

# SCR 140/SR76

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO  
RECOMMEND DESIGNATED AREAS ON STATE  
PROPERTIES ON WHICH TO ERECT AHU AND TO  
REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE PRIOR TO THE 2015  
REGULAR SESSION.

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 Senate Committees on  
WATER AND LAND  
and  
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Monday, March 24, 2014  
1:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of  
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 140/SENATE RESOLUTION 76  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO  
CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO RECOMMEND DESIGNATED AREAS OF STATE  
PROPERTIES ON WHICH TO ERECT AHU AND TO REPORT TO THE  
LEGISLATURE PRIOR TO THE 2015 REGULAR SESSION**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 140/Senate Resolution 76 requests that the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) convene a task force to recommend designated areas of State properties on which to erect ahu and to report to the Legislature prior to the 2015 Regular Session. **The Department offers the following comments.**

The Department acknowledges the importance of ahu construction in ancient times, as well as today. The choice of location and its deliberate construction manifests its importance to its creator. Ahu were built for a wide variety of functions, some as a community endeavors (heiau, land unit boundary marker, etc.), but more commonly for personal reasons (burial markers-identification and protection, in addition to aumakua worship).

The Department currently is already willing to work with anyone who wants to erect an ahu on state land if that person can document the traditional/historical use relating to that location, and the monument does not interfere with any contemporary use or operations at that location.

Accordingly, the Department does not believe that a task force is necessary. If the Committees believes that moving forward with these resolutions is prudent, the Department recommends creating a working group instead of a task force.

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

**JESSEK. 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

Finally, the Department does not currently have the resources available to support a task force or work group. Funds will have to be appropriated before either a working group or task force can be created by the Department.

From: [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
To: [WTLTestimony](#)  
Cc: [leimana.k.damate@hawaii.gov](mailto:leimana.k.damate@hawaii.gov)  
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR140 on Mar 24, 2014 13:00PM  
Date: Friday, March 21, 2014 1:37:15 PM

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**SCR140**

Submitted on: 3/21/2014

Testimony for WTL/HWN on Mar 24, 2014 13:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimana DaMate	Aha Moku Advisory Committee	Comments Only	Yes

Comments: Aha Moku Advisory Committee Testimony of Leimana DaMate Before the Senate Committees on Water and Land & Hawaiian Affairs Monday, March 24, 2014 1:00 P.M. State Capitol, Conference Room 225 In Consideration of S.C.R. 140 / S.R. 76 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO RECOMMEND DESIGNATED AREAS ON STATE PROPERTIES ON WHICH TO ERECT AHU AND TO REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE PRIOR TO THE 2015 REGULAR SESSION. On behalf of the Aha Moku Advisory Committee (Committee), we respectfully offer comments on SCR 140 and SR 76. The Aha Moku System is inclusive of eight main Hawaiian Islands and forty-three (43) traditional moku districts. Within these districts the native Hawaiian traditional resource managers, often called konohiki still work within the resource areas. The Committee supports the intent of these resolutions and offers comments pertaining to Ahu and the need to create a Task Force to recommend designated areas on state properties on which to erect the ahu. While ahu are commonly known to have been erected as memorials for kupuna iwi, they were also used as marker or memorials for heiau, wahi pana and other uses. The Committee believes that the use of ahu could be incorporated into SCR 109 and SR 58, resolutions calling for OHA and DLNR to form a traditional land use task force who would be charged with researching the feasibility of establishing traditional land use districts. However, if the Legislature decides that SCR 140 and SR 76 must move on, then we would ask that the proposed Task Force include a representative of the Aha Moku Advisory Committee. We believe we could assist by providing specific cultural knowledge on specific sites that would be designated for memorial ahu. Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on these Resolutions. Respectfully yours, Leimana DaMate, Executive Director Aha Moku Advisory Committee Ph: 808-587-1498

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SCR140 on Mar 24, 2014 13:00PM  
**Date:** Saturday, March 22, 2014 12:37:59 PM

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**SCR140**

Submitted on: 3/22/2014

Testimony for WTL/HWN on Mar 24, 2014 13:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Office of Hawaiian Affairs	Office of Hawaiian Affairs	Comments Only	No

Comments: Please find our comments attached. mahalo

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SCR140 on Mar 24, 2014 13:00PM\*  
**Date:** Thursday, March 20, 2014 2:05:46 AM

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**SCR140**

Submitted on: 3/20/2014

Testimony for WTL/HWN on Mar 24, 2014 13:00PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Katarina Culina	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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