



PRESS RELEASE

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Rep. Mele Carroll

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HB 2101 HD1: Relating To The Kaho‘Olawe Island Reserve- Advances To The State Senate

HONOLULU — HB 2101 HD1, introduced by Representative Mele Carroll passed with unanimous support during third reading in the House on Tuesday (3/4/14). The bill now advances to the State Senate.

The purpose of HB 2101 HD1 is to utilize a portion of state conveyance tax revenue to replenish the Kaho‘olawe rehabilitation trust fund to be used for the long-term rehabilitation and maintenance of the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve. Currently, the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) is funded predominantly by a trust fund that was created in 1994 during the federal unexploded ordnance cleanup of Kaho‘olawe. The federal appropriation is now dwindling and is expected to be depleted by 2016 if a sustainable endowment for the long-term restoration of Kaho‘olawe is not put in place.

Archeological evidence suggests that Hawaiians came to Kaho‘olawe as early as 400 A.D., settling in small fishing villages along the island’s coast. To date, nearly 3,000 archeological and historical sites and features paint a picture of Kaho‘olawe as a navigational center for voyaging, the site of an adze quarry, an agricultural center, and a site for religious and cultural ceremonies. Traditionally, the island has been revered as a wahi pana (celebrated place) and a pu‘uhonua (place of refuge).

As modern times rolled in, Kaho‘olawe underwent a harsh evolution. It would be used briefly as a penal colony, for sheep and cattle ranching, and eventually transferred to the U.S. Navy for use as a bombing range. In the 1970's members of Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana (PKO) began a series of occupations of the island in an effort to halt the bombings. Litigation from the PKO forced an end to the bombing in 1990 and the island was placed under the administration of the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC).

"Protecting and preserving Kaho'olawe is important not only to Native Hawaiian culture, but to the entire state of Hawai'i, so we can continue to teach our history and carry on the conservation efforts." stated Rep. Mele Carroll. "I am extremely pleased that my fellow House members supported HB 2101 HD1, and was pleasantly surprised by the statements and stories shared during the floor session this week."

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Representative Carroll serves House District 13 which includes the areas of Haiku, Hana, Kaupo, Kipahulu, Nahiku, Paia, Kahoolawe, Molokini, Lanai and Moloka'i. She is also the Chair of the Human Services Committee and is a member of the Health and Housing committees.