



**HB207 HD2
RELATING TO TRAINING**

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Senate Committee on Government Operations

March 18, 2015

1:15 p.m.

Room 224

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HB207 HD2, which is a bill in OHA's 2015 Legislative Package. This bill would require the members of certain boards and commissions to attend a Native Hawaiian Law training course funded by OHA, and developed by third-party legal experts. Accordingly, HB207 HD2 represents an opportunity to ensure that key State policymakers understand and make decisions that are consistent with the State's fiduciary obligations to the Native Hawaiian people.

A training course in Native Hawaiian law for relevant board and commission members is necessary to fulfill the trust obligation and responsibility held by the State of Hawai'i towards Kānaka Maoli. The boards and commissions listed in HB207 HD2 administer resources and programs that directly impact Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights, natural and cultural resources, and the public trust. As state entities, these boards and commissions have a duty to protect and enforce Native Hawaiian rights, and to administer the public trust in the interest of its beneficiaries, including Native Hawaiians. However, notwithstanding the broad range of expertise and experience of the individuals selected to serve on these boards and commissions, many may not possess knowledge of the unique legal rights and responsibilities that relate to the Native Hawaiians, or to the public trust. Unfortunately, this has likely contributed to a sense of disenfranchisement felt by many in the Native Hawaiian community, and policy decisions that have failed to uphold the duties of the State.

To address this problem, since 2013 OHA has offered a Native Hawaiian Law training course on a voluntary basis to state and county legislators, board and commission members, and other relevant individuals. This training course was developed in partnership with the Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law at the William S. Richardson School of Law, and has been presented in January 2013, January 2014, and July 2014. In total, over 250 individuals have attended the course, including members of all the boards and commissions enumerated in this bill. **Notably, training course attendees overwhelmingly indicated that as a result of the course, they better understood the State's legal responsibilities towards Native Hawaiians and the public trust.**

Requiring similar legal training for each member of the boards and commissions listed in this bill will ensure that *all* of these critical decisionmakers are provided with the information they need to successfully fulfill the state's legal obligations towards Native Hawaiians and the public trust. Towards this end, OHA has and will continue to commit funds for the further

development and administration of a Native Hawaiian Law training course, eliminating the need for appropriations from the state general fund.

As the constitutionally established body responsible for protecting and promoting the rights of Native Hawaiians, OHA is the appropriate agency to create and administer a Native Hawaiian Law training course. OHA's kuleana include serving as the agency responsible for the 1) performance, development, and coordination of programs and activities relating to Native Hawaiians, as well as 2) the assessment of policies and practices of other agencies impacting Native Hawaiians. HB207 HD2 accordingly furthers OHA's purpose and kuleana in these areas, by ensuring that agency officials making policy decisions on Hawaiian issues have a basic understanding of legal protections for Native Hawaiian rights and interests.

OHA requests the Committees effectuate the defective date to have HB207 HD2 take effect upon approval.

OHA strongly urges the Committees to **PASS** HB207 HD2. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
CARTY CHANG
Interim Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
and
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

**Wednesday, March 18, 2015
1:15 pm
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In support of
HOUSE BILL 207, HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO TRAINING**

House Bill 207, House Draft 2 proposes to mandate that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) develop a training course on Native Hawaiian rights, and to require members of ten boards, commissions, or councils to attend these trainings. Training would be offered twice per year to ensure ample opportunity for board, commission, or council members to attend. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources' (Department) comments are limited to those boards and commissions under its jurisdiction. As such, the Department supports this measure.**

House Bill 207, House Draft 2 notes that it is the duty of all boards, commissions, and councils to protect Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights. However, many appointees to the boards, commissions, and councils that have the potential to impact native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights are not adequately trained in what those rights are, or the tools that they can use to protect those rights.

The Department notes that OHA has offered three such training courses since January 2013, and the Department has sent boards and commission members, as well as staff members, to the course each time. Everyone who attended had high praise for the course and indicated it was well worth their Saturday.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

CARTY S. CHANG
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

DANIEL S. QUINN
INTERIM FIRST DEPUTY

W. ROY HARDY
ACTING 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

Statement of
Daniel E. Orodenker
Executive Officer
Land Use Commission

Before the
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
And
Committee on Government Operations

March 18, 2015
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
HB 207 HD2
RELATING TO TRAINING

Chairs Shimabukuro and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Galuteria and Nishihara, and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, and Committee on Government Operations:

The Land Use Commission strongly supports HB 207 HD2 in that it provides the Land Use Commission (LUC) with training that is incredibly valuable for staff who must advise commissions and non-expert commissioners who deal with public trust issues involving Hawaiian traditional and customary rights, water, natural and archaeological resources, and burials.

These trainings have been cost-effective (offered at no cost to the agency), time-efficient, and at least for the LUC, highly relevant to the legal issues and the type of findings they are required to make in their decisions and orders. LUC staff and several of our past commissioners have attended OHA-sponsored training sessions with unanimous agreement as to their value and utility.

The LUC will continue to take advantage of such training opportunities for our staff and commissioners in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Council Chair
Mike White

Vice-Chair
Don S. Guzman

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Michael P. Victorino

Councilmembers
Gladys C. Baisa
Robert Carroll
Elle Cochran
Don Couch
Stacy Crivello
Riki Hokama



Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

March 15, 2015

TO: Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Honorable Donovan Del Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Government Operations

FROM: Stacy Crivello *Stacy Crivello*
Councilmember

DATE: March 18, 2015

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF HB 207 H.D. 2, RELATING TO TRAINING**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to require the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to administer a training course on native Hawaiian and Hawaiian rights. Requires members of certain state councils, boards, and commission to attend the training course.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. Members of state councils, boards and commissions that impact native Hawaiian and traditional Hawaiian rights may not necessarily be versed or have knowledge of these rights. Formal training would greatly benefit new and old members alike, assisting them in fulfilling their responsibilities.
2. Offering this training to members of county boards, commissions and councils that deal with these same issues of water and land use would also be very beneficial.
3. I commend the Office of Hawaiian Affairs for establishing a training course on Native Hawaiian Law for state and county legislators and boards and commission members.

For the foregoing reasons, I support this measure.

Testimony:SSC:HB207HD2



LAND USE RESEARCH
FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

1100 Alakea Street, Suite 408
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 521-4717
www.lurf.org

March 17, 2015

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Government Operations

Comments, Concerns and Opposition to current form of HB 207, HD2 Relating to Training (Requires the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to administer a training course on native Hawaiian and Hawaiian legal rights. Requires members of certain state councils, boards, and commissions to attend the legal rights training course).

HWN/GVO Hearing: Wednesday, March 18, 2015, 1:15 p.m., in Conf. Rm. 224

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

While LURF **supports the intent** of providing State councils, boards and commission with training on native Hawaiian and Hawaiian rights and **supports the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) working with the Department of the Attorney General (Attorney General) in preparing that training course**, it is **OPPOSED** to the current version of SB 436, and respectfully requests that this Committee **HOLD** this bill, based on the following:

(1) This bill is unnecessary, because **the State Administration and Attorney General could create a "comprehensive training program" for State councils, boards and commissions, and with the guidance and assistance from OHA, which could include areas relating to native Hawaiian and Hawaiian traditional and customary practices and legal rights, natural resources protection and access rights, and the public trust**; and also include the State's trust responsibilities and include other legal issues relating to natural resources, agriculture, ranching, aquaculture, fishing, hunting, water, tourism, housing, education, business, military, land use, renewable energy, astronomy, sustainability, genetic modification, high technology and other areas of state interests.

(2) This bill is unnecessary, because OHA and the Department of Land and Natural Resources have confirmed that **even without legislation such as this bill, OHA has already offered three such training courses since January 2013**, which have attracted attendees representing a broad spectrum of state and county government officials.

(3) The bill is unnecessary, because **current law already allows OHA to publicly present its factual and legal positions relating to native Hawaiian and Hawaiian traditional and customary practices and legal rights, natural resources protection and access rights, and the public trust to State councils, boards and commissions and also allows OHA to be official parties in matters, hearings, meetings and contested cases before those entities.**

(4) **The exclusive legal training by OHA would usurp the statutory authority of the Attorney General as the legal advisor for State councils, boards and commissions.** OHA's legal training could be contrary to the Attorney General's legal interpretations and advice and could create confusion for members of those State entities.

(5) Pursuant to Section 10-3 (4), of the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), **OHA's purposes include "conducting advocacy efforts" and "affecting public policy" relating to State councils, boards and commissions.** Thus, OHA's proposed mandatory legal rights training to those same State entities would represent **conflict of interest** between its statutory "*advocacy*" responsibilities to affect public policy and OHA's proposed mandatory legal rights training role;

(6) In situations where OHA is involved in a contested case hearing, or other quasi-judicial administrative matters, OHA's exclusive access and legal training will involve an opportunity for illegal **ex parte communications** on legal and factual issues that will come before State councils, boards and commissions. During those *ex parte* legal training sessions OHA will have the exclusive opportunity to affect the public policy decisions of those State entities, by providing information, advocating, supporting, opposing or criticizing various State, county or private initiatives and projects;

(7) In contested cases and quasi-judicial administrative matters, OHA's exclusive *ex parte* legal training of will create **special and unfair access and advantage** for OHA over those State councils, boards and commissions. **Due process, equal protection and fairness dictate that opposing parties and advocacy organizations, which may have different views on other important issues, should be afforded the same mandatory legal training opportunities.** Differing legal interpretations and training could be provided by parties and advocacy organizations involved in areas including, but not limited to, natural resources, agriculture, ranching, aquaculture, fishing, hunting, water, tourism, housing, education, business, military, land use, renewable energy, astronomy, sustainability, genetic modification, high technology and other areas of state interests.

(8) **The dates that government officials start performing their duties would be based solely on the dates of the OHA training.** The bill also authorizes OHA to repeat the law training course at least twice per year; requires the governor to provide

OHA with the names of the persons required to take the law training course within thirty calendar days of their initial appointment; requires OHA to notify those persons; and requires those persons to take the law course within thirty calendar days of their initial appointments. **This scheduling requirement severely restricts the ability of the Governor's appointees to promptly serve on the various state councils, boards and commissions.**

HB 207, HD2 OHA's native Hawaiian and Hawaiian Law Training Course. The Office of Hawaiian Affairs ("OHA") website and legislative package describes this bill as "**OHA-3 Native Hawaiian Law Training Course.**" This bill proposes to require OHA to establish, design, and administer a "law training course" relating to native Hawaiian and Hawaiian traditional and customary rights, native Hawaiian and Hawaiian natural resources protection and access rights, and the public trust, including the State's trust responsibility; and specified members of the following councils, boards and commissions would be required to take the law training course:

- Land Use Commission
- Board of Land and Natural Resources ("BLNR")
- Commission on Water Resource Management
- Environmental Council
- Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation
- Board of Agriculture
- Legacy Land Conservation Commission
- Natural Area Reserves Systems Commission
- Hawaii Historic Places Review Board
- Board of Health

This bill is somewhat similar to, and duplicative with some of the purposes of Act 288 (SLH 2012) (HB 2806, HB 2, SD 2, CD 1), which created the Aha Moku Advisory Committee ("Aha Moku") to advise the Office of the Chairperson of the BLNR on issues related to land and natural resource management through the aha moku system - a system of best practices based upon the indigenous resource management practices of moku (regional) boundaries, which acknowledges the natural contours of land, the specific resources located within those areas, and the methodology necessary to sustain resources and the community.

LURF's Position. It appears that this is a well-intended bill regarding very important issues, which has been proposed in the past. LURF supports the intent of the bill, which is to provide training for certain State councils, boards and commissions relating to native Hawaiian and Hawaiian rights and supports the involvement of OHA in that training process. However, there are still serious and major concerns that have not been resolved by the prior legislative committees, or in the current version of this measure. Thus, LURF must **OPPOSE** the current version of SB 436; and respectfully recommends that it should be **HELD** in this Committee.

Major concerns and issues. SB 436 includes the following issues, concerns and objections:

- **This bill is unnecessary: the State administration could develop and implement a "comprehensive training program."** Instead of passing this bill, perhaps the State Administration and Attorney General could consider working with

various organizations, including OHA, to develop and implement a “**comprehensive training course**” for members of the certain boards, councils, and commissions relating to various issues that will come within their purview, including:

- ❖ native Hawaiian and Hawaiian traditional and customary rights, native Hawaiian and Hawaiian natural resources protection and access rights, and the public trust, including the State’s trust responsibilities;
 - ❖ the State responsibilities and legal rights in areas of natural resources, agriculture, ranching, aquaculture, fishing, hunting, water use, land use, tourism, housing, education, business, military, renewable energy, astronomy, sustainability, genetic modification, high technology and climate change; and
 - ❖ any “legal training” of State councils, boards and commissions should only be taught by the Attorney General or his deputies, as they are the legal advisors for State councils, boards and commissions.
- **The bill is unnecessary, because current law already allows OHA to publicly present its factual and legal positions relating to native Hawaiian and Hawaiian traditional and customary practices and legal rights, natural resources protection and access rights, and the public trust to State councils, boards and commissions and also allows OHA to be official parties in matters, hearings and meetings before those entities.**
 - **OHA’s mandatory law training could usurp the statutory authority of the Attorney General and could be contrary to the legal interpretation and advice provided by the Attorney General and cause unnecessary confusion for the State councils, boards and commissions.** The Attorney General is the legal counsel and advisor for the above-referenced State councils, boards and commissions. In the recent past, OHA’s interpretation of legal rights and responsibilities sometimes appear inconsistent with, or contrary to the Attorney General’s legal interpretations and advice to those State councils, boards and commissions. If OHA administers mandatory training and expresses legal interpretations, conclusions and advice that is inconsistent with or contrary to the Attorney General, it will cause unnecessary confusion for the State councils, boards and commissions and could lead to messy legal challenges.
 - **OHA’s conflict of interest.** OHA’s website emphasizes its focus on advocacy:

*“OHA is focused on strategic priorities for improving the conditions of Native Hawaiians in the areas of aina, culture, economic self-sufficiency, education, governance and health. **OHA’s advocacy** involves conducting research findings are used **to guide decisions** and empower communities to inspire positive results in these areas. **OHA’s advocacy also calls for developing and shaping public policies** that have broad implications for the Hawaiian community. **OHA’s advocacy** is reflected in its efforts **to help ensure that laws are complied with** at the local, state and federal levels. In addition, OHA’s advocacy requires working with communities to share information and build public support for Hawaiian issues.”*

Given OHA's focus on advocacy and affecting public policy of State councils, boards and commissions, OHA will have a conflict of interest between its statutory "advocacy" responsibilities before government boards and commissions and its proposed absolute power to implement the mandatory legal training for those same councils, boards and commissions. As noted above, OHA's statutory purposes include conducting "advocacy efforts" for native Hawaiian and Hawaiians" before the very same boards, councils and commissions for which they are they are establish, design, and administer a "mandatory law training course", **on the very same issues they are advocating for**. If OHA opposes a particular State or private initiative or project, it would have the statutory mandate and opportunity to advocate their own OHA's legal position and arguments to those State councils, boards and commissions.

- In contested case hearings, or other quasi-judicial matters, OHA's proposed legal training course could be considered **improper *exparte* communication** and opposition to, or criticism of current and future State and private initiatives and projects that will come before those same State councils, boards and commissions.

OHA's statutory purposes include "*Assessing the policies and practices of other agencies impacting on native Hawaiians and Hawaiians, and **conducting advocacy efforts for Native Hawaiians and Hawaiians.***" HRS §10-3(4). It is a responsibility that OHA performs often and well and is of great value. Over the years, OHA has opposed or expressed concerns with the State Administration's legislative package and with other major private and State-related initiatives or projects. OHA's past and continuing legal and other opposition to state projects are a healthy and necessary part of the public comment and advocacy process. However, given **OHA's statutory advocacy mission**, there are concerns whether OHA's legal training of State councils, boards and commissions will include such advocacy, opposition to and criticism of private and State-related projects or initiatives that will be the subject of contested case hearings or other quasi-judicial proceedings, and thus be considered **improper *exparte* communications**.

- **OHA will have a "special and unfair advantage" over other organizations and groups which have differing legal interpretations and are engaged in contested case hearings or other quasi-judicial proceedings involving OHA.** This bill gives OHA the absolute power to determine the legal training for State boards and commissions and provide OHA with "a special and unfair advantage" over any other individual or public interest organizations that seek to provide differing public input or legal interpretations to those State boards, councils and commissions. If this bill passes in its present form, other major public interest groups will not have a "level playing field" with OHA, including organizations with technical and legal expertise and interests in natural resources, agriculture, ranching, aquaculture, fishing, hunting, water, tourism, housing, education, business, military, land use, renewable energy, astronomy, sustainability, genetic modification, and high technology.

Due process, equal protection and fairness dictate that such other organizations, which may have different views on other important issues, should be afforded the same mandatory legal training opportunities. One of the main concerns is whether OHA's absolute power to establish and administer the mandatory legal training program will

provide OHA with the power preclude any other person's or organization's right to provide the advice and training to the specified members of state boards, councils, and commissions on similar issues; and would arguably have the effect of creating and favoring OHA as "a special class", as it confers favorable treatment, special access, rights and privileges only to OHA, as one special interest group, thereby potentially rendering the measure unconstitutional.

- **Especially for councils, boards and commissions that engage in contested cases and other quasi-judicial proceedings, other organizations and special interest groups should have the same rights to provide legal training to certain State boards, councils and commissions.** Laws enacted by the Legislature must rightly support the free speech, due process and equal protection rights of all citizens, special interest groups, industry groups and stakeholders who may also wish to provide training or advice to specified members of State boards, councils, and commissions relating to the broad spectrum of subject matters and the law relating to land and natural resource management, which includes legal issues regarding natural resources, agriculture, ranching, aquaculture, fishing, hunting, water, tourism, housing, education, business, military, land use, renewable energy, sustainability, genetic modification, and high technology. All of the groups named above should have the same rights as OHA to conduct mandatory legal training of those State boards, councils and commissions.

As stated above, LURF supports the intent of this bill and supports OHA's involvement in such a training process.

However, based on the reasons stated above, LURF respectfully recommends that the current version of HB 207, HD2 should be **HELD** in this Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to present LURF's position in **OPPOSITION** to the current form of this measure.



**Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs (HWN)
Senate Committee on Government Operations (GVO)
Wednesday, March 18, 2015 | 1:15 p.m. | Conference Room 224
In SUPPORT of HB207 HD2, Relating to Training**

Aloha Chairs Shimabukuro and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Galuteria and Nishihara, and Honorable Members of the Committees,

The Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii strongly supports HB207 HD2 that requires OHA to administer a training course on native Hawaiian and Hawaiian rights and requires members of certain state councils, boards, and commissions to attend the training course.

The State of Hawaii has a trust obligation and a fiduciary duty to Native Hawaiians. Knowledgeable leaders are in the best position to make sound decisions on matters concerning Native Hawaiian issues that come before them.

OHA's voluntary training classes have been well received. Appointees are more fully informed of their roles and responsibilities toward Native Hawaiians. This is a winning situation for the Hawaiian beneficiaries and for those who carry out various mandates in the State.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of HB207 HD2.

Davis Price
Chair

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: ikepono@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB207 on Mar 18, 2015 13:15PM*
Date: Monday, March 16, 2015 9:15:04 AM

HB207

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for HWN/GVO on Mar 18, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Isaiah Kala Kaaihue	Ewa Puuloa Hawaiian Civic Club	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: ikepono@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB207 on Mar 18, 2015 13:15PM*
Date: Monday, March 16, 2015 9:14:14 AM

HB207

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for HWN/GVO on Mar 18, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Isaiah Kala Kaaihue	King Kamehameha HCC	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Center for Hawaiian Sovereignty Studies
46-255 Kahuhipa St. Suite 1205
Kane'ohe, HI 96744
Tel/Fax (808) 247-7942
Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D. Executive Director
e-mail Ken_Conklin@yahoo.com
Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
and SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
For hearing Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Re: HB 207, HD2 RELATING TO TRAINING.

Requires Office of Hawaiian Affairs to administer a training course on native Hawaiian and Hawaiian rights. Requires members of certain state councils, boards, and commissions to attend the training course. (HB207 HD2)

The bill says that OHA offered its training courses on three occasions to government officials on various boards and commissions, and that some of those officials took the course, and then some who took the course reported that they had found it helpful. How nice for OHA! Participation was voluntary, free of cost to those who took it and to their employers; and of course they were enthusiastic (or at least they

were polite enough to their instructors to give a positive evaluation). How nice for those who took the course and for those who taught it!

This bill proposes to make the course mandatory for all members of a long list of boards and commissions. How awful it would be to force people to be brainwashed by OHA's political propaganda on highly controversial topics with no presentation of opposing views. Would any member of a board or commission dare to ask a question in class that challenges the correctness of what the OHA-designated teacher is saying, or disagrees with the opinions being presented? By analogy, imagine the situation of a middle-school student from a Christian fundamentalist family being forced to attend a sex-education course which graphically describes anal sex as normal behavior, and whose parents are denied the right to opt-out.

This bill places one state agency, OHA, in a position of authority over other state agencies by requiring employees to pass a course whose purpose is to brainwash them with the political views of OHA. Dozens -- perhaps hundreds -- of members of previously independent boards and commissions would now be placed under the direct authority and supervision of OHA, knowing that if they refuse to kow-tow to their OHA instructor they will be given a failing grade in this mandatory course and will then be ineligible to continue as a member of their board or commission.

For example, OHA has certain views regarding who owns the ceded lands and whether the state has a right to sell parcels of ceded lands. The Hawaii Supreme Court made a 5-0 decision upholding OHA's views. But on appeal, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 9-0 that OHA's views are wrong. Can we expect OHA to teach correct information about who owns the ceded lands and whether the state can sell them?

For example, OHA has certain views about the Hawaiian revolution of 1893 that overthrew the monarchy, and points to the Blount Report of

1893 and the U.S. apology resolution of 1993 to bolster OHA's views. But those views are controversial, and are disproved by the Morgan Report issued by the U.S. Senate in 1894 and by the majority report of the Native Hawaiians Study Commission issued by a joint Senate/House commission in 1996. Can we expect OHA to provide both sides of this controversy, or will OHA brainwash state employees by teaching only the views OHA endorses?

This bill would require government employees to learn about, and give deference to, the ancient Hawaiian religion as the justification for various state laws and practices regarding water rights for taro, protection of ancient burials, etc. It would constitute an establishment of religion contrary to the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution; and it would also force employees who have no Hawaiian blood to bow to a religion which portrays people who do have Hawaiian blood as possessing an inherent God-given right to rule these islands.

This bill requires government employees to learn about "traditional and customary rights" of Native Hawaiians to ensure that in carrying out their duties, the employees will give respect and deference to Native Hawaiian beliefs and cultural values. For example, we might expect employees to be trained regarding sacred places, the reasons why taro patches are given special guarantees of access to water, the reasons why ancient burials must not be disturbed, etc.

Those topics, and many others, are based in the ancient Hawaiian religion, which has a creation legend which today's sovereignty activists (incorrectly) describe as portraying Native Hawaiians (and only Native Hawaiians) as genealogically the children of the gods and the brothers to these islands, and the younger brothers of the taro plant, in a way nobody ever can be who lacks a drop of native blood.

The Hawaiian religion is the only one to be given special deference under the terms of this bill; thus this bill would be an establishment of

religion. Under terms of this legislation, government money will be used to indoctrinate government employees with a religious belief. Furthermore, the way that belief is likely to be taught can best be described as religious fascism because it justifies giving governmental authority over land-use decisions to a particular racial group.

In 1819, the year before the American missionaries came to Hawaii, the sovereign King Liholiho Kamehameha II, with his regent stepmother Queen Ka'ahumanu, and with Kahuna Nui (High Priest) Hewahewa, exercised sovereignty on behalf of all native Hawaiians to abolish the ancient religion, and ordered the destruction of the heiaus and burning of idols. Those ethnic Hawaiians who try to resurrect the ancient religion for political purposes disrespect the decision of their ali'is and ancestors. By seeking to elevate that ancient religion above all other religions, they disrespect the right to freedom of religion possessed by all Americans.

