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Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2034 on Mar 30, 2016 09:00AM  
Date: Tuesday, March 29, 2016 9:51:37 PM

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## **HB2034**

Submitted on: 3/29/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 30, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
adrian blackhurst	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I, Adrian Blackhurst, support KIRC bill HB2034 Please support this important measure to provide financial support and stability of the restoration and protection of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. ... As the only Island Reserve set up entirely in trust for a Native Hawaiian Sovereign Entity, the KIRC is well poised to change the economic landscape and life quality of Native Hawaiians and the communities in which they reside by means of a truly unique experience on the island of Kaho'olawe. The State must maintain the responsibility of supporting the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund. ... As the only island listed on the National Register of Historic Places in its entirety, containing nearly 3,000 archaeological sites and features, it is imperative that the State preserves this important resource for current and future generations through this financial support system. ... Without the KIRC's ongoing protection of Kaho'olawe's coastal ecosystem, including the adjacent nearshore environment and coral reefs that can be covered with, and choked by, derelict fishing gear, nets, a huge variety of plastics and other debris items, species including the endangered Hawaiian monk seal, threatened green sea turtle, endangered hawksbill sea turtle, endangered humpback whale, endangered Hawaiian dark-rumped petrel, and endangered Newell's shearwater will be put at risk. It is imperative that a trust fund be stabilized to continue this work. ... Kaho'olawe is a unique ecosystem preserving immensely valuable cultural and biological resources. It is surrounded by the richest marine ecosystems remaining in the Main Hawaiian islands and providing replenishment of fish and invertebrates to other islands' waters. The KIRC's massive restoration program designed to revitalize the ecology and cultural history of the island will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. Please support this bill. ... If you have other testimony that you feel should be added to this list for others to learn from, please hit reply to this email and share it.

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2034 on Mar 30, 2016 09:00AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 30, 2016 5:18:31 AM

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**HB2034**

Submitted on: 3/30/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 30, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebecca Soon	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Mahalo for the opportunity to support this important measure. Kaho'olawe is important for many cultural, historic, and land resource purposes. Beyond the obligation that we owe this wahi pana, supporting the resources to Kaho'olawe also means supporting the important work that happens on this island. With every seed that is planted, so too is a new 'ohana born and a community strengthened. The educational programming reconnects people with land, with their responsibilities for land stewardship, and with those they work with in extremely impactful ways. Surely there are impact indicators that tell you how many people visit every year, how many student groups take trips to steward the land, how many organizations travel there to bond, how many plants and natural restoration efforts are done, etc. While all important, so too is the immeasurable impact of the imprint that this special place makes on everyone who visits. That value is worth far more than the funding request before you today. I urge you to support this measure. Mahalo nui loa, Rebecca Soon

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As a native Hawaiian and a United States Citizen, I support this bill providing financial means for the continued presence, restoration, and maintenance on Kaho'olawe by the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC). The federal government has entrusted the state of Hawaii with a duty to hold Kaho'olawe in trust for the Hawaiian people. As a fiduciary, the state has a duty to at the very least, maintain a presence on the island. The KIRC is the only state agency in the place to fulfill this duty.

Logistically, the KIRC is a valuable resource for the island due to the facilities and the presence of an established base camp with electricity, running water, and equipment. This presence is crucial for maintaining access to all parts of the island, having accessible first aid, and for providing an expedition point for any accesses in the future. This presence must be maintained for the safety of any who access the island. Additionally, the facilities on the island must be consistently maintained, as frequent shut downs and start-ups are detrimental to their operational well-being. Only a continued presence, funded by this bill, can ensure this presence.

Culturally, Kaho'olawe is a historic site and holds a bevy of cultural sites that date to pre-contact Hawaiian civilization. Access and protection of these sites should be ensured not only out of respect for Hawaiian culture, but also for those who study perpetuate the cultural and traditional practices of our ancestors.

Finally, the state has legal reasons to continue support of the KIRC. The trust relationship between the state and native Hawaiians requires that the state of Hawaii not wallow in inaction with regard to the restoration of Kaho'olawe and its fiduciary duties to native Hawaiians. Additionally, the constitutional protections afforded to native Hawaiian traditional practices under Article XII, Section 7 enumerate the State's desire to protect traditional Hawaiian rights exercised for subsistence, cultural and religious purposes. If persons are to truly exercise these rights on Kaho'olawe, the State must at the very least, reasonably accommodate their practices by maintaining the island through the KIRC.

For the aforementioned reasons, I support HB 2304 and urge you to do the same.