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KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA
KAHO'OLawe ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
KŌMIKINA MĀLAMA KAHO'OLawe

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Testimony of
MICHAEL K. NĀHO'OP'I
Executive Director

Before the House Committee on

FINANCE

Thursday, February 20, 2025
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 307 HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES

House Bill 307 HD1 authorizes the Director of Finance to issue a special number plate for registered owner's vehicle commemorating the Island of Kaho'olawe. The Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) strongly supports this measure.

The intent of this measure is to commemorate the struggle and efforts relating to the return, cleanup and continuing restoration of the Island of Kahoolawe. This measure brings a daily reminder of the sacrifices made by the people of Hawaii to protest the bombing of Kaho'olawe and the efforts made by our leaders to get the island returned to the State of Hawaii. This measure also provides a continuing reminder and funding that the efforts are still not completed to heal the devastation done in the past and that the work continues for future generations.



Testimony Before The
House Committee on Finance (FIN)
IN SUPPORT OF HB307 HD1
February 20, 2025, 2:00 p.m., Room 308

We are Olan Leimomi Fisher and Kevin Chang, Kua'āina Advocate and Executive Director, respectively, testifying on behalf of [Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo \(or KUA\)](#). "Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo" stands for "grassroots growing through shared responsibility," and our acronym "KUA" means "backbone." **Our mission is to connect and empower communities to improve their quality of life through the collective care for their biocultural (natural and cultural) heritage, serving as a "backbone organization" that supports creative and community-driven solutions to problems stemming from environmental degradation.** Hawai'i's biocultural resources continue to be negatively impacted by political, economic, and social changes, and the increasing dangers of climate change make fostering and empowering resilient communities acutely critical.

Currently KUA supports three major networks of: (1) over 40 mālama 'āina (caring for our 'āina or "that which feeds") community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together); (2) over 60 loko i'a (fishpond aquaculture systems unique to Hawai'i) and wai 'ōpae (anchialine pool systems) sites in varying stages of restoration and development, with numerous caretakers, stakeholders, and volunteers known as the Hui Mālama Loko I'a ("caretakers of fishponds"); and (3) the Limu Hui made up of over 50 loea (traditional experts) and practitioners in all things "limu" or locally-grown "seaweed." **Our shared vision is to once again experience what our kūpuna (ancestors) referred to as 'ĀINA MOMONA – abundant and healthy ecological systems that sustain our community resilience and well-being.**

KUA supports HB307 HD1 as an incremental step towards 'āina momona.

This bill would create a special license plate to recognize and raise funds needed to help our Hawai'i community fulfill the collective promise and obligation to heal Kaho'olawe. Funds raised would go into the Kohe Mālamalama o Kanaloa Protect Kaho'olawe Fund. A new and cherished member of our E Alu Pū network is the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana (PKO), long time champion and steward of Kaho'olawe.

A primary function of KUA includes support for the development of an 'auwai, or a system of resources, tools, bridges, relationships, and networks that cultivate and elevate our communities' efforts to greater levels of collective impact in the care of our biocultural resources. A core catalyst for the flow in this 'auwai includes increasing necessary resources and pathways for community-led efforts helping to manage and regenerate the condition of the 'āina that sustains us. **We trust that a share of the resources generated from this special license plate will go to support some of PKO's efforts which are core to connecting our broader community with understanding the importance and sacredness of Kaho'olawe.**

The communities we work with are committed to ensuring the long-term health of our biocultural resources that they have cared for and depended on for generations since time immemorial. **We believe our environment, the foundation of our very existence, is about long-term investment and a vision of ‘āina momona.** To get there requires taking the steps necessary for greater self-sufficiency, development of new and more innovative career pathways, mindsets, relationships, and resources for mālama ‘āina efforts that encourage and build upon the time-tested techniques of our ancestors in Hawai‘i. Passing this bill out of your committee will open an essential ‘auwai system toward reaching this vision.

Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to submit testimony. Please **PASS** HB307 HD1.

