

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on  
OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Wednesday, April 12, 2017  
10:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 312**

**In consideration of  
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 7  
RECOGNIZING THE HISTORIC SUCCESS OF COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP UNDER  
THE TRADITIONAL KONOHIKI FISHING RIGHTS SYSTEM IN SUSTAINING AN  
ABUNDANT NEARSHORE ENVIRONMENT AND A THRIVING POPULATION AND  
CULTURE, AND URGING THE STATE TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT,  
ADOPTION, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CULTURALLY GROUNDED,  
COMMUNITY-DRIVEN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS TO STEWARD,  
RESTORE, AND PERPETUATE OUR NEARSHORE RESOURCES AND MAINTAIN AND  
PROTECT ASSOCIATED CULTURAL TRADITIONS AND VALUES.**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 7, urges the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to support culturally grounded, community driven, fishery management proposals that would restore nearshore resources and protect cultural traditions and values. **The Department supports this measure to recognize and further the implementation of community based management of fishery and cultural resources.**

The Department is authorized under Section 188-22.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to establish community based subsistence fishing areas, and under Section 188-53, HRS, to establish fisheries management areas, public fishing areas, and other managed areas. Through these and other statutes, the Department establishes a variety of managed fishing areas with community input into these areas incorporated as a standard part of the Chapter 91, HRS, rule-making process.

The Department encourages the public to get involved in the Department's efforts to manage our shared natural resources, regardless if this measure passes. The Department already supports community involvement in the rule process.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment of this measure.

**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**KEKOA KALUHIWA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**JEFFREY T. PEARSON P.E.**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS



### SCR7

RECOGNIZING THE HISTORIC SUCCESS OF COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP UNDER THE TRADITIONAL KONOHIKI FISHING RIGHTS SYSTEM IN SUSTAINING AN ABUNDANT NEARSHORE ENVIRONMENT AND A THRIVING POPULATION AND CULTURE, AND URGING THE STATE TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT, ADOPTION, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CULTURALLY-GROUNDED, COMMUNITY-DRIVEN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS TO STEWARD, RESTORE, AND PERPETUATE OUR NEARSHORE RESOURCES AND MAINTAIN AND PROTECT ASSOCIATED CULTURAL TRADITIONS AND VALUES.

House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs

April 12, 2017

10:00 a.m.

Room 312

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SCR7, which is a measure in OHA's legislative package. **This resolution would express the Legislature's recognition and support of subsistence, kīpuka communities' efforts to guide harvesting and conservation practices in their nearshore waters, consistent with the principles underlying the highly successful konohiki fishing rights resource management system.**

The ahupua'a-based konohiki fishing rights system ensured sufficient abundance in Hawai'i's nearshore waters to sustain a pre-Western contact population of up to a million or more residents. This system allowed hoā'āina ("tenants") and konohiki ("landlords") to directly control harvesting and conservation practices in the coastal waters of their ahupua'a, based on their intimate knowledge of, connection to, and reliance upon the resources of their place.

After the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom, the Hawai'i Territorial government's largely successful effort to abolish the konohiki fishing rights system led to a century of decline in our once abundant nearshore fisheries. The ongoing decline in our nearshore fisheries today may threaten the survival of Hawai'i's few remaining subsistence, kīpuka communities, as well as undermine Hawai'i's economic, ecological, and recreational interests.

Fortunately, many kīpuka, subsistence communities are now seeking to work with the state on local marine management initiatives, to protect and perpetuate traditional practices and subsistence lifestyles dependent upon abundant nearshore resources. These communities possess deep and intimate knowledge of their nearshore areas, informed by generations of daily observation and reliance. As described in this resolution, adopting their management proposals, which seek to guide harvesting and conservation practices in

their local waters, would apply many of the fundamental principles underlying the success of the konohiki fishing rights system, including:

1. Looking to those with the most intimate knowledge of and connection to an area's resources and ecological features, to establish harvesting and conservation guidelines for the area;
2. Incorporating place-based traditions and customs that preserve cultural and community connections to the nearshore area and its resources; and
3. Fostering a continued sense of kuleana in community members, to actively steward and care for the nearshore resources of their place.

