



**HB1999 HD2**  
**RELATING TO TRAINING**  
House Committee on Finance

February 28, 2018

12:00 p.m.

Room 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** the intent of HB1999 HD2, which is substantially similar to HB1745, a bill in OHA's 2018 Legislative Package. HB1999 HD2 would **expand the application of Act 169 (Session Laws 2015) to provide certain additional state and county officials, state legislators, and state judges with training on Native Hawaiian and public trust law**, so that they may understand and make decisions that are consistent with their fiduciary obligations to the Native Hawaiian people, and to the public trust. **However, OHA does have concerns about the current draft's inclusion of state judges to the list of officials required to participate in the training, as this change would fundamentally alter the learning environment of the trainings, and may substantially increase training costs.**

A training course in Native Hawaiian Law and the public trust doctrine for policymakers is necessary to fulfill the trust obligations and responsibilities held by the State of Hawai'i toward Kānaka Maoli. Accordingly, since 2013, OHA has offered a Native Hawaiian Law training course for state and county legislators, board and commission members, and other relevant individuals to attend on a voluntary basis. Based on the success of this course, since 2015, members of certain key state boards and commissions have been required to attend a Native Hawaiian Law training course within one year of their appointment. **Course attendees have consistently and continually expressed their appreciation for the course, and have overwhelmingly indicated that as a result of the course, they better understood the State's legal responsibilities towards Native Hawaiians and the public trust.**

The additional state and county officials who would be required to attend a training course under this measure make and implement policy decisions, administer resources, and manage programs that directly impact Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights, natural and cultural resources, and the public trust. Each of the agencies represented have specific duties to protect and enforce Native Hawaiian rights, and to administer the public trust in the interest of its beneficiaries, including Native Hawaiians. **Notably, notwithstanding the broad range of expertise and experiences of the individuals elected, appointed, and hired for these positions, many may not possess knowledge of the unique legal rights and responsibilities that relate to 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 constitutional duties of the State and its counties.

Requiring training course attendance by many of the officials named in this bill, each of whom has unique kuleana to the Native Hawaiian community and under the public trust, will ensure that a greater number of critical decisionmakers are provided with the information they need to successfully fulfill the State's and counties' legal obligations. **More fully-informed decision-making by these individuals will thereby help to uphold our constitutional mandates, increase public confidence in state and county decision-making, and reduce conflicts and legal challenges in policymaking as well as policy implementation and enforcement.** Toward 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.

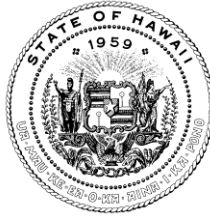
OHA notes that as originally introduced, this measure differed from HB1745, OHA's package measure, in including state legislators, county managing directors, and the directors, deputy directors, and division heads of additional state departments as individuals also required to take the Native Hawaiian Law training course. While OHA's package measure identifies individuals whose decision-making may have the most direct and critical impact on Native Hawaiian rights and the public trust, OHA agrees that all state agencies and entities have substantive obligations in this regard; OHA defers to the Committee and the legislature as to whether a training course requirement for these additional individuals is appropriate at this time.

OHA also notes that the current draft of this measure now includes judges on the list of officials required to take the Native Hawaiian Law training course. **OHA notes that judges have direct authority to review the decisions and policies of legislators, state agencies, boards and commissions, and county councils; to require judges to attend the same training as these policymakers could potentially disrupt the safe learning environment of the training course, and chill individuals from asking sincere, issue-oriented questions related to their respective kuleana, out of concern that it may undermine their previous and even future decisions that are challenged in court.** Moreover, the addition of over 75 judges statewide and potentially many more staff may vastly increase the cost burden of providing the course. While OHA has voluntarily subsumed the cost of trainings in previous years, and would do so going forward even with the passage of HB1745, OHA has not logistically or financially planned for an increase in the training course audience of such a magnitude.

**Therefore, we respectfully request that paragraph (6) on page 4, line 2 be removed, to eliminate "Judges" from the list of those who would be required to attend the Native Hawaiian Law training course.**

Accordingly, OHA strongly urges the Committee to **PASS** HB1999 HD2, with the recommended amendment. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



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

ROBERT K. MASUDA  
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

**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**

**Wednesday, February 28, 2018  
12: 00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1999, HOUSE DRAFT 2  
RELATING TO TRAINING**

House Bill 1999, House Draft 2 proposes to expand training on Native Hawaiians Rights by expanding the categories of individuals required to attend. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure with the suggested amendment below, as a way to ensure a deeper understanding of native Hawaiian rights in government.**

The Department has encouraged its pertinent staff to attend the training, provided there is space and most have taken advantage of the opportunity. Department staff who have previously attended have commented that the training is well worth the time spent. The Department asks that at least one additional training be added per year so that staff have adequate options to fit their schedules. The Department appreciates the Office of Hawaiian Affairs providing this training.

Lastly, the head of the Department, by statute, is referred to as the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources and as the Chairperson of the Commission on Water Resource Management, and not Director. As such, the head of the Department is already required to take the training under Section 10-41(a)(1), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). Therefore, the Department requests that the proposed language in Section 10-41(a)(2), HRS, be amended (Highlighted in grey) to read as follows:

(a) The training required by this part shall apply to the  
following:

- (1) The 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 system commission, Hawaii historic places review board, and board of health[÷];
- (2) The [~~director, deputy,~~ deputies and division heads of the department of land and natural resources;

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Harry Kim  
Mayor



Wil Okabe  
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow  
Deputy Managing Director

## County of Hawai'i

### Office of the Mayor

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February 26, 2018

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Committee on Finance  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 308  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Finance  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 308  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Committee Members:

**Re: HB 1999, HD 2 Relating to Training Courses on Native Hawaiian and  
Hawaiian Rights  
Hearing Date: 02/28/18 – 12:00 pm; House Conference Room 308**

I am often reluctant to endorse any mandate, especially an unfunded mandate that will impact county governments. However, there are few things as important as fostering a better understanding of Hawai'i's First Nation, and I have heard great things about the OHA training course.

Therefore, I support the concept behind HB 1999, HD 2. However, I think there needs to be more detail. For example, what is the time commitment that each participant must make? It would seem that if training is mandated, there should also be a mandate that the course be no more than a certain number of hours and no more than a day or half-day.

I would also ask that provision be made to offer the courses on the neighbor islands so that travel will not become a barrier to participation. It seems to me that at least twice a year on each island would be the minimum necessary.

Third, it is not clear what happens if a "mandate" is violated. Suppose a duly elected County Council member fails to take the training for some reason; what is the consequence? Or if a Planning Commissioner, all of whom are volunteers, fails to attend, is he or she automatically dismissed from the Commission? That could have the unintended consequence of making it more difficult to find good citizens to serve, and it is sometimes difficult to find good people even now.

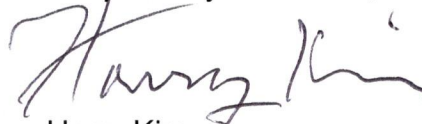
I realize that this mandate is already on the books for a number of officials, and there is no statutory consequence specified for failing to participate. However, I would suggest that, for instance, a controversial ruling by a Planning Commission could be challenged on the basis that one or more Commissioners should have been disqualified from serving because of failure to attend the mandatory training course.

Finally, I found the testimony in the Labor Committee dated February 13 from Maui Council Chair Mike White important and persuasive. I hope you will address the specific concerns he raises.

Maybe it would be better to begin by offering the courses to the targeted officials, rather than requiring participation. I know that I would strongly encourage Council members and my appointees to attend, and I am confident that other Mayors would do the same.

Requiring that the course be offered, rather than mandating that it be taken, would also address a concern that has been voiced about the content of the course. If the audience for the course is not required to be there, but is attending because the course is of high quality, there would be some built-in protection against a change in content, at some time in the future, which would make the course less valuable to the decision-makers listed in the bill. It would be much more difficult to deal with such a change if there is a mandate in statute.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Harry Kim", written in a cursive style.

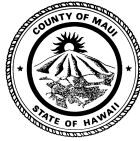
Harry Kim  
Mayor, County of Hawai'i

Council Chair  
Mike White

Vice-Chair  
Robert Carroll

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore  
Stacy Crivello

Councilmembers  
Alikea Atay  
Elle Cochran  
Don S. Guzman  
Riki Hokama  
Kelly T. King  
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
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WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

February 26, 2018

TO: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Mike White  
Council Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Mike White", is written over the text "Council Chair".

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 28, 2018; OFFERING COMMENTS ON HB  
1999 HD 2, RELATING TO TRAINING**

Thank you for the opportunity to offer **comments** on this measure. The purpose of this bill is to require certain government decision-makers at both the state and county levels to complete a training course on native Hawaiian and Hawaiian rights.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

Training on Native Hawaiian history, law, and rights is crucial in assisting decision makers to create policies that respect, perpetuate, and reflect the culture of our islands.

I support the intent of this measure, but offer the following comments:

1. Understanding the effectiveness of the training course created by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs through Act 169, the Maui County Council passed Bill 119 (2016). The bill required the Maui, Molokai, and Lanai Planning Commissions along with the Hana Advisory Committee, to take part in this specific Native Hawaiian law training course. In deliberations over the bill, Councilmembers were informed that funding was available from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to meet these training requirements.
2. In the fall of 2017, the Maui County Department of Planning attempted to organize the training for commissioners. They were notified that trainings were only available on weekends and at a central location. Training was not available for each island or during a commission meeting. Therefore, this would require travel by Molokai, Lanai, and Hana members to a central location. As funds were not available for such travel, the county requested to utilize the Council's video conferencing system. For Molokai, Lanai, and Hana to view the training being conducted in the Council Chamber, a live-stream must be broadcasted on Akaku, our public access television provider. Due to the nature of the training, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs did not want the training to be broadcasted.

3. Logistics are still being discussed to allow future Maui County trainings. However, appropriate funding is necessary to implement the trainings effectively. Please keep in mind that Maui County consists of Maui, Molokai, Lanai, and the rural district of Hana. Each of these unique areas have their own commissions and therefore, would be required to travel to a central location, or individual trainings would need to be organized in their respective communities. Appropriate funding is necessary, otherwise this will become another unfunded mandate.
4. When legislative bodies are subject to training, the sunshine law must also be considered. Hawaii Revised Statutes, 92-2.5 (e) states:  
*(e) Two or more members of a board, but less than the number of members which would constitute a quorum for the board, may attend an informational meeting or presentation on matters relating to official board business, including a meeting of another entity, legislative hearing, convention, seminar, or community meeting; provided that the meeting or presentation is not specifically and exclusively organized for or directed toward members of the board. The board members in attendance may participate in discussions, including discussions among themselves; provided that the discussions occur during and as part of the informational meeting or presentation; and provided further that no commitment relating to a vote on the matter is made or sought.*
5. Any trainings that encompass issues that are or may become board business must be conducted in compliance with Chapter 92-2.5 (e) or posted on an official meeting notice. An alternative is to exempt this specific training from the sunshine law.

These comments are offered with the spirit and desire to make this training achievable statewide and not as a deterrent. The training created by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs is truly invaluable and should be expanded.

Mahalo.



**HB-1999-HD-2**

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 7:00:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Planning	County of Maui-Dept. of Planning	Comments	No

Comments:

February 26, 2018

Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Finance  
State House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: House Bill 1999 (2018), House Draft 2, Relating to Training**

(Hearing Scheduled for 12:00 p.m., February 28, 2018)

Dear Chair Luke and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB1999, HD2, which would mandate Native Hawaiian law training for various officers and volunteer board members of State and county agencies.

This department may be the only agency with the experience of having its affiliated volunteer bodies subject to a training mandate such as that set out in HB1999, HD2.

Maui County Code Section 2.28.080 states:

“In addition to any other training offered to members, each planning commission member and Hana advisory committee member shall participate in the Native Hawaiian Law Training Course for Boards, Commissions, Councils and Lawmakers, given by the Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law, provided funding for the training is available through the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Participation shall occur within one year of the member's term of appointment, unless the planning director approves an appointee's request for a six-month extension for extenuating circumstances. Remote participation in training, through video and audio connection, shall satisfy this section's requirements.”

This provision has existed since 2016. But the training has not occurred, for two reasons.

First, the designated trainers have been unwilling to allow the training to be videotaped for public viewing.

Second, the designated trainers have been unwilling to schedule the training during the planning commissions' regular meeting times.

The work of government agencies "shall be conducted as openly as possible," according to the State's open-government statutes. We note members of Maui County's volunteer planning commissions live on three different islands. The planning commissions are staffed by the Department of Planning. Secretive training courses, conducted at inconvenient times, are not consistent with principles of government transparency and efficiency.

Making the training available at open meetings that can be videotaped and scheduling the training for regular meeting times would: 1) promote government efficiency and transparency; and 2) be respectful of the time of the volunteers and the professional staff members who serve the planning commissions.