Aloha ‘Āina Momona no nā kau ā kau.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 20, 2025

2:00 PM

Conference Room 308

In **SUPPORT** of **HB307 HD1**: RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS HB307 HD1**, which would create a special number plate in recognition of Kaho'olawe, thereby reminding us of the lessons the island has taught and continues to teach us about our kuleana to these islands we call home.

Fifty years ago, the "Kaho'olawe 9" landed on Kaho'olawe as it was being actively bombed as target practice by the United States Navy. Through their bravery and defiance, the "Kaho'olawe 9" exemplified aloha 'āina, and their stand not only led to the eventual relinquishment of Kaho'olawe to the state of Hawai'i, but also catalyzed what is now referred to as the "Hawaiian Renaissance," resulting in transformative changes to our legal, cultural, and social landscape.

The story of Kaho'olawe holds many lessons of continued and particular relevance today. Its long history of mismanagement and abuse, the sacrifices made by the "Kaho'olawe 9" to stop its desecration, and the damage it continues to suffer from all remind us of the costs we and our future generations must bear when we do not uphold our responsibilities of reciprocity and care for the 'āina that sustains and nurtures us. The successes of the "Kaho'olawe 9" and the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana against the United States Navy in securing the return of Kaho'olawe also gives us inspiration and hope, that a deep and steadfast love for our islands can, in fact, triumph over the greatest of odds. The community-led actions and efforts that ended the bombing of Kaho'olawe, and that continue to clean-up and heal the land, also remind us of the importance of grassroots voices and leadership in ensuring the proper stewardship of our Hawai'i nei – a lesson that we must continue to hold close, as we navigate the ongoing Red Hill water crisis, and as we contemplate the true costs of military live fire training and other activities from Ka'ula, to Pu'uloa, to Mākua, to Pōhakuloa.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i supports this bill as a means of not only recognizing Kaho'olawe and sustaining the work of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, but



as a way to also remind our communities of the critical lessons that Kaho'olawe taught and continues to teach us – lessons that we must remember now perhaps more than ever before.

Therefore, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

PROTECT KAHO‘OLAWE ‘OHANA
1733 Wili Pa Loop, B-1
Wailuku, Hawai‘i 96793



February 19, 2025

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 307 RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES
TO RECOGNIZE THE ISLAND OF KAHO‘OLAWE

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Thursday, February 20, 2025 @ 2:00pm

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair, Takenouchi, and members of the Finance committee. My name is Kaulu Lu‘uwai, and I am testifying on behalf of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana in strong support of HB 307 Relating to Special Number Plates to recognize the island of Kaho‘olawe and the Aloha ‘Āina movement that it inspired.

January 4, 2026 will mark the 50th year since nine individuals landed on the island of Kaho‘olawe to draw attention to the injustices and discrimination experienced by Native Hawaiians and were unexpectedly astounded and deeply moved by the abuse and destruction that they witnessed of a fragile, starkly beautiful and spiritually powerful island. This gave rise to the organization of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana and its fiscal non-profit charitable entity, Kohe Mālamalama o Kanaloa Protect Kaho‘olawe Fund (‘Ohana).

A civil suit, *Aluli v Brown*, filed by the ‘Ohana in 1976 led to a court-mandated Consent Decree in 1980 under which the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana was recognized as a steward working for the restoration of the island; was provided access, with volunteers, to engage in spiritual, cultural and educational activities; and began to jointly govern the island with the U.S. Navy. In 1977, the ‘Ohana lost two members, George Helm and Kimo Mitchell were lost at sea in the waters off of Kaho‘olawe during a protest of the bombing.

On October 22, 1990 the bombing of the island was stopped by U.S. President George H.W. Bush and all military use of the island was terminated by the U.S. Congress in 1993 under Title X of the 1994 Department of Defense Appropriations Act, which authorized the conveyance of Kaho‘olawe and its surrounding waters to the State of Hawai‘i and also authorized \$400 million for ordnance removal.

