future of Waipi'o Valley should be brought to the community prior to legislative appropriation of funds. I am not aware of legislators from the Hamakua District having brought the proposed actions of SB 3063 to Waipi'o Valley residents and the surrounding communities. Community input is essential for such a valuable resource that will affect not only current residents (lessee's and owners) of Waipi'o Valley, but the surrounding communities as well. Public access to Waipi'o Valley is a contentious and sensitive issue. Waipi'o Valley is an enclave of living Hawaiian history and culture for the community as well as productive farmland and an attractive destination for tourists and residents alike. Public access is already an issue in regards to: 1) increased vehicle traffic on the dangerous and under-maintained road into the valley; 2) unregulated private and commercial hiking groups into the valley and especially to Hi'ilawe Waterfall, a dangerous trek through private land; and 3) residents feeling a lack of privacy and sensitivity for the valley. Community input should be gathered for the most immediate knowledge of public access issues. An environmental and cultural impact assessment should be performed to assess the safety hazards and cultural changes enhanced public access would pose. Current Bishop Museum lessee's and community organizations have a history with Waipi'o Valley that is invaluable to developing an action plan. Furthermore, they also have vested interests in terms of their land management and program development in Waipi'o Valley that should be honored and be considered through any future changes. A working group to discuss the future of Waipi'o Valley should include: 1) representation from lessee's, whereas many are not members of the Waipi'o Taro Farmers Association and therefore are not represented; and 2) representation of organizations that are already active in working towards the

protection of the valley's natural, cultural, and historic resources. Mahalo nui loa.

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LATE

cullen2

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To: omhstestimony
Cc: iankshortridge@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3063 on Mar 19, 2014 10:15AM

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SB3063

Submitted on: 3/18/2014

Testimony for OMH on Mar 19, 2014 10:15AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ian Shortridge	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha mai kakou, Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in regards to SB 3063 relating to the disposition of lands in Waipi'o Valley on Hawai'i Island. I appreciate the effort to protect the natural, cultural, and historic resources of Waipi'o Valley. However, I feel SB 3063 in it's current form is misguided and lacking. Therefore, I oppose SB 3063 unless significant amendments are made to address issues relating to community input, public access, and acknowledgment of current vested interests of Bishop Museum lessee's and community organizations prior to appropriation of funds for purchase of land. Unless significant amendments addressing these issues are made, I request SB 3063 be deferred this legislative session. Many valley residents, community members along with myself have only become aware of SB 3063 through indirect means rather than direct community engagement. A matter involving the future of Waipi'o Valley should be brought to the community prior to legislative appropriation of funds. I am not aware of legislators from the Hamakua District having brought the proposed actions of SB 3063 to Waipi'o Valley residents and the surrounding communities. Community input is essential for such a valuable resource that will affect not only current residents (lessee's and owners) of Waipi'o Valley, but the surrounding communities as well. Public access to Waipi'o Valley is a contentious and sensitive issue. Waipi'o Valley is an enclave of living Hawaiian history and culture for the community as well as productive farmland and an attractive destination for tourists and residents alike. Public access is already an issue in regards to: 1) increased vehicle traffic on the dangerous and under-maintained road into the valley; 2) unregulated private and commercial hiking groups into the valley and especially to Hi'ilawe Waterfall, a dangerous trek through private land; and 3) residents feeling a lack of privacy and sensitivity for the valley. Community input should be gathered for the most immediate knowledge of public access issues. An environmental and cultural impact assessment should be performed to assess the safety hazards and cultural changes enhanced public access would pose. Current Bishop Museum lessee's and community organizations have a history with Waipi'o Valley that is invaluable to developing an action plan. Furthermore, they also have vested interests in terms of their land management and program development in Waipi'o Valley that should be honored and be considered through any future changes. A working group to discuss the future of Waipi'o Valley should include: 1) representation from lessee's, whereas many are not members of the Waipi'o Taro Farmers Association and therefore are not represented; and 2) representation of organizations that are already active in working towards the

protection of the valley's natural, cultural, and historic resources. Mahalo nui loa.

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LATE

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Cc: yukikaea@gmail.com
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SB3063

Submitted on: 3/18/2014
Testimony for OMH on Mar 19, 2014 10:15AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yuki Alapai	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha mai kakou, Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in regards to SB 3063 relating to the disposition of lands in Waipi'o Valley on Hawai'i Island. I appreciate the effort to protect the natural, cultural, and historic resources of Waipi'o Valley. However, I feel SB 3063 in it's current form is misguided and lacking. Therefore, I oppose SB 3063 unless significant amendments are made to address issues relating to community input, public access, and acknowledgment of current vested interests of Bishop Museum lessee's and community organizations prior to appropriation of funds for purchase of land. Unless significant amendments addressing these issues are made, I request SB 3063 be deferred this legislative session. Many valley residents, community members along with myself have only become aware of SB 3063 through indirect means rather than direct community engagement. A matter involving the future of Waipi'o Valley should be brought to the community prior to legislative appropriation of funds. I am not aware of legislators from the Hamakua District having brought the proposed actions of SB 3063 to Waipi'o Valley residents and the surrounding communities. Community input is essential for such a valuable resource that will affect not only current residents (lessee's and owners) of Waipi'o Valley, but the surrounding communities as well. Public access to Waipi'o Valley is a contentious and sensitive issue. Waipi'o Valley is an enclave of living Hawaiian history and culture for the community as well as productive farmland and an attractive destination for tourists and residents alike. Public access is already an issue in regards to: 1) increased vehicle traffic on the dangerous and under-maintained road into the valley; 2) unregulated private and commercial hiking groups into the valley and especially to Hi'ilawe Waterfall, a dangerous trek through private land; and 3) residents feeling a lack of privacy and sensitivity for the valley. Community input should be gathered for the most immediate knowledge of public access issues. An environmental and cultural impact assessment should be performed to assess the safety hazards and cultural changes enhanced public access would pose. Current Bishop Museum lessee's and community organizations have a history with Waipi'o Valley that is invaluable to developing an action plan. Furthermore, they also have vested interests in terms of their land management and program development in Waipi'o Valley that should be honored and be considered through any future changes. A working group to discuss the future of Waipi'o Valley should include: 1) representation from lessee's, whereas many are not members of the Waipi'o Taro Farmers Association and therefore are not represented; and 2) representation of organizations that are already active in working towards the

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STRONG OPPOSITION TO SB 3063 as is.

