

# OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846  
Fax: (808) 587-2824  
Web: <http://planning.hawaii.gov/>

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

LEO R. ASUNCION  
DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of  
**LEO R. ASUNCION**  
Director, Office of Planning  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND**  
Wednesday, February 8, 2017  
9:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of  
**HB 588**  
**RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HE'EIA NATIONAL  
ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE.**

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and Members of the House Committee on Water & Land.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports HB 588, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) is a network of coastal sites designated to protect and study estuarine systems. Established through the Coastal Zone Management Act (16 U.S.C. §§1451-1466), the reserves represent a partnership program between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the coastal states. In 2012, OP was designated as the lead agency to coordinate the site selection for a Hawai'i site and resulting nomination process for the He'eia site to be designated as a NERR.

The He'eia site, located on the windward shore of O'ahu and including He'eia State Park, He'eia Fishpond, and the He'eia Community Development District (CDD), as well as marine waters with patch and fringing reefs and Moku o Lo'e (Coconut Island), was chosen as the preferred site after a statewide solicitation period from interested communities. OP supported the designation process through the development of the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve Management Plan (Management Plan). On January 19, 2017, the He'eia site was officially designated as the 29<sup>th</sup> site in the NERRS, which enables federal funding to support the implementation of the Management Plan.

The University of Hawai‘i, Hawai‘i Institute of Marine Biology is the lead agency for the implementation of the Management Plan with site partners to include: the Hawai‘i Community Development Authority (HCDA), the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Paepae o He‘eia, as well as supporting community organizations such as the Ko‘olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, Ko‘olau Foundation, and Kako‘o Oiwi. HB 588 would support the staffing needs of four (4) full-time equivalent positions as outlined in the Management Plan to initiate successful implementation and to meet funding match requirements of the NOAA partnership.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HAWAII COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



KAKA  
KALAELOA

David Y. Ige  
Governor

John Whalen  
Chairperson

Jesse K. Souki  
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

STATEMENT OF

JESSE K. SOUKI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

BEFORE THE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

ON

Wednesday, February 8, 2017  
9:00 A.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of

**HB588 – RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HE‘EIA  
NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE**

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong and members of the committee.

This testimony reflects my view alone. The Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) has not acted on this specific measure.

In my capacity as the HCDA Executive Director, I respectfully offer **comments** on HB 588.

While the HCDA board has not had the opportunity to opine on this bill, the board did vote, at its meeting on January 4, 2017, to become a signatory to the He‘eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. The Reserve is a multi-party agreement among the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, HCDA and other organizations. The Reserve enjoys broad community support. Therefore, we support the intent of HB 588 to support the reserve as long as it does not replace priorities requested in the Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.





# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Water and Land  
Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

By  
Dr. Ruth D. Gates, Director  
Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### HB 588 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HE'EIA NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 588, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Budget.

In my role as Director of the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology, I am presenting testimony in strong support of HB 588, the success of which will allow the University to staff the newly designated He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR). The designation and inclusion of He'eia in the national network of estuarine reserve sites, marks the culmination of two years of collaborative action by members of the local community (Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, the Ko'olaupoko Foundation, Paepae O He'eia, Kako'o 'Ōiwi) and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology).

The He'eia NERR is unlike any other in that it is a coalescence of community and science; federal, state and local efforts; and modern science and traditional knowledge that aims to implement and understand how restoration efforts in the He'eia wetland influence the health of the adjacent estuarine ecosystem. The federal funding that accompanies the He'eia NERR will serve to forward activities that explicitly expose the youth of Hawai'i, and students across the US, to a broad array of science concepts from land use to ecology to marine biology all in the context of traditional land management. The four positions requested in HB 588 will coordinate research, management, education and cultural activities inside the He'eia NERR and are, in my opinion, the lynchpin to successful collaborative stewardship of the He'eia watershed.

I ask the committee to approve HB 588 and thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of this important House Bill.

Feb 7, 2017

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee on Water & Land,

I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588, Relating to Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve.

