
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIANS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, over the past two
2 hundred years, Hawaii has seen and experienced severe changes.
3 These changes include the deterioration of the Hawaiian culture,
4 language, values, and land tenure system, which have in part
5 resulted in the over-development of the coastline, alteration of
6 fresh water streams, destruction of the life-giving watersheds,
7 decimation of the coral reefs, and the decline of endemic marine
8 and terrestrial species.

9 Native Hawaiian culture has knowledge that has been passed
10 on for generations, and still living for the purposes of
11 perpetuating traditional protocols, caring for and protecting
12 the environment, and strengthening cultural and spiritual
13 connections. It is through the aha moku council that native
14 Hawaiians protected their environment and sustained the
15 abundance of resources that they depended upon for thousands of
16 years.

17 Today, many Hawaiian communities are becoming revitalized
18 by using the knowledge of cultural practitioners that was passed



1 down through kupuna, and experienced farmers (mahi'ai) and
2 fishers (lawai'a) to engage and enhance sustainability,
3 subsistence, and self-sufficiency. Furthermore, many Hawaiian
4 communities are interested, concerned, involved, willing, and
5 able to advise government agencies, organizations, and other
6 interested groups in integrating traditional knowledge and
7 ahupua'a management practices.

8 The legislature further finds that on August 15-17, 2006,
9 the Ho'ohanohano I Na Kupuna Puwalu series began and Native
10 Hawaiian cultural and traditional practitioners who are versed
11 in lawai'a and mahiai, ocean, and land ahupua'a methods gathered
12 to discuss and bring forth the wisdom of the kupuna and
13 ancestors. It was a gathering of empirical knowledge handed
14 down from generation to generation on traditional fishing,
15 agriculture, streams, fishponds, and land use methodology based
16 on the ahupua'a system. Representatives from thirty-seven moku
17 in the State of Hawaii and over one hundred ahupua'a
18 practitioners, including kupuna and the acknowledged traditional
19 experts of each moku, all joined together to come forth with
20 their mana'o and concerns.



1 The conclusion of Puwalu Ekahi was the creation of a
2 resolution calling on Native Hawaiians to begin a process to
3 uphold and continue Hawaiian traditional land and ocean
4 practices. Perpetuating and preserving the knowledge of the
5 practitioners through the continuation of the konohiki
6 management, the kapu system, and the creation of an aha moku and
7 the ahupua'a management system was the consensus.

8 On November 8 and 9, 2006, Puwalu 'Elua brought together
9 educators, administrators, cultural practitioners, and kupuna to
10 discuss practices such as: values and the spiritual connection
11 between natural resources and Native Hawaiians; the ahupua'a
12 concept; generational knowledge and learning; the importance of
13 place names and mo'olelo; seasonal closures and lunar calendars;
14 fishing practices; Northwest Hawaiian islands; konohiki
15 connections; marine protected areas; upena (nets); placed based
16 kapu; limu; and pu'uhonua concepts that could be developed as an
17 educational framework to integrate this knowledge into a
18 curricula for all public, private, charter, and Hawaiian
19 immersion schools in Hawaii.

20 On December 19 and 20, 2006, Puwalu 'Elua brought together
21 major policymakers and stakeholders in the protection of the



1 Hawaii ecosystem. Native Hawaiian practitioners and experts in
2 traditional methods of sustainability, government policymakers
3 including members of the legislature, state agency directors,
4 environmental groups, educational leaders, and Hawaiian
5 community organizations discussed existing programs and their
6 successes and failures in community building. In conclusion, it
7 was agreed that the statutes and ordinances, and a framework for
8 community consultation using the Hawaiian perspective and
9 traditional methods such as the ahupua'a management system was
10 needed, and the creation of the aha moku councils should be
11 established.

12 The purpose of this Act is to create a system of best
13 practices that is based upon the indigenous resource management
14 practices of moku (regional) boundaries, which acknowledges the
15 natural contours of land, the specific resources located within
16 those areas, and the methodology necessary to sustain resources
17 and the community. The aha moku council system will foster
18 understanding and practical use of knowledge, including native
19 Hawaiian methodology and expertise, to assure responsible
20 stewardship and awareness of the interconnectedness of the
21 clouds, forests, valleys, land, streams, fishponds, and sea.
22 The council system will include the use of community expertise



1 and establish programs and projects to improve communication,
2 education, provide training on stewardship issues throughout the
3 region (moku), and increase education.

4 SECTION 2. (a) There is established the aha moku council
5 system advisory committee to advise the legislature in carrying
6 out the purposes of this Act. The advisory committee shall
7 consist of nine members appointed by the governor without regard
8 to section 78-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as follows:

- 9 (1) Five members shall be appointed from a list of
10 nominees submitted by the Association of Hawaiian
11 Civic Clubs to represent the islands of Hawaii, Oahu,
12 Maui, Kaho'olawe, and Molokini;
- 13 (2) Two members shall be appointed from a list of nominees
14 submitted by the office of Hawaiian affairs to
15 represent the islands of Niihau and Lanai; and
- 16 (3) Two members shall be appointed from a list of nominees
17 submitted by the department of Hawaiian home lands to
18 represent the islands of Molokai and Kauai.

19 The advisory committee members shall select the chairperson
20 of the committee and shall be reimbursed for expenses, including
21 travel expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties.

22 (b) The advisory committee shall:



- 1 (1) Explore, examine, and derive best practice models for
2 the creation of an aha moku council system that will:
3 (A) Provide advisory input based upon the indigenous
4 resource management practices of each moku to
5 state and county agencies;
6 (B) Aid in the development of a comprehensive set of
7 best practices for natural resources management;
8 (C) Foster the understanding and practical use of
9 knowledge, including Native Hawaiian methodology
10 and expertise;
11 (D) Ensure the future sustainable use of the State's
12 marine, land, cultural, agricultural, and natural
13 resources;
14 (E) Enhance community education and cultural
15 awareness; and
16 (F) Participate in the protection and preservation of
17 the State's natural resource;
- 18 (2) Engage in discussion with and participate in meetings
19 and events held by the various moku statewide to gain
20 perspective and develop a consensus on establishing an
21 aha moku council system with an aha moku council
22 commission;



- 1 (3) Establish an administrative structure for the creation
2 of an aha moku council commission to oversee an aha
3 moku council system, which shall consist of eight aha
4 kiole members, representing each island;
- 5 (4) Establish a standard eligibility criteria and
6 selection process for each aha kiole member and the
7 selection of a executive director;
- 8 (5) Establish goals and objectives for an aha moku council
9 commission to accomplish, including benchmarks for
10 long-term planning and sustainable objectives;
- 11 (6) Establish goals and objectives for an aha moku council
12 system to accomplish, including benchmarks for
13 long-term planning and sustainable objectives; and
- 14 (7) Establish a feasible operational budget for an aha
15 moku council commission to conduct meetings, cover
16 administrative expenses, and disseminate information
17 and advice for the creation of an aha moku council
18 system.
- 19 (c) The advisory committee shall submit a written interim
20 report of its findings and recommendations, including any
21 proposed legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the
22 convening of the 2008 regular session. The advisory committee



1 shall submit a written final report of its findings and
2 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, no later
3 than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2009 regular
4 session.

5 (d) The department of land and natural resources shall
6 provide support services to the advisory committee as the
7 advisory committee deems necessary.

8 (e) The advisory committee shall cease to exist on
9 June 30, 2009.

10 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$111,000 or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and the
13 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
14 2008-2009 for administrative costs related to carrying out the
15 duties of the aha moku council system advisory committee, and
16 for allowing each of the thirty-seven moku statewide to actively
17 participate and engage in discussion on the creation of an aha
18 moku council system.

19 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
20 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
2 provided that section 3 of this Act shall take effect on July 1,
3 2007.



Report Title:

Aha Moku Councils

Description:

Establishes an aha moku council system advisory committee to provide a framework on the formation of an aha moku council commission that shall serve as in an advisory capacity on all matters regarding the management of the State's natural resources. Appropriates funds for the advisory committee to carry out its duties. (SD1)

