



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Administrative Testimony

Testimony of Kamanaʻopono Crabbe, Ph.D.
Ka Pouhana, Chief Executive Officer

SCR174

REQUESTING A STUDY ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TRADITIONAL HAWAIIAN PRACTICES, INCLUDING MAKAHIKI, AND THEIR EFFECT ON THE PERPETUATION OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN CULTURE

House Committee on Water, Land, & Hawaiian Affairs

April 12, 2019

10:30 a.m.

Room 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs Beneficiary Advocacy & Empowerment Committee (OHA) will recommend that the Board of Trustees **COMMENT** on SCR174, which requests OHA to conduct a study, in less than one year's time, on the significance of traditional Hawaiian practices and their effect on the perpetuation of Native Hawaiian culture, with a specific focus on makahiki practices.

OHA's primary concern with this measure is with the sheer size and significance of the requested study, which is also requested to be completed within a relative modicum of time. Such a study would need to be comprehensive, and not limited only to the numerous practices associated with makahiki, in order to properly represent the significance of traditional Hawaiian practices to the preservation and perpetuation of Native Hawaiian culture; many Native Hawaiian cultural practices are uniquely sacred to the families and communities that practice them, and intrinsically invaluable to their cultural identity and way of life. Such practices and the generational knowledge informing them are also closely held and inappropriate to detail in a publication accessible to non-practitioners. Indeed, a study that adequately expresses the value of the totality of Native Hawaiian cultural practices would be virtually impossible to complete. Considering OHA's finite resources, further limited by the continued need to update its pro rata share of public land trust revenues, its financial cost alone may inhibit OHA's ability to ensure that the requested study does any justice to both Native Hawaiian cultural practices as well as their Native Hawaiian practitioners. Minimally, OHA requests if the committee chooses to move this resolution forward, that an appropriation to cover the expenses of such a study be provided.

OHA would like to emphasize that Native Hawaiian traditional and customary and other cultural practices play a singular and crucial role in Native Hawaiian identity and cultural survival. Through these practices, Native Hawaiians walk in the footsteps of their ancestors, connecting the time before to the time after, in the development and advancement of their way of life. With or without a study, the very need for the preservation, protection, and perpetuation of Native Hawaiian cultural practices is enshrined within Native Hawaiian self-determination and is of the utmost importance to the survival of the Native Hawaiian people.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide comments.

SCR-174

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 2:27:39 PM

Testimony for WLH on 4/12/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Lee	Kanehili Cultural Hui	Support	No

Comments:

Very much in support!

LATE

SCR-174

Submitted on: 4/11/2019 8:07:48 PM

Testimony for WLH on 4/12/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Oahu County Committee of the Oahu County Democrats	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SCR-174

Submitted on: 4/11/2019 9:38:19 PM

Testimony for WLH on 4/12/2019 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments: