

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

LAURA H.E. KAAKUA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
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

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
WATER AND LAND

Wednesday, February 1, 2023
1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 730
RELATING TO FISHPONDS

Senate Bill 730 proposes to appropriate funds to support the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) in restoring and restocking fishponds. **The Department supports this bill, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

Loko i'a, Hawaiian fishponds, are unique aquaculture systems throughout Hawai'i and are important components of the ahupua'a (traditional land stewardship framework) that contribute to a healthy, sustainable, and robust food system. Fishponds and aquaculture can provide a sustainable source of local-grown fish for Hawai'i residents. Production of fingerlings for grow-out can take pressure off nearshore fish stocks which can be a conservation tool for managing fisheries. At a broader level, fishponds can increase local food production, improve food security, perpetuate local and traditional practices, and provide employment opportunities for Hawaii residents.

The Legislature has given the Department the authority and mandate to establish aquatic life propagating stations and to distribute aquatic life for the purpose of increasing the food supply of the State.¹ Last year, the Legislature appropriated \$300,000 to the Department for fingerling

¹ Section 187A-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, states that the Department shall:
(2) Establish and maintain aquatic life propagating station or stations; and

production to restock fishponds. Through consultations with fishpond communities, it was learned that fishpond practitioners preferred to be taught how to produce and raise fingerlings rather than have the Department do it for them. This idea also turned out to be the most cost-effective use of the funds because the Department does not have the existing facilities and staff required to produce fingerlings. As a result, the Department is using the appropriated funds to support capacity building and training in pua (juvenile mullet) production at Waiʻanae High School.

The Department is currently consulting with fishpond communities to identify additional ways we can support fishponds through fingerling production. An appropriation of \$500,000 for FY23-24 will enable the Department to support other fishpond communities in capacity building to produce fingerlings and limu for restoration and restocking of fishponds. It would also enable the Department to establish an aquaculture coordinator position within the Department to oversee the expansion of our aquaculture program.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

(5) Distribute, free of charge, as the department deems to be in the public interest, aquatic life, for the purpose of increasing the food supply of the State; provided that when, in the discretion of the department, the public interest shall not be materially interfered with by so doing, the department may propagate and furnish aquatic life to private parties, upon such reasonable terms, conditions, and prices determined by the department.



SB730
RELATING TO FISHPONDS
Senate Committee on Water and Land

February 1, 2023

1:00 PM

Room 229

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will recommend to the Board of Trustees to **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** SB730, the purpose of which is to restore and restock the state’s fishponds, the loko i’a. OHA respectfully asks that the Legislature ensures responsible and meaningful stewardship over Native Hawaiian technologies and cultural resources, like loko i’a, by requiring consultation with Native Hawaiian communities and the ‘Aha Moku Advisory Committee established under the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Wehe i ka mākāhā i komo ka i’a (open the sluice gate, that the fish may enter). Native Hawaiians, i ka wā kahiko (in the time long before), established loko i’a for sustainable self-sufficiency and enduring survival. The Loko i’a is a Native Hawaiian technology and key component of critical Native Hawaiian infrastructure aggregating geographically distributed natural resources for the purpose of meeting traditional Native Hawaiian socio-political-economic-environmental needs. Hawai‘i’s network of interconnected natural resource infrastructure, often identified as the “ahupua‘a system,” with some components, like loko i’a, are still operational today, however, many island infrastructures have been forcefully dismantled in the aftermath of the Great Dying, where foreign-introduced diseases to these Islands, decimated over 90% of the total Native Hawaiian population. Uwē.

Ola nā ‘Ōiwi. OHA wishes to emphasize that it is no longer the case that these Islands are bereft of its native children and that the collective knowledge that we have amassed across centuries of hardship and the rights we possess that are enshrined within the Hawai‘i State Constitution,¹ now make us more than capable of returning to the operating controls of our ancestral technologies.

OHA respectfully requests, as the principal public agency in the State responsible for the performance, development, and coordination of programs and activities relating to Native Hawaiians,² that the Legislature ensures responsible and meaningful stewardship over loko i’a by requiring consultation with proximate Native Hawaiian communities in addition to the ‘Aha Moku Advisory Committee, which is the statutory body responsible for

¹ Art. XII, Sec. 7, Haw. Stat. Con.

² HRS §10-3.



SB730
RELATING TO FISHPONDS
Senate Committee on Water and Land

February 1, 2023

1:00 PM

Room 229

advising the chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources in effective ways to bridge Native Hawaiian traditional knowledge with Western knowledge.

OHA appreciates this opportunity to support SB730 and respectfully asks the Legislature to continue to protect the exercise of Native Hawaiian rights through the perpetuation of Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices by including the Native Hawaiian people in activities that interact with Native Hawaiian cultural resources. Mahalo nui loa.



Testimony Before The
Senate Committee on Water and Land
IN SUPPORT OF SB 730
Wednesday, February 1, 2023, 1:00PM, Room 229
Via Zoom

My name is Kevin Chang and I am the Executive Director of [Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo \(or KUA\)](#). KUA works to empower grassroots rural and Native Hawaiian mālama 'āina groups to celebrate their places and pass on their traditions to better Hawai'i and achieve 'āina momona— an abundant, productive ecological system that supports community well-being.

KUA employs a community-driven approach that currently supports a statewide network of 36 mālama 'āina community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together), 40 fishpond projects and practitioners called the Hui Mālama Loko I'a, and a growing group of over 60 Limu practitioners and supporters called the Limu Hui. Participants in our networks have had long term dreams of bringing fishponds, food fish and limu back to our shorelines and dinner tables.

KUA supports SB 730 as an incremental step on a pathway towards 'āina momona.

This bill would appropriate a currently uncertain sum the department of land and natural resources' hatchery program to:

- (1) Provide fingerlings and limu for restoration and restocking of fishponds; and
- (2) Establish one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) aquaculture coordinator biologist VI Position.

KUA's coordinators and network participants in all three of our networks have built stronger connections to the DLNR-DAR and the aquaculture community knowing very well that to reach a vision of greater food self-sufficiency we need to transform our culture, values and institutions together. Supporting a DLNR role in producing fingerlings and limu for restorative aquaculture would directly address one of the recommendations in the 1993 Report of the Governor's Task Force on Moloka'i Fishpond Restoration. This report was published nearly 30 years ago, but many of its findings are still relevant and indeed, important to fishponds on most other islands in Hawai'i in addition to Moloka'i; a [Loko I'a Needs Assessment](#) finalized in November 2020 reiterated the continued interest in contemporary aquaculture technology to support fishpond revitalization. We acknowledge the existing resources and technical capacity within DLNR-DAR's existing hatchery program and encourage this proposed further support to build towards that vision of 'āina momona.

Importantly, the 1993 report recommended that "the State of Hawai'i...actively support and help fund the development of a hatchery to provide seedstock for fishponds and stock enhancement of the reefs." Many practitioners envision a future when loko i'a can be stocked again from natural populations of prized species such as 'anae, but since those fisheries are depleted in many areas across Hawai'i, hatchery-raised fingerlings are an important component of the restoration efforts for loko i'a and their surrounding waters. In our conversations with the Hui Mālama Loko I'a, practitioners from 24 loko i'a on 5 different islands have indicated this opinion in the past several years. Then looking beyond the boundaries of the walls, loko i'a themselves are key assets to restocking the wild fishery by serving as enhanced nursery areas.

Indeed, as we look to the future our communities are raising the kupa'āina who want to have jobs focused on mālama 'āina. The recent increased capacity of the DOCARE Academy enrollment is one and greater aquacultural capacity and economy are also possible pathways for our young people are another. We appreciate creative and collaborative approaches that build the capacity and skills of the next generation with intention, and in a way that benefits ongoing community efforts at loko i'a as a catalyst for ecosystem regeneration.

The communities we work with are committed to ensuring the long-term health of our biocultural resources. They have depended on them for generations. We believe our environment, the foundation of our very existence, is about long-term investment and a vision of 'āina momona. To get there it requires among other things taking the steps toward greater self-sufficiency, development of a pipeline of new and more innovative career pathways, mindsets, relationships and resource flows for mālama 'āina. Passing this bill out of your committee will open a pathway toward reaching this vision.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support.

Aloha 'Āina Momona.



Food+ Policy Internship 2023

food@purplemaia.org

January 30, 2023

To: Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and the Senate Committee on Water and Land

Subject: **SB 730**, Relating to Fishponds

Aloha,

Food+ Policy **strongly supports SB730**, which would appropriate funds to DLNR to restock and restore fishponds. The success of fishponds in Hawai'i is a key factor in restructuring Hawai'i's food system and supporting our food security and ecosystem health.

The degradation of Hawai'i's fishponds due to erosion, invasive vegetation, as well as climate change has led to the massive drop in fish population in Hawai'i's fishponds.

However, in 2017, Conservation International (CI) Hawai'i partnered with three community based loko i'a organizations to conduct a two-and-a-half-year project. This project has not only shown the success of the growth of the fish population, but also the success of other life within and outside of the fishpond that leads to the overall health of the ecosystem. And, healthy ecosystems contribute to Hawai'i's overall food security.

We strongly believe that supporting SB730 will help our goal to a better future for our food system(s) and will help Hawai'i continue to lead in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Mahalo,
Kelsey Amos & the Food+ Policy Team
#fixourfoodsystem

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2023, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.



Senate Committee on Water & Land

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB730

Wednesday, February 1st, 2023 1:00pm, Conference Room 229

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and Members of the Committees,

HAPA strongly supports SB730, which appropriates funds to support the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in restoring and restocking fishponds.

HAPA understands that loko i'a systems play an important role in Hawaiian cultural practices, have an ecologically important role in watersheds, and could significantly contribute to Hawai'i's food security goals.

We also agree that providing juvenile fish to restock loko ia through the DLNRs' division of aquatic resources will support ongoing efforts to restore the Hawai'i's fishponds.

Loko i'a were, and continue to be, essential components of traditional food systems in Hawai'i, providing food security and community resilience.¹ Their revitalisation goes hand in hand with the revitalisation of Hawaiian language, arts, architecture and diet. Today, most loko i'a sites are highly degraded and in need of restoration and funding.

Please support SB730 to help us restore these critical indigenous agricultural infrastructure systems that increase our food security, resiliency and improve our environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', written in a cursive style.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

¹ <https://www.iccaconsortium.org/index.php/2021/02/20/loko-ia-fishponds-hawaii-communities-restoring-fisheries/>



SB 730

In Support

2/01/23 1:00P

CR 229 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and WTL Committee Members,

On behalf of the Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center we are in strong support of **SB 730** which proposes to provide fingerlings and limu for restoration and restocking of fishponds, and establish one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) aquaculture coordinator biologist VI position for the DLNR.

There are numerous community efforts across the state that have made significant strides to restore Hawaiian fishponds. In recent years these efforts have accelerated with greater access for communities and also better awareness on the policy making side. Restocking fishponds will be a wise investment towards the full restoration of these Hawaiian treasures and allow for a traditional and healthy source of protein for our communities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony,

Chris Cramer

Executive Director

Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center

SB-730

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 11:10:05 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Thayne Taylor | Testifying for Kaua'i Sea Farms, LLC dba Kaua'i Sea Farm | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support funding for restoration and restocking of our loko'ia (fishponds).

Loko i'a are important components of the ahupua'a (traditional land stewardship framework) that contribute to a healthy and robust food system. They are unique aquaculture systems that exist throughout Hawai'i, and were developed to optimize natural patterns of watersheds, nutrient cycles, and fish biology.

Loko'ia (fishponds) play an important role in Hawaiian cultural practices, have an ecologically important role in watersheds, and could significantly contribute to Hawai'i's food security goals.

Mahalo,

Thayne Taylor, Kalaheo, Kaua'i



PO Box 1177 Koloa HI 96756
808.652.5286 hawaiiSEED.org

In SUPPORT of SB730

January 31, 2023

Aloha Senate Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Poepoe and Committee Members on Water and Land,

Hawai'i SEED strongly supports SB730 and the funding for restoration and restocking of our loko'ia (fishponds).

Restoration and stewardship of our loko'ia provides a deep connection and education to our younger generations. Fishponds are a strong example of the engineering skills and forward thinking of Hawaiian culture, and the ancestors who build and tended the fishponds for hundreds of years.

Loko i'a are important components of the ahupua'a (traditional land stewardship framework) that contribute to a healthy and robust food system. They are unique aquaculture systems that exist throughout Hawai'i, and were developed to optimize natural patterns of watersheds, nutrient cycles, and fish biology.

Loko'ia (fishponds) play an important role in Hawaiian cultural practices, have an ecologically important role in watersheds, and could significantly contribute to Hawai'i's food security goals.

Mahalo nui,

Jeri Di Pietro, President
Hawai'i SEED
PO Box 1177
Koloa, HI 96756
(808) 651-1332

SB-730

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 10:50:48 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Rayne Regush | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support SB730 which will provide important funding for our Loko ‘ia (Fishpond) Restoration -- the unique aquaculture systems that exist throughout Hawai‘i.

Loko i‘a are important components of the ahupua‘a, developed to optimize natural patterns of watersheds, nutrient cycles, and fish biology in order to contribute to a healthy and robust food system.

Loko i‘a play an important role in Hawaiian cultural practices, and can significantly contribute to Hawai‘i’s food security goals.

Mahalo,
Rayne Regush
Kapa‘a, Kaua‘i

SB-730

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 11:00:58 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Keoni DeFranco | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support funding for restoration and restocking of our loko‘ia (fishponds).

Loko i‘a are important components of the ahupua‘a (traditional land stewardship framework) that contribute to a healthy and robust food system. They are unique aquaculture systems that exist throughout Hawai‘i, and were developed to optimize natural patterns of watersheds, nutrient cycles, and fish biology.

Loko‘ia (fishponds) play an important role in Hawaiian cultural practices, have an ecologically important role in watersheds, and could significantly contribute to Hawai‘i’s food security goals.

Mahalo,

Keoni DeFranco, Waimanalo

SB-730

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 11:08:01 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Pam Murphy | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support funding for the restoration and restocking of our loko‘ia (fishponds).

Loko i‘a are important components of the ahupua‘a (traditional land stewardship framework) that contribute to a healthy and robust food system. They are unique aquaculture systems that exist throughout Hawai‘i, and were developed to optimize natural patterns of watersheds, nutrient cycles, and fish biology.

Loko‘ia (fishponds) play an essential role in Hawaiian cultural practices, have an ecologically important role in watersheds, and could significantly contribute to Hawai‘i’s food security goals.

Mahalo,

Pam Murphy, Kilauea, HI

SB-730

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 11:15:09 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dawn Morais Webster Ph.D. | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support funding for restoration and restocking of our loko‘ia (fishponds), having seen the work done by the grassroots networks I am privileged to follow and serve.

Loko i‘a are important components of the ahupua‘a (traditional land stewardship framework) that contribute to a healthy and robust food system. They are unique aquaculture systems that exist throughout Hawai‘i, and were developed to optimize natural patterns of watersheds, nutrient cycles, and fish biology.

Loko‘ia (fishponds) play an important role in Hawaiian cultural practices, have an ecologically important role in watersheds, and could significantly contribute to Hawai‘i’s food security goals.

Mahalo,

SB-730

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 12:11:50 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Judith White | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Protect our native fishponds. Mahalo!

SB-730

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 12:40:23 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| JarraeTehani Manasas | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support funding for restoration and restocking of our loko 'ia (fishponds).

Loko i'a are important components of the ahupua'a (traditional land stewardship framework) that contribute to a healthy and robust food system. They are unique aquaculture systems that exist throughout Hawai'i and were developed to optimize natural patterns of watersheds, nutrient cycles and fish biology.

Loko i'a (fishponds) play an important role in Hawaiian cultural practices, have an ecologically important role in watersheds and could significantly contribute to Hawai'i's food security goals.

Mahalo,

JarraeTehani Manasas, Kailua Kona

SB-730

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 2:40:34 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Nanea Lo | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Hello,

I strongly support funding for restoration and restocking of our loko‘ia (fishponds).

Loko i‘a are important components of the ahupua‘a (traditional land stewardship framework) that contribute to a healthy and robust food system. They are unique aquaculture systems that exist throughout Hawai‘i, and were developed to optimize natural patterns of watersheds, nutrient cycles, and fish biology.

Loko‘ia (fishponds) play an important role in Hawaiian cultural practices, have an ecologically important role in watersheds, and could significantly contribute to Hawai‘i’s food security goals.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō‘ili‘ili

SB-730

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 2:42:08 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Mary Lu Kelley | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support this important funding for restoration and restocking of our loko‘ia (fishponds).

Loko i‘a are important components of the ahupua‘a (traditional land stewardship framework) that contribute to a healthy and robust food system. They are unique aquaculture systems that exist throughout Hawai‘i, and were developed to optimize natural patterns of watersheds, nutrient cycles, and fish biology.

Loko‘ia (fishponds) play an important role in Hawaiian cultural practices, have an ecologically important role in watersheds, and could significantly contribute to Hawai‘i’s food security goals.

Mahalo,

Mary Lu Kelley

Lawai, Kauai. Hawaii

SB-730

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 2:58:02 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Sam Peralta | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support funding for restoration and restocking of our loko‘ia (fishponds).

Loko i‘a are important components of the ahupua‘a (traditional land stewardship framework) that contribute to a healthy and robust food system. They are unique aquaculture systems that exist throughout Hawai‘i, and were developed to optimize natural patterns of watersheds, nutrient cycles, and fish biology.

Loko‘ia (fishponds) play an important role in Hawaiian cultural practices, have an ecologically important role in watersheds, and could significantly contribute to Hawai‘i’s food security goals.

Mahalo,

Sam Peralta, Wailuku

SB-730

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 4:36:03 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| David Hubbard | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support funding for restoration and restocking of our loko‘ia (fishponds).

David Hubbard, Puhi, Kaua`i

SB-730

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 6:27:32 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Lisa DeSantis | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I strongly support funding for restoration and restocking of our loko‘ia (fishponds).

Loko i‘a are important components of the ahupua‘a (traditional land stewardship framework) that contribute to a healthy and robust food system. They are unique aquaculture systems that exist throughout Hawai‘i, and were developed to optimize natural patterns of watersheds, nutrient cycles, and fish biology.

Loko‘ia (fishponds) play an important role in Hawaiian cultural practices, have an ecologically important role in watersheds, and could significantly contribute to Hawai‘i’s food security goals.

Mahalo for your time,

Lisa DeSantis, Waimea, Hawai‘i Island

SB-730

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 7:48:43 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Melissa Barker | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Honorable Senators,

I respectfully ask that you support SB730, Funding for Loko`ia (Fishpond) Restoration.

Loko i'a are important components of the ahupua'a that contribute to a healthy food system. They are unique aquaculture systems that exist throughout Hawaii, and were developed to optimize natural patterns of watersheds, nutrient cycles, and fish biology.

Loko'ia (fishponds) play an important role in Hawaiian cultural practices, have an ecologically important role in watersheds, and could significantly contribute to Hawaii's food security goals.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this request.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

SB-730

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 3:02:55 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Rev. Samuel L Domingo | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support funding for restoration and restocking of our loko‘ia (fishponds).

Loko i‘a are important components of the ahupua‘a (traditional land stewardship framework) that contribute to a healthy and robust food system. They are unique aquaculture systems that exist throughout Hawai‘i, and were developed to optimize natural patterns of watersheds, nutrient cycles, and fish biology.

Loko‘ia (fishponds) play an important role in Hawaiian cultural practices, have an ecologically important role in watersheds, and could significantly contribute to Hawai‘i’s food security goals.

SB-730

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 3:13:56 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Abbey Holmes | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support funding for restoration and restocking of our loko‘ia (fishponds).

Loko i‘a are important components of the ahupua‘a (traditional land stewardship framework) that contribute to a healthy and robust food system. They are unique aquaculture systems that exist throughout Hawai‘i, and were developed to optimize natural patterns of watersheds, nutrient cycles, and fish biology.

Loko‘ia (fishponds) play an important role in Hawaiian cultural practices, have an ecologically important role in watersheds, and could significantly contribute to Hawai‘i’s food security goals.

Mahalo,

Abbey Holmes Kilauea Resident

SB-730

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 4:36:25 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Arika Hultquist | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support funding for restoration and restocking of our loko‘ia (fishponds).

Loko i‘a are important components of the ahupua‘a (traditional land stewardship framework) that contribute to a healthy and robust food system. They are unique aquaculture systems that exist throughout Hawai‘i, and were developed to optimize natural patterns of watersheds, nutrient cycles, and fish biology.

Loko‘ia (fishponds) play an important role in Hawaiian cultural practices, have an ecologically important role in watersheds, and could significantly contribute to Hawai‘i’s food security goals.

Mahalo,
Arika Hultquist

Lahaina Resident

SB-730

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 5:09:51 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Irena Bliss | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support funding for restoration and restocking of our loko‘ia (fishponds).

Loko i‘a are important components of the ahupua‘a (traditional land stewardship framework) that contribute to a healthy and robust food system. They are unique aquaculture systems that exist throughout Hawai‘i, and were developed to optimize natural patterns of watersheds, nutrient cycles, and fish biology.

Loko‘ia (fishponds) play an important role in Hawaiian cultural practices, have an ecologically important role in watersheds, and could significantly contribute to Hawai‘i’s food security goals. It is vital to support restoration of the Loko i‘a for the well-being of Hawai‘I and future generations.

Mahalo,

Irena Bliss, Ha‘ikū Maui 96708

SB-730

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 8:05:48 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Shay Chan Hodges | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support funding for restoration and restocking of our loko‘ia (fishponds).

Loko i‘a are important components of the ahupua‘a (traditional land stewardship framework) that contribute to a healthy and robust food system. They are unique aquaculture systems that exist throughout Hawai‘i, and were developed to optimize natural patterns of watersheds, nutrient cycles, and fish biology.

Loko‘ia (fishponds) play an important role in Hawaiian cultural practices, have an ecologically important role in watersheds, and could significantly contribute to Hawai‘i’s food security goals.

Mahalo,

Shay Chan Hodges, Haiku, Maui

SB-730

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 8:27:26 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| M. Leilani DeMello | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support funding for restoration and restocking of our loko‘ia (fishponds).

Loko i‘a are important components of the ahupua‘a (traditional land stewardship framework) that contribute to a healthy and robust food system. They are unique aquaculture systems that exist throughout Hawai‘i, and were developed to optimize natural patterns of watersheds, nutrient cycles, and fish biology.

Loko‘ia (fishponds) play an important role in Hawaiian cultural practices, have an ecologically important role in watersheds, and could significantly contribute to Hawai‘i’s food security goals.

