



KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA
KAHO`OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

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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 House Committee on

FINANCE

Tuesday, February 26, 2019
1:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

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.

HB-455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 5:03:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michele McLean	County of Maui / KIRC	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Committee Members,

Please accept this testimony in strong support of HB455, HD1 to provide additional funding to the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission. The Legislature has been a great partner to the KIRC in recent years, and this additional 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 prior support, and hope to earn continued support this session.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Michele McLean

Planning Director, County of Maui

Chairperson, Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission

HB-455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 2:10:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tamra Ashlee Probst	KIRC	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.

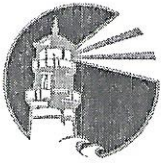
HB-455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 11:36:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raytan K. Vares	Democratic Party of Hawaii-Hawaiian Affairs Caucus	Support	No

Comments:



Ocean Tourism Coalition

The Voice for Hawaii's Ocean Tourism Industry
1188 Bishop St., Ste. 1003**Honolulu, HI 96813-2938
(808) 537-4308 Phone (808) 533-2739 Fax
timlyons@hawaiiantel.net

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
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| Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi | |

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, February 26, 2019
TIME: 1:30 P.M.
PLACE: Conference Room 308

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

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of Committee on Finance:

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 FIN please pass HB455.

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
Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Re: HB 455, HD1

RELATING TO THE KAHOO LAWE 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.

For hearing on Tuesday, February 26, 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?

HB-455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 4:13:13 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bob Law	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and committee members,

On my volunteer work party week, I have personally seen the positive affect that KIRC has made in reversing the ecological damage to Kahoolawe. I support this measure and truly believe that additional staff and financial support will help not only Hawaii residents, but also volunteers all over America, understand the importance of healing and preserving Kahoolawe as an important part of Hawaii's cultural history.

HB-455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 4:24:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carol Marie Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 4:27:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
pookela hanson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 4:27:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Hyde	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this funding bill so the good work to rehabilitate Kahoolawe can continue.

HB-455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 5:56:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kyle Kajihira	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 9:45:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marty Martins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I support this measure to provide additional financial and staff support for the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission. Thru their leadership, tens of thousands of volunteer hours have been enlisted to plant acres and acres of our damaged island with native grasses and trees, demonstrating that it is possible to reverse ecological damage after years of abuse and preserving our native cultural history for future generations.

HB-455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 9:56:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Molly Mamaril	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 demonstrated 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 nui for your consideration.

HB-455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2019 12:58:39 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charlene Griffin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2019 4:54:51 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kalani fukumoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill to fund the restoration of Kahoolawe Island. The hiring of two more full time staff is great added value to help the island recover from years of abuse.

The island is making an amazing physical comeback due to the love and dedication of the

KIRC staff and many volunteers.

Please fund KIRC in any way possible.

Mahalo's,

Kalani Fukumoto

HB-455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2019 6:15:16 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robin Kaye	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Several years ago, as a volunteer with the Lana'i High and Elementary School, I spent one week working on Kahoolawe. I found the work of KIRC to be important, productive and well managed. I support this bill, as they are doing good work in an extremely challenging environment.

HB-455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2019 9:33:36 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lori Teragawachi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairs and Committee Members,

I support this measure to provide additional financial support for the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission. They have done a lot to reverse the damage that has been done on this island, but there is still so much more to do.

I have had the opportunity to go to Kahoolawe with KIRC to do service work planting native plants on the island. While there, even just for 4 days, I developed a strong connection to the island. A lot has been done to work towards self sufficiency with water and electricity, but maintenance issues arise daily - which require financial support and assistance.

I humbly ask that you please support this bill to provide additional financial support to KIRC.

Sincerely,

Lori Teragawachi, Ed.D.

HB-455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2019 10:07:00 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
keoki	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. I have been to the Island on several separate occasions and have helped to restore certain sites along with maintaining others. I believe that the KIRC does a great job in not only being a restoration agency, but as an educational one as well. The cultural side of the KIRC reminds the people of Hawaii of its past, keeps them in touch with their present and gives them an idea of what could be achieved in the future. Please help to keep this organization operable. Mahalo nui!

HB-455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2019 10:37:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
johann winkler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 12:23:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Omar Sultan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 1:31:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pamela Zirker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Elected Official and Policy Maker,

I am writing to you today, in concern for the funding of 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 constantly struggle to find funding for the important conservation and ecological work, that must take place on Kaho'olawe, due to the devastating destruction from the Navy.

KIRC desperately needs your help securing appropriations for supplies, man power, and maintenance of motorized vehicular transportation, for use, both on land, and on sea. KIRC constantly needs funds to buy supplies needed to maintain planting restoration and conservation efforts, to maintain housing facilities, to supply food and basic survival materials for the workers and volunteers, and to be able to maintain mechanical workings, 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 sufficient funding for important items. Please be the person that I am glad I voted for, and use your powers to reach across party lines, to get 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 use your persuasive speeches in discussions with your peers, to explain to your colleagues, that KIRC needs to keep a personnel team of highly qualified professionals. Explain to them, that these are the people who staff the core team that are responsible for keeping the island going in the positive direction toward the goal of total restoration.

