

## Senate Committees on Hawaiian Affairs and Water and Land

Monday, February 9, 2015

2:50 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 224

**Testimony of** Donna Ann Kameha`iku Camvel, `Ili of `Ioleka`a, Ahupua`a of He`e`ia, Moku of Ko`olaupoko, Mokupuni of O`ahu.

In **SUPPORT** of S.B. 786

Relating to the Aha Moku Advisory Committee

Appropriate funds for the administration and operation of the Aha Moku Advisory Committee and for Community outreach.

Aloha Chairs Shimabukuro and Thielen and Members of the Committees:

As you know, the sustainability of these Hawaiian Islands depends on adaptive, sustainable and collaborative management of atmosphere, land, water, forest, coast, fisheries, and ocean resources. Historically, water and land were and continue to be of critical concern as Hawai`i looks to the future particularly as associated with climate change impacts. The management of Hawai`i's lands and resources must continue to be a combined effort that involves and must include all agencies, departments, institutions, organizations and communities in Hawai`i.

The Aha Moku system is part of an adaptive and collaborative framework that was sanctioned by Act 228 in the legislative session of 2012. As a result of that legislative passage, which formally recognizes the Native Hawaiian Aha Moku system, a customary and traditional approach to land management, much work has been done to attempt to fulfill the Aha Moku mission mandates as documented in the Aha Moku's 2014 legislative report required by Act 288.

As an advisory body to the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Aha Moku serves the eight main Hawaiian islands which contain forty three traditional moku and five hundred eighty nine ahupua`a, a stunning amount when considered, but made manageable by virtue of Aha Moku's framework in which moku, ahupua`a and `ili representatives are essential as collaborative leaders from their communities who provide essential information, traditional customary and contemporary practices, and cultural expertise from each island. Last year, through the efforts of both the Aha Moku and DLNR, over forty individual issues were mitigated or are in the process of mitigation to the satisfaction of the individuals concerned.

The Aha Moku System is an example of integrated resource management for Hawai`i's lands and waters and clearly belongs in DLNR, however in order to reach its full potential, the Aha Moku requires a permanent departmental position and funding in order to execute its mission and mandates. While we thank the Office of Hawaiian Affairs for stepping in and providing the funding for the Aha Moku, clearly, the state and the legislature needs to make clear it's continued and intended support for sustainable land and natural resource management by permanently placing and funding the Aha Moku within DLNR.

I commend the Aha Moku Council for what it has been able to accomplish, but I am well aware of the work involved and the amount of work that needs to be further done for this council to reach its goals. I seriously urge the committee to support and pass S.B. 786 which would provide the funding necessary to continue the crucial work of the Aha Moku, thereby ensuring the Native Hawaiian population and the community at large, continued participation in the management of lands and resources related to traditional customary and contemporary practices. I thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Donna Ann Kameha`iku Camvel

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB786 on Feb 9, 2015 14:50PM  
Date: Monday, February 09, 2015 6:48:54 PM

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**SB786**

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for HWN/WTL on Feb 9, 2015 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa L. Nakama	West Hawaii Aha Moku	Oppose	No

Comments: I wish to re-submit my edited testimony as follows: 1. The executive director's letter to the department of interior representing all the Hawaiian people when in fact, she did not have the permission of the AMAC to do so. The ED works for the committee. The AMAC committee did not direct her to write such a letter. The AMAC committee's job is to advise the DLNR Chair on natural resources. Neither did the Hawaiian people give her mpermission to represent them. The AMAC committee has no authority over anyone. It is an advisory committee to the chair of DLNR. 2. Puako-The AMAC committee should have advised the DLNR chair to consult with Moku O'Keawe before moving the recommendation to the board and then to the governor. 3. This bill as stated best serves only the salary of the ED (executive director). The request in this bill is illogical and I have no confidence and in fact it is simply frustrating to know for a fact that the report sent to legislation was lies and manipulation of words to make her report to the legislation's only sound like she communicated with other moku's. The truth of the matter is that, the ED and Moku O'Keawe representative, although invited, never attended any of our meetings, especially when we were working very hard to protect our unique resources when we were encountering with opposition to protect our resources. If this bill passes it will only serve the selflessness support the inefficiencies, waste and improper operations spending and making us believe that this bill serves the communities. This bill if pass will be counterproductive with unintended consequences, and this must stop, enough of wasteful spending. It is with hope and we constantly pule to have a puwalu and create an unprecedented meeting to identify the weakness in the current State Aha Moku Advisory Council system and propose new solutions. First and foremost remove the existing (ED) Executive Director who already has been reported to have violated the sunshine law. Taxpayers funds should be spent appropriately, the people of Hawaii deserve no less.

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