

**SR-219**

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Testimony for AEN on 3/24/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support

Representative Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Representative Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

Support for S.R. No. 219 relating to ‘Āina-Based Values

Aloha,

My name is China Moreira and I strongly support S.R. No. 219 and S.C.R. No. 260 relating to ‘Āina-based values to guide Hawai‘i to a thriving future.

I am Native Hawaiian and based on my personal experience, I can attest to the disparities and injustices the people living on the Leeward side of O‘ahu who are mostly Native Hawaiians have faced, for my entire family has lived on this part of the island for generations. Poverty and crime is commonplace and unfortunately that’s all what “outsiders” see. What “insiders” like myself, who have lived in this community for decades, can speak for is the sense of community we have for one another. We help and support each other when times gets rough and whenever someone is in need. I remember my grandfather - a fisherman - would give excess fish to his neighbors and in return, they’d give us leftover pastries and breads from the bakery they worked at. My cousin’s neighbor would give any extra food to my cousin’s o‘hana because she wanted to make sure my cousin’s keiki were fed. My grandmother, who owned a large mango tree, would give bags and bags of mangoes away to neighbors and friends because our family could no longer consume them before they went bad. Please note - all of these blessings were given to each other without any expectation of monetary compensation. I would list many, many more stories about how much love and support we Native Hawaiians have for one another, but my testimony would be dozens of pages long.

In this respect, these values of community and support for one another, as shown by these Native Hawaiians, are just a snippet of what is in the heart and souls of these peoples. Therefore without a doubt, I know that the passion and values of our Native Hawaiians will be immeasurable when using their guidance when implementing ‘āina-based values to guide Hawai‘i to a thriving future.

Once again, I am in full support of S.R. No. 219 and S.C.R. No. 260. Mahalo for giving me this opportunity to testify.