



# LATE TESTIMONY

## KO'OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

January 29, 2009

Rep. Ken Ito, Chair  
And Members  
House Committee on Water, Land, & Ocean Resources  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Testimony on H.B. 586, Relating to the Kane`ohe Bay Regional Council

Aloha mai kakou!

The Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club offers testimony in opposition to House Bill 586, and urges that it be amended to more truly address the needs for protection of our natural and cultural resources in Kane`ohe Bay. We commend the efforts of your committee chair to help resolve extended disputes over natural resource concerns in Kane`ohe Bay, and recognize that this measure is an effort to move that dialog forward to resolution.

Some of our members were instrumental in initial efforts to establish this regional council, which was actually formed to ensure better management of commercial uses of the bay but was expanded to encourage better stewardship among all users of Kane`ohe Bay.

We feel strongly that the regional council may have lost its way. Some of its members may not realize that its purpose is not to sit there as advocates for their "users" of the bay, but rather to demonstrate how their constituencies can help protect the bay. When there are differences, as are periodically likely to occur, the council's role is to help find common ground to resolve these differences, but always with the goal that a balance must be struck between "use" and "protection" of the resource.

We urge that the bill be amended to change the sunset date to 2014, which gives the council five years to refocus on its most important purpose and address pressing issues of resource preservation and balance of uses. We also suggest that the bill allow for the law to be revisited at that time and, if the council is functioning more closely to its intended purpose, lift the sunset provision or extend it for another period of time.

We further suggest that the committee consider introducing a companion resolution that has two primary purposes: (1) urges the Department of Land and Natural Resources to work more closely with the council to ensure there is adequate orientation and/or training in the councilmembers' understanding of their kuleana as the Kane`ohe Bay Regional Council; and (2) urges the members of the council to work harder as advocates for the protection of resources in

the bay for generations to come. If any of the members of this council are unable or unwilling to support that goal, they should be willing to give up their seat on that body.

Mahalo for this opportunity to offer our mana`o on this legislation.

Malamapono,

/s/MAHEALANI CYPHER  
President