



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

Testimony of
Hawaii State Aha Moku

Before the Senate Committee on
Hawaiian Affairs

Tuesday, March 15, 2022
1:01 P.M.
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

Comments in Consideration
of
SCR 50 / SR 45

SCR 50/SR 45 designates the Waianae Moku Kupuna Council as an advisory resource to the elected members of the legislature of the State of Hawaii representing the Waianae Moku Community.

The Hawaii State Aha Moku (Aha Moku) supports the intent of this measure and offers comments.

The Hawaii State Aha Moku was created by the Hawaii State Legislature, first in 2007 as Act 212, SLH 2007 and it was updated and finalized in 2012 as Act 288, SLH 2012. The purpose of the Aha Moku is to integrate generational and traditional knowledge of natural and cultural resources of the ahupua'a encompassed by a Moku. Its foundation is based on three traditional principles: Mahalo Ke Akua (Honor God); Mahalo I Ka 'Aina (Honor the land); and Malama I Na Hanau O Ka 'Aina (Honor those born of the land). As such, the traditional designation of a Moku is native Hawaiian although the Hawaii State Aha Moku includes and works with the Public Trust.

The Moku of Waianae already works with the communities of each ahupua'a of Waianae, led by Kupuna. The ahupua'a are: Nanakuli, Lualualei, Waianae, Makaha, Keaau, Hikilolo, Makua, Kahanahaiki and Keawaula who work with State of Hawaii governmental agencies yet are strictly volunteers. As Aha Moku, they are attached to DLNR, but they do not come under its jurisdiction as they are strictly advisory. It is important for legislators to know that this exists. However, we also support any Kupuna 'Aha, or group that exists within a Moku and welcome this collaboration. We already work with many different groups led by Kupuna in Waianae such as the Hawaiian Civic Clubs as an example.

Since names were not listed in SCR 50/SR 45, we believe that at least some of those who are in this new Waianae Moku are probably the same Kupuna in the Hawaii State Aha Moku. We also note that in the Hawaii State Aha Moku, there are no actual councils but the ahupua'a representatives who do make up this 'Aha. These representatives are generational traditional practitioners who are not all native Hawaiian but are traditional practitioners of natural and cultural resources. No ahupua'a representative will make decisions for another ahupua'a. Aha Moku already exist in the other five moku of O'ahu made up of ahupua'a Kupuna.

If this resolution moves forward, will it open the way for all Moku in the state of Hawaii to be formally recognized by the Legislature? The Moku are already recognized by the Hawaiian people. There are 46 traditional Moku in the State which includes Waianae. And, if this happens, will this cause an inadvertent conflict between separate Moku Councils? We have faced this in the past when certain sovereignty groups formed their own Moku Councils with specific Kupuna of their choice.

Thus, we support the intent of SCR 50/ SR45, but have concerns about the make-up, focus and objective of the Council outside of advising elected officials. Do they answer to the ahupua'a they come from? Thank you for the opportunity to comment on our concerns and we do support the wishes of the people of Waianae.

Respectfully yours,

Kawaikapuokalani Hewett, Ka Mea Ho'okumu, kahalelehua@outlook.com

Rocky Kaluhiwa, Kahu Nui O Pae'Aina, rockykaluhiwa1122@gmail.com

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Hawaii State Aha Moku

808-640-1214

SCR-50

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 8:28:09 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/15/2022 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaena Hoohuli	Testifying for Build Team 50	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Mai Kakou,

Due to the decisions and choices of our Elected Officials,

The 4% of Oahu's Population, needs and desires a State LEGISLATORS WHO SERVE HUMANITY FOR THE BETTERMENT OF US ALL, WE THE RESIDENTS OF THE WAIANE MOKU STAND IN SUPPORT OF MAILE SHIMABUKURO AND CEDRIC GATES because we understand together we can together we rise, we are all enduring this WUHAN novel Coronavirus to the best of our abilities and im learning to comprehend to understand the CORRUPTION at face value, I'm grateful and FORGIVENESS to love unconditonally is still my personal choice but if I were HEAD OF STATE, OUR Public Safety and mental/emotional well-being would be my priority!

THE SOVEREIGN life of the land is perpetuated ONLY in righteousness!!

MALAMA PONO,

Shaena L. Dela Cruz Hoohuli, Buildteam50

SCR-50

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 12:03:40 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/15/2022 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vince Kana`i Dodge	Testifying for `Ai Pohaku	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha legislators!

As a longtime residents and cultural practioners of the Wai`anae moku our `Ai Pohaku ohana strongly supports SCR50.

Aloha Nui!

Vince Kana`i Dodge

SCR-50

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 11:08:26 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/15/2022 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Peterson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of this resolution and request only that this resolution has no expiration date. In order for this legislature to start to gain trust from the people, Legislative leadership representing the Wai‘anae moku, and/or their representatives must by whatever means make themselves available to the Kupuna council.

SCR-50

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 11:40:46 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/15/2022 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Corey Asano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Corey Asano. Born and raised in Hawaii. I am 45 years old and I stand in support of The Waianae Moku Kupuna Counsel. I have attended their meetings held at Poka'i Bay. Everyone is invited. The discussions are loose but they have a meeting agenda they try to adhere to. Community members bring light to issues and discuss ways to offer real solutions. Community members, that have a long reputation of supporting grass roots efforts, to improve the quality of life for all on "The West Side", share their experiences and struggles operating in an oppressive and often overlooked community. I believe the best solutions come from those closest to the problems. The Waianae Kupuna Counsel does just that. Engage in the community on the ground level, and organize and offer solutions, in a true ground up approach. More communities should be encouraged to start their own kupuna Counsels in the different Moku.

SCR-50

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 12:49:25 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/15/2022 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a resident of O‘ahu, I strongly support SCR 50, designating the Wai‘anae Moku Kupuna Council as an advisory group and resource for elected members of the legislature. The wisdom and experience of the Wai‘anae Moku Kupuna Council will be invaluable for future policy decisions to ensure that decision-making truly benefits the communities on the Westside of O‘ahu. The members of the Council are respected and reputable leaders in the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for taking up this important measure.

Sincerely,
Taylor Chang