I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The project will benefit the community and serve as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science and I ask that you support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

Sincerely,

**Iria Fernandez Silva, Ph.D.**

California Academy of Sciences - Ichthyology

Ph: [415.379.5203](tel:415.379.5203)

Fax: [415.379.5731](tel:415.379.5731)

Cell: [415.996.6772](tel:415.996.6772)

Golden Gate Park  
55 Music Concourse Drive  
San Francisco, CA 94118

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Supporting H.B. 588 Making Appropriation for He'eia  
National Estuarine Research Reserve  
House Committee on Water & Land  
Wednesday, February 8, 2017, 9:00AM, Room

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*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.*

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The Nature Conservancy supports H.B. 588 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 [29<sup>th</sup> National Estuarine Research Reserve](#). The He'eia NERR encompasses upland forests and grasslands, wetlands, reefs and seagrass beds, as well as Kāne'ohe 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'ohe Bay is unique and the opportunity to highlight this special type of estuarine system is unparalleled in Hawai'i. From a research perspective, Kāne'ohe 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

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# KO`OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

February 8, 2017

To: Rep. Ryan Yamane, Chair  
& Members  
Committee on Water & Land

From: Alice P. Hewett, President  
Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club

Re: Support for H.B. 588 – Appropriation for Heeia NERRS Program

On behalf of the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, aloha mai kakou!

Our civic club is the largest Native Hawaiian organization on Windward O`ahu, and comprises membership from the nine ahupua`a around Kane`ohe bay.

We strongly support this appropriations bill, which would provide matching funds for \$700,000 in federal dollars set aside for the National Estuarine Research Reserve System, one of only 28 such sites nationwide.

The Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club is among the community partners in this program, which includes representatives of NOAA, the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, the Department of Land & Natural Resources, State Office of Planning, Paepae o He`eia, Kako`o `Oiwi, the Ko`olau Foundation and others.

We have been working for the past several years on this program, and were gratified that NOAA approved He`eia as a NERRS site in late January. Just as exciting was two years ago, when He`eia was also identified as a national Sentinel Site, drawing federal attention and support for the important environmental and cultural resources of this Windward ahupua`a.

The federal funding set aside for He`eia NERRS, however, will not come to our state unless we have matching funds from Hawai`i. We urgently need to satisfy this requirement to ensure the federal-state-community partnership on the NERRS can proceed.

Please pass House Bill 588. Mahalo nui loa.

*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."*





*Ko`olau Foundation*

P. O. Box 4749  
Kane`ohe, HI 96744

February 7, 2017

TO: Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Rep. Sam Satoru Kong, Vice-Chair  
Members  
Committee on Water & Land

FROM: Aaron Mahi, President  
Ko`olau Foundation

SUBJECT: H.B. 588 – Support for Appropriation for Heeia NERRS

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong and Honorable Members of this Committee:

On behalf of the Ko`olau Foundation, aloha mai kakou!

The Ko`olau Foundation strongly supports H.B. 588, which would provide for an appropriation for the Heeia National Estuarine Research Reserve.

As one of the community partners for the Heeia NERRS, the Ko`olau Foundation has devoted several years of support for the work to develop and prepare plans for this exciting federal, state and community initiative that we expect will have long-term benefits for the ahupua`a of Heeia and for Kaneohe Bay.

Most of our Foundation's work involves restoration of cultural sites in the uplands of this ahupua`a, in Haiku Valley. We recognized early in our participation that activities up mauka can affect lands makai and near-shore waters of the bay.

We believe combining our efforts to identify environmental challenges to this ahupua`a and the estuarine waters at the seashore of He`eia, and collaborate to find solutions to these problems.

We urge you to approve this important appropriation bill.

Mahalo for allowing us to share our mana`o.

koolaufoundation@gmail.org

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 588

To: Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Representative Sam Satoru Kong, Vice-Chair  
Members: T. Cullen, C. Evans, L. Ichiyama, C. Lee, N. Lowen, C. Say, B. Fukumoto  
COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

From: J. Kanekoa Kukea-Shultz Kāko'o 'Ōiwi Executive Director  
Kako'o'Oiwi, 46-004 Kawa Street, Suite #104  
Kane'ohe, HI 96744

Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, February 97, 2017  
9:00 AM, Conference Room 325

Subject: **Support of HB588, Making an appropriation for He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve**

Representative Yamane and Kong, Committee Members:

My name is J. Kanekoa Kukea-Shultz. I am the Executive Director for Kāko'o 'Ōiwi. I offer testimony today in Support of HB588, Making an appropriation for He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR). This will benefit our community and our State!

The process for selecting the NERR site in Hawaii has taken two years and many meetings with the He'eia Community and its neighbors. At the end of this process, the community developed a NERR that is unique among the 29 NERR sites around the United States. The He'eia NERR encompasses an entire watershed and the site is designed to incorporate traditional ecological knowledge in its effort to understand estuarine ecology in a paleotropical environment. It is the only site in the U.S. with these unique attributes and is critically important for the information it will provide to the NERR data system.

The He'eia NERR site will bring together community members from the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, the Ko'olaupoko Foundation, Paepae O He'eia, Kāko'o 'Ōiwi, and the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology in its future development. The Hawaii State Office of Planning has been an integral part of this planning effort. The Hawaii Community Development Authority has also worked with the planning organization to ensure that the He'eia NERR plan meets its developmental goals for the He'eia lands. With ongoing NOAA support and support from the Hawaii legislature to provide the four positions in HB 588, the NERR will provide educational outreach to Hawaii's citizens and a site that will demonstrate the restoration of wetlands to promote a health estuarine ecosystem. The NERR will provide support in allowing our community to walk the path of their ancestors using traditional practices and agriculture while still utilizing the present resources to develop and enhance our lands.

I ask the COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND to approve HB588. Thank you for this opportunity to present this testimony.

Aloha J. Kanekoa Kukea Shultz

## kong2 - Crystal

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2017 8:11 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** kebahr@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB588 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM

### HB588

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keisha Bahr	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee on Water & Land, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588, Relating to Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The project will benefit the community and serve as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science and I ask that you support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Richard Coleman  
Ph.D Candidate  
1022 Prospect St #404  
Honolulu, HI 96822

Committee of Water & Land  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Letter of support for HB588

6 February 2017

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee on Water & Land,

I am writing this letter in **support of HB588**, Relating to Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. This reserve provides a unique opportunity for science and traditional knowledge to come together to restore the He'eia watershed. The project will provide a direct benefit the surrounding communities as well as serve as a example to the rest of the nation of how science can be used as a tool to benefit local communities. I ask that you please support the passage of this bill to secure the States match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Coleman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'R'.

Richard Coleman  
Ph.D Candidate

## kong2 - Crystal

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2017 8:28 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** malia0650@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB588 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM

### **HB588**

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments: Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee on Water & Land, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588, Relating to Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The project will benefit the community and serve as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science and I ask that you support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

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**kong2 - Crystal**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2017 8:32 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** carolyfong@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB588 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM

**HB588**

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carol Fong	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I wish to offer testimony in support of HB588. I believe this reserve will benefit the community and fully support the appropriation needed to match the Federal funding for this project.

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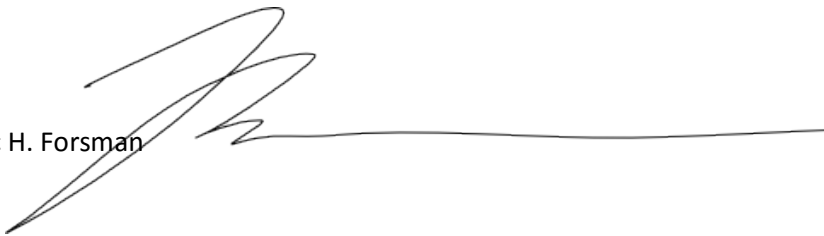
Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee on Water & Land,

I am writing you to provide my testimony in strong support of HB588, Relating to Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve.

This bill is incredibly important and I strongly support it. The watershed of He'eia is very important to O'ahu and Hawai'i, particularly since the watershed empties into a unique coral reef habitat that is one of the best studied reef systems in the world. This proposal will bring together ancient knowledge and management practices, engaging the community, and partnering with modern science to rehabilitate and restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The project will benefit the community in many, many ways, such as providing volunteer and educational opportunities for youth of all ages, improving locally sourced traditional farming practices, regaining and disseminating traditional knowledge regarding watershed management. The project will also serve as an important example for the nation, by integrating science and culture... something that is so vitally important in the troubled and divided times we find ourselves in. I know that there are fears of budget cuts at the federal level, but we cannot be influenced by fear. I strongly urge you to help the community fight for federally funded programs such as these, since they were promised and will serve the benefit of the greater good in so many ways. Please support the passage of this bill to secure State matching funds for the Federal funds that have already been committed.

Maholo Nui Loa for your Kokua

Zac H. Forsman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zac H. Forsman', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.



Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee on Water & Land,

I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588, Relating to Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve.

I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The project will benefit the community and serve as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science and I ask that you support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

Rebecca Weible  
rweible@hawaii.edu

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee on Water & Land,

I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588, Relating to Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve.

I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The project will benefit the community and serve as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science and I ask that you support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

Sincerely

Michael Hoban

[mhoban@hawaii.edu](mailto:mhoban@hawaii.edu)

930 Spencer St

Honolulu, HI 96822

## kong2 - Crystal

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2017 8:43 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** iknapp@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB588 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM

### **HB588**

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ingrid Knapp	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee on Water & Land, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588, Relating to Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The project will benefit the community and serve as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science and I ask that you support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

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## kong2 - Crystal

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2017 8:52 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** may.roberts4@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB588 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM

### HB588

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
May Roberts	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee on Water & Land, thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588, Relating to Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The project will benefit the community and serve as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science and I ask that you support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

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## kong2 - Crystal

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2017 8:55 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** bbowen@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB588 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM

### **HB588**

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brian Bowen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee on Water & Land: This is my personal testimony in support of HB588, Relating to Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. I strongly support this bill as it will reinforce cultural connections to Kaneohe Bay and provide for monitoring. We all know what the invasive algae did to Kaneohe Bay. If it had been caught earlier, it could have been eliminated and saved us millions of dollars and lost fishing opportunities. Therefore, monitoring by HIMB may prevent problems before they start. A good investment in our natural resources! Mahalo for listening. Brian Bowen

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## kong2 - Crystal

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2017 9:01 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** vicentejan@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB588 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM

### HB588

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
JAN	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee on Water & Land, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588, Relating to Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The project will benefit the community and serve as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science and I ask that you support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

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**kong2 - Crystal**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2017 9:24 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** jenjolex@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB588 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM\*

**HB588**

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Darren Lerner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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## kong2 - Crystal

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2017 9:48 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** puritz@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB588 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM

### **HB588**

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments: Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee on Water & Land, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588, Relating to Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The project will benefit the community and serve as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science and I ask that you support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

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## kong2 - Crystal

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2017 10:16 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** ealenz@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB588 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM

### **HB588**

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Elizabeth Lenz	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee on Water & Land, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588, Relating to Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The project will benefit the community and serve as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science and I ask that you support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

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February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee on Water & Land,

I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588, Relating to Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve.

I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The project will benefit the community and serve as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science and I ask that you support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Remy Gatins', with a stylized flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Remy Gatins  
PhD Student  
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology  
University of California, Santa Cruz  
<http://remygatins.wordpress.com/>  
rgatins@ucsc.edu

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee on Water & Land, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588, Relating to Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve.

I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The project will benefit the community and serve as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science and I ask that you support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

## kong2 - Crystal

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2017 11:29 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** johanna\_wren@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB588 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM

### **HB588**

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Johanna Wren	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee on Water & Land, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588, Relating to Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The project will benefit the community and serve as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science and I ask that you support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

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## kong2 - Crystal

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2017 11:29 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** gbj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB588 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM

### HB588

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Garrett Johnson	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am writing you to provide my testimony in strong support of HB588, Relating to Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. My Masters research in Marine Biology at HIMB was on Uhu, and this allotment would help to ensure that there are many fish in the bay for many generations of hawaiians down the road. This bill is incredibly important and I strongly support it. The watershed of He'eia is very important to O'ahu and Hawai'i, particularly since the watershed empties into a unique coral reef habitat that is one of the best studied reef systems in the world. This proposal will bring together ancient knowledge and management practices, engaging the community, and partnering with modern science to rehabilitate and restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The project will benefit the community in many, many ways, such as providing volunteer and educational opportunities for youth of all ages, improving locally sourced traditional farming practices, regaining and disseminating traditional knowledge regarding watershed management. The project will also serve as an important example for the nation, by integrating science and culture... something that is so vitally important in the troubled and divided times we find ourselves in. I know that there are fears of budget cuts at the federal level, but we cannot be influenced by fear. I strongly urge you to help the community fight for federally funded programs such as these, since they were promised and will serve the benefit of the greater good in so many ways. Please support the passage of this bill to secure State matching funds for the Federal funds that have already been committed. Maholo Nui Loa for your Kokua

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## kong2 - Crystal

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2017 11:31 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** lindsaymveazey@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB588 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM

### **HB588**

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lindsay Veazey	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee on Water & Land, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588, Relating to Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The project will benefit the community and serve as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science and I ask that you support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

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Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania St  
Honolulu, HI 96813

06 February 2017

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588, relating to making an appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve.

As a long-term resident of O'ahu who has worked in the Kāne'ohe Bay region for over a decade, I strongly support bill HB588. This project will benefit the Kāne'ohe Bay community and serve as an example for the nation in how the integration of culture and science can bring about impactful results to communities. The reserve will provide a platform to meld traditional methods of management with modern science to help restore the impacted watershed of He'eia.

I ask that you support the passage of this bill to secure the State of Hawai'i funding match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Iacchei". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matthew Iacchei

Iain R. Caldwell  
3721 Kanaina Ave, Apt 315  
Honolulu, HI 96815  
862-438-0279  
[Robertson.caldwell@gmail.com](mailto:Robertson.caldwell@gmail.com)

February 6, 2017

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee on Water & Land,

I am writing to provide my personal testimony in strong support of Bill HB588, Relating to Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. This reserve will not only provide opportunities to better understand the natural world from a scientific perspective but will be of great benefit to local communities. Through strengthened partnerships between the multiple NGO's and scientists already working in this area, this reserve will be the perfect place to showcase how traditional management methods can be paired with scientific methods to affect positive change in the environment for everyone. I therefore ask that you support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding already committed towards this effort.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of this important bill.

Best regards,  
Iain Caldwell



## kong2 - Crystal

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 1:15 AM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** htpinheiro@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB588 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM

### **HB588**

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Hudson T Pinheiro	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee on Water & Land, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588, Relating to Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The project will benefit the community and serve as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science and I ask that you support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this effort. For additional information, feel free to contact me, Best Regards Hudson

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## kong2 - Crystal

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 5:46 AM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** kuuleir@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB588 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM

### **HB588**

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
kuulei Rodgers	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This bill is critical to community and scientific relations to protect the fragile environment for future generations.

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February 6, 2017

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee on Water & Land, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588, Relating to Making an Appropriation for the Heʻeia National Estuarine Research Reserve. I strongly support this bill.

I wish I was able to attend the hearing and offer you testimony in person, but I am teaching my class at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa at the same time as this hearing. As a faculty member at UH Mānoa, I must first say that I support the prioritization process used by the administration to establish their annual budgetary request to the legislature and can only advocate for additional funding of university programs if it does not negatively impact existing requests that are included in the executive budget.

I believe that HB588 is such a measure and is very worthy of support because it will benefit not only Heʻeia and the community that lives there, but will serve as an example across the Nation. The establishment of a NERRS in Kāneʻohe Bay has been in development for a long time. Pursuant to Act 208, Session Laws of Hawai'i 1990, the Legislature established the Kāneʻohe Bay Master Planning Task Force to develop a comprehensive Master Plan for Kāneʻohe Bay. The Master Plan was developed through extensive public participation and was officially released in 1992. The Department of Land and Natural Resources is mandated to implement the provisions of this Master Plan that were adopted by the Legislature, and even those not adopted by the Legislature are to be used as the recommended guidelines with regard to all permitted activities in Kāneʻohe Bay (Hawai'i Revised Statutes § 200-39). One of the recommendations of this Master Plan was to explore the potential for a National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) for the area and to secure funding for the programs needed to monitor, educate and administer any such area (pgs 78-79).

Over the last several years the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the State of Hawai'i Office of Planning (OP) have been working with Heʻeia Site Partners, including, Koʻolaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, Koʻolaupoko Foundation, Paepae O Heʻeia, Kākoʻo ʻŌiwi and UH's Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB) to get Heʻeia designated as part of the NERR system as well as develop a Management Plan (MP) for the Heʻeia NERR. Through a series of well-attended public meetings, many members of the community were part of the discussions to develop the MP that will be implemented for the area. It is important to note that a NERRS is not a sanctuary or Marine Life Conservation District. The designation as a NERRS site does not change any existing regulations or authority for the region (which currently lies with DLNR and HCDA), but does enable the individual efforts of each of these community groups to coordinate into a larger vision for restoration of Heʻeia to return to Native Hawaiian practices in an effort to document the value of this management strategy.

When I say I believe this support will benefit the Nation, it is because this NERR is unlike any other in the system - it is a coalescence of community and culture and research to combine modern science with traditional methods and cultural practices in the hope of restoring a more productive watershed from mauka to makai. Additionally, unlike other federal NERRs, this designation effort has been community led from the beginning. The NERRS 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 Heʻeia with the backing from the State of

Moku O Loʻe (Coconut Island)  
P.O. Box 1346  
Kāneʻohe, Hawai'i 96744-1346  
Telephone: (808) 236-7401  
Fax: (808) 236-7443

Hawai‘i and 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 beyond.

