



# OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846  
Fax: (808) 587-2824  
Web: <http://planning.hawaii.gov/>

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

LEO R. ASUNCION  
DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of  
**LEO R. ASUNCION**  
Director, Office of Planning  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**  
Friday, February 24, 2017  
2:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of  
**HB 588, HD1**  
**RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HE'EIA NATIONAL  
ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE.**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the House Committee on Finance.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports HB 588, HD1, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) is a network of coastal sites designated to protect and study estuarine systems. Established through the Coastal Zone Management Act (16 U.S.C. §§1451-1466), the reserves represent a partnership program between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the coastal states. In 2012, OP was designated as the lead agency to coordinate the site selection for a Hawai'i site and resulting nomination process for the He'eia site to be designated as a NERR.

The He'eia site, located on the windward shore of O'ahu and including He'eia State Park, He'eia Fishpond, and the He'eia Community Development District (CDD), as well as marine waters with patch and fringing reefs and Moku o Lo'e (Coconut Island), was chosen as the preferred site after a statewide solicitation period from interested communities. OP supported the designation process through the development of the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve Management Plan (Management Plan). On January 19, 2017, the He'eia site was officially designated as the 29th site in the NERRS, which enables federal funding to support the implementation of the Management Plan.

The University of Hawai'i (UH), Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology is the lead agency for the implementation of the Management Plan with site partners to include: the Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA), the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Paepae o He'eia, as well as supporting community organizations such as the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, Ko'olau Foundation, and Kako'o Oiwi. HB 588, HD1 would support the staffing needs of the NERR as outlined in the Management Plan to initiate successful

implementation and to meet funding match requirements of the NOAA partnership. OP defers to UH for the specific staffing request to fulfill the State match requirement and necessary staffing support for the operation of the NERR.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this 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  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on  
FINANCE**

**Friday, February 24, 2017  
2:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 588, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HE' EIA  
NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE**

House Bill 588, House Draft 1, proposes to appropriate funds for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 for the initial staff necessary to develop and manage the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) and its programs. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

The measure would provide initial funding to the University of Hawaii of an unspecified amount to hire four, full-time, permanent employees to develop and manage the He'eia NERR. The Department supported efforts to secure the NERR designation, as federal and state funds will go towards further research on the State's largest estuary in Kāne'ohe Bay. The information that will be discovered about this ecosystem will help us better manage this important resource. The Department supports this bill provided it does not adversely impact our priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**KEKOA KALUHIWA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**JEFFREY T. PEARSON P.E.**  
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



HAWAII COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



KAKAKO  
KALAELOA

David Y. Ige  
Governor

John Whalen  
Chairperson

Jesse K. Souki  
Executive Director

547 Queen Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii  
96813

Telephone  
(808) 594-0300

Facsimile  
(808) 594-0299

E-Mail  
[contact@hcdaweb.org](mailto:contact@hcdaweb.org)

Web site  
[www.hcdaweb.org](http://www.hcdaweb.org)

STATEMENT OF

JESSE K. SOUKI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

BEFORE THE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

ON

Friday, February 24, 2017  
2:00 P.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of

**HB588, HD1 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HE‘EIA NATIONAL  
ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and members of the committee.

This testimony reflects my view alone. The Hawaii Community  
Development Authority (HCDA) has not acted on HB588, HD1.

In my capacity as the HCDA Executive Director, I respectfully offer  
**comments** on HB588, HD1.

While the HCDA board has not had the opportunity to opine on this bill;  
the board did vote at its meeting on January 4, 2017 to become a signatory to the  
He‘eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. The Reserve is a multi-party  
agreement among the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, HCDA, and other  
organizations. The Reserve enjoys broad community support; therefore, we  
support the intent of HB588, HD1 to support the reserve as long as it does not  
replace priorities requested in the Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

---

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
Friday, February 24, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

By  
Dr. Ruth D. Gates, Director  
Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### HB588 HD1 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HE'EIA NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE

Chair Luke and Vice Chair Cullen and committee members:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 588 HD1, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Budget.

In my role as Director of the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology, I am presenting testimony in strong support of HB588 HD1, the success of which will allow the University to staff the newly designated He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR). The designation and inclusion of He'eia in the national network of estuarine reserve sites, marks the culmination of two years of collaborative action by members of the local community (Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, the Ko'olaupoko Foundation, Paepae O He'eia, Kako'o 'Oiwī) and the University of Hawaii at Mānoa (Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology).

The He'eia NERR is unlike any other in that it is a coalescence of community and science; federal, state and local efforts; and modern science and traditional knowledge that aims to implement and understand how restoration efforts in the He'eia wetland influence the health of the adjacent estuarine ecosystem. The federal funding that accompanies the He'eia NERR will serve to forward activities that explicitly expose the youth of Hawai'i, and students across the US, to a broad array of science concepts from land use to ecology to marine biology all in the context of traditional land management. The four positions requested in HB 588 HD1 will coordinate research, management, education and cultural activities inside the He'eia NERR and are, in my opinion, the lynchpin to successful collaborative stewardship of the He'eia watershed.

I ask the committee to approve HB 588 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of this important House Bill.



## KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Finance

Time: 2:00 pm

Date: February 24, 2017

Where: Conference Room 308

### TESTIMONY

**RE: HB 588 HD1 Making an Appropriation for He‘eia National Estuarine Research Reserve**

Good afternoon Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Members of the House Finance committee,

Kamehameha Schools is writing in support of HB588, HD 1. The bill will provide funds that will help advance the He‘eia estuary with science research allowing Hawai‘i to learn more about the intersection of the marine and terrestrial environments within the newly established He‘eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. This research will provide critical insight into the current and future stewardship of He‘eia’s near shore and coastal waters, including He‘eia fishpond, a traditional resource that has been restored to produce food for Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Supporting H.B. 588 HD1 Making Appropriation for He'eia  
National Estuarine Research Reserve  
House Committee on Finance  
Friday, February 24, 2017, 2:00PM, Room 308

---

*The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which life depends. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. We manage 40,000 acres in 14 preserves and work in 19 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs and waters of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnerships with government, private parties and communities to protect Hawai'i's important watershed forests and coral reefs.*

---

The Nature Conservancy supports H.B. 588 HD1 which would provide funding for staffing in support of the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. State funding is anticipated to be matched by \$700,000 in federal funds from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) partners with states and territories to ensure long-term education, stewardship, and research on estuarine habitats. Atlantic, Gulf, Pacific, Caribbean and Great Lakes reserves advance knowledge and stewardship of estuaries and serve as a scientific foundation for coastal management decisions.

The ahupua'a of He'eia on the island of O'ahu is one of twelve NOAA-designated Sentinel Sites and in January 2017 was designated as the [29<sup>th</sup> National Estuarine Research Reserve](#). The He'eia NERR encompasses upland forests and grasslands, wetlands, reefs and seagrass beds, as well as Kāne'ohe Bay—the largest sheltered body of water in the Hawaiian Islands. The designation reflects the community's desire to ensure the protection and sustainable management of valued cultural, historical and natural resources. The proposed NERR will also enhance the community's capacity to use scientific information for decision-making, and increase local and national support for research, education, and restoration efforts in the region.

He'eia contains a world-class research institution (Hawai'i Institute for Marine Biology) and multiple community organizations including Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, Ko'olau Foundation, Kāko'o 'Ōiwi, Paepae o He'eia, and the He'eia State Park working together to develop and implement effective management strategies in an entire ahupua'a. Collaboration between these organizations is recognized as necessary because of the interconnected relationship each ecosystem has to another within the He'eia ahupua'a. Any effect up in the mountains will work its way into the wetlands and lo'i (traditional wetland agriculture systems), flow downstream to the loko i'a (fishponds) and eventually into the bay and onto coral reefs.

Ecologically, Kāne'ohe Bay is unique and the opportunity to highlight this special type of estuarine system is unparalleled in Hawai'i. From a research perspective, Kāne'ohe Bay has experienced a history of significant disturbances, from wastewater effluent to invasive algae. However, its variety of corals have shown to be some of the most resilient and able to recover from recent bleaching events around the entire state. This condition may provide insight into how to save other coral reefs around the state from future unfavorable ocean conditions.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mark Agne Paul Alston Christopher Benjamin Dr. C. Tana Burkert Anne Carter Richard Cooke III Brian Doyle  
Thomas Gottlieb James Haynes III Sean Hehir Eiichiro Kuwana Duncan MacNaughton Kathy Matsui  
James Polk Jean Rolles Scott Rolles Crystal Rose Dustin Sellers Nathan Smith Peter Tomozawa

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2017 7:53 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** erikacj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB588 on Feb 24, 2017 14:00PM

**HB588**

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Erika Johnston	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and the House Committee on Finance, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588,HD1, Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The allocation of State funds will secure a 2.3:1 return of Federal dollars for the State investment, and the project will benefit the community and serve as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science. Therefore, I ask that your committee support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and the House Committee on Finance, thank you for this opportunity to provide my support of **HB588,HD1**, Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve.

I ask that you act in the best interest of the residents of the state of Hawai'i by supporting this bill. By contributing to the federal funds that have already been designated for the He'eia reserve, the state will be setting a precedent for progressive management strategies. This is also a unique opportunity to unite traditional Hawaiian resource management with cutting edge research to promote the restoration and conservation of the He'eia watershed. Thank you for your time.

Eileen Nalley  
(O'ahu Resident &  
UH Mānoa PhD Student)  
[eileen.nalley@gmail.com](mailto:eileen.nalley@gmail.com)

Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania St  
Honolulu, HI 96813

22 February 2017

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and House Committee on Finance,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588, HD1, Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve.

As a long-term resident of O'ahu who has worked in the Kāne'ōhe Bay region for over a decade, I strongly support bill SB1178, SD1. This project will benefit the Kāne'ōhe Bay community and serve as an example for the nation in how the integration of culture and science can bring about impactful results to communities. The reserve will provide a platform to meld traditional methods of management with modern science to help restore the impacted watershed of He'eia.

The allocation of State funds will secure a 2.3:1 return of Federal dollars for the State investment to support this project; therefore, I ask that you support the passage of this bill to secure the State of Hawai'i funding match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Iacchei". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matthew" being more prominent than the last name "Iacchei".

Matthew Iacchei, PhD

NSF Postdoctoral Fellow  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
Email: [Iacchei@hawaii.edu](mailto:Iacchei@hawaii.edu)

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and the House Committee on Finance, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588,HD1, Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve.

I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The allocation of State funds will secure a 2.3:1 return of Federal dollars for the State investment, and the project will benefit the community and serve as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science. Therefore, I ask that your committee support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

Sincerely,  
Emily Conklin  
concline@hawaii.edu

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2017 8:24 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** vicentejan@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB588 on Feb 24, 2017 14:00PM

**HB588**

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
JAN	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and the House Committee on Finance, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588,HD1, Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The allocation of State funds will secure a 2.3:1 return of Federal dollars for the State investment, and the project will benefit the community and serve as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science. Therefore, I ask that your committee support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2017 8:10 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** johanna\_wren@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB588 on Feb 24, 2017 14:00PM

**HB588**

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Johanna Wren	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and the House Committee on Finance, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588,HD1, Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The allocation of State funds will secure a 2.3:1 return of Federal dollars for the State investment, and the project will benefit the community and serve as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science. Therefore, I ask that your committee support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2017 3:51 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** puritz@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB588 on Feb 24, 2017 14:00PM

**HB588**

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jonathan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and the House Committee on Finance, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588,HD1, Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The allocation of State funds will secure a 2.3:1 return of Federal dollars for the State investment, and the project will benefit the community and serve as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science. Therefore, I ask that your committee support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Richard Coleman  
1022 Prospect St #404  
Honolulu, HI 96822

House Committee on Finance  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Letter of support for HB588 HD1

23 February 2017

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and the House Committee on Finance,

I am writing this letter in **support of HB588 HD1**, Relating to Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. This reserve provides a unique opportunity for science and traditional knowledge to come together to restore the He'eia watershed. The project will provide a direct benefit the surrounding communities as well as serve as a example to the rest of the nation of how science can be used as a tool to benefit local communities. I ask that you please support the passage of this bill to secure the States match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Coleman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard Coleman  
Ph.D Candidate



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII®  
MĀNOA

Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology

Robert J. Toonen, Full Research Professor

P.O. Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kāne'ohe, Hawai'i 96744-1346  
Phone: (808) 236-7401 • E-mail: toonen@hawaii.edu • Fax: (808) 236-7443

February 22, 2017

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and committee members, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB 588, HD1, Relating to Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. I strongly support this bill.

As a faculty member at UH Mānoa, I must first say that I support the prioritization process used by the administration to establish their annual budgetary request to the legislature and can only advocate for additional funding of university programs if it does not negatively impact existing requests that are included in the executive budget.

The establishment of a NERRS in Kāne'ohe Bay was first proposed as one of the recommendations from the Kāne'ohe Bay Master Plan. The successful designation of the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) last month results from more than two years of collaborative effort from members of the community including, Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, Ko'olaupoko Foundation, Paepae O He'eia, Kāko'o 'Ōiwi and UH's Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB) with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the State Office of Planning.

This newest site in the NERR system is unlike any other in the Nation - it is a coalescence of community and culture and research to combine modern science with traditional methods and cultural practices in the hope of restoring a more productive watershed from mauka to makai. Additionally, unlike other federal NERRs, this designation effort has been community led from the beginning. The NERRS will expose the youth of Hawai'i to a broad array of cultural and science concepts from historical and modern land use to ecological knowledge to cutting edge marine biology and will empower the community to restore He'eia with the backing from the State of Hawai'i and Federal funding. Being part of the NERRS, NOAA has made a long-term commitment of federal funds (many sites have had continuous funding for more than 40 years) but that Federal investment requires an annual State match of 30% of the total operating budget.

If HB588-HD1 is passed, the State match will come from funding the staff positions required to operate the NERRS site. NOAA mandates a minimum of three core positions and their titles as follows. The first is the Reserve Manager who is responsible for all administrative activities and oversight of the partnership. The second position is the Research Coordinator, who is typically a faculty member at the partner university responsible for designing and implementing the core research on which the Reserve is founded. In this case, the core research question is what constitutes the best management practices for a tropical island estuary such as He'eia. The third required position is the Educational Coordinator, who is responsible for developing and implementing the required educational programs and coordinating the educational efforts of each of the site partners to create a more cohesive and comprehensive educational program. The final position, which is not mandated by NOAA but that we feel would guarantee the long-term success of the site, is the Stewardship and Cultural Resources Coordinator. We also envision this final position as a faculty member charged with the meaningful and effective integration of culture and science at the site, and communication of that integration throughout the State and the national system.

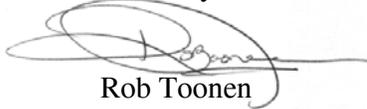
Moku O Lo'e (Coconut Island)  
P.O. Box 1346  
Kāne'ohe, Hawai'i 96744-1346  
Telephone: (808) 236-7401  
Fax: (808) 236-7443

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution

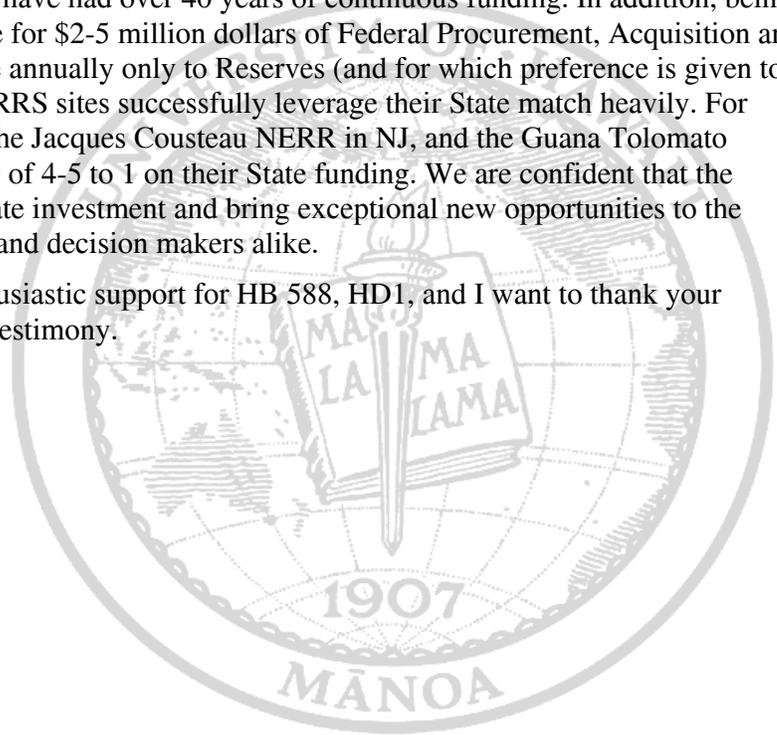
I understand that this measure represents a significant investment by the State, but the benefits and long term returns on this investment will be even more substantial. The amount of the Federal investment is dependent on the number of sites in the system (each obtains an equal share) and the appropriated Federal budget, but NOAA has released their budget to show that the average annual allocation per site over the past 15 years is \$572,355, and the oldest sites in the system have had over 40 years of continuous funding. In addition, being a NERR site provides the ability to compete for \$2-5 million dollars of Federal Procurement, Acquisition and Construction (PAC) funds that are available annually only to Reserves (and for which preference is given to new Reserves). Finally, the majority of NERRS sites successfully leverage their State match heavily. For example, the Hudson River NERR in NY, the Jacques Cousteau NERR in NJ, and the Guana Tolomato Matanzas NERR in FL all report leveraging of 4-5 to 1 on their State funding. We are confident that the He'eia NERR will likewise multiply the State investment and bring exceptional new opportunities to the community, students, teachers, researchers and decision makers alike.

