



*KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA*  
**KAHO`OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION**

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Michael K. Nāho`opi`i  
*Executive Director*

**Testimony of**  
**MICHAEL K. NĀHO`OPTI**  
**Executive Director**

**Before the Senate Committee on**

**WAYS & MEANS**

**Thursday, March 29, 2018**  
**10:50 AM**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 221**

**In consideration of**  
**HOUSE BILL 2594 HOUSE DRAFT 2, SENATE DRAFT 1**  
**RELATING TO THE KAHO`OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION**

House Bill 2594 HD 2 SD 1 appropriates funds for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission to restore, preserve and determine the appropriate uses of Kaho`olawe Island, and to fund one full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) permanent position, a Cultural Resource Project Coordinator, for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission. The Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) strongly supports this position and recommends that the Senate Committee on Ways & Means find the resources to fund this measure.

In the State's FY18/FY19 approved biennium budget, Act 49 SLH 2017, KIRC was authorized 15 temporary positions and \$1,065,147 (FY18) and \$1,097,047 (FY19) in general funds for the management and restoration of the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve. Of these funds, \$883,647 is set aside each year for Personal Services. The remaining balance is allocated for \$93,000 each year for current lease payments for the KIRC's Wailuku office and \$88,500 (FY18) and \$120,000 (FY19) for Maui-based cost such as office and commission operation expenses and travel.

The additional funding is necessary to support volunteers, contractors and KIRC staff while on Kaho`olawe. This includes housing, on-island transportation, repair and maintenance of our buildings and infrastructure and safety equipment and supplies. Additionally, the funds are necessary to support the operations, repair and maintenance of the KIRC's landing craft, which is the primary means of transporting people, supplies and equipment to Kaho`olawe.

Due to the vacancy of the KIRC Cultural Resource Project Coordinator position in 2016, the KIRC was not able to include this position with those authorized in Act 49. This position is necessary to review and coordinate the various request to use the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve for Native Hawaiian cultural practices; conduct regular surveys and archaeological preservation of

the island's 612 archaeological sites and 2,063 features; and to oversee the KIRC's Kaho`olawe Island Burial Council and island-wide National Historical Register status.

This funding is necessary for the KIRC to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and managing the appropriate, safe uses of the Reserve for the people of Hawai`i. Funding will enable the continuation of innovative KIRC land and ocean restoration programs for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve and entrust a unique and critical opportunity to introduce, encourage and develop the next generation of land, ocean and cultural resource managers through an integrated *mauka to makai* volunteer program. Through immersive, hands-on experiences within a cooperative natural and cultural resource management system, these opportunities incorporate both traditional indigenous practices and modern scientific methods.

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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Re: HB 2594, HD2, SD1

RELATING TO THE KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE  
COMMISSION.

Appropriates funds for the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve  
Commission to restore, preserve, and determine the appropriate  
uses of Kaho'olawe island, and to fund one full-time equivalent  
permanent cultural resource project coordinator position for the  
Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission. (SD1)

For hearing on Thursday March 29, 2018

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

This bill proposes to transfer \$600,000 in the original bill to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to provide funding for specified programs of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission for fiscal year 2018-2019, plus \$53,864 for one staff position.

Please do not place ANY financial burden on the taxpayers of the State of Hawaii regarding Kaho'olawe. Here's why.

Let OHA pay all costs associated with the rehabilitation of Kaho'olawe -- an island which this legislature and OHA both believe will be handed over in the near future to the Hawaiian tribe which OHA has been working so hard to create for at least 18 years.

As the language of this bill points out, "Pursuant to section 6K-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the management and control of the Kaho'olawe island reserve will be transferred to a sovereign Native Hawaiian entity upon its recognition by the state and federal governments. This event is anticipated to occur within the timeframe of the 2026 strategic plan."

In Act 195 (2011) this legislature set in motion a process now underway to create a Hawaiian tribe. The U.S. Department of Interior recently proclaimed a regulation whereby that tribe can get federal recognition -- the final rule 43CFR50 proclaimed by the U.S. Department of Interior by publication in the Federal Register on October 14, 2016. Both Act 195 and the Department of Interior regulation insist that the Hawaiian tribe must be exclusively for Native Hawaiians, and that anyone lacking a drop of the magic blood must be ruthlessly excluded.

According to OHA trustee Lei Ahu Isa, OHA has used approximately \$33 Million of state government money over the years to lobby for federal recognition of a Hawaiian tribe either through the Akaka bill or through advertising and racial registration programs both in Hawaii and on the mainland. OHA provided the entire funding for an election of

delegates and a monthlong meeting in 2006 which produced a proposed constitution for the tribe. OHA has repeatedly pledged that when a Hawaiian tribe has achieved federal recognition, OHA will transfer all its assets to the tribe.

If the tribe is successful in creating itself and getting federal recognition, section 6K-9 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes guarantees that the island of Kaho'olawe will immediately be ripped away from the State of Hawaii and handed over to the Hawaiian tribe, to which people with no native blood are forbidden to belong.