The ordnance removal program ended in 2004. The State of Hawai‘i manages the island through the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission under HRS 6K, established in July 1993 in partnership with the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana and Kohe Mālamalama o Kanaloa Protect Kaho‘olawe Fund.

Kaho‘olawe has become a model of co-stewardship of Hawaiian ancestral lands by community groups working together with the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Kaho‘olawe is an iconic symbol of Aloha ‘Āina - the recognition and acceptance of generations of Native Hawaiians since 1976 of the kuleana/responsibility to love, care for and respect our precious islands and restore Hawai‘i sovereignty. Kaho‘olawe was the piko/catalyst for the dynamic cultural renaissance of Hawaiian hula, language, arts nationalism and pride that began in the 1970s and prevails today, almost 50 years later.

Our ‘Ohana recommends and supports special number plates for Kaho‘olawe in order to:

- encourage awareness about the injustices endured by Kaho‘olawe and Native Hawaiians and how Kaho'olawe's cultural and natural resources and Hawaiian cultural and spiritual practices were restored through longterm (50-years) commitment, sacrifice, dedication, and constancy by generations of Native Hawaiians and those who call Hawai‘i home;
- educate the general public about how the sacred nature of the island of Kaho‘olawe as well as other sacred places in Hawai'i are able to be revived and protected through dedicated volunteer co-stewardship and the acknowledgement and revitalization of Native Hawaiian ancestral knowledge and related cultural and spiritual practices, as protected under the Hawai‘i State Constitution (Article XII. Section 7);
- acknowledge the efforts, work, ingenuity and lives that have been given in the pursuit of the protection of Native Hawaiian lands, people and Hawai‘i sovereignty; and

- connect the broader community with the mission of Kaho‘olawe's cultural and environmental recovery and serve as a reminder of the strength of collective action.

Having a Kaho‘olawe special number plate is a fitting tribute to the decades-long efforts of the Protect Kahoolawe ‘Ohana and all those in the broader community who have contributed to and benefitted from this important Kaho‘olawe Alohaa‘Āina movement.

Importantly, the proceeds from the sale of these plates will directly benefit the Protect Kahoolawe ‘Ohana, further supporting the important work collectively conducted in safeguarding and preserving the island for future generations. In celebration of 50 years since the first landings, this special number plate will provide a lasting legacy of commitment to Kaho‘olawe’s healing and stewardship. Here is a possible design for the plate:



We have started a petition for supporters to demonstrate their support. As of Monday February 17, 2025, we have 364 signers among whom 314 have indicated that they are interested in ordering a

Kaho‘olawe special license plate when they become available. Here is GIS information about this petition.

<https://uhm.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/a408eea8bb8748229b1b1e88b4770440>

Mahalo and aloha. Below is some information about how existing special number plates work:

How to Get Special License Plates - Cost

1. Download and Complete the [application form](#).
2. Visit any satellite city hall.
3. Surrender your current Certificate of Registration and License Plates for your vehicle.
4. The initial cost is **\$35.50**. After that, the **annual** renewal fee is **\$25**. The organization receives **\$20** with each payment.



Hawaii Specialty License Plates

The Polynesian Voyaging Society, Haleakala National Park and Hawaii Volcanoes National Park license plates are available to provide monetary support for these programs.

- + Where can I get a Specialty License Plate?
- + How do I apply for a Specialty Organization License Plate?

Organization License Plate

The Organization License Plates Program assists qualified not-for-profit organizations to raise funds for community public health, education or general welfare programs.

- + Where can I get an Organization License Plate?
- + What is the process to obtain an Organization License Plate?
- + I have an organization that would like to participate in the program.



HB-307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 11:05:48 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaulu Luuwai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill to recognize the decades of progress made to restore Kaho‘olawe following years of abuse and the living practice of aloha ‘āina. Additionally, the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana has started a survey and has received overwhelming commitment from people across Hawai‘i who have demonstrated interest in purchasing these plates, which shows its economic feasibility.