Please remind your fellow legislators, that it is also important to continue to provide funding that enables KIRC to invite teams of volunteers and helpers to Kaho'olawe. The volunteers program provides a necessary part of the work force on the island, and a steady flow of these volunteers is imperative, in order to perform the laborious tasks of repairing the island. We volunteers, are the people of these Hawaiian Islands, and we are the ones who feel the love for this land. Our families are witnesses to the action we

take today. Please do the right thing, and honor the will of this and future generations, who strive to repair the island. We were the witnesses to its destruction, and we are the resource that can be counted on, who feels the urgency to take part in its restoration.

Therefore, I am urging you to vote in support of **BILL HB455 HD1**, and get involved in helping KIRC's scientists, cultural practitioners, Hawaiian people, passionate conservationists like myself, and countless talented people like Protect Kaho'olawe Ohana, who vow to do whatever it takes to restore Ka'ho'olawe Island to its natural condition, flourishing in netive 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

4606 Kawaihau Rd.

Kapa'a, Kaua'i HI. 96746

phone 808-821-1350

HB-455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 3:51:13 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Pescaia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 5:28:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimberly Patterson	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.

I am a high school teacher who has had the opportunity to take my students on several occasions to Kaho`olawe to partake in restorative work and cultural activities. I can tell you that these experiences our students were afforded on island were (are) life changing! These students have become more aware of and connected to their natural environment. The have become stewards of the land and more concerned and conscious of the importance to malama Honua , our planet, our `Ä€ina. These students have also become more connected to the culture of Hawai`i. Moreover, these students have been empowered to make a difference by getting involved in their local community and to seek out higher education so they can continue to make a difference as educated adults. This change in my students was initiated by their experiences on Kaho`olawe. Please provide additional financial and staff support for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission so that this important life saving work can continue.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration.

HB-455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 8:11:16 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kylee Mar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 8:25:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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: 2/25/2019 8:45:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chandy Lopes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 9:03:14 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrew Fox	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill to provide ongoing funding for KIRC- it is our legacy!

Sincerely,

Andrew Fox

HB-455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 9:05:48 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Bruch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 10:07:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cassandra L. Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 2:31:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie K Akana	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. So many people of Hawaii consider Kaho`olawe an island in "recovery from being violated" from horrific bombing and misuse. It is therefore our duty (Kulena) to care for her in all ways possible. The people with the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission have proven to be honorable stewards and should be provided the funds needed to continue repairing and caring for Kaho`olawe.

Mahalo,

Laurie Akana

HB-455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 2:41:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kali Linder	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and committee members, I strongly 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.

I had the privilege of visiting Kaho`olawe last summer as a part of a learning immersion for teachers. During our stay I was impressed by the both the knowledge depth and volume of work done by the KIRC staff. As a Native Hawaiian, I was also struck by how they have incorporated cultural practices and knowledge into their field work and conservation practices. The visit forever changed my life. I grew up understanding the cultural importance of Kaho`olawe and the struggle to stop the military bombing but until I experienced being on island, participated in planting, erosion prevention, litter clean-up and cultural practices, the preciousness of the island became tangible and I will forever support measures to continue the clean up and restoration. As an educator of Hawai'i children, I encourage the committee to support continued restoration efforts and staffing needed to do so in order to insure that the future generations of Hawai'i will be able to visit, work and experience Kaho`olawe. Mahalo nui.

LATE

HB-455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 8:43:18 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Gavagan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Council,

Please support this bill that provides funding for the ongoing maintenance of Kahoolawe thru the operation of the KIRC. As a Puuhonua our care of this cultural resource will define us as a people of words or acations. Lets us take action and keep this place for our and our children's learning. Let's continue to work together to heal this place and to heal ourselves.

Mahalo nui

Kevin Gavagan

LATE

HB-455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 10:56:12 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Milholen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 11:43:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shane Palacat-Nelsen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair and committee members,

I apologize for the late submittal. I want to encourage the Finance Committee to SUPPORT BILL HB455 which appropriates funds to support the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission. The Commission continues to work towards the rehabilitation of Kahoolawe island.

Mahalo,

Shane Akoni Palacat-Nelsen

LATE

HB-455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 11:45:11 AM
Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marissa Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of this bill because I believe that Kaho'olawe deserves more funding and attention so that the land can be properly taken care of and restored. It is important for us to take responsibility and care for our islands and Kaho'olawe is of particular importance because of the history of hardship it has faced. As a representative of Hawai'i's youth who is invested in the health of our islands, I urge you to pass this bill. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-455-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 2:40:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donne Dawson	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Statement of Donne Dawson

to the House Committee on Finance

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, Members of the Committee,

I stand in **strong support** of HB455, HD1 relating to the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission that appropriates funds to the KIRC and provides for two FTE permanent positions.

As a longtime member of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana and ardent supporter of the KIRC, I have been involved with protection and restoration of Kaho‘olawe for the past 15 years. I have led numerous volunteer access trips to the island and know first hand the struggles the KIRC has in its efforts to keep its operations and programs going to protect the island from further degradation. Under the outstanding leadership of Executive Director Michael NÄ• ho‘opi‘i, the KIRC has made stellar efforts to streamline their budget and do much more with far less funding. But the situation has become dire to the point where it is becoming more difficult to carry out their mandate to protect and preserve this very special Island that is so important to the Hawaiian people.

It would be a travesty if due to budget constraints the KIRC would have to suspend volunteer work trips to the island and all the years of hard work to restore Kaho‘olawe to its present condition were lost.

As a native Hawaiian, I ask for your continued support in funding the KIRC so the agency is able to continue its good work!

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide this testimony.