

SB-1296

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 3:58:11 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michele McLean	Testifying for County of Maui / KIRC	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Member,

Please accept this testimony in strong support of SB1296 to provide additional funding to the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission. The Legislature has been a great partner to the KIRC in recent years, and this additional bridge funding is needed to continue the KIRC's restoration efforts while the KIRC works to implement its financial sustainability plan. We could not have come this far without your support, and hope to earn continued support this session.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Michele McLean, AICP

Acting Planning Director, County of Maui

Chairperson, Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission



KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA
KAHO`OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

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COMMISSION MEMBERS

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CARMEN HULU LINDSEY

Michael K. Nāho`opi`i
Executive Director

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

Before the Senate Committee on

WATER & LAND

**Wednesday, February 6, 2019
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1296
RELATING TO THE KAHO`OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION**

Senate Bill 1296 appropriates funds for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and determining the appropriate uses of the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve and to fund two full time equivalent (2.00 FTE) permanent positions, Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Specialists, for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission. The Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) strongly supports 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 Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Specialist II and III positions in 2016, the KIRC was not able to include these positions with those authorized in Act 49. These positions are necessary to support necessary safety and logistic functions as well as on-island restoration

efforts and sustainability field projects while on Kaho`olawe and act as boat crew while on KIRC vessels.

These positions are critically vital as the KIRC has observed a recent increase in unpredictability and severity of weather and ocean conditions in the waters surrounding Maui and Kaho`olawe most likely due to climate change and global warming, which has resulted in an increase need for additional manpower to safely and effectively operate the KIRC ocean vessel. The KIRC operates a landing craft between Maui and Kaho`olawe to transport staff, volunteers, materials and equipment between the island to support the on-island restoration efforts. The KIRC's currently designated boat crew of two consist of our Maintenance and Vessel Operator and our Logistic Specialist, other KIRC staff augment the boat crew as available. The current boat crew needs additional manpower to handling cargo, operating lines and equipment and as safety look-outs as we have been encountering rougher weather conditions and more boat traffic between Kaho`olawe and Maui.

Our current Kaho`olawe Field teams also need additional field support as we have been successful in expanding our restoration efforts to create more native dryland forest habitats, expand beach restoration and shoreline protection efforts, cultivate food sustainability and increase on-island water generation, collection, storage and distribution systems.

SB-1296

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:29:38 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher M. Kaipulaumakaniolono	Testifying for Protect Kahoʻolawe ʻOhana	Support	No

Comments:

ʻO ke Kahoʻolawe Island Reserve Commission ka mana mahi o Kohemālamalama. Iā nā moʻolono o ka Protect Kahoʻolawe ʻOhana ka hoʻomana a iā nā lima hana o ko ke KIRC ke kanu, e ʻole kekahi o ua mau mana ʻelua e kīkū ʻia ai ke ea a Kanaloa ma o ka hoʻouluwehiwehi hou ʻia ʻana o ia mokupuni. Ma ka ʻā ʻana aku a Kauikeaouli i kī ai kā ʻia hī ʻikena o ka ʻoia ʻi ʻo, "Ua mau ke ea o ka ʻā ina i ka pono." I mea e kī ʻ pono ai ke ea, he pono ke mālama ʻia ka pilina o ke kanaka i ka ʻā ina, ka ʻā ina i ke kanaka, a me ke kanaka i nā akua. ʻO ke kanaka ka muliwai e ʻl ʻā ai ka mana o ke akua a me ka ʻā ina, he haka nī hoʻi ke kanaka. Na ka PKO kekahi a na ke KIRC kekahi, ma o ke alu like ʻana o ua mau mana ʻelua e pono ai ka ʻā ina.

ʻO Kahoʻolawe ka ʻā koi o ke aloha ʻā ina o ka Iā hui. I pau ka hoʻomana ʻana i ia ʻā ina e pau ka hoʻomana ʻana i ka Iā hui, i pau ke kanu ʻana o ia ʻā ina ʻo ka hoʻopapau ʻana nī ia o ke kanu ʻana o ke aloha ʻā ina o ka Iā hui.



COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, February 6, 2019
TIME: 1:15 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 229

**TESTIMONY OF THE OCEAN TOURISM COALITION WITH SUPPORT OF SB1296
RELATING TO KAHOO LAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION**

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of WTL Committee:

My name is James E. Coon, President of the Ocean Tourism Coalition (OTC),
speaking with support of SB 1296 Relating to KIRC.

The OTC represents over 300 small ocean tourism businesses state wide.

While this proposed legislation does not directly impact our industry we believe
that the restoring, preserving and determining the appropriate uses of
Kaho'olawe is important to everyone who calls Hawaii home:

It is our opinion that KIRC and these efforts should be supported in perpetuity by
the General tax revenue.

Please pass SB 1296 It is the right thing to do to help further the goals of I Ola
Kanaloa and restore Kaho'olawe.

