
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 have 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 of 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 ahupuaa,
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, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, by working with the
10 eight main Hawaiian islands, which encompass forty-six
11 traditional moku in which six hundred nine ahupuaa are listed.
12 In 2015, the aha moku advisory committee documented its
13 accomplishments in a report to the legislature and included
14 recommendations from all the islands, and specifically from
15 Hawaii and Oahu. 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 twenty-
18 eight 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, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, and appropriated funding
12 in that Act, funds for the aha moku advisory committee have
13 never been released. As a result of this situation, while the
14 aha moku advisory committee is well situated within the
15 department of land and natural resources and is active, it has
16 not been funded so that it can fulfill its full mandate.

17 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the
20 administrative and operational expenses of the aha moku advisory
21 committee.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for
6 community outreach efforts of the aha moku advisory committee.

7 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
8 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

9 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on December 24,
10 2088.



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. (HB2179 HD1)

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