



HCR6 HD1

RECOGNIZING THE HISTORIC SUCCESS OF COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP UNDER THE TRADITIONAL KONOHIKI FISHING RIGHTS SYSTEM IN SUSTAINING AN ABUNDANT NEARSHORE ENVIRONMENT AND A THRIVING POPULATION AND CULTURE, AND URGING THE STATE TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT, ADOPTION, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CULTURALLY-GROUNDED, COMMUNITY-DRIVEN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS TO STEWARD, RESTORE, AND PERPETUATE OUR NEARSHORE RESOURCES AND MAINTAIN AND PROTECT ASSOCIATED CULTURAL TRADITIONS AND VALUES.

House Committee on Judiciary

April 4, 2017

2:15 p.m.

Room 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HCR6 HD1, which is a measure in OHA's legislative package. **This resolution would express the Legislature's recognition and support of subsistence, kīpuka communities' efforts to guide harvesting and conservation practices in their nearshore waters, consistent with the principles underlying the highly successful konohiki fishing rights resource management system.**

The ahupua'a-based konohiki fishing rights system ensured sufficient abundance in Hawai'i's nearshore waters to sustain a pre-Western contact population of up to a million or more residents. This system allowed hoā'āina ("tenants") and konohiki ("landlords") to directly control harvesting and conservation practices in the coastal waters of their ahupua'a, based on their intimate knowledge of, connection to, and reliance upon the resources of their place.

After the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom, the Hawai'i Territorial government's largely successful effort to abolish the konohiki fishing rights system led to a century of decline in our once abundant nearshore fisheries. The ongoing decline in our nearshore fisheries today may threaten the survival of Hawai'i's few remaining subsistence, kīpuka communities, as well as undermine Hawai'i's economic, ecological, and recreational interests.

Fortunately, many kīpuka, subsistence communities are now seeking to work with the state on local marine management initiatives, to protect and perpetuate traditional practices and subsistence lifestyles dependent upon abundant nearshore resources. These communities possess deep and intimate knowledge of their nearshore areas, informed by generations of daily observation and reliance. As described in this resolution, adopting their management proposals, which seek to guide harvesting and conservation practices in

their local waters, would apply many of the fundamental principles underlying the success of the konohiki fishing rights system, including:

1. Looking to those with the most intimate knowledge of and connection to an area's resources and ecological features, to establish harvesting and conservation guidelines for the area;
2. Incorporating place-based traditions and customs that preserve cultural and community connections to the nearshore area and its resources; and
3. Fostering a continued sense of kuleana in community members, to actively steward and care for the nearshore resources of their place.

Accordingly, state support of these community efforts may have the best chance of successfully restoring and maintaining abundant nearshore fishery resources. Notably, the success of these communities' efforts may also inspire other communities to reconnect and take responsibility for the resources of their place, thereby transforming our nearshore resource management paradigm, and helping to save our ocean environment, our cultural heritage, and a foundation of our islands' economies and local ways of life.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HCR6 HD1, and recognize the potential for community-driven fisheries management to once again restore and sustain abundance in our nearshore waters. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 4, 2017 7:26 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: dkapua@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR6 on Apr 4, 2017 14:15PM

HCR6

Submitted on: 4/4/2017
Testimony for JUD on Apr 4, 2017 14:15PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HCR 6 HD1 - RECOGNIZING THE HISTORIC SUCCESS OF COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP UNDER THE TRADITIONAL KONOHIKI FISHING RIGHTS SYSTEM IN SUSTAINING AN ABUNDANT NEARSHORE ENVIRONMENT AND A THRIVING POPULATION AND CULTURE, AND URGING THE STATE TO SUPPORT AND ADMINISTER THE DEVELOPMENT, ADOPTION, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CULTURALLY-GROUNDED, COMMUNITY-DRIVEN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS TO STEWARD, RESTORE, AND PERPETUATE OUR NEARSHORE RESOURCES AND MAINTAIN AND PROTECT ASSOCIATED CULTURAL TRADITIONS AND VALUES. Hawaiian-led traditional and culturally grounded nearshore fishery practices, with community involvement, is beneficial to all Hawaii. Mahalo for this opportunity to request PASSAGE of HCR 6 HD1 out of your committee.

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Sent: Monday, April 3, 2017 8:15 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: auliig@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR6 on Apr 4, 2017 14:15PM

HCR6

Submitted on: 4/3/2017

Testimony for JUD on Apr 4, 2017 14:15PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aulii Dudoit	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly SUPPORT HCR6 HD1 which is a resolution that seeks to support subsistence, kīpuka communities' efforts to guide harvesting and conservation practices in their nearshore waters, consistent with the principles underlying the highly successful konohiki fishing rights resource management system. Many subsistence community members and long-time fishers have voiced the critical need for better fisheries management now, to save our remaining stocks from irreparable collapse. Unfortunately, the Western, top-down model of fisheries management has clearly failed to conserve and sustain our vital ocean resources. The historical success of the traditional konohiki fishing rights system demonstrates that community-driven, place-based management approaches may give us the best chance of successfully saving our nearshore fisheries from the numerous threats they currently face. This resolution will signal the legislature's support of restoring such community-driven fisheries management approaches to government agencies and communities alike. I urge the Committee to PASS this resolution.

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Submitted testimony for HCR6 on Apr 4, 2017 14:15PM

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Tue 4/4/2017 9:58 AM



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HCR6

Submitted on: 4/4/2017

Testimony for JUD on Apr 4, 2017 14:15PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lori Buchanan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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