
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 areas, that acknowledge the natural
18 contours of land, the natural resources located within those



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

6 Since its creation in 2012, the aha moku advisory committee
7 has continued to fulfill its mission and mandates as set forth
8 in Act 288, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, by working with the
9 eight main Hawaiian islands, which encompass forty-six
10 traditional moku in which six hundred nine ahupuaa are listed.
11 In 2015, the aha moku advisory committee documented its
12 accomplishments in a report to the legislature and included
13 recommendations from all the islands, and specifically from
14 Hawaii and Oahu. The report also lists the decisions of the
15 board of land and natural resources relating to those
16 recommendations. Additionally, the report lists the twenty-
17 eight resource issues that came before the department of land
18 and natural resources divisions relating to the aha moku system.
19 Most of these issues were mitigated within the department of
20 land and natural resources at a divisional level to the
21 satisfaction of the inquiring communities.



1 A purpose of the aha moku advisory committee is to
2 strengthen the rapport and communication between the department
3 of land and natural resources and the public, including the
4 native Hawaiian community, on issues regarding natural and
5 cultural resources, thereby benefitting the entire State. The
6 aha moku advisory committee is well suited for this goal and
7 continues to be successful with the beginning phases of these
8 efforts. However, although the legislature unanimously passed
9 Act 288, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, and appropriated funding
10 in that Act, funds for the aha moku have never been released.
11 As a result, the aha moku is concerned that it may not be able
12 to fulfill its mission and the full mandates set forth in Act
13 288, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, even though the aha moku
14 advisory committee is ready to take action.

15 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$250,000 or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the
18 administrative, operational, and community outreach expenses of
19 the aha moku advisory committee.

20



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. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

4



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. (SD1)

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

