

Rep. Maile Shimabukuro

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 5:30 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: kehaulani.watson@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1806 on 2/11/2009 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: AhaKiole_President.pdf

Testimony for HAW 2/11/2009 9:00:00 AM HB1806

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Trisha Kehaulani Watson
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Submitted on: 2/10/2009

LIVE TESTIMONY

Comments:

I am writing in opposition to this bill. While a fine theory of practice, the reality is that this bill has failed in practice due to inappropriate influences from organizations like Wespac. This organization has failed to create an open selection process in creating its members. They have boldly gone beyond their statutory boundaries in taking a position on the CNMI sanctuary designation (see attached file). Until a more appropriate selection process can be implemented and more appropriate oversight provided for this committee, it should not pass.

Further, it would be premature to pass this bill while federal investigations are ongoing as to Wespac's lobbying activities, which relate to this council.

In difficult economic times, it seems that our monies can be better spent than on councils that are so entrenched with corruption and have done nothing but create community division.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

MALAMA KUKUIOKANE

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February 11, 2009

To: Rep. Mele Carroll, Chair
And Members
House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

From: Mahealani Cypher, Executive Director
Malama Kukuio Kane

Subject: H.B. 1806, Relating to Hawaiian Natural Resource Management

We offer our mana`o in opposition to the passage of House Bill 1806, which would call for the designation and establishment of an Aha Kiole Council to respond to Hawaiian natural resource management concerns.

The bill offers a "top-down" approach to the establishment of this council and supplants current law which would allow for the creation of an Aha Moku Council, which would have brought forth native Hawaiian cultural practitioners to respond to resource management concerns on each of the islands.

Traditionally, each ahupua`a established its own Aha council, made up of elders and those with expertise in various skills (including but not limited to resource management), and from those ahupua`a Aha councils, someone would be chosen to represent them in a moku, or district council. The district councils would then choose someone to represent them on an islandwide Moku-puni Council.

If those who advocate for this bill truly believe in perpetuating native Hawaiian cultural practices, they should follow the protocols, and this bill should be re-worked to recognize that there is a long-established traditional protocol.

It would be pono`ole to allow this bill to pass, and we urge that this measure be filed.

Mahalo.

*Kawaihapai Ohana
c/o Thomas T Shirai Jr
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LAIF TESTIMONY

House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs (HAW)
Representative Mele Carol (Chair) / Representative Maile Shimabukuro (Vice Chair)
Notice of Hearing
Wednesday, February 11, 2009
9:00AM / Conference Room 329

February 10, 2009

RE: Testimony Support w/ Reservations for HB 1806 (Relating to Hawaiian Natural Resources Mgmt)

Aloha Chair Carol, Vice Chair Shimabukuro & Committee Members,

The Kawaihapai Ohana is a Recognized Native Hawaiian Organization (NHO) by the Department of Interior (DOI) and it's Kuleana has an emphasis on the Northwest Coastline of Waialua Moku encompassing the Ahupua'a of Kamananui, Mokule'ia, Kekahi, Auku'u, Kawaihapai, Kealia & Kaena (<http://www.doi.gov>).

The list of nominations and recommendations should not be limited to just the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs (AOHCC) but be open to all applicable entities of that specific geographical area. Not all Hawaiians are members of the Hawaiian Civic Club. Where I'm from, they are members of entities that includes The North Shore Neighborhood Board, Waialua Community Association, Mokuleia Community Association, Friends of Waialua Town, ect. This is applicable statewide where specific recommendations are offered from Po'e Kanaka of that Aina.

In some instances they've not participated actively in Malama Aina however, now it seems like it's become a trend because members of some State Boards and Commissions such as Island Burial Councils are members of Hawaiian Civic Clubs or Kumu Hula. An example of this thru Aha Kiole and Association of Hawaii Civic Clubs (AOHCC) suddenly want to participate in Kaena Point whereas they never had because the most active entity is the Mokule'ia Community Association (MCA) and has members of Hawaiian Ancestry and their Kuleana to Malama Kaena exceeds 30 years.

Another example is with NAGPRA (Native Hawaiian Graves Protection Act) only Hui Malama I Na Kupuna O Hawaii Nei is the only Recognized Native Hawaiian Organization (NHO) regarding that kuleana. However, the Department of Interior (DOI) was receptive to encouraging an opportunity for other Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHO) not recognized in NAGPRA for participation. The only procedure regarding standing was thru being a Recognized Lineal Descendant. The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) has also completed their Native Hawaiian Organization List. Malama Pono.

*Thomas T Shirai Jr
Kawaihapai Ohana – Po'o*