



SCR68/SR39

URGING THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS TO DEVELOP A PLAN FOR ITS FIVE HUNDRED ELEVEN ACRES OF THE FORMER GALBRAITH ESTATE

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 5, 2016

1:00 p.m.

Room 211

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SCR68/SR39, which urges OHA to develop a plan for its 511 acres of the former Galbraith Estate in furtherance of the purposes and objectives promoted in Act 31 (2015); specifies that the plan must include the objectives and goals of contributing to Hawai'i's food self-sufficiency and creating a sustainable and efficient model for agriculture in the State; and requires OHA to provide a report to the Legislature 20 days prior to the convening of the 2017 Regular Session. The five-acre Kūkaniloko siteⁱ and the surrounding 511 acres are collectively referred to below as OHA's Wahiawā property.

As discussed below, current plans for OHA's Wahiawā property take into consideration the substantial agricultural potential of the property, as well as Kūkaniloko's cultural significance. OHA believes that its anticipated uses for the property, which have been finalized in a Conceptual Direction for a Master Plan (Conceptual Direction), are consistent with this resolution because they support the purposes of Act 31, namely, the perpetuation of traditional Hawaiian farming systems, growth of traditional Hawaiian crops, and development of small-scale farms. Further, the uses will contribute to Hawai'i's food self-sufficiency and help create a sustainable and efficient model for agriculture.

OHA's anticipated land uses include the following categories:

Ho'oulu 'Āina – An agricultural zone for mixed-use agriculture, which will make up a majority of the land area and will advance agricultural production in the Wahiawā region, including through the production of food crops as well as through educational and job training opportunities;

Ho'omāmalama/Ho'ona'auao – A cultural learning center zone, which will include culturally focused agriculture, organic and/or culturally informed farming practices, an agricultural demonstration plot, a Hawaiian botanical garden, and a Cultural Resource Center; and

Palena 'Āina – A protective zone, which will include the Kūkaniloko birthing stones and other major cultural sites, and will host a range of cultural and educational opportunities.

With regards to the Palena 'Āina zone, it should be noted that Kūkaniloko is a site of extremely deep cultural and historical significance for Hawaiians. Kūkaniloko served as the birthplace of the most sacred ali'i, and was known as a chiefly center and training ground where traditional resource management and governance was taught to the next generation of leaders. Kūkaniloko is considered a source of considerable mana (supernatural or divine power), and the site is recognized as the piko (navel) of O'ahu. The site is also listed on both the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Accordingly, OHA's plans include appropriate protection for the sacred nature and cultural significance of Kūkaniloko and its surrounding lands, with mechanisms to ensure that OHA's beneficiaries and the community interact with the site appropriately and with an understanding of its unique and sacred nature.

OHA has already made significant progress on the multi-phased planning process for its Wahiawā property and has undertaken efforts to preserve the Kūkaniloko birth stones; understand what types of agriculture are best suited for the water and soil conditions of the Wahiawā property; identify archeological sites and archeologically sensitive areas; and comprehensively plan for the future based on current conditions. Specifically, and as further detailed below, contracts for a Preservation Plan and a Water, Soil, and Agricultural Report are already underway, and contracts for an Archeological Inventory Survey Plan and Master Plan will be finalized in the near future.

To date, OHA has contracted Nohopapa Hawai'i, LLC, to complete a Preservation Plan for the five-acre parcel encompassing the Kūkaniloko birth stones. This Preservation Plan will include extensive ethnographic information based on prior publications as well as interviews with community members and experts. The Preservation Plan will require fieldwork and documentation, and will provide OHA with clear recommendations for the preservation and long-term maintenance of the site. The Plan will also inform the culturally appropriate development of the surrounding agricultural lands. The Preservation Plan should be completed by the end of this year.

OHA has also contracted with Roth Ecological Design International, LLC (REDI), to conduct a Water, Soil, and Agriculture Report. This report will provide OHA with an in-depth review of water source options, soil types and qualities, and what forms of agriculture are feasible in the Wahiawā property. REDI has been specifically instructed to review the feasibility of traditional forms of Hawaiian agriculture and other sustainable farming practices such as organic farming, agroforestry, and permaculture. This report should be completed within one year.

OHA is also in the process of negotiating a contract to complete an Archaeological Inventory Survey Plan (AISP) and finalizing a solicitation to be published for a Master Plan for its Wahiawā property. The notice for the Master Plan contract will be published in the near future. The AISP contract should be finalized shortly. The AISP shall serve to identify archaeologically sensitive areas and will inform the implementation procedures of the Master Plan, including the completion of a full Archaeological Inventory Survey. The AISP should be complete within 12-18 months from when the contract is executed.

The Master Plan will build upon the current Conceptual Direction for OHA's Wahiawā property. The Master Plan will present a finalized design for the future use of the property based on community input, the Conceptual Direction, the Preservation Plan, the Water, Soil, and Agriculture Report, and the AISP. OHA expects the Master Plan to be completed within 18-24 months from when the contract is executed, and will include steps to further contribute to those purposes and objectives promoted in Act 31, increase Hawai'i's food self-sufficiency, and create a sustainable and efficient model for agriculture.

In summary, OHA has and will continue to make clear and measurable progress on finalizing a comprehensive, well-informed, and culturally appropriate plan for OHA's Wahiawā property.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** SCR68/SR39. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

ⁱ The five-acre parcel is currently under the jurisdiction of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, which is in the process of setting aside the parcel via Governor's Executive Order to OHA.