



*KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA*  
**KAHO‘OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION**

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

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Michael K. Nāho‘opi‘i  
*Executive Director*

**Testimony of**  
**MICHAEL K. NĀHO‘OPT‘I**  
**Executive Director**

**Before the House Committee on**

**FINANACE**

**Thursday, February 28, 2022**  
**12:30 PM**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of**  
**HOUSE BILL 1577 HD1**  
**RELATING TO THE KAHO‘OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION**

House Bill 1577 House Draft 1 appropriates funds for the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission and to fund two full-time equivalent positions for the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission. The Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) strongly supports this measure.

In Act 340, the creation of the KIRC and Hawaii Revised Statute Chapter 6K in 1993, the legislature found that “the extensive erosion and other ecological problems, presence of unexploded ordnance, archaeological sites and native and endangered flora and fauna that a management regime was needed to meet the challenges of restoring and presenting the island”.

Since the end of the Navy’s unexploded ordnance cleanup in 2004, the KIRC has begun a race against time to stem erosion and further degradation of the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve. The KIRC has since initiated numerous restoration projects, financed by state funds and various grant opportunities, that has made significant changes to transforming the desolate hardpan into vibrant living landscapes.

The KIRC first began receiving state general funds in the administration’s budget in the fiscal year 2018-2019 biennium budget. The initial funding supported 15 FTE staff and operating funds for our Maui office and Kihei Boathouse. In fiscal years 2019 and 2020, the KIRC Cultural Resource Project Coordinator position was restored and \$100,000 in operating funds were added but subsequently were eliminated due to the impact of COVID on the State’s economy in fiscal years 2021 and 2022. The KIRC is requesting additional operating funds and personnel to support our efforts to restore the island, protect endangered and rare flora and fauna and ensure the safety of visitors to Kaho‘olawe.

The key to the KIRC’s restoration efforts is the volunteer workforce that we bring to Kaho‘olawe to help with native out plantings, erosion control construction and invasive weed eradication.

The additional funds will support key services such as operating the Kaho`olawe base camp facilities, generating power and water, and maintaining vital infrastructure, equipment and vehicles. The additional funds will also support critical safety systems such as medical supplies, safety equipment and emergency transportation.

The additional KIRC positions are critically vital as the KIRC has observed a recent increase in unpredictability and severity of weather and ocean conditions in the waters surrounding Maui and Kaho`olawe most likely due to climate change and global warming, which has resulted in an increased need for additional manpower to safely and effectively operate the KIRC ocean vessel. Additionally, our Kaho`olawe field teams also need additional field support as we have been successful in expanding our restoration efforts to create more native dryland forest habitats, expand beach restoration and shoreline protection efforts, cultivate food sustainability and increase on-island water generation, collection, storage and distribution systems.

The KIRC has lived on a shoestring budget for the past decade, making do with whatever resources and funds we have been able to get, but at the same time been able to do amazing work on restoring one of the most devastated and remote places in Hawaii. The task ahead of the KIRC is one of the greatest challenges for this and the next generation, but to many here in Hawaii, a challenge that is worth the effort.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 1577, H.D. 1

**February 28, 2022**  
**12:30 p.m.**  
**Room 308 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO THE KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 1577, H.D. 1, authorizes two permanent positions and appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission to restore, preserve, and determine the appropriate uses of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Council Chair  
Alice L. Lee

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Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

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Tasha Kama

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Director of Council Services  
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services  
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

February 27, 2022

TO: Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Alice L. Lee  
Council Chair

DATE: February 27, 2022

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR HB 1577 HD1, RELATING TO THE KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to provide funding for the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, including two full-time equivalent permanent positions.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I **SUPPORT** this measure for the following reasons:

1. The Island of Kaho'olawe provides significant cultural and historic importance to the native people of Hawai'i and Maui County residents.
2. Due to extensive safety issues and ecological, archaeological, and other environmental concerns, specialized management is needed to effectively meet the unique challenge of addressing continued revitalization and appropriate use for the island.
3. This measure would appropriate funds to the Department of Land And Natural Resources for the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission to effectively accomplish their work of restoring, preserving, and evaluating appropriate use of the island.

For the foregoing reasons, I **SUPPORT** this measure.



Feb 1, 2022

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Ethan Cooper

Pacific American Foundation  
C/O Bay View Golf Park  
45-285 Kāne'ohe, Bay Drive,  
#102 Kāne'ohe, HI 96744

Phone: (808) 664-3027

[www.thepaf.org](http://www.thepaf.org)

Rep. Sylvia Luke and Members  
Chair, House Finance Committee  
State House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke and Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Herb Lee, Jr. and I am the President & CEO of the Pacific American Foundation. We have been a long-time community and educational partner with KIRC and currently serve as a fiscal sponsor for certain of their projects.

I urge you to pass HB1577. I am in full **SUPPORT** of this measure to provide additional financial and staff support for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) to continue their long-term restoration of Kaho`olawe, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. This funding is necessary for the KIRC to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and managing the appropriate, safe uses of the Reserve for the people of Hawai'i. Funding will enable the continuation of innovative land and ocean restoration programs for Kaho`olawe, while also entrusting a unique and critical opportunity to introduce, encourage and develop the next generation of land, ocean and cultural resource managers through an integrated mauka to Makai volunteer program. Through immersive, hands-on experience within a cooperative natural and cultural resource management system, these opportunities incorporate both traditional indigenous practices and modern scientific methods. I respectfully ask you to please **PASS** HB1577.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Herb Lee, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Herb Lee, Jr.  
President & CEO

**HB-1577-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 7:23:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Manuel Kuloloio	Ke Kai O Kuloloi'a	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Hawaii House Committee on Finance Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Kyle Yamashita and Committee Representatives Branco, Eli, Holt, Ilagan, Kobayashi, Marten, Nishimoto, Perruso, Sayama, Tam, Todd, Wildberger, and McDermott:

I write seeking your unanimous support for HB1577 HD1 RELATING TO THE KAHO'OLAWA ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION to fund the uncommon mission and continuing work of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission to protect, to preserve, to restore, and to meaningfully and safely use Kaho'olawe Island and the surrounding 2 miles of Kanaloa for ancestral, traditional, cultural, educational, and scientific opportunities and purposes.

WE thank you for your time and consideration in support of this uncommon mission of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission and for your over 28+ years of unwavering declaration, dedication, and determination to bring this sacred and special place in Kanaloa Kaho'olawe HOME to the people of Hawaii, resting Title and Control of Access and explosive/contaminating abuse from the United States Navy.

E leha aku au i ko'u mau maka i na mauna,

Malaila mai ko'u kokua e hiki mai ai.

Mai Iehova mai ko'u kokua,

Nana no i hana i ka lani, a me ka honua.

Halelu 121: 1-2

Aloha Ke Akua,  
Manuel Wayne Makahiapo DeCosta Kuloloio

Kuloloi'a Ohana, Honua'ula, Maui





**HB-1577-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 9:18:35 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Anela Evans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai e Chairwoman Luke, Vicechair Yamashita, and members of the House Committee of Finance,

Thank you for your willingness to consider this measure that requests funding for the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC). The additional funding for more staff positions will allow the KIRC to continue their committment to the restoration and revegetation of Kaho‘olawe. I continue to have the amazing opportunity for the past 17 years to volunteer on Kaho‘olawe with both the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana (PKO) and the KIRC. I also had the privilege to work full-time for the KIRC for two years. Throughout those 17 years, I have seen the progression and growth of the island as it recovers from over 100 years of devastation - beginning with the introduction of ungulates and then continuing with the U.S. Navy's bombing of the island. The KIRC staff members are some of the most hardworking and talented individuals that I’ve ever had the opportunity to work with. Many of them are versatile in their knowledge and perform many diverse tasks. For example, many of us, while hired to perform duties such as a marine biologist or a restoration specialist, also assisted in boat operations necessary to transport volunteers, food, and fuel to the island.

I would like to strongly urge you to please support HB1577. The KIRC's role in the restoration of Kaho‘olawe and their mission of Kūkulu ke ea a Kanaloa is critical to the success and growth of our ‘āina and our people. Aloha.

**HB-1577-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 9:18:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Cassandra L. Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I urge you to pass HB1577. I am in full SUPPORT of this measure to provide additional financial and staff support for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) to continue their long-term restoration of Kaho`olawe, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. This funding is necessary for the KIRC to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and managing the appropriate, safe uses of the Reserve for the people of Hawai'i. Funding will enable the continuation of innovative land and ocean restoration programs for Kaho`olawe, while also entrusting a unique and critical opportunity to introduce, encourage and develop the next generation of land, ocean and cultural resource managers through an integrated mauka to makai volunteer program. Through immersive, hands-on experience within a cooperative natural and cultural resource management system, these opportunities incorporate both traditional indigenous practices and modern scientific methods. I respectfully ask you to please PASS HB1577.

Mahalo for your time,

Cassandra Smith

**HB-1577-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 9:31:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Terri Gavagan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

The work to restore Kaho'olawe and provide safe meaningful access to the islands is vital in allowing Native Hawaiians to perpetuate their culture. Additionally the KIRC allows the general public the opportunity to contribute to the restoration of an island and learn about the importance of the mauka to makai connection in Hawai'i.