It would be foolish and immoral for the State of Hawaii to spend taxpayer dollars collected from 100% of Hawaii's people of all races to pay for upgrades to an island which is expected to be removed from the State of Hawaii and handed over to a sovereign "nation" [tribe] restricted by law to one racial group whose people are perhaps 20% of Hawaii's people, most of whom will probably not even join the tribe. Once the tribe has been created there will be negotiations between the State of Hawaii vs. the tribe to decide how much additional land and money the State will give to the tribe. The State should not give away resources before the negotiations even begin.

OHA's most recent annual report (2017) shows that OHA has total assets of more than \$600 million. And it continues getting more payments of state government money (ceded land revenues plus legislative appropriations) every year, including a bill in this year's legislature demanding \$35 million per year from ceded land revenues.

Enough already! OHA can easily afford funding for Kaho'olawe. Let OHA pay whatever money it wishes to pay to KIRC to rehabilitate Kaho'olawe -- an island which this legislature and OHA both believe will be handed over in the near future to the Hawaiian tribe which OHA is working so hard to create.

**HB-2594-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 9:51:46 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/29/2018 10:50:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Testifying for Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu and Ke One O Kakāhihewa-O'ahu Council are in strong support of HB2594 HD2 SD1. The work of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission has exemplified the importance of integrating Hawaiian culture with natural resource management. And it has enabled residents and visitors to learn the cultural, rancing, and miliatry history of the island. Plese pass this important measure.



# Ocean Tourism Coalition

*The Voice for Hawaii's Ocean Tourism Industry*  
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March 29, 2018

Testimony to: Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Presented by: Jim Coon, President  
Ocean Tourism Coalition

Subject: H.B. 2594, H.D.2, S.D. 1  
RELATING TO THE KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION.

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

My name is James E. Coon, President of the Ocean Tourism Coalition (OTC). The OTC represents over 300 small ocean tourism businesses state wide. Most of these are family businesses which are locally owned and operated. Many of them have been in business for several decades and are an important and valued part of their respective communities. Most of these businesses operate from State Boating Facilities. While this proposed legislation does not directly impact our industry we believe that the restoring, preserving and the determining appropriate uses of Kaho'olawe is important to everyone who calls Hawaii home. It is our opinion that KIRC should be supported by the general tax revenue.

Please pass H.B. 2594, H.D. 2, S.D. 1. It is the right thing to do to help restore Kaho'olawe.

**HB-2594-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 4:00:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/29/2018 10:50:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Garrett Ward	Testifying for Activities of Kauai	Support	No

Comments:

We have a duty to provide all the help programs like the KIRC need. Restoring a Hawaiian ecosystem so future generations can enjoy it is something totally worth investing in. We support the bill.



**HB-2594-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 2:08:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/29/2018 10:50:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lopaka White	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2594-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 1:40:13 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/29/2018 10:50:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
johann winkler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and committee members, I support this measure to provide additional financial and staff support for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission. They have taken the lead in demonstrating that it is possible to reverse ecological damage after years of neglect and abuse, to preserve our native cultural history for future generations and to connect our residents with the healing of Kaho`olawe through meaningful and safe work on the island.

**HB-2594-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 1:03:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/29/2018 10:50:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kylee Mar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2594-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 12:23:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/29/2018 10:50:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Terez Amato Lindsey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2594-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 11:45:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/29/2018 10:50:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kelly McHugh	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and committee members, I support this measure to provide additional financial and staff support for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission. They have taken the lead in demonstrating that it is possible to reverse ecological damage after years of neglect and abuse, to preserve our native cultural history for future generations and to connect our residents with the healing of Kaho`olawe through meaningful and safe work on the island.

**HB-2594-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 2:38:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/29/2018 10:50:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Grant Thompson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2594-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 3:10:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/29/2018 10:50:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rob Guzman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I urge you to vote in favor of HB2594 HD2 SD1 to continue the amazing work being done to restore Kaho'olawe. Mahalo.

**HB-2594-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 3:44:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/29/2018 10:50:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Roy Alameida	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and committee members, I support this measure to provide additional financial and staff support for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission. They have taken the lead in demonstrating that it is possible to reverse ecological damage after years of neglect and abuse, to preserve our native cultural history for future generations and to connect our residents with the healing of Kaho`olawe through meaningful and safe work on the island.

Mahalo for your time.

Roy Alameida



**HB-2594-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2018 8:08:55 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/29/2018 10:50:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cassandra L. Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and committee members, I fully support this measure to provide additional financial and staff support for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission. The KIRC has demonstrated that it is possible to reverse ecological damage after years of neglect and abuse with its many successful restoration projects.

The KIRC also has the responsibility to preserve the irreplaceable native cultural resources for future generations, and to connect our communities with the healing of Kaho`olawe through meaningful and safe work on the island as well as local outreach efforts. Specifically, the KIRC Cultural Resource Project Coordinator position is critical to continuing this work.

