

LATE

SB

774

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: leimana.k.damate@hawaii.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB774 on Feb 2, 2015 15:15PM
Date: Monday, February 02, 2015 12:06:55 PM
Attachments: [Testimony_AMAC SB 774.doc](#)

SB774

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for WTL/AGL/HWN on Feb 2, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 224

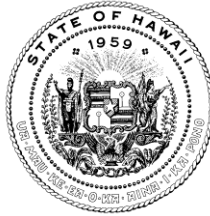
| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Leimana DaMate | Aha Moku Advisory Committee | Support | Yes |

Comments:

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**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Testimony of
Leimana DaMate
Executive Director – Aha Moku Advisory Committee**

**Monday, February 02, 2015
3:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In SUPPORT of
Senate Bill 774
Relating to the Protection of Taro**

Senate Bill 774 relates to the protection of taro by creating a classification of agricultural public lands entitled “taro lands”. It appropriates funds to the Board of Land and Natural Resources to create an inventory of lands specifically classified as taro lands.

From the very beginning, the Native Hawaiian kanaka maoli have depended upon taro as one of their staple foods. The *mahiai*, or farmers, from ancient times to the present have continued to grow and harvest taro, not only for Native Hawaiian consumers, but for the general public who have grown to depend upon this food as a healthy and necessary staple. However, the demand exceeds the ability to produce especially since this demand is expected to grow as local people move towards greater local food self-sufficiency.

We agree with the Taro Task Force, established under Act 211, who recommended greater protections for wetland taro lands (lo’i) and dryland taro lo’i, including the protection of their structural elements (terraces, stone walls, and irrigation ditches) within the boundaries of the State’s public conservation districts to help meet food security needs.

Aha Moku was created by the Legislature through Act 288, Session Laws 2012, to serve as an advisory committee to the Chairman of the Board of Land and Natural Resources on issues related to land and natural resources management through the aha moku system. One of their mandates is to “sustain the State’s marine, land, cultural, agricultural, and natural resources” (§171 4-5). The agricultural portion specifically means taro sustainability. Creating a fourth class of taro lands under §171-10 falls within the Aha Moku mandate of protection and sustainability of important agricultural resources.

We support Senate Bill 774 and urge its passage.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: natalie.mckinney@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB774 on Feb 2, 2015 15:15PM*
Date: Monday, February 02, 2015 1:13:32 PM

SB774

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for WTL/AGL/HWN on Feb 2, 2015 15:15PM in Conference Room 224

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Natalie McKinney | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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Cc: babesagainstbiotech@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB774 on Feb 2, 2015 15:15PM*
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SB774

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| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
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| Nomi Carmona | Babes Against Biotech | Support | No |

Comments:

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