



BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND & COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Hawaii State Legislature
February 7, 2017

Senate Bill No. 966
Relating to Public Lands

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, Chair Espero, Vice Chair Harimoto and Members of the Committees,

The Ka Lāhui Hawaii Political Action Committee (KPAC) opposes SB 966 which would redefine public lands to which the Hawai‘i Public Housing Authority in its corporate capacity holds “title” too.

Nearly all public lands currently under the control of the State of Hawai‘i and its agents are Hawaiian Kingdom Crown and Government lands. The Kanaka Maoli (aka Native Hawaiian people) never relinquished their interests in these lands. The United States Public Law 103-150 aka the “Apology Bill” (1993) recognized that “1,800,000 acres of crown, government and public lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i” was “ceded” to the US without consent or compensation to the Kanaka Maoli people. Moreover, the Apology Bill recognized that the indigenous Hawaiian people never directly relinquished their claims to their inherent sovereignty as a people or over their national lands to the United States.

Any changes in respect to Public Lands whether it the sale of or redefining these lands should halt until all Kanaka Maoli claims to these lands have been addressed. Redefining the lands also takes away its purpose and responsibility to the betterment of the Kanaka Maoli people which is one of the trust provisions of the 5(f) Admissions Act.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Healani Sonoda-Pale
Chair, KPAC