

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 S. CHANG
Interim Chairperson**

**Before Senate Committees on
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
and
AGRICULTURE**

**Monday, March 30, 2015
1:40 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
SENATE RESOLUTION 107/SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 171
REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS TO DEVELOP A STRATEGIC
PLAN FOR THE PROTECTION OF TARO BY IMPLEMENTING THE PROPOSALS SET
FORTH IN ACT 211, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2008, AND THE
RECOMMENDATIONS OUTLINED IN THE TARO SECURITY AND PURITY TASK
FORCE'S 2010 REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE.**

Senate Resolution 107/Senate Concurrent Resolution 171 proposes that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs develop a strategic plan for the protection of taro by implementing the proposals set forth in Act 211, Session Laws of Hawaii 2008, and recommendations outlined in the Taro Security and Purity Task Force's 2010 report to the Legislature. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) does not support the implementation actions prescribed by these resolutions and offers the following comments.**

The Department wishes to first acknowledge and recognize the hard work and dedication of the taro farmers serving on the Taro Security and Purity Task Force and their efforts over the past few years to implement the recommendations outlined in the 2010 Report to the Legislature. While the Department holds a representative seat on the Taro Security and Purity Task Force, the Department does not believe that the intent of the Task Force was or is to develop a strategic plan through these resolutions. Rather, the original intent of this resolution was to recognize the importance of kalo to Hawaiian culture, the agricultural industry in general, and for the Legislature to support continued efforts, whatever that may be, beyond the dissolution of the Taro Security and Purity Task Force on June 30, 2015.

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
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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



SCR171/SR107
REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS TO DEVELOP
A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE PROTECTION OF TARO
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Senate Committee on Agriculture

March 30, 2015

1:40 p.m.

Room 224

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Administration will recommend to the Board of Trustees) a position of **COMMENTS** on SCR171/SR107, which requests that OHA develop a strategic plan for the protection of kalo by implementing proposals set forth in Act 211, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2008, and the recommendations outlined in the Taro Security and Purity Task Force's 2010 Report to the Legislature.

OHA supports efforts to protect kalo and kalo lands, and to strengthen the local kalo industry, but respectfully asserts that OHA is not the appropriate agency to implement the proposals and recommendations of the Taro Security and Purity Task Force (Taro Task Force). Implementation of the recommendations, which include improving access to kalo lands through leases and permits, improving protections for kalo lands throughout the state, and providing incentives for the active rehabilitation of kalo lands, are not within the purview of OHA's regulatory authority. Thus, while OHA continues to be an advocate for increased kalo production, OHA recommends that the committee consider agencies that have direct authority to protect kalo land and related infrastructure to ensure that these lands and structures remain available to support present and future kalo needs, improve our state's food self-sufficiency, and facilitate our return to a more traditional and sustainable model of local food production.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Aha Moku Advisory Committee
State of Hawaii
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Testimony of
Leimana DaMate, AMAC

Before the Senate Committees on
Hawaiian Affairs
Agriculture

Monday, March 30, 2015
1:40 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

**In Consideration of
SCR 171 and SR 107**

Requesting the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to develop a Strategic Plan for the protection of taro by implementing the proposals set forth in Act 211, Session Laws of Hawaii 2008, and the recommendations outlined in the taro security and purity task force's 2010 report to the Legislature.

In regards to SCR 171 and SR 107 which calls for OHA to develop a Strategic Plan to protect taro by implementing proposals set forth in Act 211, Session Laws 2008, and the recommendations outlined in the taro security and purity task force's 2010 Report to the Legislature, the **Aha Moku Advisory Committee members of the islands of Kahoolawe, Lana'i, O'ahu, Kaua'i and Ni'ihau offers the following comments:**

From the very beginning, the Native Hawaiian kanaka maoli have depended upon taro as one of their staple foods. The *mahiai*, or farmers, from ancient times to the present have continued to grow and harvest taro, not only for Native Hawaiian consumers, but for the general public who have grown to depend upon this food as a healthy and necessary staple. However, the demand exceeds the ability to produce especially since this demand is expected to grow as local people move towards greater local food self-sufficiency.

We agree with the Taro Task Force, established under Act 211, who recommended greater protections for wetland taro lands (lo'i) and dry land taro lo'i, including the protection of their structural elements (terraces, stone walls, and irrigation ditches) within the boundaries of the State's public conservation districts to help meet food security needs. The recommendations listed in the Task Force Report to the Legislature 2010 can be used as a guide in creating the Strategic Plan. However, we believe this plan would be better suited to come out of the Department of Agriculture especially if the goal is to create a permanent state body that will continue to represent taro farmers at the Legislature and with other governmental agencies.

We support the intent of this resolution but suggest that it would be better served through the Department of Agriculture.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: darakawa@lurf.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SR107 on Mar 30, 2015 13:40PM
Date: Sunday, March 29, 2015 1:22:28 PM

SR107

Submitted on: 3/29/2015

Testimony for HWN/AGL on Mar 30, 2015 13:40PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Z. Arakawa	Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii SUPPORTS the intent of SR 107, which requests the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to develop a strategic Plan for the Protection of Taro by Implementing the Proposals set forth in Act 211, Session Laws of Hawaii 2008, and the recommendations outlined in the Taro Security and Purity Task Force's 2010 report to the Legislature. (SR 107) LURF would respectfully recommend that OHA's recommendation include additional funding for OHA and other Stakeholders to implement some of the proposals and recommendations in the proposed Strategic Plan for the Protection of Taro.

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.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: legechair@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SR107 on Mar 30, 2015 13:40PM*
Date: Sunday, March 29, 2015 9:47:10 PM

SR107

Submitted on: 3/29/2015

Testimony for HWN/AGL on Mar 30, 2015 13:40PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments:

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1288 Kapiolani Blvd, Apt 1905
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
March 25, 2015

Testimony with Comments on
SR 107/SCR 171, Requesting the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to
Develop a Strategic Plan for the Protection of Taro by Implementing the Proposals
Set Forth in Act 211, Session Laws of Hawaii 2008, and the Recommendations
Outlined in the Taro Security and Purity Task Force's 2010 Report to the Legislature

Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Committee on Agriculture
Monday, March 30, 2015, 1:40 p.m., Conf Rm 224

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

Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Agriculture

Aloha

The following comments on SR 107/SCR 171 are provided for your consideration:

- Recommend **support that portion of these measures that call for a strategic plan for the protection of taro, but do not support this task being assigned to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs** as they have no jurisdiction over direct lease and permitting requirements and agriculture is not their kuleana.
- Recommend that this **task be assigned to the Dept of Agriculture**. They have a strategic plan and integration into their strategic plan would assure attention to this matter. Another bill is progressing through the legislature, i.e., HB205 HD1, SD1, Relating to Agriculture, if adopted, would include traditional Hawaiian farming and crops and small-scale farming in the state planning objectives and policies for the economy. The Dept of Agriculture supported that part of HB205, HD1, SD1 concerning traditional Hawaiian farming and crops. Thus, like other agricultural issues, the Dept of Agriculture would likely be the lead Dept in state planning objectives concerning kalo production.

Mahalo for your consideration of these comments.

Respectfully,

LEIMOMI KHAN

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SR107 on Mar 30, 2015 13:40PM
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 8:32:37 AM

SR107

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

Testimony for HWN/AGL on Mar 30, 2015 13:40PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: Support with the proposed amendments of the Taro Security and Purity Task Force.

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