Mahalo,

M. Leilani DeMello, ‘Ōla‘a, Puna, Hawai‘i

SB-730

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 3:07:00 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Jason Mark Alexander | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support funding for restoration and restocking of our loko‘ia (fishponds).

Loko i‘a are important components of the ahupua‘a (traditional land stewardship framework) that contribute to a healthy and robust food system. They are unique aquaculture systems that exist throughout Hawai‘i, and were developed to optimize natural patterns of watersheds, nutrient cycles, and fish biology.

Loko‘ia (fishponds) play an important role in Hawaiian cultural practices, have an ecologically important role in watersheds, and could significantly contribute to Hawai‘i’s food security goals.

Mahalo,

Jason Mark Alexander, Mānoa

SB-730

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 8:13:48 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Danelle Guion | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please support SB730 for both cultural longevity, our food security and so much more!

Loko‘ia (fishponds) play an important role in Hawaiian cultural practices, have an ecologically important role in watersheds, and could significantly contribute to Hawai‘i’s food security goals.

SB-730

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 8:29:20 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Jessica Kuzmier | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha, I am testifying in support of SB 730, as I strongly support funding for restoration and restocking of our loko'ia (fishponds), particularly those stocks that will help support the biome as well as help the local businesses of aquaculture.

As you know, loko'ia are important components of the ahupua'a (traditional land stewardship framework) that contribute to a healthy and robust food system. They are unique aquaculture systems that exist throughout Hawai'i, and were developed to optimize natural patterns of watersheds, nutrient cycles, and fish biology. Since the cultural practice of loko'ia is by its very essence sustainable, replenishing them will assist us in both food security and general conservation for all habitats, human or otherwise.

Loko'ia (fishponds) play an important role in Hawaiian cultural practices, have an ecologically important role in watersheds, and could significantly contribute to Hawai'i's food security goals. It will help to uplift the Hawaiian culture and the essence of what makes Hawaii the awesome place it is.

Mahalo for your time.

SB-730

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 8:39:51 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Charlene K. Rowley | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Traditional local systems of agriculture and fisheries management are essential for our health and our future. Please support this Bill

SB-730

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 8:55:41 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| joseph silva | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

i support

SB-730

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 10:37:22 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Mina Fardeen | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support SB735, which exempts the instream use of water for commercial kalo cultivation conducted in a manner consistent with traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians from the existing process for the disposition of water rights.

The water leasing process currently in place imposes burdensome requirements on water lease applicants, especially smaller agricultural users including taro farmers. We believe SB735 provides the security of water rights that our taro farmers need on every island.

This is an important step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai'i. We need to do everything we can to support the expansion of the cultivation of kalo which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

The Hawai'i State Constitution mandates the protection of traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians. Therefore, kalo farmers should be exempt from the burdensome process of securing water leases for traditional kalo farming.

SB735 is a great way to support a native cultural practice and Hawai'i's staple food. Supporting taro farming and assisting farmers will also help to keep native Hawaiian traditional and customary cultural practices alive.

I strongly support SB735 and believe it will help facilitate more local production of kalo, which in turn helps to strengthen our food security and local economy.

Mahalo,

Mina Fardeen, San Francisco, CA

Dear members of the Committee,

I am writing in **strong support** of SB730.

I am a young adult living on O'ahu, raised on Big Island, and currently a student at the William S. Richardson School of Law.

Facilitating and increasing locally grown food from Hawai'i farmers is extremely important. Supporting local food, grown through cultural practices, in local fishponds, which therein benefits local soil, is of paramount importance to our health and the health of Hawaiian culture. For the health of the 'aina and the health of the people, we must support and eat from local farms, which include loko'ia. Many people do not know how to do this. By creating more and expanding upon current local food systems we ensure the health of the people of Hawai'i and Hawaiian culture and show the global community that uplifting indigenous cultural practices provides the key to healing our local communities. Further, this will provide a great economic benefit to our local farming community, which needs and deserves this more than large-scale farms who have no sense of who we are nor why sustainably grown food matters. Small, local farmers who uphold healthy, sustainable farming practices are facing an economic crisis nationwide, and need our support just as much as we need theirs.