Humbly,

Cassie L. Hokuikakai Smith

**HB-2594-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2018 7:37:11 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/29/2018 10:50:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jan Becket	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in support of HB2594

I have visited Kaho'olawe five times since 1994 and have witnessed first hand the results of a dedicated and focused effort to mitigate the environmental damage to the island and to restore native ecosystems. When I first visited in 1994, I hiked across the island with a group of Kamehameha Students as a chaperone / supervising teacher. Vast sections of the upland were totally bare, stripped of vegetation. Now, when I have gone more recently, I see large sections planted in endemic Hawaiian vegetation, which is clearly taking hold and spreading.

This could not happen without the dedication of a few people who have made the island their life's work. It has been clear on recent visits that the restoration effort is inadequately funded and staffed. Nonetheless, the KIRC staff has compensated in amazing and creative ways to cover missing positions and to maintain a rich educational experience for volunteers.

I fully support HB2594. Please offer your support as well.

Jan Becket

Kamehameha teacher (retired)

**HB-2594-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2018 6:19:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/29/2018 10:50:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
rebecca joy zalke	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this important measure to provide financial support and sustainability to restoration

**To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means, March 28th, 2018**

**From: KEOLA LIMKIN**

**Re: Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB 2594 HD2 SD1**

Hello and aloha Chairs and committee members,

I support this measure to provide additional financial and staff support for the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC). During the Fall of 2017, I assisted a group of former foster youth to access Kaho‘olawe and do restoration work. Kaho‘olawe continues to present opportunities for people of all ages who have experienced trauma to heal and rewire their brains through positive activities. As being a former foster youth myself, I too have found healing. Support for KIRC would allow for a continuation of healing for the land and for state residents.

Best,  
Keola Limkin

**HB-2594-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2018 4:34:26 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/29/2018 10:50:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leslie Scamacca	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and committee members, I support this measure to provide additional financial and staff support for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission. They have taken the lead in demonstrating that it is possible to reverse ecological damage after years of neglect and abuse, to preserve our native cultural history for future generations and to connect our residents with the healing of Kaho`olawe through meaningful and safe work on the island.

March 27, 2018

Person Submitting Testimony: Hannibal E. Starbuck

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Hearing on March 29, 2018, 10:50 AM Conference Room 211

Subject: HB2594 SD1 Relating to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB2594 SD1. Funding is necessary for the efforts of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission to continue. Kaho'olawe is a very special island with a deep history. Virtually every person I have known to have visited the island has been moved in one way or another. Personally, I have been to Kaho'olawe 4 times, having travelled as a paddler in an outrigger canoe for part or all of the crossings to and from Maui each of these times. My parents were members of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana since the early eighties and have gone over so many times I have no idea how many. Other family members have been over there as well. Even though the island has been damaged by grazing of animals and desecrated by bombs, it has a world to offer. It is a living classroom for navigation and Hawaiian culture. As a high school science teacher I recognize precious examples of unique meteorology, oceanography, and geology on and around the island. Please allow KIRC to continue their stewardship by securing substantial funding through this bill. Imua na pua lanakila Kaho'olawe.

Mahalo,

Hannibal E. Starbuck

Pukalani, Maui

**HB-2594-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 10:54:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/29/2018 10:50:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
kalani fukumoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

i support this bill to fund KIRC. The work KIRC has done to restore Kahoolawe must continue so please fund KIRC.

mahalo,

kalani fukumoto

**HB-2594-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 9:39:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/29/2018 10:50:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Cotin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and committee members, I support this measure to provide additional financial and staff support for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission. They have taken the lead in demonstrating that it is possible to reverse ecological damage after years of neglect and abuse, to preserve our native cultural history for future generations and to connect our residents with the healing of Kaho`olawe through meaningful and safe work on the island.



**HB-2594-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 8:33:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/29/2018 10:50:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dianna Wilcox	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and committee members, I support this measure to provide additional financial and staff support for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission. They have taken the lead in demonstrating that it is possible to reverse ecological damage after years of neglect and abuse, to preserve our native cultural history for future generations and to connect our residents with the healing of Kaho`olawe through meaningful and safe work on the island.

**HB-2594-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 6:01:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/29/2018 10:50:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Galutau Aga	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and committee members,

My name is Galutau Aga and I support this measure to provide additional financial and staff support for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission. They have taken the lead in demonstrating that it is possible to reverse ecological damage after years of neglect and abuse, to preserve our native cultural history for future generations and to connect our residents with the healing of Kaho`olawe through meaningful and safe work on the island. Thanks you for your time. Aloha.

**HB-2594-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2018 9:32:38 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/29/2018 10:50:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Terri Gavagan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I wish to testify in support of HB2594. The Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) has completed impressive things under very difficult environmental and financial constraints. The staff has developed innovative methods in its mission to restore Kaho'olawe as well as forging working relationships for various organizations in its additional mission of educating the public about Kaho'olawe. It is important that funding be restored to hire a Cultural Resources Project Manager so that the KIRC can continue its mission while continuing to integrate Hawaiian cultural values in its projects.

Mahalo for allowing me to submit testimony on this very important matter.

**HB-2594-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2018 9:53:25 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/29/2018 10:50:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kevin Gavagan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

ua lawa makou i ka pohaku. Please remember our kuleana to support and maintain this Aina, this Puuhonua. It is a learning place for the entire state on culture and conservation malama aina. May our actions go beyond the words

Mahalo