

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Chair Committee of Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair – Committee of Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair Committee on Water and Land
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair on Water and Land

Testimony of Hailama Farden, Premier of Hale O Nā Ali'i O Hawai'i

Aloha kākou!

I submit this testimony on behalf of the Hale O Nā Ali'i O Hawai'i (Hawaiian Benevolent Royal Society). The Hale O Nā Ali'i O Hawai'i stands in full support of HCR 80. HDI (HSCR 1633); requesting that DLNR establish a working group to study the potential transfer of Mauna 'Ala to an appropriate non-profit organization.

The Hale O Nā Ali'i O Hawai'i was reorganized on April 7, 1918 in Honolulu and links its origins to the Hale Nauā II established by King David Kalākau in the Kingdom of Hawai'i. The Hale O Nā Ali'i O Hawai'i truly appreciates that the Hawai'i State Legislature has included that one member of the said working group be from the 'Aha Hīpu'u (conglomerate of the four Hawaii Benevolent Royal Societies. As I am one of the founders of the 'Aha Hīpu'u, I too am in support of the 'Aha Hīpu'u's voice being added. The Hale O Nā Ali'i O Hawai'i is currently comprised of seven chapters on five islands with strong members with extensive cultural knowledge.

The purpose of this testimony to request that the Committees hearing this resolution consider allowing the Hale O Nā Ali'i O Hawai'i an individual seat on the said working group. Of the four Royal Societies, the Hale O Nā Ali'i O Hawai'i is the only that possesses burial rituals that it continuously uses since its inception. These Rituals are longstanding cultural burial practices that contain Rituals even for the services of our Ali'i. Further, Two of the past Ikū Lani Ho'āno (Regents) of the Hale O Nā Ali'i O Hawai'i are interred at Mauna 'Ala (namely; Princess Abigail Wahīka'ahu'ula and Prince David Kalākaua Kawānakoā) for whom our private and sacred burial rituals were performed at their passing.

This testimony, in no ways negates the Hale O Nā Ali'i O Hawai'i's support for the 'Aha Hīpu'u also having a seat on the working group, however, the Hale O Nā Ali'i O Hawai'i wishes to assert its request to have a designated seat on the working group for itself; and should this be approved, the Hale O Nā Ali'i O Hawai'i would not seat one of its members on the designated 'Aha Hīpu'u seat.

Finally Hale O Nā Ali'i O Hawai'i thanks the above committees for considering this request. The Hale O Nā Ali'i O Hawai'i stands in full support of HCR 80. HDI (HSCR 1633).

Me Ke Aloha

Hailama VKK Farden, Premier
Hale O Nā Ali'i O Hawai'i