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H.R. 480

REQUESTING THAT THE HAWAII HISTORIC PLACES REVIEW BOARD MAKE A SPEEDY EVALUATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES' RECOMMENDATION THAT KAWAINUI MARSH BE PLACED ON THE HAWAII AND THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES.

Statement for
House Committee on Water, Land Use, Development and Hawaiian Homes
Public Hearing 18 March 1977

by
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HR 480 would request the speedy evaluation of the recommendation that Kawainui Marsh be placed on the Hawaii and National Register of Historic Places. This statement has been submitted for review to the Legislative Subcommittee of the Environmental Center of the University of Hawaii. It does not represent an institutional position of the University.

The Kawainui area was part of a major Hawaiian settlement along Kailua Bay. It was the home of alii in the early eighteenth century and two of Oahu's most notable chiefs, Kakuhihewa and Kualii'i, maintained their centers of government from this district. Kawainui was then a large inland fishpond belonging to the alii and the wetland areas along its streams were used for taro growing. Two historic sites, Pahukini Heiau and Ulu Po Heiau, located in the area surrounding Kawainui are on the National Register of Historic Places (DPED Kawainui Report).

The archeological potential of Kawainui swamp area drainage basin is considerable and is important for understanding the Hawaiian culture and its developmental path from earliest colonization. This area was an extremely important area of prehistoric Hawaiian occupation and its preservation as a historical site would permit much needed archeological research as well as contribute to the culture and heritage of the Hawaiian people.

There are further consideration which indicate the desirability for protecting the Kawainui marsh area. The ecological significance of the area warrants the conservation of Kawainui marsh as a wildlife sanctuary.

Several species of native and exotic fishlife inhabit the area including tlapia mossambica, aholehole, mullet, papio, oopu'akupa, smallmouth bass, various mosquito fish, o'opunakea, and barracuda. Kawainui is also the habitat for a number of native birds including four endangered species--the

'Alae 'Ula (Hawaiian Gallinule), the 'Alae Ke'oke'o (Hawaiian coot), Ae'o (Hawaiian Stilt) and Koloa-maoli (Hawaiian Duck). Other native birds found in the marsh and surrounding areas are the Black Crowned Night Heron, Frigate Bird, Pintail Duck, and Shovellet Duck. Introduced birds include the Cattle Egret, Mynah, Barred Dove, Laceneck Dove, House Finch, House Sparrow, Mockingbird, Ricebird, White-eye Chinese Thrush, Red Vent Bullbird, Cardinal, Barn Owl, and Sharma Thrush. Kawainui is also a nesting site for migratory ducks and other birds (DPED Kawainui Report).

Since the continued existence of this wildlife depends on the conservation of the Kawainui Marsh area, it is essential that the ecosystem be protected from alteration by the encroachment of urbanization and development.