Therefore, we respectfully propose the bill be amended to add the following at the end of Subsection 10-42(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes:

When the training course is presented to members of a board subject to part I, chapter 92, it shall be conducted at an open meeting and, to the extent practicable, at a regularly scheduled meeting time and location.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM R. SPENCE

Planning Director, County of Maui



## KO'OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

February 28, 2018

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair/Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
& Members, House Finance Committee

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

Re: SUPPORT – H.B. 1999, H.D.2, Relating to Training

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, honorable members of the Committee:

The Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club strongly supports House Bill 1999, House Draft 2, which provides funding for training of state and county decision-makers relating to native Hawaiian rights.

We have long advocated for such training, ever since it became clear to us years ago that state officials were unaware or inadequately prepared to deal with issues involving Hawaiian legal rights and cultural practices that are protected under state law. We might note that if our policy makers were better trained and prepared, they might have planned better for various state-initiated activities or developments and avoided some of the conflicts they have encountered over the past several decades.

As advocates for our members and Hawaiian traditions and customs from around the nine ahupua'a of Kane'ohe bay, we truly believe that this training can help the state and county make wiser, more informed decisions and policy. It is a redeeming Hawaiian cultural value that we seek balance in our relationship with cultural and natural resources, and with each other.

We concur with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and urge you to support passage of this bill into law.

Mahalo for allowing us 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)

**HB-1999-HD-2**

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 10:29:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee (HPAC)	Support	Yes

Comments:

We continue to STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill. Mahalo.

**HB-1999-HD-2**

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 11:54:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

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



To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

For hearing Wednesday, February 28, 2018

Re: HB 1999

RELATING TO TRAINING.

Requires certain government decision-makers at the state and county levels to attend a training course on native Hawaiian and Hawaiian rights.

#### TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

Last year OHA cajoled the legislature into passing a law that forced heads of specified state and county departments to take a training course whose content and instructors are dictated by OHA. This year OHA wants to expand its empire by requiring more government employees of additional departments to endure the OHA training. Next year OHA will seek to expand even further.

Make no mistake about what's going on here. OHA has certain views on controversial political issues and wants to make sure that decision-makers and employees of other government agencies get brainwashed to believe in OHA's propaganda, with no presentation of opposing views. Would any member of a state or county department 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? Please realize that many people feel moral revulsion at the concept of taxpayer funded racial entitlements. So 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 their kids.

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 state and county department heads 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 in their job. Does any state agency other than OHA exercise comparable authority over other agencies?

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?

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 a government 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 provides a theological justification for 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 birth mother Keopuolani and his regent stepmother Queen Ka'ahumanu, and with Kahuna Nui (High Priest) Hewahewa, exercised self-determination 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. Please vote "No."

**HB-1999-HD-2**

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 10:42:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2018 12:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rachel L. Kailianu	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

In STRONG SUPPORT.

**HB-1999-HD-2**

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 9:03:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeanne Kapela	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke and members of the committee,

I am a 23-year-old Native Hawaiian woman. I grew up in the Kona community on the Big Island, but my family was not affluent. We had enough to get by, but little more. Looking back on my childhood, I can see that the struggles we faced were not only the result of individual choices, but stemmed from generations of dispossession and cultural trauma faced by the Native Hawaiian people in their homeland.

Ever since the onslaught on annexation in 1898, the Hawaiian people have been marginalized. Hawaiian children comprise the largest demographic in the public school system, yet Hawaiian language and cultural programming is scarce and has been cut back to make room for standardized testing. Hawaiians are also dramatically overrepresented in the state's prison system. People of Native Hawaiian ancestry make up roughly 25 percent of the state's population, but approximately 39 percent of incarcerated detainees, according to a comprehensive study by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. The situation is even worse for Hawaiian women, who comprise 19.8 percent of the state's female population, but 44 percent of the state's female inmate population. We are routinely denied access to sacred lands and silenced in conversations about how to care for our beloved 'Āina, including atop the summit of Mauna Kea.

State and county officials cannot make informed decisions about how government policies will impact the indigenous community without a better understanding of Hawaiian history and Hawaiian's cultural practices. As an emerging young leader, I want to build a future in which myself and my children are filled with aloha and reverence for the manner in which who we were yesterday shapes who we are today and where we will voyage tomorrow. For the sake of future generations of Hawaiians and the preservation of their previous heritage, I humbly ask you to pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Jeanne Kapela

**HB-1999-HD-2**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 5:18:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2018 12:00:00 PM

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

## Comments:

I support and would ask that all staff for legislators, possibly all legislators as well as the Capitol police, staff and sergeant at arms offices be given training and/or an understanding of 'ohana values and perhaps the Na Hopena Ao of the BOE?