



HAWAII COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



KAKA
KALAELOA

David Y. Ige
Governor

John Whalen
Chairperson

Garett Kamemoto
Interim Executive Director

547 Queen Street
Honolulu, Hawaii
96813

Telephone
(808) 594-0300

Facsimile
(808) 594-0299

E-Mail
contact@hcdaweb.org

Web site
www.hcdaweb.org

LATE

STATEMENT OF

GARETT KAMEMOTO, INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN
AFFAIRS

Friday, February 9, 2018

10:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 312

in consideration, of
**HB2613 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HEEIA NATIONAL
ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE**

Chair Ing, and Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee.

The Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) supports HB
2613.

The HCDA board is a signatory to the He`eia National Estuarine Research Reserve
(NERR) Governance Charter. The Governance Charter is a multi-party agreement
among the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, HCDA, DLNR and other
stakeholders that endorse a commitment to participate in the programs of the
He`eia NERR. The primary goals of the He`eia NERR include:

- Increasing our understanding of the effects of human activities and natural events to improve informed decision-making affecting the sustained management of He`eia;
- Developing a place-based education and training program for the He`eia NERR; and
- Engage various communities to create opportunities for collaboration to practice and promote stewardship that sustain cultural, biological and natural resources.

The He'eia NERR enjoys broad community support; therefore, we support HB 2613, which appropriates funds for the fiscal year 2018-2019 to manage the initial staff positions necessary to develop and manage the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2613.

HB-2613

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 5:15:36 PM

Testimony for OMH on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting H.B. 2613 Making an Appropriation for He'eia
National Estuarine Research Reserve
House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, and Hawaiian Affairs
Friday, February 9, 2018, 10:00AM, Room 312

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which life depends. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. We manage 40,000 acres in 14 preserves and work in 19 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs and waters of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnerships with government, private parties and communities to protect Hawai'i's important watershed forests and coral reefs.

The Nature Conservancy supports H.B. 2613 which would provide funding for staffing in support of the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. State funding is anticipated to be matched by \$700,000 in federal funds from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) partners with states and territories to ensure long-term education, stewardship, and research on estuarine habitats. Atlantic, Gulf, Pacific, Caribbean and Great Lakes reserves advance knowledge and stewardship of estuaries and serve as a scientific foundation for coastal management decisions.

The ahupua'a of He'eia on the island of O'ahu is one of twelve NOAA-designated Sentinel Sites and in January 2017 was designated as the [29th National Estuarine Research Reserve](#). The He'eia NERR encompasses upland forests and grasslands, wetlands, reefs and seagrass beds, as well as Kāne'ōhe Bay—the largest sheltered body of water in the Hawaiian Islands. The designation reflects the community's desire to ensure the protection and sustainable management of valued cultural, historical and natural resources. The proposed NERR will also enhance the community's capacity to use scientific information for decision-making, and increase local and national support for research, education, and restoration efforts in the region.

He'eia contains a world-class research institution (Hawai'i Institute for Marine Biology) and multiple community organizations including Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, Ko'olau Foundation, Kāko'o 'Ōiwi, Paepae o He'eia, and the He'eia State Park working together to develop and implement effective management strategies in an entire ahupua'a. Collaboration between these organizations is recognized as necessary because of the interconnected relationship each ecosystem has to another within the He'eia ahupua'a. Any effect up in the mountains will work its way into the wetlands and lo'i (traditional wetland agriculture systems), flow downstream to the loko i'a (fishponds) and eventually into the bay and onto coral reefs.

Ecologically, Kāne'ōhe Bay is unique and the opportunity to highlight this special type of estuarine system is unparalleled in Hawai'i. From a research perspective, Kāne'ōhe Bay has experienced a history of significant disturbances, from wastewater effluent to invasive algae. However, its variety of corals have shown to be some of the most resilient and able to recover from recent bleaching events around the entire state. This condition may provide insight into how to save other coral reefs around the state from future unfavorable ocean conditions.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mark E. Agne Paul D. Alston Dr. C. Tana Burkert Anne S. Carter Richard A. Cooke III
Brian J. Doyle Dr. Alan M. Friedlander James J.C. Haynes III Sean A. Hehir Kris N. Kobayashi Eiichiro Kuwana
Brett MacNaughton Kathy M. Matsui James C. Polk Dustin E. Sellers Nathan E. Smith (Chair) Peter K. Tomozawa Richard N. Zwern

Ihupani Advisory Council: Christopher J. Benjamin Kenton T. Eldridge Duncan MacNaughton Jean E. Rolles Crystal K. Rose
Founders: Samuel A. Cooke Herbert C. Cornuelle

HB-2613

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 9:57:31 AM

Testimony for OMH on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:



Ko`olau Foundation

P. O. Box 4749
Kane`ohe, HI 96744
malamapono744@aol.com

February 9, 2018

To: Rep. Kaniela Ing, Chair
Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources & Hawaiian Affairs

From: Aaron D. Mahi, President
Ko`olau Foundation

Subject: Supporting H.B. 2613, Funding for He`eia NERRS Cultural Resource Position

Aloha Chair Ing, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of this Committee:

On behalf of the Ko`olau Foundation, we offer our strong support for House Bill 2613, which would provide funding for the cultural resource staff person of the He`eia National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERRS), a federal and state partnership program which became law in 2016.

The Ko`olau Foundation is a Native Hawaiian cultural organization dedicated primarily to preserving the history and heritage of the Hawaiian people through advocacy, protection or restoration of historic sites, and cultural awareness education programs throughout the islands.

Our organization is among the community groups who have partnered with the State Departments of Land & Natural Resources and the University of Hawai`i, and with the U.S. National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration to establish this NERRS. The He`eia NERRS is the 29th within the network of the federal program nationwide, so designated by President Obama as one of his last official acts on Jan. 19, 2017.

As active participants in the planning for this NERRS, the Ko`olau Foundation emphasized the need to incorporate Hawaiian traditional and cultural thinking about sustainable practices that could support the healthy management of this important estuary in Kane`ohe bay. In our view, this is one of the main reasons that our state's application to become a part of the federal-state NERRS program was approved, and ours is the ONLY estuary site that has this cultural component.

While we are grateful and thank this legislature for funding three staff positions of He`eia NERRS last session, unfortunately, the fourth position – a cultural resource staff person – was not included.

We are here today to strongly urge that you include funding for this important component of the NERRS that was left out a year ago. We understand the three other positions – program manager,

research and education coordinators, are already embedded in the UH budget. We would like to suggest that this funding be added, to be attached to Windward Community College for administration of the position. The three other positions are currently administered by UH's Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology.

In closing, we reiterate our deep appreciation for the Legislature's continuing support of the important research and restoration efforts underway to create a healthy estuary for He`eia and Kane`ohe bay, and ask your kokua to pass H.B. 2613 out of committee and by the Legislature for this year's budget.

Mahalo nui loa for allowing us to share our mana`o.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs
Friday, February 9, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

By
Ruth Gates, Director
Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology
And
Michael Bruno
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

LATE

HB 2613 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE HE'EIA NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE

Chair Ing, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2613, making an appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR), provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Supplemental Budget. HIMB strongly supports this measure but would like to offer some clarifications and suggested changes to the bill as describe below.

We are highly supportive of the effort to maintain the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve (HeNERR) and are pleased to see continuing support of the site through HB 2613 with its inclusion of the needed personnel resources for the HeNERR. However, our understanding is that 3 of the 4 requested positions (Reserve Manager, Research Coordinator & Education Coordinator) were already permanently allocated to the university by the legislature during the 2017 session, thus they need not be included again in this current bill. These three positions are required at every designated NERR site in the nation by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, thus their permanent designation last year fulfilled the required match for the annual federal funding allocation enabling the site partners to implement the HeNERR management plan. However, a fourth position for a Cultural Resource Coordinator, while initially included in last year's bill, ultimately was not funded in 2017. Although not required for the NERRS federal funding, HIMB and the HeNERR site partners believe the Cultural Resource position is critical to the long-term success of the mission.

The establishment of He'eia as one of the 29 Research reserves across the nation has enabled the Site Partners, which includes the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, Ko'olaupoko Foundation, Paepae O He'eia, Kāko'o 'Ōiwi, and UH's Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB), to work with the State management agencies with jurisdiction for the lands (Division of Land and Natural Resources, Hawai'i Community Development Authority) to undertake a historic effort to restore He'eia to a functioning

ahupua'a, and conduct research and monitoring needed to document the utility and value of this management strategy for coastal communities elsewhere. As outlined in the detailed management plan, this effort involves the removal of alien invasives and replacement with native and naturalized species throughout the area, restoration of the lo'i kalo, the loko kuapā and He'eia stream that runs through the site and links mauka to makai. Given that the ultimate goal is to restore a functioning ahupua'a, it is critical to have a cultural coordinator intimately involved in this effort.

HeNERR is unlike any other in the system - it is a coalescence of community, culture and research to combine modern science with traditional methods and cultural practices in the hope of restoring a more productive watershed and learning from the past to better inform a more bountiful and sustainable future in the face of a changing climate and increased human population. Unlike other federal NERRs, this designation effort has been community led from the beginning and was first proposed in the Kāne'ohe Bay Master plan. The designation of HeNERR is the culmination of decades of effort by the community of He'eia, and it is essential that Native Hawaiian culture and traditional practices be given equal prominence in this effort as the federally mandated science and education. Such prominence can best be realized through state investment in a position for the Cultural Resources Coordinator, and we are fully supportive of the communities' request for this position. This unique site will expose the youth of Hawai'i and those across the U.S. to a broad array of cultural and science concepts from historical and modern land use to ecological knowledge to cutting edge marine biology, and will empower the community to restore He'eia with the backing from the State of Hawai'i and the NERRS federal funding. If successful, it will serve as an example for others who seek to restore impacted watersheds and increase the productivity of nearshore fisheries throughout the Hawaiian Islands and to the broader Pacific beyond.

The Resource Manager, Research & Education Coordinators are full-time permanent positions, housed within the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB) as the lead State Partner on this effort. We would recommend that mechanisms be explored to create a fourth permanent position, similar to the 3 already allocated to HIMB as State match, to ensure culture be integrated into the restoration and management of He'eia now and in perpetuity, in accordance with the management plan. However, we also recognize that HIMB may not be the best fit for a permanent cultural resource coordinator, and we are happy to work with the committee to explore options for the creation and housing of a position in other departments with the appropriate expertise that will ensure the long-term stability of this position and success of the individual recruited in achieving the vision of restoring a functioning ahupua'a for the HeNERR.

In closing, we would like to reiterate our enthusiastic support for the intent of HB 2613 and thank your committee for the opportunity to offer this testimony.



LATE

KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs

Time: 10:00 AM
Date: February 9, 2018
Where: Conference Room 312

TESTIMONY
By Jason Jeremiah
Kamehameha Schools

To: Chairs Ing and DeCoite and Members of the Committee

RE: **HB 2613 Making An Appropriation for He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve.**

E nā Luna Ho'omalū Ing, nā Hope Luna Ho'omalū DeCoite, a me nā Lālā Lunamaka'āinana o kēia Kōmike, aloha! My name is Jason Jeremiah and I serve as the Director of Natural and Cultural Resources for Kamehameha Schools.

Kamehameha Schools is writing in **support of HB2613**. The bill will provide funds that will help advance the He'eia estuary with good science research, educational and cultural integration into the management of the reserve. The success of the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve will allow Hawai'i to learn more about the intersection of the marine and terrestrial environments and provide critical insight into the current and future stewardship of He'eia's near shore and coastal waters, including He'eia fishpond, a traditional resource that is being restored to produce food for Hawai'i.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an organization striving to advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership.

'A'ohe hana nui ke alu 'ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui.

LATE

HB-2613

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 12:32:28 PM

Testimony for OMH on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Milholen	Kokua Hawaii Foundation	Support	No

Comments:



LATE

KO'OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

February 9, 2018

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT – H.B. 2613
Making an Appropriation for He`eia National Estuary Research Reserve

TO: Chair Kaniela Ing, Vice Chair Lynn DeCoite
And Members
Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Alice P. Hewett, President
Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club

The Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club strongly supports passage of H.B. 2613, which would appropriate funding for the staffing of the He`eia NERRS – National Estuary Research Reserve System – to provide enhanced management of this important area of Kane`ohe bay.

As one of the largest clubs in the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, our members come primarily from the nine ahupua`a around Kane`ohe bay. Our club is a community partner in the He`eia NERRS, joining together with other organizations and state and federal agencies to support a healthy ahupua`a and estuary in He`eia.

In this bill, we are asking you to add funding for the fourth position to staff the NERRS – the cultural resource staff person. We are very grateful to you for last year's funding of the initial three positions – the program manager, research coordinator and education coordinator – but unfortunately, the cultural resource staff position was not included.

As a community partner, our club participated in the extensive planning and preparation for creation of this NERRS, an effort that took several years. It was always our understanding that cultural resource management, integrating Hawaiian traditional practices, would make this a stronger NERRS. These views are among the core objectives of the He`eia NERRS, and we think it is important that this cultural position be included to enable the staff to carry out their work as effectively as possible.

We are working closely with the University of Hawai`i, and with our other community partners, to ensure that this cultural resource position meets the needs of the He`eia NERRS as much as possible. We would also like to urge that this position be attached to Windward Community College for administrative purposes, as they have a Hawaiian Studies program and marine science program, both of which can assist in providing support and learning opportunities through the NERRS.

We appreciate all that you do, and respectfully ask your support for House Bill 2613 to fund full staffing for the He`eia NERRS. Mahalo.

The Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club was established in 1937 and is one of the largest in the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs nationwide. Ko`olaupoko HCC is a not-for-profit community organization dedicated to preserving and perpetuating the history, heritage and culture of Native Hawaiians and providing leadership and scholarships. Its membership is open to people of Hawaiian ancestry and those who are "Hawaiian at heart."

HB-2613

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 1:34:29 PM

Testimony for OMH on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Davlantes		Support	No

Comments:



**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Aha Moku Advisory Committee
State of Hawaii
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

LATE

Testimony of
Rocky Kaluhiwa, Po'o
Kaluhiwa, (Island of O'ahu)

Before the House Committee on
Ocean, Marine Resources and Hawaiian Affairs

Friday, February 9, 2016
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

**In SUPPORT of
House Bill 2613
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HE'EIA NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE**

House Bill 2613 supports the He'eia Estuary in its designation as a National Estuarine Research Reserve by appropriating funds to maintain the initial staff necessary to develop and manage He'eia reserve and its programs.

On behalf of the Mokupuni of Kekuhihewa (Island of Oahu), Moku O Ko'olaupoko, Ahupua'a of He'eia, we strongly support House Bill 2613.

The Aha Moku System, attached to the State of Hawaii through the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Brings forward the voices of the people regarding the natural and cultural resources within the specific Ahupua'a in which they live. In this case, the site is the Ahupua'a of He'eia. Generational and traditional families of He'eia have always taken care of, and supported the He'eia Estuary. Today, the restoration of the coastal He'eia Fishpond, meticulous care of upstream projects and the continuous work done by the people of He'eia have helped to restore the unique ecosystem of the He'eia Ahupua'a.

Kupuna (elders) strongly believe that for the He'eia Estuary to thrive, the desire to be *pono* (good and righteous), reinforced by education, and strong community organization along with a collaborative relationship with governmental agencies, such as the DLNR State Parks and the University of Hawaii, as they are all centered on holistic management will result in a healthy estuary. He'eia Estuary has all those components.

He'eia Estuary has been designated as a National Estuarine Research Reserve and can benefit all who look to it as an example of a healthy ecosystem in the State of Hawaii. However, to be truly successful, it needs to maintain staff necessary to develop and manage this Reserve, and its programs.

We urge this Committee to fully support HB 2613 which would ensure that this traditional site known as the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve will continue to thrive.

Mahalo nui loa!

LATE

HB-2613

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 10:16:48 PM

Testimony for OMH on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rob Toonen		Support	No

Comments:

Chair Ing, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources & Hawaiian Affairs, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB2613, Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve (HeNERR). I strongly support the intent of this bill.

I wish start by saying that while I am a professor at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, I am offering this as personal testimony and do not speak on behalf of the University.

I currently have the privilege of serving as the Acting Manager for the Reserve until permanent staff can be hired. We are currently in the process of recruiting a Reserve Manager, Research Coordinator and Education Coordinator through positions allocated during the last legislative session. However, because NOAA mandates only these three positions as a condition of the funding, the requested fourth position, the Cultural Resources Coordinator, was not funded in the last round. This bill would support that missing fourth position. Although the position is not required, and no other site has one, it is essential to this site to achieve its goals.

As the Acting Manager, I am currently responsible for coordinating efforts to make progress on the Reserve Management Plan, which seeks to remove alien invasive species and replant native and naturalized species throughout the site. The major goal of the management plan is to restore HeNERR to a functional ahupua'a and determine whether the restoration activities, by changing the land and water use, results in a more productive and resilient watershed where human and natural communities thrive.

This is an ambitious goal, and one that holds both great promise and responsibility. Clearly, the goal of restoring an ahupua'a is by its very nature a cultural effort and needs constant input from He'eia Site Partners, including, Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, Ko'olaupoko Foundation, Paepae O He'eia, and Kāko'o 'ĀĀiwi. I find myself constantly asking for information about history, cultural knowledge or traditional practices in my efforts to fill the role of Acting Manager. While the three positions currently being recruited meet the State responsibility of the federal funding, and can manage the activities mandated by NOAA, they cannot truly achieve the mission of the site without a Cultural Resources Coordinator. I encourage your committee to support this essential but missing team member to assist the HeNERR reaching its full potential and integrating culture into every aspect of the site. This will benefit not only our

community but will also reach a national audience through the 28 sister sites located throughout the continent.

In closing, I would like to reiterate my enthusiastic support for HB2613 funding the much needed Cultural Resources Coordinator position, and I want to thank your committee for the opportunity to offer this testimony.