

**HB-455-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/8/2019 9:46:24 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/11/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Wayne S Honda	Testifying for Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission	Support	No

**Comments:**

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



**HB-455-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/8/2019 5:11:01 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/11/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

Please accept this testimony in strong support of HB455 HD1 to provide additional funding for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission. As stated in my testimony in support of HB454 HD1, the Legislature has been a great partner to the KIRC in recent years, and this additional -- and targeted -- 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.

Again, mahalo for your consideration,

Michele McLean, AICP

Planning Director, County of Maui

Chairperson, Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission



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

811 Kolu Street, Suite 201, Wailuku, HI 96793  
Telephone (808) 243-5020 Fax (808) 243-5885  
Website: <http://kahoolawe.hawaii.gov>

COMMISSION MEMBERS

MICHELE MCLEAN, AICP  
*Chairperson*  
JOSHUA KAAKUA, Ed.D  
*Vice-Chair*

C. KALIKO BAKER, PhD.  
SUZANNE CASE  
JONATHAN CHING, D.ARCH  
HÖKŪLANI HOLT.  
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**

**Monday, March 11, 2019**  
**1:15 PM**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of**  
**HOUSE BILL 455 HOUSE DRAFT 1**  
**RELATING TO THE KAHO`OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION**

House Bill 455 HD1 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.



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

**LATE**

Testimony of  
Aha Moku Advisory Committee

Senate Committee on Water and Land

Monday, March 11, 2019  
1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 229

**House Bill 455 HD 1 - Support  
Relating to Kahoolawe Island Reserve**

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Committee,

House Bill 454 HD 1 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. The Aha Moku (AMAC) strongly supports this measure.

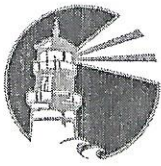
Moku O Kanaloa, (the traditional name for Kahoolawe) has a strong cultural history that includes the islands of Maui, Lanai, and Molokai. To support the unique challenges of restoring, preserving, and determining the appropriate use of Kahoolawe, including the restoration of the traditional and generational knowledge of the island, it is imperative that the Kahoolawe Strategic Plan which is an island-wide, community-based strategic plan be implemented. The two requested positions will support the safety functions, logistical functions, and on-island restoration efforts and sustainability field projects.

The native Hawaiian families who have direct connections to Kahoolawe retain the generational knowledge of the island, including the place names of the sixteen ahupua'a on Kahoolawe. And while they live on Maui, they support the efforts of the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) in their exertions to restore the once vibrant ecosystem of this sacred and special place. Providing these two additional positions will help to bring the indigenous knowledge of Moku O Kanaloa forward.

Funding this measure will safeguard Kahoolawe's long-term goal of the restoration of the island. We urge this committee to pass HB 455 HD 1.

Mahalo nui loa,

Les Kuloloio, Po'o, Moku O Kanaloa (Kahoolawe)  
Aha Moku Advisory Committee  
Phone: 808-281-7652  
Email: pokaiuli2@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

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

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Monday, March 11, 2019  
TIME: 1:15 P.M.

**TESTIMONY OF THE OCEAN TOURISM COALITION IN SUPPORT of  
HB 455 HD1 RELATING TO THE KAHOO LAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION**

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

My name is James E. Coon, President of the Ocean Tourism Coalition (OTC),  
**speaking in Support of HB455 HD1**

The OTC represents over 300 small ocean tourism businesses state wide. All of them operate from State Boating Facilities managed by DLNR/DOBOR. Most of these are family businesses which are locally owned and operated.

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

It is our opinion that KIRK should be supported by the General tax revenue.

We humbly request that you please pass HB455HD1

Sincerely,

James E. Coon, President

Ocean Tourism Coalition

Center for Hawaiian Sovereignty Studies  
46-255 Kahuhipa St. Suite 1205  
Kane'ohe, HI 96744  
(808) 247-7942  
Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D. Executive Director  
e-mail [Ken\\_Conklin@yahoo.com](mailto:Ken_Conklin@yahoo.com)  
Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Re: HB 455, HD1

RELATING TO THE KAHOOLAWE 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. (HB455 HD1)

For hearing on Monday, March 11, 2019

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

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 (2018) 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.

The first version of this bill proposed 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?

Dear Elected Official and Policy Maker,

I am writing to you today, in concern for the funding for Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission. I stand in full support of Director Michael Naho'opi'i, and his efforts to sustain the KIRC funding.

