



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

S.B.#1461, S.D. 2, H.D. 1

RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Testimony Presented Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

March 22, 2005

By

Andrew G. Hashimoto
Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i

Testimony for
Senate Bill 1461, S.D. 2, H.D. 1

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Dr. Andrew G. Hashimoto, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

I am pleased to contribute the expertise of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) to the decision-making process on Senate Bill 11461, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i through CTAHR to conduct a pilot project for watershed assessment and development of a watershed action plan at Kaiaka Bay, O'ahu.

The Kaiaka Bay ahupua'a (mauka to makai watershed) on O'ahu's North Shore is undergoing growth and development pressures relating to residential, commercial, agricultural, and homeland security use. All members of this community—residents, businesspeople, farmers, and public safety personnel—benefit from efforts to ensure water quality, flood prevention, and efficient use of water resources. Effective watershed management is also essential to the health of the plants and animals that live within the ahupua'a, from hillside ecosystems to coral reefs. Toward this end, pollution prevention activities coupled with research, education, and outreach can protect the Kaiaka Bay environment and the communities it supports.

CTAHR is well suited to conduct a collaborative, community-centered watershed assessment and action plan project for Kaiaka Bay. The college has substantial experience and expertise in watershed hydrology, tropical plant and soil science, geographical information systems technology and tools, community learning, and public service. We look forward to the opportunity to apply these skills to watershed conservation efforts at Kaiaka Bay.

I support SB1461, SD2, HD1 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Executive Biennium Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.