

**TESTIMONY**

**SB1108**

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**LAURA H. THIELEN**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**RUSSELL Y. TSUJI**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**KEN C. KAWAHARA**  
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

**Testimony of**  
**LAURA H. THIELEN**  
**Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on**  
**WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**February 18, 2009**  
**3:30 PM**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of**  
**SENATE BILL 1108**  
**RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIANS**

Senate Bill 1108 would amend Act 212, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007 (Act 212), to extend the sunset date for the Aha Kiole Advisory Committee (Committee) to the year 2011, and task the Committee with providing a report to the Legislature over the next two years. While the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) takes no position on this extension, the Department offers the following comments.

Act 212 still provides that the Department support the Committee's activities. Whether for reimbursement or for in kind services, the Department requests that the Legislature understand that given the budgetary cuts the Department has had to absorb this fiscal year and further cuts proposed in the Executive Biennium Budget request, the Department's personnel and fiscal resources are being spread thin, and already impacting departmental priorities.



*Princess Ka'iulani Hawaiian Civic Club  
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Capt. Cook, HI 96704  
Ph: (808)640-3205*

Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

Conference Room 329, 3:30 p.m., State Capitol

*Testimony In SUPPORT OF SB 1108*

Aloha Chairman Hee, and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs:

On behalf of the Princess Ka'iulani Hawaiian Civic Club, we support SB 1108 which calls for the extension of the sunset date for the Aha Kiole Advisory Committee (AKAC) from June 30, 2009 to June 30, 2011. We have been active in the support of the Aha Moku System throughout the State of Hawaii and strongly believe that this system can assist our policy makers in the sustainability of our ecosystem.

We believe that if the allotted funding for Act 212 was released, there would have been no need for a time extension. However, as no funds were released by Governor Lingle, the current AKAC needs additional time to complete this process.

The Princess Ka'iulani Hawaiian Civic Club is a Hawaiian civic club created to honor our Ali'i, Princess Ka'iulani who was known to be a fierce protector of Hawaii's unique natural resources as they pertained to the Hawaiian culture.

We believe that to protect our diminishing natural and cultural resources communities must proactively protect our ecosystem through wise and thorough knowledge of that resource. The Aha Moku System comprised of those knowledgeable in the care and protection of natural and cultural resources can assist policy makers in sustainability issues if the Aha Kiole Advisory Committee can continue to progress with their recommendations and findings as stated in their 2009 Report to the Legislature.

We urge the passage of SB 1108.

Mahalo,

Leimana DaMate, President  
Princess Ka'iulani Hawaiian Civic Club

February 16, 2009

**Testimony in Opposition: SB1108**

WTL Committee Hearing: Feb. 18, 2009; 3:30 pm; Rm. 229

Aloha Chair Hee and Committee members,

**I oppose the extension of the Aha Kiole for the following reasons:**

**Although the original concept of including and empowering the traditional knowledge of our place and people is a sound and worthy idea, the motivation and plan of those who have set this Aha Kiole in motion, is not pono. The devil is in the details. The truth is in the actions.**

1. The Aha Kiole structure, process and agenda was created and directed by Wespac.  
**Action:** Since the Puwalu series, there's been an effort on their part to empower a select group of Hawaiian practitioners, some who have demonstrated their interest in pro-extraction and less focused on stewardship.
2. The Aha Kiole itself was also tainted by the process of AOHCC efforts and nominees, allowing only Wespac hand selected nominees into the pool that Gov. Lingle drew from. They are using the AOHCC to demonstrate that the Hawaiian community supports this initiative. For Hanalei, this issue was choreographed by Wespac paid representatives and a full and honest discussion and process did not take place.  
**Action:** Indeed, our President was told "not to worry about it"; it was all a done deal. Many Hanalei Civic Club members are completely unaware of what is going on and were not included in the discussion or as possible nominees.
3. **Action:** The Wespac agenda is clear as the Aha Kiole has "blocked" several community efforts to develop community based marine resource management plans (Ho'okena, Honaunau, Hana and others).
4. At what point will other Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners be allowed to have a voice? Who will speak for the conservation of resources and 'aina?
5. **Action:** The danger of empowering a select few and allowing them to be influenced by Wespac is that they now become the "Hawaiian rubber stamp of approval" for extraction, commercial based efforts of natural resources. The proof is in the pudding, as they've already showed their true intent by writing the letter to the President of the United States to undermine Marine Protected Areas efforts in the Pacific, and continue their assault on Papahanaumokuakea.
6. Council members feel they are "protected" by the Wespac machine and have acted as if they have the power and authority to tell others what they can and cannot do.
7. I believe this is only a taste of what is to come if this council becomes further empowered.

Me ka pono,



Makaala Kaaumoana

Hanalei, Hawaii

Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs  
P. O. Box 1135  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96807

**TESTIMONY OF LEIMOMI KHAN, PRESIDENT  
IN SUPPORT OF**

SB 1108 with Amendments, Relating to Native Hawaiians

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs  
Conference, February 18, 2009, Room 229, 3:30 p.m.

February 16, 2009

Aloha Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

The Aha Kiole Advisory Committee (AKAC) was created through Act 212 in Legislative Session 2007 to create a system of best practices based upon the indigenous resource management practices of traditional moku (regional) boundaries that acknowledges the natural contours of land and the specific resources located within those areas, and the methodology necessary to sustain those resources and the community.

Subsequent to the passage of Act 212, members to the 'Aha Kiole Advisory Committee were appointed by the Governor. The advisory committee set about to do the work required by Act 212, but without any State funding as provided for in Act 212.

The current members of the Committee are all practitioners and have established a strong rapport with moku representatives and ahupua'a communities. They are willing to continue the work. It is prudent to allow them the time to finish the process. We urge your committee to pass SB 1108, as amended, which extends the sunset date for the 'Aha Kiole Committee to June 30, 2011; and we are hopeful that some funding will be provided to support them.

**TESTIMONY**

**SB1108**

**(END)**