LINDA LINGLE GOVERNOR OF HAWAII





STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of LAURA H. THIELEN Chairperson

Before the House Committee on **HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Wednesday, March 10, 2010 10:00 AM State Capitol, Conference Room 329

In consideration of HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 109/HOUSE RESOLUTION 59 REQUESTING STATE DEPARTMENTS TO USE TRADITIONAL HAWAIIAN NAMES WHEN IDENTIFYING FISHPONDS

House Concurrent Resolution 109/House Resolution 59 requests that state departments use traditional Hawaiian names when identifying fishponds. The Department of Land and Natural Resources respects this aspect of Native Hawaiian culture, and has no objections to these measures.

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

RUSSELL Y. TSUJI

KEN C. KAWAHARA DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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Rep. Maile Shimabukuro

From:

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Monday March 08, 2010 8:12 PM

Sent: To: Monday, March 08, 2010 8:12 PM

10: Co: **HAWtestimony**

Cc:

jeannine@hawaii.rr.com

Subject:

Testimony for HR59 on 3/10/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for HAW 3/10/2010 10:00:00 AM HR59

Conference room: 329

Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: Jeannine Johnson

Organization: Individual

Address: 5648 Pia Street Honolulu, HI

Phone: 808-373-2874

E-mail: jeannine@hawaii.rr.com

Submitted on: 3/8/2010

Comments:

Before Westerners arrived in Hawai'i, native Hawaiians lived a life of self-subsistence and harmony with the land and sea. Native Hawaiians understood that by caring for the land and sea, they too, would be cared for by the land and sea. A great example of this is a native Hawaiian fishpond (loko i'a or loko kuapā) which were first built around the fifteenth century. Hawaiians built 488 fishponds statewide, however only about 60 fishponds remain recognizable today. O'ahu alone had 97 fishponds, but only six accessible ponds remain today and all are located on the windward side. Thirteen fishponds have been restored statewide, with six ponds currently in use: three on Moloka'i, one on the island of Hawai'i, and two on O'ahu.

Currently, the Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center is working to stop the sale of two remaining fishponds at auction by the Department of Transportation. They are Kanewai Fishpond, a royal pond assessed to have the properties that make it eligible for listing on the National Historic Register, and Kalauha'iha'i (Lucas Spring and Fishpond) reported to be the location of a summer home of Kamehameha I and where Ka'ahumanu was said to have stayed.

Requesting that State Departments use the traditional Hawaiian names when identifying fishponds will help them be recognized for the important cultural significance these fishponds represent. Mahalo for your support.