HB-307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 11:21:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anela Evans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the House Committee of Finance

I strongly support HB 307, which authorizes the issuance of special number plates to recognize the island of Kaho‘olawe. Kaho‘olawe is a cultural treasure and it is important to recognize and raise awareness of the island’s history, struggle, and rehabilitation. The endorsement of this special license plate may aid in advancing the State of Hawai‘i’s KIRC and the Protect Kaho‘olawe’s collective mission of, “Kūkulu Ke Ea A Kanaloa,” reinvigorating and restoring life and integrity to Kanaloa-Kaho‘olawe -- the island and it’s surrounding marine, environmental, and cultural resources. Mahalo nui for your consideration and effort.

Me ke aloha,

'Ānela Evans

HB-307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 12:43:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaipulaumakaniolono Keala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, mahalo nui for considering this bill relating to special number plates for the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana and the greater aloha ‘āina movement that has been so formative of modern Hawaiian history. This bill is in some sense commemorative but more importantly it reminds us to persist in aloha ‘āina for the future of Hawai‘i and its people.

With this license we hope to commemorate the origin of aloha ‘āina in the Hawaiian renaissance, when nine kānaka and allies landed at Kuheia on Kaho‘olawe ready and willing to brave the near certain destruction of their own bodies by the latent explosive energy remaining in the copious amounts of unexploded ordinances on the island of Kaho‘olawe. Built off of this willingness to give one's life for a vision of a future not categorically determined by the obtuse logic of militarized capitalist domination but rather on a future rooted firmly in aloha for the ‘āina and those nourished by it, the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana is brimming with members who have and still continue to give their lives wholeheartedly to our original mission of aloha ‘āina, some of the most prominent of these members have been George Helm and Kimo Mitchell and most recently uncle Emmett Aluli. The gift of their lives is a burden beared by every citizen of Hawai‘i, Hawai‘i is unequivocally a better place for their sacrifice and so we owe it to their legacy that aloha ‘āina persist well into the next 50 years and forevermore.

This is the reminder to which I alluded in my introduction, though a meagre license plate, it is our hope as the PKO that the glimmer of aloha ‘āina continue to shine into people's lives so that they may be regularly reminded that these hegemonic modes of production, the incredible stress of being priced out of our homeland, the desecration of our sacred sites and the poisoning of our water, that these realities of our existence are not inevitable. It is possible to live differently. Aloha ‘āina.

HB-307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 1:15:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kuulei Salzer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 307 HD1 RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES TO RECOGNIZE THE ISLAND OF KAHO‘OLAWÉ
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and members of the Committee on Finance

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and distinguished members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Ku‘ulei Salzer from Waiohuli, Maui, and I am honored to testify in **strong support of HB 307 HD1**, which proposes the creation of special number plates to honor the island of Kaho‘olawe.

As we approach January 2026, marking the 50th anniversary of the initial landings that brought global attention to the injustices faced by Kanaka Maoli and the devastating destruction of Kaho‘olawe, it is essential to reflect on the progress made. Those landings ignited a movement that led to the formation of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana and significant milestones, including the cessation of bombing in 1990, the return of the island to the State of Hawai‘i in 1993, and the establishment of a co-stewardship model between the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana and the State. These achievements underscore the power of collective action and the enduring commitment to healing and protecting this sacred place.

The proposed special number plate is more than a symbolic gesture—it is a tangible way for individuals to contribute to the ongoing restoration of Kaho‘olawe and to support the education of our communities about the island’s history, cultural significance, and the injustices endured by Kanaka Maoli. Proceeds from these plates will directly benefit the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana, ensuring that their vital work continues.

Through my volunteering experiences on Kaho‘olawe, I have seen how access to the island provides an irreplaceable opportunity for individuals to connect with its sacredness, learn from its history, and actively participate in its restoration. By supporting HB 307 HD1, we can ensure that the legacy of stewardship, education, and cultural revival tied to Kaho‘olawe continues to inspire future generations.

