

JAN 20 2023

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a small
2 sand bar situated in Kaneohe bay, known to Native Hawaiians as
3 Ahu o Laka. While news articles in the past have described the
4 sand bar as being named after an Oahu chief, Laka, who died
5 there, other oral historical sources from Native Hawaiians
6 residing on the windward side of Oahu indicate that the sand bar
7 is named as an altar to the ancient goddess of hula, Laka. When
8 the sacred art of hula was banned by western influences, many
9 followers would practice hula surreptitiously in hidden and
10 remote places. For this reason, Ahu o Laka was deemed to be an
11 excellent locale for hula practice; further, the sand made for
12 an excellent medium to dance upon.

13 The legislature further finds that since at least 2006,
14 news articles have brought public attention to Ahu o Laka.
15 According to these news articles, Ahu o Laka has been the site
16 of public concerts and large gatherings, resulting in drinking,
17 littering, and fights. These reports raise concerns relating to



1 the desecration of a culturally significant place and the
2 degradation of an important aesthetical resource of the State.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to designate Ahu o
4 Laka as a state monument and to restrict certain activities
5 there.

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 6E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
7 by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately
8 designated and to read as follows:

9 "§6E- Ahu o Laka state monument. (a) There is
10 established the Ahu o Laka state monument on Oahu to be
11 administered by the department of land and natural resources and
12 to consist of those lands that the department determines to be
13 essential to the preservation of the visual, cultural, and
14 historical aspects and significance of Ahu o Laka. The lands
15 identified as significant to the preservation of Ahu o Laka
16 shall consist of:

- 17 (1) The approximately three-acre sand bar in Kaneohe bay
18 off of Heeia, that is above the water's surface at low
19 tide; and
20 (2) The surrounding state marine waters, as that term is
21 defined in section 190D-3, that the department of land



1 and natural resources determines is necessary for the
2 preservation of the visual, cultural, and historical
3 aspects and significance of the Ahu o Laka state
4 monument.

5 (b) The following uses or activities shall be prohibited
6 within the Ahu o Laka state monument:

7 (1) Commercial activities, including but not limited to
8 commercial filming activities;

9 (2) Use of equipment for the amplification of sound; and

10 (3) Possession of any bottle, can, or other receptacle
11 containing any intoxicating liquor, as defined in
12 section 281-1, that has been opened or had a seal
13 broken or the contents of which have been partially
14 removed.

15 (c) The department of land and natural resources may adopt
16 rules, pursuant to chapter 91, for the protection of the Ahu o
17 Laka state monument, including but not limited to determining a
18 maximum size vessel as that term is defined in section 291E-1
19 that may enter the Ahu o Laka state monument at any given time
20 during any day."

21 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

2

INTRODUCED BY:



A handwritten signature in black ink is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and appears to be the initials 'JAL'.



S.B. NO. 680

Report Title:

Historic Preservation; Ahu o Laka State Monument; Kaneohe Bay

Description:

Establishes the Ahu o Laka State Monument. Prohibits certain activities at the Ahu o Laka State Monument.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

