
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE AHA MOKU ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, over the past two
2 hundred years, Hawaii has experienced extensive changes which
3 include the deterioration of the Hawaiian culture, language,
4 values, and land tenure system, which has in part resulted in
5 the over-development of the coastline, alteration of fresh water
6 streams, destruction of life-giving watersheds, decimation of
7 the coral reefs, and the decline or endemic marine and
8 terrestrial species.

9 In an attempt to remedy this situation, in 2012, the
10 legislature established the aha moku advisory committee by Act
11 288, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012. The aha moku advisory
12 committee was placed within the department of land and natural
13 resources for administrative purposes. Act 288, Session Laws of
14 Hawaii 2012, formally recognizes the aha moku system, a
15 traditional system of best practices based upon the indigenous
16 resource management practices of moku (regional) and ahapua'a
17 (site-specific geographic area) that acknowledge the natural



1 contours of land, the natural resources located within those
2 areas, and the methodology necessary to sustain resources and
3 the community. The role of the aha moku advisory committee is
4 to advise the board of land and natural resources and the
5 department of land and natural resources regarding the aha moku
6 system, on issues related to land and natural resources.

7 Since its creation in 2012, the aha moku advisory committee
8 has continued to fulfill its mission and mandates as set forth
9 in Act 288 by working with the eight main Hawaiian islands which
10 encompass forty-three traditional moku in which five hundred
11 eighty-nine ahupua'a are listed. In 2014, the aha moku advisory
12 committee documented its accomplishments in a report to the
13 legislature that was issued in English and Hawaiian languages
14 and included recommendations for the moku of Hawaii, Lanai,
15 Oahu, and Kauai. The report also lists the decisions of the
16 board of land and natural resources relating to those
17 recommendations. Additionally, the report lists the almost
18 forty resource issues that came before the department of land
19 and natural resources divisions relating to the aha moku system.
20 Most of these issues were mitigated within the department of



1 land and natural resources at a divisional level to the
2 satisfaction of the inquiring communities.

3 A purpose of the aha moku advisory committee is to
4 strengthen the rapport and communication between the department
5 of land and natural resources and the public, including the
6 native Hawaiian community, on issues regarding natural and
7 cultural resources, thereby benefitting the entire State. The
8 aha moku advisory committee is well suited for this goal, and is
9 continuing to be successful with the beginning phases of these
10 efforts. However, although the legislature unanimously passed
11 Act 288 and appropriated funding in that Act, the aha moku
12 advisory committee has never been funded. As a result of this
13 situation, while the aha moku advisory committee is well
14 situated within the department of land and natural resources and
15 is active, it has not been funded so that it can reach its full
16 mandate.

17 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$120,000 or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
20 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year



H.B. NO. 1380

Report Title:

Aha Moku Advisory Committee; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the administration and operation of the aha moku advisory committee and for community outreach.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

