

**Veterans, Military, International Affairs & Culture and the
Arts**

February 2, 2015, 9:00 AM

TO: Chair Cachola, Vice-Chair Ito and members of the committee

FROM: Leimomi Lum

RE: HB 89 Making an Appropriation to Mo`okini Luakini, Inc.

My name is Leimomi Mookini Lum and I am the Kahuna Nui of the Mookini Heiau in North Kohala. I am writing to express my support for House Bill 89.

For 35 years we have been hosting a Children's Day in November; a day when schools can bring their 4th, 7th and 11th graders who are studying Hawaiiana to the site.

On this day, we have learning centers staffed with docents to share the stories of the heiau, the significance of its location in relation to Kamehameha's Birthplace, as well as engage students in hands on learning. Centers include learning about the building of the heiau in which students have an opportunity to replicate the passing of the stones from hand to hand, the importance of the salt pans located makai of the heiau, and the role of sacrifice in Hawaiian History. After our centers, the students then visit the Kamehameha Birthsite.

In any year we have about 600 -1300 children who visit the site on that one day – coming from as near as Kohala and as far as Mountain View.

Funding assistance for this cultural event will help ensure its viability as it has been supported primarily by private donations, predominately from our family.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. I would be happy to answer any question you may have and can be reached at 808-373-8000.

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TO: Chair Cachola, Vice-Chair Ito and members of the committee

FROM: Marcella McClelland

RE: HB 89 Making an Appropriation to Mo`okini Luakini, Inc.

My name is Marcella McClelland and I am currently the principal of Honokaa High and Intermediate School. Previously, as the principal of Waimea Elementary School, I had the opportunity to attend Children's Day. I am writing in support of this appropriation request for the Mookini Heiau.

Momi Lum and her team do a wonderful job of presenting information to students ranging from the significance of the site to the importance of it's role in the history of Kamehameha, and ultimately Hawaii.

The event coordinators handle all of the logistic details for the schools making it easy for our teachers to participate. The learning centers are varied and each is staffed with a trained docent who shares the stories and history of their particular center as it relates to the site.

Many teachers count on being able to take their students to this experience and plan their year's curriculum around the annual event – preparing students beforehand and following-up with more meaningful discussions after the visit.

Many of the resources we have available in our state are created to house particular historic and cultural items – like the Tsunami Museum, or even the Bishop Museum. The Mo`okini Heiau experience is a live, outdoor and “real” place that was part of history, where ancients actually lived and practiced their culture.

I urge you to support this bill and help continue this valuable resource for our state's children.