Now that He‘eia has been designated as the 29th NERRS in the Nation, the site partners are ready to begin implementing the MP, but doing so will require support. Being part of the NERRS, NOAA has made a long-term commitment of federal funds but that support requires an annual minimum 30% State match. These funds will be used for operation, research and education activities of the NERRS, including staffing for the He‘eia NERR. The MP has identified the need for four full-time permanent positions, housed within the Hawai‘i Institute of Marine Biology as the lead State Partner on this effort. These positions will include a full-time reserve manager, an education coordinator, a research coordinator, and a cultural resource coordinator. These permanent positions will be charged with implementing the MP by coordinating efforts among all the site partners and ensuring that the efforts of each will be enhanced through the partnership to the benefit of the broader community.

Before closing, I would just like to add some comment on the content of HB588 itself.

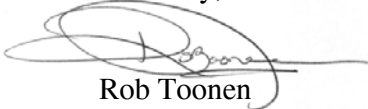
Page 1, Line 2: The national network now contains twenty nine sites with the designation of He‘eia.

Page 1, Line 2: The words “protected areas” give some the incorrect impression that this designation creates a sanctuary, or that it will change the regulations or access for the area. This designation does not alter existing State authority or add new regulations - only DLNR and the HCDA have that authority for this site. Perhaps it would be better to say “The National Estuarine Research Reserve System is a network of twenty-nine coastal areas along America’s coasts dedicated to research and education.”

Page 2, Line 1: This is not quite accurate because NOAA is not directly involved in implementing the management plan. NOAA is the federal partner who provides funding to the State of Hawai‘i lead (in this case the Hawai‘i Institute of Marine Biology) who is responsible for implementing the He‘eia Reserve’s management plan through cooperation with the site partners as laid out in the Management Plan. Perhaps it would be better to say “The site partners are currently poised to begin implementation of the He‘eia Reserve’s management plan.”

In closing, I would like to reiterate my enthusiastic support for HB588, and I want to thank your committee for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

Sincerely,



Rob Toonen

Moku O Lo‘e (Coconut Island)  
P.O. Box 1346  
Kāne‘ohe, Hawai‘i 96744-1346  
Telephone: (808) 236-7401  
Fax: (808) 236-7443

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee on Water & Land,

I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588, Relating to Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve.

I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The project will benefit the community and serve as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science and I ask that you support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

Thanks.

Cassie Lyons

[clyons@hawaii.edu](mailto:clyons@hawaii.edu)

(808)990-0534

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 588

To: Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Representative Sam Satoru Kong, Vice-Chair  
Members: T. Cullen, C. Evans, L. Ichiyama, C. Lee, N. Lowen, C. Say, B. Fukumoto  
COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

From: Jo-Ann Leong, Board member  
Kako`o`Oiwi, 46-004 Kawa Street, Suite #104  
Kane`ohe, HI 96744



Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, February 9, 2017  
9:00 AM, Conference Room 325

**Subject: Support of HB588, Making an appropriation for He`eia National Estuarine Research Reserve**

Representative Yamane and Kong, Committee Members:

My name is Jo-Ann Leong. I am a board member of Kako`o`Oiwi and Director Emeritus of the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology. I offer testimony today in Support of HB588, Making an appropriation for He`eia National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR).

The process for selecting the NERR site in Hawaii has taken two years and many meetings with the He`eia Community and its neighbors. At the end of this process, the community developed a NERR that is unique among the 29 NERR sites around the United States. The He`eia NERR encompasses an entire watershed and the site is designed to incorporate traditional ecological knowledge in its effort to understand estuarine ecology in a paleotropical environment. It is the only site in the U.S. with these unique attributes and is critically important for the information it will provide to the NERR data system.

The He`eia NERR site will bring together community members from the Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, the Ko`olaupoko Foundation, Paepae O He`eia, Kako`o`Oiwi, and the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology in its future development. The Hawaii State Office of Planning has been an integral part of this planning effort. The Hawaii Community Development Authority has also worked with the planning organization to ensure that the He`eia NERR plan meets its developmental goals for the He`eia lands. With ongoing NOAA support and support from the Hawaii legislature to provide the four positions in HB 588, the NERR will provide educational outreach to Hawaii`s citizens and a site that will demonstrate the restoration of wetlands to promote a health estuarine ecosystem.