I find myself disheartened, when I see that he must consistently struggle to find funding for the important conservation and ecological work, that must take place on Kaho'olawe, due to devastating destruction by the Navy.

KIRC desperately needs your help securing appropriations for supplies, man power, and maintenance of motorized vehicular transportation for use both at sea, and on land.

KIRC constantly needs funds for the following reasons, to buy the supplies needed to maintain planting restoration and conservation efforts, to maintain housing facilities of staff and volunteers, to supply food and basic survival materials for the workers and volunteers, and to be able to all maintain mechanical workings that keep the jobs running, not to mention countless other costs that accrue when restoring an entire island.

I am asking you, as my elected representative, to hear me now, and pass this message on to the people you work with. Go to them, and describe KIRC's yearly, no, daily plight, to secure funding for these and more important items. Please be the person that I am glad I voted for, and use your persuasive powers to reach across party lines, to get all legislators to cast their votes for any and all bills, that protect the status quo, and/or increase the funding for Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission. Please make informed speeches to colleagues, and hold discussions with your peers, to explain why KIRC needs to keep a personnel team of highly qualified professionals. Elaborate when necessary, that these are the people who staff the core team, responsible for keeping the island in the positive direction toward a goal of total restoration.

It is important to continue to provide funding that enables KIRC to invite teams of volunteers to Kaho'olawe. Their volunteer program provides a necessary part of the work force on the island. A steady flow of these volunteers is imperative to keep, in order for KIRC to accomplish the goals they have set. Volunteers work with the staff, to perform the laborious tasks of repairing the

island. As a volunteer, I am devoted to the health of these Hawaiian Islands, and I possess the love for Kaho'olawe, as do countless others. Our families are witnesses to the action we take today, and for generations to come. Please do your part to honor the will of future generations who strive to repair the island from the devastation. Hawaiians were witnesses to its destruction, and are the resource of volunteers who feel the urgency to take part in its restoration.

Therefore, I am urging you to **vote in support of Bill HB454 HD1**, and get involved in helping KIRC's scientists, cultural practitioners, Hawaiian people, passionate natural conservationists like myself, and countless talented people, who vow to do whatever it takes to restore Kaho'olawe Island to its natural condition: flourishing in native Hawaiian flora and fauna.

Thank you for reading my letter of concern. Please vote in support of KIRC's quest for financial security at every opportunity. I know I will be observing your courage and fortitude in our futures.

Sincerely,

Pamela Zirker

6406 Kawaihau Rd.

Kapa'a, Kaua'i, HI,

96746

Phone (808) 821-1350

**HB-455-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/8/2019 1:57:29 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/11/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Hawkins Biggins	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,

S. Hawkins Biggins

**HB-455-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/8/2019 2:32:12 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/11/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dr. Kaliko Baker	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 (KIRC). 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. Through collaborative efforts with the Protect Kaho`olawe `Ohana, the KIRC has done spectacular work in regreening Kanaloa Moku. Please keep them funded.

Me ke aloha nĀ • ,

Dr. Kaliko Baker

Commissioner of the KIRC

**HB-455-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/8/2019 6:54:57 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/11/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

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



**HB-455-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/9/2019 3:10:20 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/11/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

**HB-455-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/10/2019 8:40:42 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/11/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

**HB-455-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/10/2019 11:12:24 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/11/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support HB455. Protecting Kahoolawe is important in helping to reverse all the damage inflicted upon that island.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei

**HB-455-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/10/2019 8:38:50 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/11/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB455 HD1. The Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) is an important example of what can happen when a state agency works cooperatively with volunteers, community groups and other organizations to restore and protect a vital area of Hawai'i. The KIRC's mission to restore the island, protect its cultural resources as well as provide a place for Native Hawaiians to practice their culture requires that it continue to provide safe and meaningful access to the Reserve. The additional KIR positions will help to ensure this by allowing more efficient utilization of staff thereby continuing to ensure the health and safety of both volunteers and KIRC staff.

**HB-455-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/9/2019 1:56:07 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/11/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill.

**HB-455-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/8/2019 3:35:07 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/11/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

**HB-455-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/9/2019 7:39:17 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/11/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

**HB-455-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/9/2019 8:05:07 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/11/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Miki K. Tomita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**HB-455-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/8/2019 1:57:07 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/11/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-455-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 7:28:03 AM  
Testimony for WTL on 3/11/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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.

**HB-455-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 1:35:15 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/11/2019 1:15:00 PM

**LATE**

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

Comments: