

TESTIMONY
SB 635
Proposed SD 1
LATE

February 5th, 2009

LATE TESTIMONY

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The Senate
The Twenty-Fifth Legislature
Regular Session of 2009
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair and
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice-Chair and
Members of the Committee

RE: Testimony for S.B. 635

Dear Members:

This legislation being submitted to amend the powers of the Department of Land and Natural Resources for state parks at this time may be timely for issues relating to the Kahana Valley State Park. I believe that in the powers granted to them, the acquiring of the Ahupua'a O Kahana and its condemnation fell under 184-3.

And under this power, the DLNR can in fact accept transfers and conveyances of the rights and titles to land within the State or lease these lands, i.e. Kahana Valley State Park. DLNR also has the power to make expenditures from funds available for the care, supervision, improvement, development and protection of the State Park system as Kahana Valley State Park, which is needed.

This legislation also gives DLNR the power to construct and operate suitable public services, facilities and conveniences on any land under its jurisdiction and control, as are deemed to be in the public interest. This power should be extended to and by far Kahana Valley State Park is in need of an new Kahana Valley Community Center and its own Maintenance Facility, instead the Maintenance personnel occupy the Orientation Center for their own benefit.

In any event, I would support Senator Hee's legislation at this time if in fact this power would also solidify the transfer of park lands to another county or another State entity for the benefit of the communities as Kahana Valley State Park.

^{Mahalo}
Danielle Ululani Beirne-Keawe
D. Ululani Beirne-Keawe

LATE TESTIMONY

LIVE TESTIMONY

Aloha:

I'm Ron Johnson, a lease holder, and my family spans seven generations in Kahana.

In 1965, in a document titled State of Hawaii vs. Hattie Laea Nuhi Au, our Tutu's interest in Kahana was condemned by the State, to include water rights and konohiki fishing rights. As you can imagine I have a keen interest in the success of the Living Park as envisioned by our elders.

I am strongly against S.B. No. 643 proposing transfer to DHHL.

I am strongly against S.B. No. 635 proposing transfer to OHA.

I am strongly against S.B. No. 638 proposing a 2 year moratorium on evictions/Master plan advisory committee.

I am strongly against S.B. No 639 proposing DLNR issue leases/Advisory committee.

All of these bills have flaws that I believe need to be corrected.

I believe the majority of current lease holders support the adoption of a master plan and I support the people's plan 1979.

I support State Parks and our program flourishes under them. Ask the Park interpretive program co-coordinator for an evaluation of all our programs in Kahana.

I resent the negative impressions out there about Kahana, we have much to offer and we work at it.

Response to S.B.No 635 proposing transfer to OHA

I am strongly against S.B. No. 635

It would not be fair to the original lessees who have spent all these years since signing our leases working to develop, and implement interpretive programs to now allow special legislation for just these families.

It would not be fair to the families & descendants who moved out of the valley, and are willing to work with interpretive programs and build their own home.

The bill should include all families originally qualified under Act 5 and lease vacancies be filled by lottery.

Mahalo,

Ron Johnson

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Organizations: Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies, Ka Papa Lo‘i o Kānewai, Wailua ‘Auwai lo‘i in Kahana Valley, ‘Onipa‘a Nā Hui Kalo, Geography Dept at Honolulu Community College, and the East-West Center International Board

TESTIMONY IN REGARDS TO SB 635 S.D.1: TO BE HEARD BY THE SENATE WATER, LAND AND OCEAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE ON 2/6/09.

Aloha members of the Senate Water, Land, and Ocean Resources. My name is Alapaki Luke and I am a *kalo* (taro) planter in Kahana Valley, Ko‘olauloa moku of O‘ahu, with the Wailua ‘Auwai cultural interpretive program under the direction and leadership of Uncle Ron Johnson and Uncle Nana Gorai, current and previous residents of Kahana Valley for many generations back. The Wailua ‘Auwai program was started in 1997 with a vision to restore to Kahana Valley the *lo‘i* (taro ponds) and *māla* (gardens) that once flourished in the valley. Since its inception, the project has grown exponentially with thousands of visitors and participants taking part in the establishment, maintenance and growth of this culturally significant *wahi* (place). State Parks has been a key element in administering this program from the start, big supporters such as Dan Quinn, Martha Yent, and Renee Kamisugi have been instrumental in supporting these programs throughout the years, without their support, the program would not be as successful as it is today. The Wailua ‘Auwai program has accommodated the residents of the valley, students from various levels of education (pre-school to graduate levels), greater Hawai‘i community, and the international community. Institutions such as University of Hawai‘i (Mānoa, Bringham Young University Hawai‘i, The East-West Center, Kamehameha Schools, many Department of Education schools at all levels, community organizations, ‘*Ohana* (family) groups, Native Hawaiian support programs, to name just a few. Kumu Keao NeSmith, a *kumu* (teacher) of Hawaiian Language at the UH Mānoa, and one of the founding *kumu* of the project, whos ‘*ohana* lives in the valley, regularly brings his *haumana* (students) to participate and connect to their *ha‘awina* (lessons), sometimes flying in the Ni‘ihau ‘*ohana* to participate with his *haumana*. The Wailua ‘Auwai program has been an avenue to achieve the living cultural park mission of Act 5, thereby establishing a program to *ho‘olauna* (introduce) the host culture of Hawai‘i, and more importantly establishing a way of life for the Kahana community that brings back pride to our heritage and who we are.

There has been rhetoric about how things are unorganized or chaotic in Kahana Valley and there’s no good direction or management, I feel this is false and coming from people who don’t fully realize the situation and the many different dynamics that take place in the valley. The program is working, which I can attest to, as a *kumu* myself at the University of Hawai‘i, and connected with my ‘*ohana* through *kupuna* ‘*iwi* (ancestral remains) that are buried in the valley, I was fortunate to *kanu* (plant) *kalo* and receive what holistically comes with planting *kalo*, which is the ‘*ike* (knowledge) and *mana* (spiritual power) of the *kūpuna* (ancestors).

me ka ha‘aha‘a (with humility),

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

~~SB 635 / SB 638 / SB 639 / SB 643~~

LATE TESTIMONY

Chairman Senator Clayton Hee, Vice Chairwoman Jill Tokuda
and committee members

06 Pepeeuali 2009

ALOHA!

My name is Sherri Lynn Leimomi Wallace Johnson. As one of six families facing evictions from the Ahupua'a o Kahana, I am writing in support of ALL legislation that support my efforts, the efforts of all the other na ohana facing evictions to remain on the land where I/WE reside, in this community called "Kahana."

At the least, six generations of my family have resided and currently reside in Kahana, from my great grand mother, to my grand nephew (who is 1 1/2 years). Last year, I went to the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation for representation, and was saddened to hear that they would not be able to represent me, and that I am considered a "squatter" on this land that my ancestors once lived upon. I informed the NHLC attorney that I did not just "fly" in from the continental United States of America with a one way ticket, hop on the bus and when I came to "Kahana" in its beauty and said, "THIS IS THE PLACE!" I have lineal ties to THIS land I now occupy, and wish to remain on THIS land I call "HOME."

I believe my 'ohana to be an asset to the community, participating in many cultural based activities (maintance of the fishpond and lo'i). I have three beautiful children (25, 16, 15) who speak fluent hawaiian, and raised in Kahana.

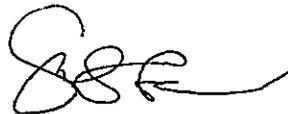
I encourage all legislators to support all legislation that will KEEP HAWAIIAN HANDS IN HAWAIIAN LANDS.

In closing, I share this olelo noe'au with your committee,

I ULU NO KA LALA KE KUMU
THE BRANCES GROW BECAUSE OF THE TRUNK
WITHOUT OUR ANCESTORS... WE WOULD NOT BE HERE

Mahalo nui loa!

Sherri Lynn Leimomi Wallace Johnson ✓
Erik Kakuzen Johnson
Ka'imina'auao Edd Cole Ho'opa'a ikapono Johnson
Kamalani Micah Francis Ho'ohiwahiwaokalewanu'u Johnson



TESTIMONY
SB 635
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LATE
(END)