

SB-739

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 6:11:32 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2023 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sterling Wong	Testifying for Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement submits this testimony in SUPPORT of SB739, which will provide greater protection for Hawai'i's sacred cultural and historic sites by enhancing the state's enforcement tools.

Among Hawai'i's most prized treasures are our cultural and historic sites. They connect Native Hawaiians with our kūpuna and traditions. Importantly, these sites are part of a living culture, passed down through the generations and still practiced today. Unfortunately, these sites are often found in easily accessible public spaces, leaving them vulnerable to abuse, vandalism and desecration.

SB739 bolster law enforcement's ability to protect these sites by making it easier to pursue charges against offenders.

In closing, CNHA urges the committee to PASS SB739.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.