Sincerely,

James E. Coon, President, Ocean Tourism Coalition

SB-1296

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 11:41:13 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Testifying for Democratic Party of Hawaii, Hawaiian Affairs Caucu	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii supports appropriations for the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission. We urge passage of SB1296.

Center for Hawaiian Sovereignty Studies
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(808) 247-7942
Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D. Executive Director
e-mail Ken_Conklin@yahoo.com
Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Re: SB 1296

RELATING TO THE KAHO'OLAWA ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION.
Appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for support of the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission, including 2 full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) permanent positions.

For hearing on Wednesday, February 6, 2019

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

This bill proposes to transfer \$1,000,000 taxpayer dollars to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to provide funding for specified programs of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission for fiscal year 2019-2020, plus an additional \$72,000 for two FTE staff positions; and then the same amounts again for FY 2020-2021.

It's interesting that last year, 2018, the same legislation, SB3027 and HB2594, demanded only \$600,000 instead of \$1,000,000 to support the activities of KIRC. That's a 67% inflation rate in a single year! Yes it's an island, but does that mean we must spend like drunken sailors?

Please do not place this burden on the taxpayers of the State of Hawaii.

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 19 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.

This legislature simply must not confiscate tax dollars from 80% of Hawaii's people for a project which they will be racially excluded from.

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 \$662 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.

SB-1296

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 1:15:22 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

SB-1296

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 10:27:38 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mio Chee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-1296

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 12:24:21 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Hyde	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please continue to support/fund worthy efforts to reclaim the beauty and potential of this unique Hawaiian island.

SB-1296

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 1:48:37 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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.

SB-1296

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 3:40:20 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rob Weltman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-1296

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 10:16:14 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kalani fukumoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB1296 as it pertains to the restoration work being done on Kahoolawe.

It is amazing that this island is making a comeback from all the abuse that has hurt her immeasurably. The work needs to continue. Please provide funding.

kalani fukumoto

SB-1296

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 10:40:39 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roy Alameida	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I submit support of SB1296 to "Appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for support of the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission, including 2 full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) permanent positions." It is vital that Kaho'olawe receive support for its revitalization.

SB-1296

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 4:18:16 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Martin	Testifying for Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and committee members, I support this measure and it's companion, which 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.

SB-1296

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 4:30:09 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Omar Sultan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-1296

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 7:52:28 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carmela Noneza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-1296

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 8:13:11 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dean Tokishi	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.

SB-1296

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 9:44:14 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carol Marie Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this measure.

Mahalo for this opportunity.

SB-1296

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 10:35:14 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cassandra L. Smith	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 consideration,

Cassandra L. Hoku Smith

February 4, 2019

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Rebecca Kapolei Kiili and I am a Maui born native. I am also a Resource Teacher for Nā Kula Kaiapuni o Maui, the Hawaiian Language Immersion Program schools on our island. As a youth who traveled to Kaho‘olawe with Nā Pua No‘eau programs, I have been fortunate to benefit from my travels there beginning in 1994. Like many others who have experienced the island’s mana, beauty, and spirit, Kaho‘olawe holds great value and significance in my life. It is my hope that the island can continue to inspire, motivate, guide, and rehabilitate others in their own life journey.

Providing for the additional financial and staff support for the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) is a measure I strongly support. In my humble opinion, 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.

I recently returned from my fifth Volunteer access with a group of my high school Kaiapuni students and can tell you that I have seen firsthand the fruits of our labor and the work we previously contributed to the island. It is indeed a beautiful, hopeful, and a satisfying feeling to embrace. This access was extra special for me as I experienced the unfolding synchronicity of each day. It was truly manafu, magical, and memorable!

Kaho‘olawe’s value is priceless and immeasurable for the ways that the island moves people’s spirits and fills people’s souls. For our young adults, the island holds so much power in helping them to gain insight and perspective along their own life journey in discovering their own beauty and power. I recall one student telling me, “if there is hope for Kaho‘olawe, there is hope for all of us.”

‘A‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia. No task is too big when done together by all. (‘Ōlelo No‘eau 142) We need your help and support to continue caring for this precious resource.

Thank you for your time, support, and aloha.

Me ka na‘au ha‘aha‘a,

Rebecca Kapolei Kiili

Rebecca Kapolei Kiili
Kumu Kāko‘o Kaiapuni
Resource Teacher, Nā Kula Kaiapuni o Maui

SB-1296

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 1:29:35 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pamela Zirker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Policy Makers,

I am writing to you in support of Bill SB1296. I am concerned about making sure that Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, is amply supplied with the funding they need to complete their jobs with excellence. Kaho'olawe's restoration financial resources, are rapidly depleting. The funding for Kaho'olawe is in dire need of replenishing. I think legislators can make a difference for KIRC, if you could speak up about the present conditions of Kaho'olawe, considering the damage from Navy ordinances, which have destroyed this land. The injured land must be effectively and sufficiently replanted, and completely rid of invasive species, in order to be as naturally native, as it once was.