In closing, I would like to reiterate my enthusiastic support for HB 588, HD1, and I want to thank your committee for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

Sincerely,



Rob Toonen



Moku O Lo'e (Coconut Island)  
P.O. Box 1346  
Kāne'ohe, Hawai'i 96744-1346  
Telephone: (808) 236-7401  
Fax: (808) 236-7443

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2017 9:21 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** iknapp@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB588 on Feb 24, 2017 14:00PM

**HB588**

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ingrid Knapp	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and the House Committee on Finance, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588,HD1, Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The allocation of State funds will secure a 2.3:1 return of Federal dollars for the State investment, and the project will benefit the community and serve as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science. Therefore, I ask that your committee support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2017 8:37 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** ewbarba@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB588 on Feb 24, 2017 14:00PM

**HB588**

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Evan Barba	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and the House Committee on Finance, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588,HD1, Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The allocation of State funds will secure a 2.3:1 return of Federal dollars for the State investment, and the project will benefit the community and serve as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science. Therefore, I ask that your committee support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2017 8:26 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** zac@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB588 on Feb 24, 2017 14:00PM

**HB588**

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Zac Forsman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and the House Committee on Finance, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588,HD1, Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The allocation of State funds will secure a 2.3:1 return of Federal dollars for the State investment, and the project will benefit the community and serve as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science. Therefore, I ask that your committee support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this effort. -Zac H. Forsman 2602A Liliha St. Honolulu HI, 96817

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**LATE**



## KO`OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

February 24, 2017

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair  
Members, Committee on Finance

From: Alice P. Hewett, President  
Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club

Re: H.B. 588, H.D. 1, Appropriation for He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, I send you our warm greetings from the Windward side of O`ahu.

We stand in strong support of House Bill 588, which would provide a match for approximately \$700,000 in federal funding to implement the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve.

We are deeply grateful to NOAA and the University of Hawai'i, and our other public and private partners, for agreeing to support this important program to focus collaborative research and education efforts on the ahupua`a of He'eia.

As the largest Native Hawaiian organization in the district of Ko'olaupoko, we are keenly aware of the growing environmental and urban challenges to the conservation and farm lands of our community. He'eia, once a thriving rich agricultural area with hundreds of acres of lo`i kalo, became fallow after centuries of change. To the credit of the Hawai'i Community Development Authority, which holds jurisdiction over the He'eia wetlands, they have leased 400 acres of the area to our community partner Kako`o`Oiwī, which is working hard to restore this land to productivity.

This program brings into important tools to research threats and challenges to the area and identify possible solutions to these problems. The ultimate goal, of course, is to make the estuary, the ahupua`a, and the bay healthier and productive for generations to come.

If these efforts are effective in one ahupua`a, they can be replicated in ahupua`a throughout the State of Hawai'i.

We urge your committee to support this appropriation as a wise investment in ensuring a healthy and food-sustainable future for Hawai'i.

Mahalo for this opportunity to share our mana`o.

*The Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club was established in 1937 and is one of the largest in the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs nationwide. Ko'olaupoko HCC is a not-for-profit community organization dedicated to preserving and perpetuating the history, heritage and culture of Native Hawaiians and providing leadership and scholarships. Its membership is open to people of Hawaiian ancestry and those who are "Hawaiian at heart."*

P. O. Box 664 \* Kaneohe, HI 96744  
Ph. (808) 235-8111 / 226-4195 \* [www.koolaupoko-hcc.org](http://www.koolaupoko-hcc.org)