It would be a shame upon Hawai'i if our own government did not recognize the deep, unshakable, and irreplaceable value of supporting loko'ia. This is of utmost importance right now, and the Committee would be taking a great step in supporting this SB730.

Mahalo,
Holly Crawford, hollyc8@hawaii.edu

SB-730

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 2:34:00 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| David Shizuma | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support the passage of SB730. As stated in Section 1 of the bill, loko ia play an important role in Hawaiian cultural practice. It also has the potential to provide a substantial amount of food to the people of Hawaii, improving our food security and being less dependent on imported food. Supporting the restocking and restoration of our fishponds helps us get to our 2030 Aloha+ goals of doubling local food production and provides a resource for us to help us get to the goal of "20-30% food consumed is grown locally."

Our fishponds are not only a source for local food production and consumption, but also a focal point for our communities. Connecting our communities to the fishponds brings greater community health by bringing people together and getting them outside and involved in healthy activities like fishing, walking, and restoration of our resources.

SB-730

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 2:43:55 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jason Yaris | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

SB730 totally makes sense for both native cultural preservation and food sustainability.

Vote yes on SB730.

Thank you,

Jason Yaris

Makaweli HI 96769

SB-730

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 5:32:35 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Shauna Springer | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support this bill as it will allow much needed resources and capacity to DAR to support our loko i'a.

LATE

SB-730

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:25:12 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Dave Mulnix | Testifying for Our Revolution Hawaii | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

On behalf of Our Revolution Hawaii's 5,000 members & supporters statewide, we stand in Strong Support of passage of HB730.

Dave Mulnix, Cofounder & Hawaii State Organizer

Our Revolution Hawaii



January 31, 2023
Me ka ha'aha'a,

I am Hannah Kihalani Springer, a kama'āina of Ka'ūpūlehu, North Kona, member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee (KMLAC). On behalf of the KMLAC, we are **opposed to SB 92** Relating to Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Areas.

I have been involved with the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee (KMLAC) since its inception. The KMLAC has worked with the State of Hawai'i and other like-minded communities across the pae 'āina Hawai'i to foster the civic engagement necessary to accomplish the place and community-based fisheries management that has been proven across the pae 'āina, to improve the health of many places and the people who call them home.

The KMLAC has worked within the Administrative Rules for the West Hawai'i Regional Fishery Management Area to engage each other and those around us in an inclusive and adaptive manner.

Adaptive management requires the trust and respect of the citizens and the government for each other and for the collective that we form together.

To that end, and supportive of each other, communities have and are crafting fishery management strategies which protect the fisheries which support the health of Hawai'i nei and which reaffirm the practices of vibrant and healthy communities, intent on exercising and sharing Hawaiian sensibility related to the culture of the subsistence lifestyle, including robust spiritual and ceremonial expression.

Adaptive management requires careful, and continual, monitoring, refinement, and adjustment. These are the observations and adjustments that should determine the circumstances of the fishery, including the duration of any and all strategies.

The changes suggested to the Community Based Subsistence Fishing Area designations would undermine the trust and respect noted above, as well as discourage on-going community efforts and stifle future aspirations to Community Based Subsistence Fisheries Management.

An important strategy that would foster the trust and respect mentioned above and move us forward together in a progressive and productive fashion, would be to increase the rule making, funding, and enforcement mechanisms which support the work of the Division of Aquatic Resources, the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement, and the Attorney General's Office to accomplish the relevance and benefit intended by this measure. Please, consider that instead.

'O mākou nō me ka 'oia'i'o,

Hannah Kihalani Springer