I urge you to **support HB 307 HD1** and create a lasting tribute to Kaho‘olawe’s healing and the strength of the Aloha ‘Āina movement. Together, we can honor the sacrifices made, celebrate the progress achieved, and reaffirm our commitment to protecting Kaho‘olawe for generations to come.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of HB307 HD1**.

Sincerely,
Ku‘ulei Salzer

HB-307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 4:24:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenny Yagodich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT for HB307 HD1 to authorize the issuance of special number plates to recognize the island of Kaho‘olawe.

HB-307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 7:16:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J. Kehau Lucas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kehau Lucas and I am writing in strong support of HB 307, which proposes the issuance of special license plates to honor the island of Kaho‘olawe.

Kaho‘olawe holds deep cultural, historical, and environmental significance for Hawai‘i. It is a sacred island that has endured decades of misuse and destruction, yet through the tireless efforts of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana, the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission, and many dedicated kaiāulu members, it has become a powerful symbol of resilience and restoration. The upcoming 50th anniversary of the "Kaho‘olawe 9" landing in 2026 reminds us of the sacrifices made to reclaim and protect this wahi pana.

By creating a special license plate to honor Kaho‘olawe, this bill allows the people of Hawai‘i to recognize and support ongoing preservation efforts. It also provides an opportunity to educate the broader community about the island’s history and the importance of continued stewardship. The revenue generated from these plates could further aid in the island’s restoration, ensuring that future generations can continue to connect with and learn from Kaho‘olawe.

I urge you to pass HB 307 to honor Kaho‘olawe and the people who have worked tirelessly to protect it. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Aloha ‘Āina,

J Kēhau Lucas

HB-307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 7:21:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bret Mossman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Person, and members of the committee,

Please support this bill. Kahoolawe is an incredibly important place, and this is a great opportunity to passively aid in its restoration.

Mahalo for your time,

Bret Mossman

HB-307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 10:20:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorraine Waianuhea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I am writing in strong support of HB 307 which would authorize the issuance of special number plates to recognize restoration and preservation efforts on Kaho‘olawe Island by the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana, Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission, and other community members. These plates would raise awareness of the history of Kaho‘olawe and help to fund its continued restoration.

Please pass HB 307.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony,

Lorraine Waianuhea

(Honolulu, Hawai‘i)

HB-307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:22:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Faith Kahale Saito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 19, 2025

Aloha Chair Yamashita and Vice-Chair Takenouchi,

Please support HB307 HD1.

Mahalo nui,

Faith Kahale Saito



Statement of: **Burt Lum, Individual**
Testimony presented before the

House Committee on Finance

Thursday, February 20, 2025, 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HB307, HD1
RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

I, Burt Lum, offer my **Strong Support** for HB307, HD1, which proposes the establishment of a special commemorative license plate for the island of Kaho‘olawe. This initiative is a profound recognition of the 50th anniversary of the first landings on Kaho‘olawe by the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana (PKO), a group whose steadfast commitment embodies *Aloha ‘Āina* and the enduring spirit of collective action to restore and protect the land.

Kaho‘olawe holds a unique place in the cultural, historical, and spiritual landscape of Hawai‘i. For Native Hawaiians, the island is a sacred symbol of resilience, cultural revival, and environmental stewardship. This commemorative license plate will serve as a tribute to the efforts and sacrifices of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana while raising awareness about the island’s ongoing restoration. The proceeds from the sale of these plates will directly support the PKO, ensuring the continuation of their vital work to heal Kaho‘olawe and preserve it for generations to come.

For decades, the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana and countless supporters have demonstrated a deep love and respect for the land by tirelessly working to reclaim it from the damage of military use, restore its natural ecosystems, and reconnect it with its cultural significance.

The creation of a Kaho‘olawe license plate is not merely a symbolic gesture—it is a tangible step toward preserving the legacy of *Aloha ‘Āina*. It invites the broader community to join in the effort to restore Kaho‘olawe, fostering a collective sense of pride and shared responsibility.

I urge you to support this important bill and help create a legacy that reflects our shared values of stewardship, respect, and love for the land.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

HB-307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:33:47 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margaret Pulver	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the members of the House Finance Committee,

I strongly encourage you to support HB307, authorizing the issue of special number license plates to recognize the island of Kaho‘olawe. This action would not only expand awareness of the island, it’s history, and ongoing efforts to revitalize and restore it, but also provide a sustainable source of revenue to support ongoing operations. This is a simple, and effortless move, to demonstrate your support for Kaho‘olawe and a future sovereign Native Hawaiian lahui.

Mahalo for your time,

Margaret Pulver

HB-307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:00:43 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kylee Mar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support for HB307 Creation of a Kahoolawe Commemorative License Plate

Dear Honorable Members,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 307, which seeks to establish a special commemorative license plate for the island of Kaho‘olawe. This initiative marks a significant moment in history, as it celebrates 50 years since the first landings on Kaho‘olawe by the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana (PKO), a group that has long fought for the island’s restoration and cultural revitalization.

Kaho‘olawe holds immense cultural, historical, and spiritual significance to the Native Hawaiian community, and this commemorative license plate will not only honor the efforts and sacrifices made by the PKO but also bring greater awareness to the island's ongoing restoration process. The proceeds from the sale of these plates will directly benefit the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana, further supporting the important work they do in safeguarding and preserving the island for future generations.

This bill offers a unique opportunity to connect the broader community with the mission of Kaho‘olawe's cultural and environmental recovery. It also serves as a reminder of the strength of collective action and the importance of preserving our sacred lands. The creation of a Kaho‘olawe license plate is a fitting tribute to the decades-long efforts of the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana and all those who have dedicated themselves to this cause.

In celebration of 50 years since the first landings, this license plate will provide a lasting legacy of commitment to Kaho‘olawe’s healing and stewardship, and I urge you to support this important bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Testimony in Support of HB 307 Kaho'olawe Commemorative License Plate

To: Members of the Hawaii State Finance Committee

Kyle Yamashita- Chair

Jenna Takenouchi- Viced Chair

From-

February 19, 2025

Kelvin Ho

PO Box 769

Lawai HI 96765

808 482 1682

kelkauai@gmail.com

Dear Honorable Members,

I am submitting testimony in steadfast support of HB 307 which will establish the path for a commemorative license plate for the island of Kaho'olawe. 2026 will mark 50 years since the first landings of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana which ultimately led to the stopping of the bombing and sparked a cultural renaissance across Pae 'Āina Hawaii.

In 1976 the Kupuna led call for stopping the desecration and horrific ecological damage led to the courageous efforts and resistance on Kaho'olawe. Alongside the awakening of the brilliance of Polynesian Voyaging demonstrated by Hokule'a, a people, language and culture were reawakened and gave it a foundation to flourish in all aspects today.

I have been a member of the PKO for over 30 years and have witnessed countless times the impact and healing the island has had on individuals and groups we have provided access to over the years. Our commitment is to maintain the island as a place of remembrance for the many voices and courageous actions of those that opened the path for us. To safely share it with those who are blessed to journey there. A commemorative plate will raise awareness throughout the islands for all and provide a way for Kaho'olawe to be kept in daily awareness. The revenue will provide support for the volunteer efforts and allow for safer accesses on all levels.

The plate will align with and honor the legacy of our beloved Emmett Aluli who along with others stood steadfast for decades in his efforts and commitment for the healing of a place and a people. Please join us in wholeheartedly supporting this Bill and uplifting everyone in Hawaii in recognition of this significant milestone of a sacred path of service.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony in full support.

Aloha nui

Kelvin Ho

HB-307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:59:17 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Davianna McGregor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB307HD1 and the testimony of the Protect Kahoolawe Fund. AlohaAima. Mahalo.

HB-307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:03:38 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Craig neff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kaho'olawe is Aloha Aina.

Aloha Aina is Hawaii past and future.

HB-307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:08:00 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Momi Wheeler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Aina,

In support of HB307 HD1 and the testimony of the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana.

Aina Aloha,

Momi

HB-307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:16:30 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shauna Springer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kāko'o wau I HB307! I support HB307 and PKO's submission. Aloha 'Āina!

HB-307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:29:43 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amber Namaka Whitehead	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the recognition of the island of Kaho'olawe and elevation of Aloha 'Āina via special number plates. Aloha 'Āina! I ola Kanaloa, i ola kākou!

HB-307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:30:09 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wailana Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB307 and the testimony of the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana.

Testimony in Support of HB 307 Kaho‘olawe Commemorative License Plate

To: Members of the Hawaii State Finance Committee
Kyle Yamashita- Chair
Jenna Takenouchi- Viced Chair

From-
Kathleen Ho
PO Box 171
Lawai HI 96765
808 635-4110
kathokauai@gmail.com

February 19, 2025

Dear Honorable Members,

I am submitting testimony in steadfast support of HB 307 which will establish the path for a commemorative license plate for the island of Kaho‘olawe. 2026 will mark 50 years since the first landings of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana which ultimately led to the stopping of the bombing and sparked a cultural renaissance across Pae ‘Āina Hawaii. This Kaho‘olawe commemorative license plate will help to bring awareness to the history, resilience and healing of this wahi pana.

I have been a member of the PKO for over 15 years and have witnessed countless times the impact and healing the island has had on individuals and groups we have provided access to over the years. Our commitment is to maintain the island as a place of remembrance for the many voices and courageous actions of those that opened the path for us.

A commemorative plate will raise awareness throughout the islands for all and provide a way for Kaho‘olawe to be kept in daily awareness. The revenue will provide support for the volunteer efforts and allow for safer accesses on all levels.

The plate will align with and honor the legacy of our beloved Emmett Aluli who along with others stood steadfast for decades in his efforts and commitment for the healing of a place and a people. Please join us in wholeheartedly supporting this Bill and uplifting everyone in Hawaii in recognition of this significant milestone of a sacred path of service.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony in full support.

Aloha nui
Kathleen Ho
Kathleen Ho

HB-307-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:40:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J. Kalama Chock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of HB 307 – Creating a Kahoolawe Commemorative License Plate

To: Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and members of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee.

From: J. Kalama Chock

Date: February 5, 2025

Subject: Support for HB307 Creation of a Kahoolawe Commemorative License Plate

Aloha e nā lālā o kēia ‘aha,

Eia au ke kākau nei i ka‘u kāko‘o i ka pila 307, which seeks to establish a special commemorative license plate for the island of Kaho‘olawe. This initiative marks a significant moment in history, as it celebrates 50 years since the first landings on Kaho‘olawe by the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana (PKO), a group that has long fought for the island’s restoration and cultural revitalization.

Kaho‘olawe holds immense cultural, historical, and spiritual significance to the Native Hawaiian community, and this commemorative license plate will not only honor the efforts and sacrifices made by the PKO but also bring greater awareness to the island's ongoing restoration process. The proceeds from the sale of these plates will directly benefit the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana, further supporting the important generational kuleana and work they do in safeguarding and preserving the island for future generations.

This bill offers a unique opportunity to connect the broader community with the mission of Kaho‘olawe's cultural and environmental recovery. It also serves as a reminder of the strength of collective action and the importance of preserving our sacred lands. Your support of this Bill will also mark the States commitment to sustainability and aloha ‘Āina. The creation of a Kaho‘olawe license plate is a fitting tribute to the decades-long efforts of the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana and all those who have dedicated themselves to this cause.

In celebration of 50 years since the first landings, this license plate will provide a lasting legacy of commitment to Kaho‘olawe’s healing and stewardship, and I urge you to support this important bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Aloha,

J Kalama Chock