
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-three
11 traditional moku in which five hundred eighty-nine ahupuaa are
12 listed. In 2014, the aha moku advisory committee documented its
13 accomplishments in a report to the legislature that was issued
14 in English and Hawaiian languages and included recommendations
15 for the moku of Hawaii, Lanai, Oahu, and Kauai. The report also
16 lists the decisions of the board of land and natural resources
17 relating to those recommendations. Additionally, the report
18 lists the almost forty resource issues that came before the
19 department of land and natural resources divisions relating to
20 the aha moku system. Most of these issues were mitigated within



1 the department of land and natural resources at a divisional
2 level to the 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, the aha moku advisory committee has never been
13 funded. As a result of this situation, while the aha moku
14 advisory committee is well situated within the department of
15 land and natural resources and is active, it has not been funded
16 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 2015-2016 and the
20 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year



1 2016-2017 for the administrative and operational expenses of the
2 aha moku advisory committee.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
4 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
8 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
9 2016-2017 for community outreach efforts of the aha moku
10 advisory committee.

11 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
12 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on December 24,
14 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. (SB786 HD1)

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