



# KO`OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

March 16, 2015

To: Sen. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
Sen. Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair / & Members  
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

From: Alice P. Hewett, President  
Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club

Re: H.B. 1297, H.D.1 – Relating to the Penal Code - Support

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Galuteria and Committee Members:

The Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club strongly supports passage of H.B. 1297, H.D. 1, which addresses traditional and customary burial practices of Native Hawaiians.

We have been told that among the largest number of requests for financial aid from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs is the need for funds to help with funeral expenses. Hawaiian families are increasingly hard-pressed to pay for the burial of their loved ones.

This bill would help such families and others by providing another option when planning for the burial of a loved one – reducing the body to `iwi, or skeletal remains, and placement in a container of natural materials for burial.

We urge your committee to pass this bill out of committee. Mahalo for this opportunity to offer our mana`o.

*The Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club was established in 1937 and is a not-for-profit community organization dedicated to preserving and perpetuating the history, heritage and culture of Native Hawaiians. Its membership is open to people of Hawaiian ancestry and those who are "Hawaiian at heart".*

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*Ko`olau Foundation*

P. O. Box 4749  
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March 16, 2015

TO: Sen. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
Sen. Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair / & Members  
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Mahealani Cypher, Board Member  
Ko`olau Foundation

SUBJECT: **Support for H.B. 1297, H.D.1 – Relating to the Penal Code**

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Galuteria and Committee Members:

The Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club strongly supports passage of H.B. 1297, H.D. 1, which would update the Hawai`i Penal Code to address traditional and customary burial practices of Native Hawaiians.

Modern burial practices, introduced in the islands following Western contact over 200 years ago, are very different from what was practiced by our ancestors here in Hawai`i. In today's world, families have two options – embalmed burials or cremation. All of our modern cemeteries have large acreage taken up by full-length burials that require significant acreage; this will become more problematic as baby boomers are lost to us and the demand for cemetery space increases.

Modern burials using embalming fluids also introduce into our `aina certain chemicals that may seep into the ground and eventually reach subsurface water flows that end up in our streams and oceans.

Modern burial practices also involve expensive caskets – even the most economy-priced – causing hardships on bereaved families.

We submit to you that passage of this bill will help address these concerns by reducing the amount of land needed for Hawaiian-style burials, eliminating the introduction of chemicals into our `aina, and reducing the cost of funerals by replacing expensive caskets with containers of lauhala or other natural materials.

We urge your committee to pass this bill out of committee. Mahalo for allowing us to share our mana`o.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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**Cc:** [amybrinker@mac.com](mailto:amybrinker@mac.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1297 on Mar 18, 2015 13:20PM\*  
**Date:** Sunday, March 15, 2015 4:37:18 PM

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**HB1297**

Submitted on: 3/15/2015

Testimony for HWN on Mar 18, 2015 13:20PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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 HB1297 on Mar 18, 2015 13:20PM\*  
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**HB1297**

Submitted on: 3/15/2015

Testimony for HWN on Mar 18, 2015 13:20PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Keala Norman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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