This committee should not disrespect the mainstream majority of today's ethnic Hawaiians, and the multiracial, multicultural people of Hawaii, by passing this bill.



Testimony Before The Senate
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Committee on Government Operations
IN SUPPORT OF HB 207 HD2
Wednesday, March 18, 2015, 1:15PM, Room 224

My name is Kevin Chang and I am the Executive Director of Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (or KUA). KUA works to empower grassroots rural and Native Hawaiian mālama 'āina groups to celebrate their places and pass on their traditions to better Hawai'i and achieve 'āina momona— an abundant, productive ecological system that supports community well-being.

KUA supports HB 207 HD2 as an incremental step towards 'āina momona. This bill would require members of state councils, boards, and commissions that have an impact on Native Hawaiian and public trust resources to attend a training course on their fiduciary duties in regard to those resources.

We employ a community-driven approach that currently supports a network of more than 31 mālama 'āina community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together), 40 fishpond projects and practitioners called the Hui Mālama Loko l'a, and a new and growing hui of Limu practitioners all from across our state.

Many of the communities in the networks we facilitate focus on improving natural resource management and restoration of native ecological systems, values and ethics more sensitive to the needs of their wahi (their places). Quite often the issues they work to advance come before state and county councils, boards and commission dealing with historical and cultural sites, land, agriculture and water issues. When members of these decision-making bodies are uninformed of their fiduciary duties confusion often results in un-necessary delay and drain of resources sometimes even resulting in prolonged and personally taxing lawsuits.

We commend the Office of Hawaiian Affairs for the development and implementation of these training sessions and advancement of this important issue before you. However, the long term vision for these programs should ultimately be one embraced and furthered by the broader community.

Our communities are committed to ensuring the long-term health of our cultural and natural resources because they have depended on them for generations. This bill among others is an exciting trend towards increasing government's role as a partner with our communities to restore the abundance that we are all often so nostalgic about.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Aloha 'āina momona.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: mkhan@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB207 on Mar 18, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Friday, March 13, 2015 5:01:45 PM

HB207

Submitted on: 3/13/2015

Testimony for HWN/GVO on Mar 18, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Kalihi Palama Hawaiian Civic Club	Support	No

Comments: We continue to support the training as proposed by OHA that will enable leaders to make sound decisions and to advocate for good policies that take into consideration the State's commitment to Native Hawaiians, especially as mandated by the Hawaii State Constitution. Respectfully, Leimomi Khan, President, Kaihi Palama Hawaiian Civic Club

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Melody Kapilialoha MacKenzie
Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law
William S. Richardson School of Law, UH-Mānoa
2515 Dole Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822

H.B. 207, H.D. 2
Relating to Training

Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair

Committee on Government Operations
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Hearing on Wednesday, March 18, 2015, at 1:15 p.m.

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong **support** of **H.B. 207, H.D. 2**, relating to training for members of state councils, boards, and commissions on Native Hawaiian legal issues. I am a professor at the William S. Richardson School of Law and director of Ka Huli Ao Center.

As you know, Ka Huli Ao has partnered with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to provide three Native Hawaiian Law training courses with a focus on the public land trust, water, traditional and customary rights, and iwi kūpuna or ancestral remains. Over 270 people have attended these daylong training courses. Most attendees were members of state and county boards, councils, and commissions or staff members; some of state legislators and county councilmembers also attended. The response to the training has been overwhelmingly positive. The training evaluations indicate that 75-80% of those responding believed that the training had increased their understanding and knowledge of the state's trust duties and responsibilities. When asked to identify the most important "take-aways" from the training, responses included:

- The State is obligated to protect and mālama Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights.
- The Public Land Trust is real and important.
- Water laws in Hawai'i incorporate a concept of public trust.
- The counties do have an obligation to conserve and protect the State's natural resources.
- It is very important that the decision makers know their kuleana and obligation to perform their duties and to determine these with both Western and Hawaiian lenses.

We believe that the training courses have significantly increased the understanding of attendees, and have given them the knowledge and tools to help make difficult decisions. Moreover, attendees from different agencies and departments have been able to interact and share concerns and possible solutions with each other, building common understanding and increasing cooperation among agencies and departments.

Ka Huli Ao has been honored to partner with OHA in this effort. We ask that the committees pass H.B. 207, H.D. 2, as you did the companion bill, S.B. 436, earlier this year. It is of utmost importance, particularly for newly-appointed members of councils, boards, and commissions, to be required to attend a training on areas of law that so strongly impact Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources and the Native Hawaiian community. Mahalo for the opportunity to express our strong **support** for H.B. 207, H.D. 2.

TO: Senator Maile S.L. Shimbukuro, Chair
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
and
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Government Operations

FROM: Sara L. Collins, Ph.D., President
Society for Hawaiian Archaeology
sara.l.collins.sha@gmail.com

HEARING: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 10:00 AM in Conference Room 224

SUBJECT: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 207, HD 2, Relating to Training

I am Dr. Sara Collins, President of the Society for Hawaiian Archaeology (SHA). We have over 150 members that include professional archaeologists and advocates of historic preservation in general. HB 207, HD2 amends Chapter 10, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) to require the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to administer a training course on native Hawaiian and Hawaiian rights. The amendments will also require members of certain state councils, boards, and commissions to attend the training course, and allow other state or county officers, representatives, or employees to request to enroll in the training course.

Since 2013, OHA has offered three such training courses attended by a broad range of state and county government officials. An overwhelming majority of the attendees found the course materials, content, and presentation to be very valuable. Upon completion, attendees felt that they had a better understanding of Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights, natural resource protection, access rights, and the public trust.

HB 207, HD2 proposes to amend §10.2, HRS by adding a new part that requires the following actions:

- The training shall be required for members of the Land Use Commission, Board of Land and Natural Resources, Commission on Water Resource Management, Environmental Council, Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Board of Agriculture, Legacy Land Conservation Commission, Natural Area Reserves Commission, Hawaii Historic Places Review Board, and the Board of Health. Such individuals shall complete the training course within 12 months of the members' initial appointments.
- At its own expense, OHA will establish, design, and administer the training course relating to Native Hawaiian and Hawaiian traditional and customary rights, Native Hawaiian and Hawaiian natural resource protection and access rights, and the public trust, including the State's trust responsibility. OHA shall offer the training course at least twice per year.
- The Governor shall provide to OHA the names of the persons required to take the training course within 30 calendar days of their initial appointments.

We support the subject bill and believe that a training course of this type will be valuable to incoming commissioners and others who may choose to take the course. We would only recommend that the required content include some basic information on State historic preservation law (Chapter 6E, HRS) as well as the content identified in HB 207, HD2.

Mahalo for considering our testimony. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the above email address.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: amybrinker@mac.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB207 on Mar 18, 2015 13:15PM*
Date: Sunday, March 15, 2015 4:37:49 PM

HB207

Submitted on: 3/15/2015

Testimony for HWN/GVO on Mar 18, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: bianca@kahea.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB207 on Mar 18, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Monday, March 16, 2015 10:13:06 AM

HB207

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for HWN/GVO on Mar 18, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bianca Isaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly SUPPORT HB207 which will require certain state boards and commission members to take a training course on Native Hawaiian rights and public trust law. I believe that it is important that these boards and commission members have the basic understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, public trust resources, and protections for 'iwi kupuna and sacred sites. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians and communities across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: brytni@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB207 on Mar 18, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 1:53:03 PM

HB207

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for HWN/GVO on Mar 18, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brytni K-aloha	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly SUPPORT HB207 which will require certain state boards and commission members to take a training course on Native Hawaiian rights and public trust law. I believe that it is important that these boards and commission members have the basic understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, public trust resources, and protections for 'iwi kupuna and sacred sites. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians and communities across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Chair Maile Shimabukuro
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Chair Donovan Dela Cruz
Committee on Government Operations

HB 207, HD 2

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

1:15 P.M. State Capitol, Conference Room 224

Aloha, I'm Emma Ulali'a Oto-Pale, a student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa currently in the BSW Program at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work and also a first timer to submitting a testimony.

I am testifying in strong support of the House Bill 207, which requires members of certain state councils, boards, and commissions to attend a training course on native Hawaiian and Hawaiian rights administered by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

I support HB 207 and here are the three main reasons why. One, it's important for those in office whose decisions impact native Hawaiians and Hawaiians understand and know the knowledge of native Hawaiians and Hawaiians history and their explanations. Second, to play an active role in making positive change for our community these members identified in 10-A (a) amongst others will gain more knowledge on the responsibilities they must make before taking action. It is also stated that past attendees agreed that the training course helped them to better understand native Hawaiian and Hawaiian traditional and customary rights, natural resource protection, access rights, and the public trust. Third, this measure will expand the awareness and knowledge of native Hawaiian and Hawaiian rights, which will most likely simmer down controversial issues and also educate non-native Hawaiians and non-Hawaiians of their contentious history. Having been trained on these rights from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, it is most likely that these members stated in 10-A (a) will recollect on this training and its impact on the native Hawaiian and Hawaiian communities before making drastic changes.

Mahalo for this opportunity to be apart of such great changes for Hawai'i's future.

In closing, please support HB 207.

