

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



January 26, 2025

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

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND ARTS

Wednesday, January 29, 2025 @ 10:30am

Aloha Chair Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair Sam Kong and members of the Committee on Culture and Arts Committee and Kung Hei Fat Choi! My name is Faith Kahale Saito, I am the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana representative on the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commisison 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 powervul 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 Hawai‘ian 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 Hawai‘ian 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 Hawai‘ian 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 Hawai‘ian 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 January 27, 2025, we have 200+ signers among whom 170+ have said 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.





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

811 Kolu Street, Suite 201, Wailuku, HI 96793  
Telephone (808) 243-5020 Fax (808) 243-5885  
Website: <http://kahoolawe.hawaii.gov>

**Testimony of**  
**MICHAEL K. NĀHO'OPTI**  
**Executive Director**

**Before the House Committee on**

**CULTURE & ARTS**

**Wednesday, January 29, 2025**  
**10:30 AM**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 309**

**In consideration of**  
**HOUSE BILL 307**  
**RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES**

House Bill 307 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 Culture and the Arts (CAA)  
**IN SUPPORT OF HB307**  
January 29, 2025, 10:30AM, Room 309

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 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 development of an 'auwai, a stream of resources, tools, bridges, relationships, and networks that help to cultivate and take our communities' work to greater levels of collective impact. One of these resource pathways includes streams that raise funds to help community work. We trust that a share of the resources generated from this special license plate will go to support some of PKO's activities which are core to connecting our broader community to 'āina at Kaho'olawe and across our state.

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.

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

**Aloha ‘Āina Momona no nā kau ā kau.**





## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE & ARTS

January 29, 2024

10:30 AM

Conference Room 309

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

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Aloha Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and Members of the Committee on Culture & Arts,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS HB307**, 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



# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

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.

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/23/2025 6:57:58 AM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

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

## Comments:

Aloha e Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Senate Committee of Culture and Arts,

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 mission, through the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission, of, “Kūkulu Ke Ea A Kanaloa,” reinvigorating and restoring life to Kanaloa-Kaho‘olawe, the island and it’s surrounding marine and environmental resources. Mahalo nui for your consideration and effort.

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/23/2025 9:17:24 AM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

To the members of the House Committee on Culture & Arts,

I am in full support of the issuance of special number plates to recognize the island of Kaho‘olawe. This type of program will create a sustainable source of income for the restoration and revitalization of Kanaloa-Kaho'olawe and bring more awareness to the aloha 'aina movement. Approving this small positive action will have an exponential and lasting positive effect on the work.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Margaret Pulver

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 1:24:44 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Aina is the future for Hawaii.

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 3:41:54 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica dos Santos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this measure 100%. As a Hawai'i educator, and descendant of Asian settlers recruited to work in Hawai'i, I have the honor and privilege to teach my students about Hawai'i's history and the protection of Kaho'olawe is always an integral part of my curriculum. To undo the damage caused by the deliberate attempts at erasure of Hawai'i's history and culture, we must use all of the tools available, even beyond the classroom, to remember and celebrate the achievements of our kupuna and important fights for justice. It is all of our kuleana to keep these stories alive and to honor those who have made extraordinary sacrifices to protect this place we all call home. The story of the Kanaloa and the success of the Protect Kaho'olawe Ohana stand as a shining light of hope and inspiration for us all. Please support this measure. Thank you for your consideration.

Jessica dos Santos

Lifelong Kahuku Resident and Hawai'i Educator

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 4:43:53 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kalena Charlene Holani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I ask and urge this bill to be passed in order to save that which is left of Kaho‘olawe and make right that which was already wrongfully done to our island home.

mahalo,

char

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 9:28:22 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leah Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support a new license plate supporting Kaho'olawe!



**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 10:35:01 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patti Cook	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this proposal to establish a special commemorative license plate for the island of Kaho'olawe to raise awareness and honor the cultural, historical, and environmental significance of the island, while helping to support the restoration efforts on Kaho'olawe. MAHALO! Patti Cook - Waimea, Island of Hawai'i

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 12:21:25 AM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Uilani Naipo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 6:30:18 AM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheena Lopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In honor of reclaiming our dear Kahoolawe, I support these special plates.

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 6:45:25 AM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kodie Solis-Kalani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I support HB307. I believe a commemorative license plate will raise awareness and lift up and celebrate the years of hard work that has gone to restore 'āina and continue deep cultural practices that has been active on Kaho'olawe, and educated many to continue to practice on other islands as well. Mahalo nui.

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 12:10:30 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steve Haumschild	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support bringing awareness to Kahoolawe island for restoration and recognition purposes.

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 2:50:41 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna Gamiao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 143 / HB 307 – Creating a Kahoolawe Commemorative License Plate

To: Members of the Hawaii State Legislature, Senator Lynn DeCoite and House Representative Mahina Poepoe

From: Donna Gamiao  
P.O. Box 96  
Kaunakakai, HI 96748  
808-658-1011  
dgamiao@gmail.com

Date: January 26, 2025

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

Dear Honorable Members,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 143 / 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.

Aloha,  
Donna Gamiao

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 3:09:19 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha ‘Āina,

Writing in support of this House Bill (HB) 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).

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 PKO, further supporting the important work they do in safeguarding and preserving the island for future generations.

HB307 offers a unique opportunity to connect the broader community with the mission of Kaho‘olawe 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 PKO 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 the healing and stewardship of Kaho‘olawe.

Mahalo for your time and support to pass this important bill, HB307, a special commemorative license plate for the island of Kaho‘olawe.

‘Āina Aloha,

Momi Wheeler



**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 3:23:22 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Mahealani Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 143 / HB 307 – Creating a Kahoolawe Commemorative License Plate

To: Members of the Hawaii State Legislature, Senator Lynn DeCoite and House Representative Mahina Poepoe

From: Dr. Nicole Mahealani Lum, D.O.  
99-047 Nalopaka Place, Aiea, HI 96701  
808-721-0189  
Mahe.Lum@gmail.com

Date: January 26, 2025

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

Dear Honorable Members,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 143 / 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.

Aloha,  
Dr. Nicole Mahealani Lum

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 4:49:41 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pililuaikekaiohilo Keal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha ‘āina, aloha Kaho‘olawe, i ola Kanaloa!!

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 7:35:40 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

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

## Comments:

Aloha e Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Senate Committee of Culture and Arts,

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 mission, through the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission, of, “Kūkulu Ke Ea A Kanaloa,” reinvigorating and restoring life to Kanaloa-Kaho‘olawe, the island and it’s surrounding marine and environmental resources. Mahalo nui for your consideration and effort.



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

**House Committee on Culture and Arts**  
Wednesday, January 29, 2025, 10:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In consideration of  
**HB307**  
**RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES.**

Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and Members of the Committee on Culture and Arts:

I, Burt Lum, offer my **Strong Support** for HB307, 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.

January 27, 2025

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 307 RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES  
TO RECOGNIZE THE ISLAND OF KAHO'OLAWA  
COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND ARTS

Aloha Chair Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair Sam Kong and members of the Committee on Culture and Arts Committee,

My name is Ku'ulei Salzer, and I am testifying as someone who has had the privilege of volunteering on Kaho'olawe. I **strongly support HB 307**, relating to special number plates that honor the island of Kaho'olawe and the Aloha 'Āina movement it has inspired.

Volunteering on Kaho'olawe was a transformative experience for me. I witnessed firsthand the island's fragile beauty and the profound efforts of many to restore and heal this sacred place. Kaho'olawe is not just a piece of land, it is a living symbol of resilience, cultural revival, and the deep-seated responsibility to protect and honor our 'āina. For generations, it has served as a beacon of the Aloha 'Āina movement, inspiring countless individuals to care for and respect our islands while advocating for justice and Hawaiian rights.

As we approach January 4, 2026, marking the 50th anniversary of the initial landings that brought attention to the injustices faced by Kanaka Maoli and the devastating destruction of Kaho'olawe, it is crucial to reflect on the progress made. Those initial landings sparked a movement that created the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ōhana.

Key milestones, such as the cessation of bombing in 1990, the return of the island to the State of Hawai'i in 1993, and the co-stewardship model established between the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ōhana and the State, highlight the power of collective action and commitment. Kaho'olawe's story is one of healing, dedication, and a deeply rooted kuleana to protect our 'āina for future generations.

This proposed special number plate is more than just a symbolic gesture. It represents the ongoing work to restore Kaho'olawe and educate the public about the island's history, cultural significance, and the injustices endured by Kanaka Maoli. This special license plate allows individuals to make a direct contribution to the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ōhana.

Through my time on Kaho'olawe, I have seen how access to the island provides an irreplaceable opportunity for people to connect with its sacredness, learn from its history, and actively participate in its restoration. By supporting this bill, we ensure that the legacy of stewardship, education, and cultural revival tied to Kaho'olawe continues for the next generation.

I urge you to support HB 307 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 and acknowledge the progress achieved.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.

Ku'uleialohaonālani Salzer

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:34:55 AM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JOEY PALUPE	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I support HB307, to help raise awareness to the ongoing efforts of revitalizing an island that has been wrongfully desecrated. Kāko‘o wau i ke aloha ‘āina ma ka mokupuni ‘o Kaho‘olawe. He moku kapu kēia no ka po‘e Hawai‘i a me ka po‘e mai ka Moananuiākea. He piko, he akua, he ‘āina. A he mea ko‘iko‘i ka ho‘opaipai kālā e ho‘oulu i ko kākou mokupuni i pūlama mau ‘ia.

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:41:19 AM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

I support HB307. It authorizes Kaho‘olawe commemorative license plates to recognize the 50th anniversary of the landings and to helps to raise funds for Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō‘ili‘ili, HI 96826



**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:55:46 AM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Kepa‘a-Tam Sing	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai,

I am writing to express my full support for HB307, a bill that aims to establish a special commemorative license plate for the island of Kaho‘olawe in honor of the 50-year anniversary of the arrival of the nine aloha ‘āina warriors to the island. Kaho‘olawe is an immensely sacred and precious wahi pana, and those who have risked their lives for its return and restoration deserve to be honored. This bill not only honors the legacy of the Kaho‘olawe Nine but also supports the ongoing efforts of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana (PKO) to heal and rehabilitate the island. The PKO's restoration initiatives are comprehensive, nurturing both the physical and spiritual needs of the Kaho‘olawe and restoring the spiritual connections of Kānaka ‘Ōiwi to the island, reinforcing kuleana through education and the revitalization of traditional cultural practices. It is my hope that you recognize the importance of the work carried out by PKO and the need for ongoing support. The funds received from commemorative license plate sales will directly benefit the PKO, which will serve as a means to continue their ongoing efforts to Aloha ‘Āina.

Kūkula ke ea a Kanaloa.

Mahalo nui

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:10:32 AM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaipulaumakaniolono Keala	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

## 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 9 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**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:21:35 AM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 12:06:25 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Kaakua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and Members of the Committee on Culture & Arts,**

I am writing in strong support of HB307.

Kaho‘olawe stands as a powerful symbol of resilience and aloha ‘āina for our state. The proposed special license plate initiative is both a creative and practical way to honor Kaho‘olawe and support the important work of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana, which continues to steward and protect this sacred island.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 12:39:05 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Santos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an artist and researcher whose works uplift the Hawaiian Renaissance, a physical marker of Kaho'olawe history is vital to formalizing rituals for the community and strengthens Hawai'i's historical narrative as a defined entry point.

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 1:22:06 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Avalon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support HB307 to create a commemorative license plate that will help bring awareness of Kaho‘olawe to the public. Funds from these plates will go towards vital restoration efforts happening on this sacred island. E Ola Kaho‘olawe!

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 2:28:34 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

In support of HB307 to authorize the issuance of special number plates to recognize the island of Kaho‘olawe.

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 2:31:41 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of SB 143 / HB 307 – Creating a Kahoolawe Commemorative License Plate****To: Members of the Hawaii State Legislature, Senator Lynn DeCoite and House Representative Mahina Poepoe****From: Faith Kahale Saito  
P.O. Box 19095  
Honolulu, HI 96719  
808-391-3255  
kahale15@gmail.com****Date: January 27, 2025****Subject: Support for the Creation of a Kahoolawe Commemorative License Plate****Aloha mai e nā Legislators,**

**I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 143 / 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.**

**Ke Aloha Nui,**

**Faith Kahale Saito**

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 2:50:48 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ella Aki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support this bill to establish a special commemorative license plate for the island of Kaho'olawe. This license plate would raise awareness and honor the cultural, historical, and environmental significance of the island, while helping to support the ongoing restoration efforts on Kaho'olawe.

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of HB307.

Mahalo piha,

Ella H. Aki

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 3:07:54 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha All,

I am writing in strong support fo SB143 / HB30, which seeks to establish a special commemorative license plate for Kaho'olawe (the island that was bombed by the US military). The Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana (PKO) is celebrating 50 years since the first landings on Kaho'olawe while occupied by the US military.

Kaho'olawe is a piko for myself and my ohana as my father and kupuna watched the island being bombed from Makena. Kaho'olawe is also a corner stone for our Aloha Aina movement.

The license plate can help spread awareness to everyone through out the state as well as visitors.

Mahalo,

Mogul Kamana'opono Lu'uwai

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 3:51:10 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 143 / 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.**

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 4:51:54 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support.

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 6:36:38 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosanna Anolani Alegado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kaho'olawe, a sacred and historically significant island, deserves recognition through a special commemorative license plate.

Mahalo,

Rosie Alegado

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 6:48:14 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

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.

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:20:56 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendell Figueroa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kakou

I'm writing in support of Senate bill 143/ House bill 307. I hope by passing this it will show the long lasting relationship to Kaho'olawe and Aloha Aina. To are Hawaiian community and culture.

Mahalo nui

Wendell



**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:48:42 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Kaliko Baker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Members,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 143 / House Bill 307, which seeks to establish a special commemorative license plate for the island of Kahoʻolawe. This initiative marks a significant moment in history, as it celebrates 50 years since the first landings on Kahoʻolawe by the Protect Kahoʻolawe Ohana (PKO), a group that has long fought for the island's restoration and cultural revitalization.

Kahoʻolawe and the movement to reclaim the Island for Kānaka Maoli and the broader population of Hawaiʻi's citizens is the catalyst to modern day Hawaiians standing on Aloha ʻĀina. The PKO is a model grassroots organization that has stood the tests of time of resisting military desecration to the point that we now find restoration happening in both cultural and scientific ways while working in concert.

Having a Kahoʻolawe special number plate is a fitting tribute to the decades-long efforts of the Protect Kahoolawe ʻOhana and all those in the broader community who have contributed to and benefitted from this important Kahoʻolawe Aloha ʻĀina movement.

Importantly, the proceeds from the sale of these plates will directly benefit the Protect Kahoolawe ʻOhana, 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 license plate will provide a lasting legacy of commitment to Kahoʻolawe's healing and stewardship. The designs look promising and I can't wait to get mine!

Me ke aloha pau ʻole i ka ʻāina,

C.M. Kaliko Baker, PhD.

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:51:13 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darren Masuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support bill HB307.

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:51:20 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcus Iwane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Dear Honorable Members,**

**I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 143 / 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.**

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:57:17 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kimberly patterson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honored Members,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Senate Bill 143 / House Bill 307, which seeks to create a special commemorative license plate for the island of Kaho'olawe. The initiative marks 50 years since the initial landings on Kaho'olawe by the Protect Kaho'olawe Ohana (PKO), an organization that has continuously worked for the island's restoration and cultural resurrection.

This license plate supports PKO's main objective of connecting the community to 'āina on Kaho'olawe and fostering love and care of 'āina and cultural continuity throughout the entirety of Hawaii.

PKO strives to safeguard the health of biocultural resources on Kaho'olawe as well as throughout the whole of Hawaii. We believe that our environment is essential to our survival.

The license plate will contribute financially to this cause of Aloha 'Āina, but it will also visually advocate this imperative purpose.

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony. Please pass HB307.

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:07:46 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Vise	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

My name is Nicole Vise and I support HB307, the issuance of special license plates in relation to Kaho'olawe. The approval of HB307 would recognize the history of Kaho'olawe, a facet of the the Hawaiian Renaissance movement, and the importance of Aloha 'Āina--as a guiding framework and practice that has helped restore and heal the mokupuni (island).

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:35:04 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Sanchez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In honor of the commitment to Aloha ‘Āina, I support this bill in its entirety

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:46:08 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edy Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 143 / 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.

Mahalo,

Dr. Edy Kaleimomi Gomes

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:53:34 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pi'imauna Kackley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of SB 143 / HB 307 – Creating a Kahoolawe Commemorative License Plate****To: Members of the Hawaii State Legislature, Senator Lynn DeCoite and House Representative Mahina Poepoe****Date: January 26, 2025****Subject: Support for the Creation of a Kahoolawe Commemorative License Plate****Dear Honorable Members,**

**I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 143 / 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.**

**Aloha,  
Dr. R. Pi'imauna Kackley**

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:08:39 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoelani Steward	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nui kakou,

I am writing in support of HB307, relating to having a special number plate that recognizes Kahoolawe and the 50 years of aloha aina work that has been done to protect, preserve, and restore ea by the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana. This special number plate will not only raise awareness throughout our communities, but proceeds from purchases will support education and restoration efforts that will continue for generations to come. Please support HB307!

Mahalo nui,

Kanoelani Steward

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:09:05 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paleka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

This would be a step toward recognizing Kahoolawe as another island hopefully to be restored after the carnage of being used for target practice. I am in support of this bill to assist the restoration of the island Kahoolawe.

Mahalo for taking my testimony into consideration!

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:49:01 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharde Freitas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in **strong support of HB307**, 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 PKO, 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 PKO 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.

Davianna Pōmaika'i McGregor  
1942 Naio St.  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

January 27, 2025

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

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND ARTS

Wednesday, January 29, 2025 @ 10:30am

Aloha Chair Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair Sam Kong and members of the Committee on Culture and Arts Committee. Kung Hei Fat Choi! I am Dr. Davianna Pōmaika'i McGregor, a professor emerita of Ethnic Studies and Oral History at the University of Hawai'i Mānoa and a longtime/kupuna member of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana. I am testifying in strong support of HB 307 Relating to Special Number Plates to recognize the island of Kaho'olawe and the Aloha 'Āina Movement. HB 307 Section 1. provides an important outline of the history and significance of the Kaho'olawe Aloha 'Āina movement and the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana which I support. I also support the testimony of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana.

Our Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana recommends and supports special number plates for Kaho'olawe in order to educate the general public about the significance of Kanaloa Kaho'olawe and to acknowledge the 50 years of work and aloha to stop the destructive military use of the island and restore her natural and cultural resources. It is a good way to connect with and spread the mission of aloha 'āina throughout our islands.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 307. Aloha

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

To: Members of the Hawaii State Legislature

From-

Kelvin Ho

January 28, 2025

PO Box 769

Lawai HI 96765

808 482 1682

[kelkauai@gmail.com](mailto: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**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:06:56 AM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

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**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:07:09 AM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaioluhia Miguel-Hamakua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The commemorative License Plates will bring awareness to what Kahoolawe, Hawaii, and Hawaiians have endured.



**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 10:18:11 AM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Miki'ala Pescaia	Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana - Molokai	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 143 / House Bill 307, which seeks to establish a special commemorative license plate that features the island of Kaho'olawe.

Kaho'olawe island does not have full time human residents, but he does indeed have a community of genealogical descendants, traditional Native Hawaiian practitioners, stewards and supporters who work together to sustain the plant and animal communities, the 'āina and kai, the iwi kupuna and wahi pana that comprise this special place. We work together to remember the mo'olelo of the past while creating more mo'olelo for our future generations. We are Kaho'olawe's people.

For 50 years, the struggle to collaborate to repair, restore and rejuvenate Kaho'olawe has been led by the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, engaging in productive conversations across extremely divided stakeholders, policy creation and advocacy, religious and cultural practice revitalization and the reconnection of kanaka to this beloved 'āina.

The proceeds from the sale of these plates will directly benefit the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, further supporting the continuance of this important work.

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. I hope it sparks curiosity from other drivers to investigate and perhaps inspire even more community engagement in the initiatives led and supported by the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana and the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

As a third generation Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana member, as a descendant of the Molokai families who fought hard and sacrificed in blood and sweat and tears, as the chair of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, I express my whole spirited support for this proposal.

Mahalo a nui, ola!

Ola i Kanaloa! Ola i Lonoikamakahiki!

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 10:32:24 AM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kialoa Mossman	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

## Comments:

I am writing to you in support of HB307. 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. The Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana (PKO) has stewarded Kahoolawe for almost 50 years doing their best to return it to its natural life giving state after suffering major, ecosystem altering damage due to the United States Navy's occupation and the military practices from military powers from across the pacific rim. Kahoolawe is incredibly important to the Native Hawaiian people. The historic sites alone offer much in terms of archaeological research and the historical practices of those who came before. To this day Kahoolawe is a place of healing and reconnection for many of Hawaii's people. We trust that a share of the resources generated from this special license plate will go to support some of PKO's activities which are core to connecting our broader community to 'āina at Kaho'olawe and across our state. I believe in the importance of the work that PKO is doing with our Kahoolawe environment, as 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, and resources for mālama 'āina efforts that encourage and build upon the time-tested techniques of our ancestors in Hawai'i.

**HB-307**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 3:45:24 PM

Testimony for CAA on 1/29/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blake J LaBenz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please SUPPORT the creation of a commemorative Kahoolawe license plate!