I strongly oppose SB 3063 as is and ask that it be deferred this legislative session until paramount issues relating to public access, water rights, protection of cultural sites, acknowledgment of current vested interests of various groups of stakeholders, and other major concerns are addressed. For those of us who have spent decades taking care of the sacred valley of Waipi‘o, setting up a Honolulu-based working group, with little knowledge of the unparalleled history and traditions of Waipi‘o, or the precarious issues impacting not just Bishop Museum lands but all of Waipi‘o Valley, to transfer one Hawai‘i’s most treasured resources to the State, is simply unacceptable and defies every aspect of the democratic process, which calls for the people to be involved in government decision making. What is of special concern is the fact that the Waipi‘o, Kukuihaele, Hāmākua/Waipī‘o communities have been completely left in the dark about this sale, which has not been mentioned by any of our legislators in their updates, and seems to be another done deal initiated by Hawai‘i’s powerbrokers without any input from those it will actually affect. That is to say that given the make-up of the proposed working group and its timeline, it is highly unlikely that any of us with genealogical, historical and/or personal ties to Waipi‘o will have any say in the transfer.

As part of a family of Hawaiian practitioners, with genealogical ties to Waipi‘o, who have spent the last two decades raising our two daughters in the valley and sharing its rich history, traditions and cultural assets with thousands of students from near and far, I strongly oppose SB 3063 as is and ask you to please defer this measure until the community has had an opportunity to share our mana‘o and assure that this most sacred valley and its unique resources are protected.

Ursula Chong
Private land owner of Waip‘o Valley

LATE

Aloha

My name is John Reed and I am opposing this bill because there has not been enough discussion about what it means for the state to purchase Waipio lands from Bishop Museum. The people that will be most affected by this have not been given enough information. People who own lands in Waipio might be ok but what about all the people who lease these lands and work the loi's. There is a Kalo shortage state wide and now we have to worry about the possibility of losing our leases. My inlaws were born and raised in Waipio and have farmed and ranched in Waipio their whole lives. For them and all the people whose bloodlines come from Waipio to not be allowed a place at the table is not Pono. You say the Waipio Taro Farmers Association will be present but yet no one is allowed to join this association. How can they speak for all the farmers if we can't even join the association.

We don't farm Kalo for the money, It is our responsibility to teach each generation to malama the aina and it in return will do the same for us.

Explain exactly what this possible sale means to the people of Waipio and the community. Be transparent and don't get it done through the back door.

Waipio does have problems that can be fixed like no rental cars allowed in the valley, stop illegal tours.

Allow all the people of Waipio the opportunity to be heard.

Mahalo

LATE

Aloha mai kakou,

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in regards to SB 3063 relating to the disposition of lands in Waipi'o Valley on Hawai'i Island. I appreciate the effort to protect the natural, cultural, and historic resources of Waipi'o Valley; however, I feel SB 3063, in its current form, is misguided and lacking. Therefore, I oppose SB 3063 unless significant amendments are made to address issues relating to community input, public access, and the acknowledgment of current vested interests of Bishop Museum lessee's and community organizations prior to appropriation of funds for purchase of land. Unless significant amendments addressing these issues are made, I request SB 3063 be deferred this legislative session. Many valley residents and community members, along with myself, have only become aware of SB 3063 through indirect means rather than direct community engagement. A matter involving the future of Waipi'o Valley should be brought to the community prior to legislative appropriation of funds. I am not aware of legislators from the Hamakua District having brought the proposed actions of SB 3063 to Waipi'o Valley residents and the surrounding communities. Community input is essential for such a valuable resource that will affect not only current residents (lessee's and owners) of Waipi'o Valley but the surrounding communities as well. Public access to Waipi'o Valley is a contentious and sensitive issue. Waipi'o Valley is an enclave of living Hawaiian history and culture for the community as well as productive farmland and an attractive destination for tourists and residents alike. Public access is already an issue in regards to: 1) increased vehicle traffic on the dangerous and under-maintained road into the valley; 2) unregulated private and commercial hiking groups into the valley and especially to Hi'ilawe Waterfall, a dangerous trek through private land; and 3) residents feeling a lack of privacy and sensitivity for the valley. Community input should be gathered for the most immediate knowledge of public access issues. An environmental and cultural impact assessment should be performed to assess the safety hazards and cultural changes enhanced public access would pose. Current Bishop Museum lessee's and community organizations have a history with Waipi'o Valley that is invaluable to developing an action plan. Furthermore, they also have vested interests in terms of their land management and program development in Waipi'o Valley that should be honored and considered through any future changes. A working group to discuss the future of Waipi'o Valley should include: 1) representation from lessees, whereas many are not members of the Waipi'o Taro Farmers Association and therefore are not represented; and 2) representation of organizations that are already active in working towards the protection of the valley's natural, cultural, and historic resources.

Mahalo nui loa for your time.