Accordingly, state support of these community efforts may have the best chance of successfully restoring and maintaining abundant nearshore fishery resources. Notably, the success of these communities' efforts may also inspire other communities to reconnect and take responsibility for the resources of their place, thereby transforming our nearshore resource management paradigm, and helping to save our ocean environment, our cultural heritage, and a foundation of our islands' economies and local ways of life.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** SCR7, and recognize the potential for community-driven fisheries management to once again restore and sustain abundance in our nearshore waters. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Testimony Before The  
House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources and Hawaiian Affairs  
**IN SUPPORT OF SCR 7**

Wednesday April 11, 2017, 10:00am, Room 312

Aloha Chair Ing, Vice Chair Gates and Committee Members:

My name is Kevin Chang, I am the Executive Director of Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (or KUA) and this is our testimony in support of SCR 7.

KUA works to empower communities to improve their quality of life through caring for their environmental heritage together to better Hawai'i and achieve 'āina momona— an abundant, productive ecological system that supports community well-being. We employ a community-driven approach that currently supports three statewide networks: more than 31 mālama 'āina community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together), 38 fishpond projects and practitioners called the Hui Mālama Loko I'a, and a new and growing group of Limu practitioners called the Limu Hui.

**KUA strongly supports SCR7 which supports subsistence, kīpuka communities' efforts to guide harvesting and conservation practices in their nearshore waters, consistent with the principles underlying the highly successful konohiki fishing rights resource management system.**

This bill recognizes long standing efforts and voices of rural and Native Hawaiian communities across our state including participants in our networks. It also recognizes that the Native Hawaiian community did not just thrive off the fat of the land but played a strong traditional role in its caretaking and development. A community stewardship ethic was and should be a part of citizenship, especially in our island home.

Indigenous people and local communities throughout the world hold similar sentiments especially in deep rural regions where subsistence and traditional management and values continue to be a part of life. This was evident at the 2016 World Conservation Congress- hosted by Hawai'i. Community-based nature resource management has returned as part of a deep and evolving global best practice in cultural and natural resource management.

Professor Carlos Andrade's thoughts on the konohiki in his book "Hā'ena: Through the Eyes of the Ancestors," are prescient in these times

"In pre-European times, all segments of island society were entirely interdependent. Sources of livelihood and the resources available for use by the people were all contained within the environs of the island. By today's standards these resources were very basic but they were sufficient for the ancestors to have a full and meaningful life as long as they fulfilled their mutual responsibilities to each other and the 'āina. *Konohiki* therefore had to possess a wide array of skills. They had to know all

the *waiwai* (assets) contained within each *ahupua'a*- hydrologic, biologic and geologic. They had to know the state of the soil, plants, and animals on land and sea, and guide decisions on their use. Most important, *konohiki* had to know how to deal with human beings.

In traditional society, *konohiki* were bridges connecting the governing and the governed...”

Much is debated about DLNR and our State’s capacity and whether it is, has or can be the appropriate mechanism to bring people together, to resolve issues of difference and move forward for the betterment of our cultural and natural resources, community well-being and prosperity. Some who prefer the status-quo or oppose more or less rules often do not outright oppose community stewardship but doubt the capacity of our state to be an accountable partner. Their common response is to favor a rights only approach that overlooks real substantive corollary responsibilities.

This resolution will signal the legislature’s support of a step toward building a contemporary bridge between citizens and their government again through community-driven fisheries management approaches.

It also acknowledges a potential often overlooked matter in the contemporary and centralized governance issues of our time: the ability of our community, the governed to be the solutions they seek in governance. Why would we want to see such potential go to waste?

I urge the Committees to **PASS** this resolution.

Mahalo for your service to our community and this opportunity to testify.

Aloha ‘Āina Momona.

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**SCR7**

Submitted on: 4/12/2017

Testimony for OMH on Apr 12, 2017 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shyla Moon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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**SCR7**

Submitted on: 4/12/2017

Testimony for OMH on Apr 12, 2017 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SCR7**

Submitted on: 4/12/2017

Testimony for OMH on Apr 12, 2017 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

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

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