Use your powers of speech and persuasion, to explain to people who are roadblocks to the progress that is now being made by KIRC, and Protect Kaho'olawe Ohana, and squelch the resistance, and educate the mind set that doesn't understand, that materials, man power and supplies are not a given entity. You must ask for help and support, with your educated background knowledge, at every opportunity that you can, to bring attention to this innocent target.

So, in closing I stand with KIRC and PKO, and all of the other groups of people who lend their time attention and money, because I believe that this aina must be flourishing with native flora and fauna for it to be cured of its scars, before anyone can say the work has been completed.

I hope you will consider my thoughts when you allocate your budget.

Mahalo for the work you are about to accomplish.

Sincerely,

Pamela Zirker

6406 Kawaihau Rd.

Kapa'a, Kaua'i, HI 96746

Phone:(808)- 821-1350

SB-1296

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 4:21:21 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kylee Mar	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.

SB-1296

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 4:34:37 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anela Evans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-1296

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 6:01:47 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elaine Wender	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-1296

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 7:12:35 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Davianna McGregor	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.

Testimony of Kasha Ho'okili Ho, member, Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana
Senate District 23

In SUPPORT of Senate Bill 1296, RELATING TO THE KAHOOLOWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

Aloha Chairs and committee members,

I support this measure to provide additional financial and staff support for the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission. As an active member of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, I have worked closely alongside the KIRC staff over the past 15 years to restore the ecological, cultural, and spiritual landscape of Kaho'olawe. The KIRC has provided critical safety support for access on Kaho'olawe, as well as demonstrated 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 considering this bill, and I ask you respectfully to pass it out of committee.

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kasha Ho'okili Ho', written in a cursive style.

Kasha Ho'okili Ho
47-410 Lulani St
Kaneohe, HI 96744

SB-1296

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 9:23:15 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Uluwehi Cashman	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

Uluwehi Cashman

SB-1296

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 9:52:53 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terri Gavagan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony in favor of this important bill. The Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission's (KIRC) work is an important example of what can be accomplished when working with volunteers, community groups and other organizations to restore the island of Kaho'olawe as well as preserve part of the history of Native Hawaiians as well as provide a place where Native Hawaiians are able to practice their culture. The KIRC's ability to continue this mission relies upon being able to continue to provide safe and meaningful access to the Reserve. In order to do this the two KIR Specialist positions will help to ensure this.

SB-1296

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 12:03:08 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Faith Kahale Saito	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-1296

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 4:58:18 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jan Becket	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In 1994 I accompanied my my Kamehameha Schools students on a special access to Kaho'olawe We hiked the 11 miles across island. Then, the upland hardpan was a barren desert cut by deep gullies created by water runoff. Nothing grew. We walked on the single dirt road across the island, from Hakioawa to Honokanaia, sometimes passing ordnance gathered on the side of the road for later demolition.

Recently, I had the privilege twenty years later to revisit the same terrain in two KIRC accesses this past year. What an amazing transformation. Where nothing grew there are now rows of native vegetation thriving in the harsh upland conditions of an island denuded of topsoil. It is clear that the regeneration of native plants on the hardpan has happened because of the accumulated experience and on-the-ground knowledge of state workers on Kaho'olawe. That group of dedicated people has succeeded in transforming the eroded upland hardpan into a native garden — an amazing feat.

This transformation has happened because of three factors: 1) a small pool of dedicated people with a vision, 2) their accumulated knowledge and experience, 3) support by the state. Without adequate support, the regeneration of Kaho'olawe cannot take place. Words cannot express the transformation I have witnessed. I am now a retired Kamehameha Schools photography teacher. My images of this regeneration are here: <http://www.janbecket.net/piwigo/index.php?/category/20/>

Please support this important measure to provide financial support and stability of the restoration and protection of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come.

As the only Island Reserve set up entirely in trust for a Native Hawaiian Sovereign Entity, the KIRC is well poised ton change the economic landscape and life quality of Native Hawaiians and the communities in which they reside by means of a truly unique experience on the island of Kaho'olawe. The State must maintain the responsibility of supporting the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund.

As the only island listed on the National Register of Historic Places in its entirety, containing nearly 3,000 archaeological sites and features, it is imperative that the State preserves this important resource for current and future generations through this financial support system.

Without the KIRC's ongoing protection of Kaho'olawe's coastal ecosystem, including the adjacent nearshore environment and coral reefs that can be covered with, and choked by, derelict fishing gear, nets, a huge variety of plastics and other debris items, species including the endangered Hawaiian monk seal, threatened green sea turtle, endangered hawksbill sea turtle, endangered humpback whale, endangered Hawaiian dark-rumped petrel, and endangered Newell's shearwater will be put at risk. It is imperative that a trust fund be stabilized to continue this work.

Kaho'olawe is a unique ecosystem preserving immensely valuable cultural and biological resources. It is surrounded by the richest marine ecosystems remaining in the Main Hawaiian islands and providing replenishment of fish and invertebrates to other islands' waters. The KIRC's massive restoration program designed to revitalize the ecology and cultural history of the island will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. Please support this bill.

SB-1296

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:15:03 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Bruch	Individual	Support	No

Comments: