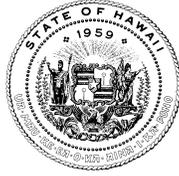


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII  
*Ke Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina 'o  
Hawaii*

SYLVIA J. LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII  
*Ka Hope Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina  
'o Hawaii*



KALI WATSON  
CHAIRPERSON, HHC  
*Ka Luna Ho'okele*

KATIE L. LAMBERT  
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIR  
*Ka Hope Luna Ho'okele*

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**  
*Ka 'Oihana 'Āina Ho'opulapula Hawaii'i*

P. O. BOX 1879  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

**TESTIMONY OF KALI WATSON, CHAIR**  
**HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION**  
**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**  
**HEARING ON FEBRUARY 13, 2025 AT 1:00PM IN CR 224**

**SB 1549, RELATING TO THE KANEHILI COMMUNITY HALE**

February 12, 2025

Aloha Chair Richards, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) **supports with comments** this bill which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates funds to DHHL for a capital improvement project for the construction of the Kānehili community hale, a new access road, and a parking lot at the Kānehili homestead.

DHHL appreciates the intent of this bill. The Kapolei Regional Plan Update which can be viewed here [Final-Kapolei-Regional-Plan-2022.pdf](#), identifies funding for park related improvements as a priority. The plan update also notes that a license was issued to the Kānehili Community Association for the Kānehili Community Association Park.

DHHL strongly recommends that the noted funding source be changed and amended in the language of the bill from general obligation bonds (GOB) to general funds, grant funds, or another appropriate funding source. When using GOB, there may be a requirement that the noted State agency may need site control. GOB may not be the best funding option because the park is licensed to the Kānehili Community Association.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



## Testimony in Support of SB1549 - Relating to Kanehili Community Hale

Aloha Chair Richards, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of Committee,

I am writing this letter in very strong support of SB-1549 that will allocate \$15 million in building Kanehili Community Hale. A gathering place that has been a vision collaborated with their Kanehili community. As Kaupe'a Homestead Community President, I see the vital need for community facilities, a safe and healthy gathering place for all Kanaka's to not only survive but THRIVE! Kanehili Community sets in place the importance of the 1920 Hawaiian Homes Commission Act for a Homestead Beneficiary Association (Community) as defined in CFR 43 (Code of Federal Regulation).

The importance of this \$15 million funding will empower Kanehili Community in the following ways.

**Promoting Self-Determination:** Giving Homestead Community a voice to determine what they desire to design, build and manage surrounded by their community and 'ohana.

**Providing Economic Development:** Kanehili Community local entrepreneurs will have a Community space with certified kitchen to sell and produce homemade goods, rent out space, building economic opportunities for Beneficiaries and Kanehili Community Association.

**Preserving Culture:** The community space will provide a gathering place for hula, lā'au lapa'au gardens, and cultural workshops, ensuring that Hawaiian traditions are passed down to future generations.

**Honoring Homesteading:** The 1920 Hawaiian Homes Commission Act was not just about issuing a Homestead lease, it was also about building and developing your Community. A community space would give beneficiaries a place to gather, practice traditions, and support each other while contributing to the local economy.

I humbly ask the Hawaiian Affairs Committee to advance SB 1549 to help ensure that Kanehili Community Hale is funded to be a place to serve and gather beneficiaries for a thousand generations as our Prince Kuhio intended.

Sincerely,

Iwalani Laybon-McBrayer

Kaupea Homestead Association , President

*Kānehili*  
*Community Association*  
A 501(C)(3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

---

C/O HAWAIIANA MANAGEMENT CO. LTD, PACIFIC PARK PLAZA #700, 711 KAPIOLANI BLVD.  
HONOLULU HAWAII, 96813 Phone: (808) 593-9100

Testimony in Support of SB1549

Relating to the Kānehili Community Hale

Aloha Chair Richards, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB1549, which provides \$15 million in funding for the Kānehili Community Hale, a long awaited gathering space that will serve the cultural, educational, and recreational needs of the Kānehili homestead community.

The Kānehili community hale is a community-driven project that will strengthen our homestead community through:

- Cultural Preservation, by providing a space for Hawaiian traditions, language and practices to thrive.
- Education & Community Engagement, by hosting workshops, classes, trainings, events, projects and programs that empowers our lāhui.
- Recreation & Well-Being, by creating a place for families to gather, play and build strong connections.

The Kānehili Community Homestead has worked diligently to envision and plan this multiple -phase complex which includes a commercial kitchen, an imu, an imu station, craft pavillion, a lei garden, an outdoor fitness station, pickleball courts, a hula mound, splash pad, a comfort station and a playfield. Our community is committed to raising additional funds for the broader project.

This project is aligned with the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920 as it represents self-determination, and the ability of our homesteaders to shape, support and sustain their own future. I respectfully ask for your support to advance SB1549

Mahalo for your time, your leadership, and consideration.



Mr. Randall Akau  
President, Kānehili Community Association

*Kānehili*  
*Community Association*  
A 501 (C)(3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

---

C/O HAWAIIANA MANAGEMENT CO. LTD, PACIFIC PARK PLAZA #700, 711 KAPIOLANI BLVD.  
HONOLULU HAWAII, 96813 Phone: (808) 593-9100

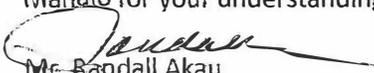
February 11, 2025

Aloha Chair Richards and Vice-Chair San Buenaventura,

Please be advised that I will not be able to appear in person at the Hawaiian Affairs Committee (HAW) hearing scheduled for February 13, 2025, at 1:00 pm., on behalf of the Kānehili Community Association regarding SB1549.

I have assigned our project development consultant, Mr. Dean Sakamoto of Shade Institute and Iwalani McBrayer, our SCHHA Moku-puni Representative, and the President of the Kaupe'a Homestead community in Kapolei, to appear in person on my behalf to provide testimony regarding SB1549. Both individuals are trusted partners, knowledgeable and familiar with our project development since its inception in 2019. I deeply regret if my non-appearance has caused any inconvenience. Our family will be off island and on vacation during this time.

Mahalo for your understanding,

  
Mr. Randall Akau

President, Kānehili Community Association

Testimony Before the  
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
February 13, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.  
By  
Maile Lu‘uwai, President  
Keaukaha Pana‘ewa Farmers Association

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RE: 1549 SB RELATING TO THE KĀNEHILI COMMUNITY HALE

Aloha Chair Richards and Members of the Committee:

The Keaukaha Pana‘ewa Farmers Association (KPFA) is a Hawaiian Homes Commission Act Beneficiary Association and Homestead Association controlled by beneficiaries, as defined by the Hawaiian Home Lands Recovery Act, 109 Stat. 537. KPFA is registered with the U.S. Department of Interior, 43 CFR §§ 47.10 and 48.6.

KPFA is in support of SB 1549 that authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for the construction of the Kānehili Community Hale, a new access road, and a parking lot at the Kānehili homestead.

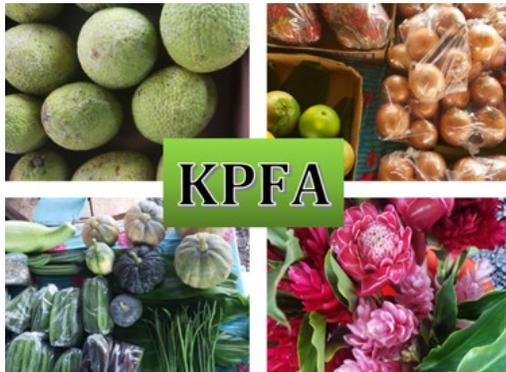
The Kānehili Community Hale will serve hundreds of native Hawaiian families in Kapolei and is much needed facility for this expanding community.

Your support to advance SB1549 is greatly appreciated.

Mahalo,



Maile Lu‘uwai  
President  
Keaukaha Pana‘ewa Farmers Association  
PO Box 6844  
Hilo, HI





Wendy Kaniaupio-Crespo  
91-1010 Hoakalei St  
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707  
wcrespo89@gmail.com

Hawaiian Affairs Committee  
Hawai'i State Legislature  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Subject: Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1549**

Aloha Chair Richards, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

My name is Wendy Kaniaupio-Crespo, Secretary for the Kaupe'a Homestead Association, and I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 1549, which seeks to appropriate \$15 million to Kanehili Homestead for the completion of their Community Hale.

As outlined in the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, the intent of establishing homesteads was not only to provide Native Hawaiians with housing but also to enable self-governance, self-sustainability, and self-determination. The development of the Kanehili Community Hale and multi-sport court is a significant step in fulfilling this mission. This facility will serve as a vital hub for cultural, educational, and recreational activities, ensuring that the community can thrive in alignment with the vision of Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole.

The Community Hale will provide a much-needed gathering space where residents can come together to perpetuate Hawaiian culture, strengthen community bonds, and create opportunities for future generations. The inclusion of a certified kitchen within the facility is a critical component that will foster economic development by supporting local entrepreneurs and food-based enterprises. Additionally, the multi-sport court will encourage health and wellness among keiki and kūpuna alike, promoting a vibrant and active lifestyle for all members of the homestead.

Kanehili Homestead is more than just a collection of homes—it is a growing and thriving lāhui that requires communal spaces to truly prosper. This funding is not just about constructing a building; it is about investing in the future of Native Hawaiians and ensuring that the culture,

**P.O. Box 75539, Kapolei, HI 96707**

values, and traditions continue to flourish within trust lands. By supporting HB 1549, you are affirming the commitment to Prince Kūhiō's vision and the rightful development of homesteads beyond housing.

I urge you to pass HB 1549 and help Kanehili Homestead secure the resources needed to complete this essential project. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Me ka ha'aha'a,  
Wendy Kaniaupio-Crespo  
Kaupe'a Homestead Association

**COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mel Rapozo, Chair  
KipuKai Kualii, Vice Chair  
Addison Bulosan  
Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.  
Felicia Cowden  
Fern Holland  
Arryl Kaneshiro



**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk  
Lyndon M. Yoshioka, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4188  
Facsimile: (808) 241-6349  
Email: cokcouncil@kauai.gov

**Council Services Division**  
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209  
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

February 12, 2025

**TESTIMONY OF KIPUKAI KUALII**  
**COUNCIL VICE CHAIR, KAUA'I COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**ON**  
**SB 1549, RELATING TO THE KANEHILI COMMUNITY HALE**  
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Thursday, February 13, 2025  
1:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 224  
Via Videoconference

Dear Chair Richards and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of SB 1549, Relating to the Kānehili Community Hale. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as Council Vice Chair of the Kaua'i County Council.

SB 1549 authorizes funding for the construction of the Kānehili Community Hale, which represents a significant investment in the cultural, educational, and recreational needs of the Kānehili homestead community, providing a much-needed gathering space that aligns with the principles of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act.

As an Anahola Hawaiian Homestead resident and a dedicated leader in both local and statewide Hawaiian Homestead initiatives, I deeply understand the importance of such community-driven projects. This leadership and firsthand experience underscore the necessity of supporting this initiative to empower our homestead communities and strengthen their self-determination.

I urge the committee to advance SB 1549 and help ensure that the Kānehili Community Hale becomes a reality for future generations.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1549. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via email to cokcouncil@kauai.gov.

Sincerely,

KIPUKAI KUALII  
Council Vice Chair, Kaua'i County Council

AAO:dmc

**SB-1549**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 3:52:46 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/13/2025 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brooklyn McBrayer   | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Richards, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of Committee,

I am a Homestead beneficiary in Kaupe'a. I am writing to support SB 1549 that will allocate \$15 million in building Kanehili Community Hale. Homestead Community Facilities are important from keiki to kupuna in connecting our community to the land and keeping our cultural traditions and rights of self-determination self-sustainability.

I request for the Committee to advance SB 1549 to ensure the Kanehili Community Hale.

Sincerely,

Brooklyn McBrayer

**SB-1549**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:51:57 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/13/2025 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jerilyn Aila        | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I SUPORT THIS BILL

**SB-1549**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:24:52 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/13/2025 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| moana k gaspar      | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I support the bill SB1549

**SB-1549**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:51:39 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/13/2025 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b>          | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Besilluan Mokihana<br>Komoda | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I fully support Kanehili's plans & projection for their community park. Please support and bring this dream to fruition.

Mahalo!

**SB-1549**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:13:40 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/13/2025 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By     | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Lopaka Kaleikini | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB1549 with Amendments

Aloha Chair Richards, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee, I am writing in strong support of SB1549, which provides \$15 million in funding for the Kanehili Community Hale— a

long-awaited gathering space that will serve the cultural, educational, and recreational needs of Kanehili

homesteaders. However, I also urge the committee to support an important amendment to this bill, ensuring that

the Kanehili homestead community retains final oversight and decision-making authority over the development of the community hale.

Why SB1549 is Critical

The Kanehili Community Hale is a community-driven project that will strengthen our homestead through:

- 
- 
- 

Cultural Preservation - Providing a space for Hawaiian traditions, language, and practices to thrive.

Education & Community Engagement - Hosting workshops, classes, and programs that empower residents.

Recreation & Well-being - Creating a place for families to gather, play, and build strong connections.

In alignment with the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, this project represents self-determination and the ability of homesteaders to shape their own future.

The Need for Community Oversight

While SB1549 provides essential funding for this project, the fiscal management of these funds will be

overseen by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. In previous instances, state-allocated funds for

community initiatives have been redirected, creating challenges and concerns for those affected.

To ensure

that the Kanehili Community Hale is developed in alignment with the needs and vision of its residents, it is

essential that the homestead community retains final decision-making authority over its design and implementation. This will safeguard the project's intended purpose and uphold the principle of self-determination that is central to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. For this reason, Kānehili homesteaders are proposing an amendment to SB1549 that explicitly grants the community final oversight and decision-making authority over the design, development, and use of the community hale. This amendment is necessary to keep decision-making in the hands of the people who will rely on this space, ensuring that it is built for the community, by the community.

#### Conclusion

I urge the committee to advance SB1549 with this amendment to uphold the spirit of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act and the principles of community-led development. This is not just about funding a building— it is about investing in the empowerment and self-determination of the Kānehili homestead. Mahalo for your time and consideration. I respectfully ask for your support of SB1549 with the proposed amendment to keep Kānehili's future in the hands of its people.

Me ka ha'aha'a,  
Lopaka Kaleikini

**SB-1549**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:49:54 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/13/2025 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rowena Kim          | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I support the "Bill" SB1649

**SB-1549**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:24:09 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/13/2025 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b>     | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| claudia c k quintanilla | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments: I support SB1549. In order to development of a multi-phase community complex that will include a community hale, a lanai, an imu station, a craft hale, and a multi-sport court for pickleball, basketball, and volleyball. This facility is designed to support the Kanehili homestead community's cultural, educational, and recreational needs, empowering residents, and fostering a stronger sense of community cohesion. We are the beneficiaries of this trust & should always be put first over any bills passing along to the Senate. Mahalo Nui Loa

**SB-1549**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 12:01:40 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/13/2025 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Iwalani Agao        | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Aloha All Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB1549, which provides funding for the Kanehili Community Hale. SB1549 will support the educational classes, cultural Hawaiian traditions perservations, and recreational gathering to perpetuate the needs of the Kanehili homesteaders to continue to build strong connections within the community.

Please respectfully advance the SB1549 to continue to help investing in the community of the Kanehili homesteaders family and the future of next generations of Hawaiian homesteaders.

Mahalo for your time and consideration with advancing SB1549.

Thank you kindly,

Iwalani Agao

**SB-1549**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:42:31 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/13/2025 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By  | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Francis Tau'a | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB1549 with Amendments

Aloha Chair Richards, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee, I am writing in strong support of SB1549, which provides \$15 million in funding for the Kānehili Community Hale— a long-awaited gathering space that will serve the cultural, educational, and recreational needs of Kanehili homesteaders. However, I also urge the committee to support an important amendment to this bill, ensuring that the Kanehili homestead community retains final oversight and decision-making authority over the development of the community hale.

Why SB1549 is Critical The Kanehili Community Hale is a community-driven project that will strengthen our homestead through:

Cultural Preservation - Providing a space for Hawaiian traditions, language, and practices to thrive. Education & Community Engagement - Hosting workshops, classes, and programs that empower residents Recreation & Well-being - Creating a place for families to gather, play, and build strong connections

In alignment with the Hawaran Homes Commission Act, this project represents self-determination and the ability o homesteaders to shape their cwn future.

The Need for Community Oversight While SB1549 provides essential funding for this project, the fiscal management of these funds will be overseen by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. In previous instances, state-allocated funds for community initiatives have been redirected, creating challenges and concerns for those affected. To ensure that the Kānehili Community Hale is developed in alignment with the needs and vision of its residents, it is essential that the homestead community retains final decision-making authority over its design and implementation. This will safeguard the project's intended purpose and uphold the principle of self- determination that is central to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act.

For this reason, Kanehili homesteaders are proposing an amendment to SB1549 that explicitly grants the communit) final oversight and decision-making authority over the design. development, and use of the community hale. This amendment is necessary to keep decision-making in the hands of the people who will rely on this space, ensuring that it is built for the community, by the community.

Conclusion I urge the committee to advance SB1549 with this amendment to uphold the spirit of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act and the principles of community-led development. This is not just about funding a building— it is about investing in the empowerment and self-determination of the Kānehili hornestead.

Mahalo for your time and consideration. I respectfully ask for your support of SB1549 with the proposed amendment to keep Kānehil's future in the hands of its people.

Me ka ha'aha'a, -

Francis Tau'a

808-766-2604

**SB-1549**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 7:49:57 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/13/2025 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Kristina K. Gould   | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Testimony in support of SB1549 with Amendments

Aloha Chair Richards, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee,

As an homeowner in Kanehili since 2009 (Lot 382), I submit that I am in support of Bill SB1549 which provides \$15 million in funding for the Kanehili Community Hale as well as the amendment to this bill, ensuring that the Kanehili Homestead community retains all final oversight and decision-making authority over the development of the community hale.

With 4 children that have grown up in our Kanehili home and 3 of them having already graduated from high school, it is a shame that the parcel of land for our Kanehili Community Hale has not been fully developed yet. I had strong hopes and belief that my youngest daughter, who has only known Kanehili as her home, would 've been able to play in our community park and would make life long memories with friends there. As a product of a child that was always at the community park, I understand how it helped me stay out trouble and gain life long friends. She is about to enter in to Kapolei High School next year and my hopes of that happening have faded. It took so many years to get the playground up and then it remained closed for like a year after before it opened up. Having a place for the children and families to gather and perpetuate our Hawaiian Culture of Aloha and 'Ohana would be beneficial. So many families don't have access to cultural activities or programs for their children so you find them on the Ipad and on social media instead. The kids should have somewhere they can go in their community. Cultural programs, language classes and traditions the Kanehil Community Hale could facilitate would impact our community greatly.

Please consider supporting Bill SB1549 and amendment for our keiki and future of Kanehili Homestead.

Mahalo,

Kristina Gould

**SB-1549**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:36:16 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/13/2025 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Eric Twiggs         | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Testimony in Strong Support of Senate Bill 1549

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

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 1549, which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) for a vital capital improvement project at the Kānehili homestead. This bill will fund the construction of the Kānehili Community Hale, a new access road, and a dedicated parking lot, all of which are essential to the well-being and growth of the Kānehili community.

The Kānehili homestead has long been in need of infrastructure that not only supports the daily lives of residents but also strengthens the cultural and social bonds within the community. The proposed community hale will serve as a vital gathering space where families can come together for cultural events, educational programs, meetings, and celebrations—fostering a deeper connection to Hawaiian traditions and values.

Additionally, the construction of a new access road will significantly improve traffic flow, enhance safety for residents and visitors, and provide better emergency access when needed. The inclusion of a designated parking lot will alleviate current congestion issues and improve accessibility, particularly during large community events.

Investing in this project is more than just an infrastructure upgrade; it is a commitment to the vision and mission of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to create thriving, sustainable

communities for Native Hawaiian beneficiaries. It also aligns with the State's broader goals of supporting affordable housing, community development, and cultural preservation.

I respectfully urge you to pass SB 1549 to support the Kānehili homestead community and ensure that current and future generations of Native Hawaiian families have the resources they need to flourish.

Mahalo nui loa for considering this testimony.

Eric Twiggs

[eric\\_twiggs@icloud.com](mailto:eric_twiggs@icloud.com)

(808) 490-4683

**SB-1549**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:08:06 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/13/2025 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Heidi Akau          | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Testimony in Strong Support of Senate Bill 1549

Relating to Capital Improvement Projects for the Kānehili Homestead

Aloha mai kākou, Chair and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am honored to submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 1549, which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates funds to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) for critical capital improvement projects at the Kānehili homestead. This bill will provide essential funding for the construction of the Kānehili Community Hale, a new access road, and a parking lot, all of which will serve as foundational resources for the well-being of the Kānehili ‘ohana.

The proposed Kānehili Community Hale is more than just a building—it will be a piko, a central gathering place where kānaka and community members can come together to strengthen the ties that bind us through cultural practices, ‘ohana gatherings, educational workshops, and community meetings. This hale will serve as a space to perpetuate ‘ike Hawai‘i, fostering intergenerational learning and the sharing of ‘ike kupuna, ensuring that the values, language, and traditions of our ancestors are honored and passed on.

The development of a new access road is equally important, as it will improve the safety and accessibility of the homestead, supporting the daily needs of residents and ensuring that emergency services can respond efficiently when needed. The addition of a designated parking lot will alleviate current congestion, especially during large gatherings, and enhance the overall functionality of the community hale.

This project reflects the State's kuleana to fulfill the promises set forth in the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act by investing in the infrastructure that supports the physical, cultural, and spiritual needs of Native Hawaiian beneficiaries. It is an opportunity to uplift the Kānehili homestead, not just through roads and buildings, but through the creation of spaces where aloha, 'ike Hawai'i, and resilience thrive.

I humbly ask for your support in passing SB 1549, as it represents a critical step in honoring the commitments to our lāhui and ensuring that future generations have a strong foundation to stand upon.

Me ka ha'aha'a (with humility) and mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

Na'u me ka ha'aha'a,

Heidi Akau

**SB-1549**

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 8:41:17 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/13/2025 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Donna Neitzel       | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I support this bill as it will help our Hawaiian community to grow in unity.

**SB-1549**

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 8:55:14 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/13/2025 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Reya Neitzel        | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I support kanehili

**SB-1549**

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 8:58:17 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/13/2025 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Saphire Tucker      | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I support Bill SB1549

**SB-1549**

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 9:41:54 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/13/2025 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Janel Romero        | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I support this bill to help secure the future of Hawaiian homesteaders. This is very in important to us. Near and dear to our hearts especially for our keiki.

**SB-1549**

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 10:03:18 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/13/2025 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Lawrence Neitzel    | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please approve this funding to create a community and activity center for the Kanehili homestead. With this new location the residence of this community can have a place to gather that isn't controlled by KCDC, a organization that only exists to take money out of the Hawaiian community and enrich the individuals of that organization. The board members of Kanehili work long hours (all volunteer) to make and keep the area to a standard that shows they are proud to be Hawaiian. They have taken a small park and made it a safe and clean place for familys to play and have fun. if this funding is approved they could mirror this success and make a place for activites that benefit young and old. Approval of these fund is the right thing to do for the Hawaiians of this community.

**SB-1549**

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 12:15:48 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/13/2025 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Miki Tucker         | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I support.

THE GENTRY COMPANIES



February 13, 2025

The Honorable Herbert M. "Tim" Richards III, Chair  
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Hawaii State Senate  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: **S.B. 1549 RELATING TO THE KĀNEHILI COMMUNITY HALE**

Hearing: Thursday, February 13, 2025; 1:00 pm  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

Dear Chair Richards, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Committee Members,

Gentry Homes SUPPORTS this measure which provides funding sources for the construction of the Kānehili community hale, a new access road, and a parking lot at the Kānehili homestead. We also support the amendments proposed by the Kānehili Community Association.

We believe that community centers are the heart of a vibrant community. The development of the Kānehili Community Hale will be a community-driven project that will strengthen the community in multiple ways, including cultural preservation; education and community involvement; and recreation and well-being.

Please support this measure which will help to improve lives of residents in this wonderful homestead community.

Sincerely,

GENTRY HOMES, LTD.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Quentin Machida".

Quentin Machida  
President and CEO

**SB-1549**

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 8:24:59 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/13/2025 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Levenia Mika        | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I'm writing in strong support of SB1549. Which provides 15 million in funding for the Kanehili community hale. We are just three generations in Kanehili homestead and this will help the future homestead and community..

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Keo Mika & Ohana

(808)451-9107

Keo.Mika16@gmail.com

91-1001 Kahalepouli Street Kapolei, HI 96707