

TESTIMONY
SCR 44 / SR 26
LATE

**SCR 44 and SR 26, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED STATES
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT, "THE CORAL REEF OF SOUTH MOLOKAI,
HAWAII: PORTRAIT OF A SEDIMENT THREATENED FRINGING REEF",
ENCOURAGING FEDERAL, STATE, AND COMMUNITY COOPERATION TO
STEWARD THE SOUTH MOLOKAI REEF FISHERY**

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian
Affairs

February 27, 2009
Room: 229

2:45 p.m.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SCR 44 and SR 26, which would express support not only for the report "The Coral Reef of South Molokaïi, Hawaiïi: Portrait of a Sediment-Threatened Fringing Reef" but for the recognition that the state of these reefs can and should be improved for the perpetuation of the natural and cultural resources of Molokaïi. OHA supports these resolutions as important recognitions of state and federal agencies working in partnership for the betterment of a local community and its environment.

This comprehensive, technical report pays homage to the most extensive coral reef in the main Hawaiian Islands and expresses an understanding of the use of this reef system as the icebox of Molokaïi. Many generations ago, the innovative Native Hawaiians of Molokaïi even found ways to accentuate nature's bounty by building the largest number of fishponds anywhere along their southern coast. Much of this magnificent reef system has been badly, but not irrevocably, damaged by erosion on the uplands that has caused severe sedimentation on the reefs.

OHA supports this collaboration of the United States Geological Survey, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, and the University of Hawaiïi. We also note the federal recognition of the Native Hawaiian concept of ahupuaÿa management, and the optimistic possibilities offered for corrective actions into the future that will support a sustainable, healthy use of this "icebox" for Molokaïi's traditional, subsistence lifestyle.

Therefore, OHA respectfully urges the committee to PASS SCR 44 and SR 26, and we thank the committee for the opportunity to testify.

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