Emma Ulali'a Oto-Pale

Junior Class of Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work

(808) 372-2467

HB207
RELATING TO TRAINING
Senate Committees on Government Operations and Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, March 18, 2015
1:15PM
Conference Room 224

I strongly SUPPORT HB207 which will require certain state boards and commission members to take a training course on Native Hawaiian rights and public trust law. I believe that it is important that these boards and commission members have the basic understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, public trust resources, and protections for 'iwi kupuna and sacred sites. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians and communities across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Mahalo,
Gloria Taaffe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: ikepono@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB207 on Mar 18, 2015 13:15PM*
Date: Monday, March 16, 2015 9:13:01 AM

HB207

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for HWN/GVO on Mar 18, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Isaiah Kala Kaaihue	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB207 on Mar 18, 2015 13:15PM*
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 3:50:59 PM

HB207

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for HWN/GVO on Mar 18, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: jching808@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB207 on Mar 18, 2015 13:15PM*
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 10:29:56 AM

HB207

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for HWN/GVO on Mar 18, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

I strongly support Senate Bill 436 House and the companion House Bill 207 that will require certain state boards and commission members to take training courses on Native Hawaiian rights and public trust law. I believe that it is important that these boards and commission members have the basic understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, public trust resources, and protections for 'iwi kupuna and sacred sites. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians and communities across the state. I urge the committee to pass this bill. Training programs should be mandatory for all those who represent or reside on state boards and commissions in the State of HI and those affiliated with any land use rights issue(s). This must include the basics of Native Hawaiian historical traditions, resources of the past, and land use rights. Residents and Hawai'i voters should not expect less than an educated decision from those in positions of leadership.

Mahalo,

Kāhala Dotson

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: kamakane73@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB207 on Mar 18, 2015 13:15PM*
Date: Friday, March 13, 2015 6:48:31 PM

HB207

Submitted on: 3/13/2015

Testimony for HWN/GVO on Mar 18, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kama Hopkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: rawlinsk@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB207 on Mar 18, 2015 13:15PM*
Date: Saturday, March 14, 2015 7:17:20 PM

HB207

Submitted on: 3/14/2015

Testimony for HWN/GVO on Mar 18, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
KEANI RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: kealohafox@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB207 on Mar 18, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Monday, March 16, 2015 9:24:32 AM

HB207

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for HWN/GVO on Mar 18, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leanne Fox	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly SUPPORT HB207 which will require certain state boards and commission members to take a training course on Native Hawaiian rights and public trust law. I believe that it is important that these boards and commission members have the basic understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, public trust resources, and protections for 'iwi kupuna and sacred sites. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians and communities across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: 1bagpoe@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB207 on Mar 18, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Monday, March 16, 2015 3:22:29 PM

HB207

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for HWN/GVO on Mar 18, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
LORNA POE	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly SUPPORT [Insert HB207 or SB436] which will require certain state boards and commission members to take a training course on Native Hawaiian rights and public trust law. I believe that it is important that these boards and commission members have the basic understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, public trust resources, and protections for 'iwi kupuna and sacred sites. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians and communities across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB207 on Mar 18, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 8:45:14 PM

HB207

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for HWN/GVO on Mar 18, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
penny levin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this measure. Too many board and commission members with responsibilities and decision-making authority over our natural and cultural resources know little, if anything, about the laws and rules affecting such resources. Such training as the State Water Code or rules and protocols applying to cultural sites and iwi kupuna should be mandatory, particularly for members of the land use commission, the board of land and natural resources, and the water commission. Mahalo.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

House Bill 207: Hawaiian Training
Committee HWN/GVO
March 18th 2015
In Strong Support
Rafael Bergstrom

Aloha Members of the HWN/GVO Committees,

I would like to offer my strong support for HB 207 and its intent to instill our public officers, employees, and representatives with a stronger connection to the cultural past and present of these islands. History is such an important component to all of our existence and fostering a deep understanding of the people and way life that existed here for thousands of years prior is a necessity in understanding the current cultural climate that we live in. In order to foster stronger community bonds and include the diversity of our past into our future, it should be mandatory for those working in this state to be educated on the island way of life that has existed for thousands of years prior to the current structure. Diversity makes our world a better, more interesting place and it should be our duty to make sure that our cultural past is not marginalized.

Hawaiian cultural to this day has such strong ties to the land and natural resources and many of these connections should be instilled in a society today that seems to slip farther and farther away from a deep appreciation of the land. Our community in these islands could learn much from the past while still moving into the future with a modern ethos. To let the Hawaiian way of life be pushed aside and disregarded is a shameful action. I believe that all visitors and residents should be better educated in these realms so that we can all better understand each other as humans.

Having the Office of Hawaiian Affairs administer a training course in native Hawaiian culture and rights would be a step in a direction that includes the interests of the native people to these lands. Please give HB 207 your strong consideration and support this meaningful piece of legislation.

Thank you for your time and understanding.

Cheers,
Rafael Bergstrom
Oahu Chapter Coordinator, Surfrider Foundation

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: robertl@oha.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB207 on Mar 18, 2015 13:15PM*
Date: Friday, March 13, 2015 6:49:20 PM

HB207

Submitted on: 3/13/2015

Testimony for HWN/GVO on Mar 18, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert K. Lindsey, Jr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: rkayelny@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB207 on Mar 18, 2015 13:15PM*
Date: Monday, March 16, 2015 8:15:58 AM

HB207

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for HWN/GVO on Mar 18, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robin Kaye	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov