



**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

Thursday, March 11, 2021
1:00 PM

**Support for SCR 55 and SR 37
Relating to Department of Land and Natural Resources; Traditional Hawaiian Farming**

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Senate Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on SCR 55 and SR 37. This Resolution urges the Department of Land and Natural Resources to adopt Administrative Rules to streamline the process for allowing traditional Hawaiian farming systems on conservation lands.

Participants in the Hawaii State Aha Moku (Aha Moku) supports this measure and with an amendment.

Under the Hawaii State Aha Moku Process, its foundation originates in the translation of ancient chants dating back to the 9th century and focuses on “Malama Ke Akua (Honor God), Malama Ka ‘Aina (Honor the Land), and Malama Na Iwi Hanau O Ka’Aina (Honor the people born of the Land). An extremely important part of the process is the natural order of its protocol. This resolution, which will strengthen and streamline the process for allowing traditional Hawaiian farming, also holds concern.

According to the oldest traditional map we use, the 1835 survey map done by David Kalama of Lahainaluna School, there are 606 traditional ahupua’a and 46 moku within the 8 main Hawaiian Islands. Our concern is that each of these ahupua’a are unique in their natural resources, their geography and topography. The generational *kupa’aina*, people born of each ahupua’a who are traditional *mahi’ai*, agricultural experts who know the land also know what to plant, farm and harvest according to the distinctive resources of the place. For example, What grows well in Hilo, Hawaii does not grow well in Ewa, O’ahu.

The Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL) is responsible for overseeing approximately 2 million acres of private and public lands that lie within the State Land Use Conservation District. The Land Division (Land) is responsible for the management of State-owned lands in “ways that will promote the well-being of Hawaii’s people and ensure that these lands are used in accordance with the goals, policies and plans of the State. Lands that are not set aside for use by other government agencies come within the direct purview of the division.” How will both or either of these divisions know if petitioners are as familiar culturally with the land as they should be in order to make them fruitful?

We ask that the following amendment be included in this resolution as the 9th Whereas Clause to say:

WHEREAS, each petitioner for use of state conservation lands for the intention of agricultural or aqua cultural farming should either know, be a generational and traditional *kupa’aina* of the land they are asking for, or as much as possible consult with the native people of that specific ahupua’a to ensure that their crop is compatible with the ecosystem of that place; and,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for SCR 55 and SR 37 with the inclusion of a new Whereas clause which will ensure traditional natural and cultural protocols of each petition place is protected and preserved for future generations.

Respectfully yours,

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

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SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Thursday, March 11, 2021
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Via Videoconference**

**In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 55/SENATE RESOLUTION 37
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO ADOPT
ADMINISTRATIVE RULES TO STREAMLINE THE PROCESS FOR ALLOWING
TRADITIONAL HAWAIIAN FARMING SYSTEMS ON CONSERVATION LANDS**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 55/Senate Resolution 37 urges the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to adopt administrative rules to streamline the process for allowing traditional Hawaiian farming systems on conservation lands. **The Department offers the following comment.**

The Department appreciates the intent of the measure and assures this Committee that it does its best to expedite all applications for uses within the Conservation District.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this measure.


OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai
Legislative Testimony

SCR55/SR37

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO ADOPT
ADMINISTRATIVE RULES TO STREAMLINE THE ROCESS FOR ALLOWING
TRADITIONAL HAWAIIAN FARMING SYSTEMS ON CONSERVATION LANDS
Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ke Kuleana Hawai‘i
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Malaki 11, 2021

1:00 p.m.

Hālāwai Keleka‘a‘ike

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will recommend that the Board of Trustees **SUPPORT SCR55/SR37**, which urges the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to adopt administrative rules to streamline the process for allowing traditional Hawaiian farming systems on conservation district lands. **The rules that this resolution contemplates, if appropriately tailored, would help to facilitate ecologically compatible and environmentally sustainable traditional Native Hawaiian farming practices and approaches, thereby furthering the State’s interests in food self-sufficiency, cultural perpetuation, and economic diversification.**

OHA is the constitutionally-established agency responsible for protecting and promoting the rights and interests of Native Hawaiians. Accordingly, OHA has a kuleana to ensure the perpetuation of traditional practices, values, and technologies, as well as advocate for the appropriate and sustainable use and development of our beneficiaries’ ancestral lands. OHA therefore appreciates that this resolution seeks to address challenges that Native Hawaiian farmers may face in perpetuating traditional Hawaiian farming systems and practices in the conservation district.

OHA notes that the rules contemplated in this measure would specifically facilitate the implementation of the State Planning Act’s agricultural objectives, which seek to promote the food security, self-sufficiency, and cultural heritage of our islands, by recognizing the perpetuation of Hawaiian traditional farming techniques and crops and the growth and development of small farms as an agricultural objective of the State.

In addition, OHA notes that this measure may represent an investment in our islands’ economic stability. Small farms are small businesses; supporting small traditional farming operations in Hawai‘i would diversify our local economy and promote the spirit of agricultural entrepreneurship, in the same manner as supporting other sectors of the small business community.

Finally, the OHA believes that the contemplated administrative rules may help to level the playing field for traditional farmers, who often have difficulty competing with

large-scale and environmentally disruptive agricultural operations, by expressly facilitating the establishment of ecologically integrated traditional agriculture within the conservation district. Notably, by promoting a diversified and balanced agriculture portfolio with both small- and large-scale farming operations, this measure would enhance our islands' food security and resilience to unexpected impacts, while also celebrating our cultural heritage, practices, knowledge, and values.

OHA does note that existing regulatory protections, including our environmental and land use laws, do play a critical role in preventing or mitigating negative impacts to natural and cultural resources and practices, including traditional Hawaiian farming practices. For example, in its 2010 report, the Taro Security and Purity Task Force strongly supported the existing legal framework for the management and stewardship of our public trust resources.¹ Accordingly, OHA looks forward to working with the DLNR to ensure that any administrative rules developed pursuant to this measure maintain appropriate protections for natural and cultural resources and sites within the conservation district, while addressing the hurdles and challenges that bona fide farmers may face in restoring traditional Hawaiian agricultural practices that have sustained our islands since time immemorial.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** SCR55/SR37. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important agricultural initiative.

¹ TARO SECURITY AND PURITY TASK FORCE, E OLA HOU KE KALO; HO'I HOU KA 'ĀINA LĒ'IA – THE TARO LIVES; ABUNDANCE RETURNS TO THE LAND (2010).

SCR-55

Submitted on: 3/8/2021 12:06:43 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Strong support!

SCR-55

Submitted on: 3/8/2021 2:44:45 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaikea K. Blakemore	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please supporte Native Hawaiian land use rights.