I ask the COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND to approve HB588. Thank you for this opportunity to present this testimony.

## kong2 - Crystal

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 7:40 AM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** ewbarba@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB588 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM

### **HB588**

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Evan Barba	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee on Water & Land, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588, Relating to Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The project will benefit the community and serve as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science and I ask that you support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

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**waltestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 11:13 AM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** kfreel@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB588 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM

**HB588**

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kelle Freel	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee on Water & Land, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588, Relating to Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The project will benefit the community and serve as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science and I ask that you support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this effort. Thank you for your time, Kelle

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Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee on Water & Land, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588, Relating to Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve.

I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The project will benefit the community and serve as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science and I ask that you support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

Sincerely,  
Yvonne Chan  
4639 Waipahee Place  
Honolulu, HI 96821

## kong2 - Crystal

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 3:22 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** evsalas@cabrillo.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB588 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM

### HB588

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eva Salas	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee on Water & Land, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588, Relating to Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The project will benefit the community and serve as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science and I ask that you support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

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**LATE**

**kong2 - Crystal**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 4:56 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** moore.ejb@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB588 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM

**HB588**

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Evelyn Coffey	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee on Water & Land, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588, Relating to Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The project will benefit the community and serve as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science and I ask that you support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**LATE**

**kong2 - Crystal**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 5:26 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** hurleyk@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB588 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM

**HB588**

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kaleonani KC Hurley	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee on Water & Land, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588, Relating to Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The project will benefit the community and serve as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science and I ask that you support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

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**LATE**

Maya Maleka Walton  
1022 Prospect St. Apt. 404  
Honolulu, HI, 96822

February 7, 2017

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee on Water & Land,

I am writing in support of HB588. I'm a voter and resident living in the Makiki district in Honolulu and I spend my free time on the weekends volunteering to restore the streams, fishponds, wetlands, and lo'i in the He'eia watershed. There is a great work taking place in He'eia and a wonderful community of residents, researchers, local managers, cultural practitioners, educators, and young people who are dedicated to this place. I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588, Relating to Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve.

I strongly support this bill. The National Estuarine Research Reserve will add capacity and infrastructure to a place and projects that the community is already very invested in. I ask that you support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

Aloha

Maya Walton

**LATE**

**kong2 - Crystal**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 9:48 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** bsager42@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB588 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM

**HB588**

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bill Sager	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Establishment of the He'eia Nation Estuarian Research Reserve will require the State to match 30% of the project cost. The HNERR is important to Kaneohe because it will provide half a dozen good jobs in Kaneohe, It will provide intern opportunities for local high school students. and the project is a unique effort to combine modern science with Hawaiian Cultural Practice. It is also unique in that it takes a mountain to the sea, ahupua'a, approach to its scientific investigation.

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Testimony on HB 588

Testifier: Dr. Megan Donahue, Associate Researcher, Hawai'i Inst of Marine Biology

The successful nomination of He'eia as the 29<sup>th</sup> National Estuarine Research Reserve site is a remarkable honor and opportunity for Kāne'ohe Bay and Hawai'i. National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) sites are some of the best studied estuaries in the world, providing scientific insight and management recommendations for estuaries throughout the U.S. This is particularly important because estuary systems worldwide – including Hawai'i – have been greatly reduced in area and functionality by human development in the coastal zone. NERRS sites give us the opportunity to learn how we can maintain estuary ecosystem functions in the presence of human development.

Estuaries provide critical services to humans, including fisheries habitat, food production, coastal protection, and water filtration, and these services take on unique forms in Hawai'i compared to estuary systems in other areas of the U.S. The He'eia NERRS site is a venue for research, management, and community coordination with a Hawai'i-specific approach and, therefore, Hawai'i-specific outcomes and management recommendations. The He'eia NERRS proposal process has been an excellent example of how community organizations, resource managers, and scientists can work together toward a common goal, and this structure is reflected in the proposed positions supported by this bill: a research coordinator, a cultural resource coordinator, a reserve manager, and an education coordinator. These positions are critical to the successful establishment and functioning of the He'eia NERRS site, and the funds allocated by HB 588 are required as a co-investment by the State to access the federal funding received through NOAA-NERRS program.

As a scientist and community member, I strongly support the He'eia NERRS designation and HB-588, which will fund the positions required to establish this new community-supported, cooperative research effort.