I strongly encourage you to support the KIRC by providing the necessary funding to continue their mission.

Mahalo,

Terri Gavagan

**HB-1577-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 9:39:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Lopaka White	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for supporting the restoration of Kaho`olawe.

Kukulu ke ea a Kanaloa!

**HB-1577-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 9:41:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kelly McHugh-White	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for your continued support of this vital resource for the people of HI

**HB-1577-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 10:07:30 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Ymashita, and Committee members:

Please support the KIRC's continued efforts to help restore Kaho'olawe.

The additional funds in HB1577 HD1 will finance key support services such as operating the Kaho`olawe base camp facilities, generating power and water, and maintaining vital infrastructure, equipment and vehicles. The funds will also support critical safety systems such as medical supplies, safety equipment and emergency transportation.

The additional KIRC positions are critically vital as the KIRC has observed a recent increase in unpredictability and severity of weather and ocean conditions in the waters surrounding Maui and Kaho`olawe most likely due to climate change and global warming, which has resulted in an increased need for additional manpower to safely and effectively operate the KIRC ocean vessel. Additionally, Kaho`olawe field teams also need additional field support as we have been successful in expanding our restoration efforts to create more native dryland forest habitats, expand beach restoration and shoreline protection efforts, cultivate food sustainability and increase on-island water generation, collection, storage and distribution systems.

Aloha ‘Āina,

Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.

KIRC Commissioner representing Native Hawaiian Organizations

**HB-1577-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 10:23:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
James Bruch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 1577 to provide funding for two Island Reserve Specialist positions to the KIRC.

**HB-1577-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 10:31:26 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Janece Beauchamp	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission has inspired kids and many adult on education about the culture and history of the island as well as Hawaiian people that still till today have religious ceremonies on the island. By adding two more positions it will help Kaho'olawe Island Reserve reach out to more people in the community to inspire and learn about the rich culture of Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Janece



**HB-1577-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 10:45:07 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Nichole Tokishi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I would like to support this House Bill so the KIRC can continue to do their great work rehabilitating the island of Kaho'olawe.

**HB-1577-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 10:55:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Ronald Stebbins	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support this bill because this is my tax dollars being spent on something that I'll never be able to go see. I think that you can open it up and have tours taken and use those dollars to fix whatever they want and support their staff. I do not support tax dollars being spent on things the taxpayers can't see or go visit.

**HB-1577-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 11:13:30 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Ashlee Price	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Water & Land Committee,

I urge you to pass HB1577. I am in full SUPPORT of this measure to provide additional financial and staff support for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) to continue their long-term restoration of Kaho`olawe, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. This funding is necessary for the KIRC to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and managing the appropriate, safe uses of the Reserve for the people of Hawai'i. Funding will enable the continuation of innovative land and ocean restoration programs for Kaho'olawe, while also entrusting a unique and critical opportunity to introduce, encourage and develop the next generation of land, ocean and cultural resource managers through an integrated mauka to makai volunteer program. Through immersive, hands-on experience within a cooperative natural and cultural resource management system, these opportunities incorporate both traditional indigenous practices and modern scientific methods. I respectfully ask you to please PASS HB1577.

Thank you,

Ashlee Price

**HB-1577-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 11:13:51 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Matt Hatakeyama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Finance Committee,

Mahalo for taking the time to read my testimony. As a citizen of Maui County and a Native Hawaiian, HB1577 will go a long way toward recovery from the fire of 2020 and the COVID pandemic. The staffing will allow KIRC's restoration efforts and the \$100,000 will give the team the tools to perform their tasks. Let's all do our part to keep Kanaloa thriving but supporting HB1577.

Mahalo,

Matt

**HB-1577-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 12:11:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Davianna McGregor	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the House Committee on Finance

I urge you to pass HB1577. I am in full SUPPORT of this measure to provide additional financial and staff support for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) to continue their long-term restoration of Kaho`olawe, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. This funding is necessary for the KIRC to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and managing the appropriate, safe uses of the Reserve for the people of Hawai'i. Funding will enable the continuation of innovative land and ocean restoration programs for Kaho`olawe, while also entrusting a unique and critical opportunity to introduce, encourage and develop the next generation of land, ocean and cultural resource managers through an integrated mauka to makai volunteer program. Through immersive, hands-on experience within a cooperative natural and cultural resource management system, these opportunities incorporate both traditional indigenous practices and modern scientific methods. I respectfully ask you to please PASS HB1577.

Thank you,

**HB-1577-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 12:42:06 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kelvin Ho	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Water & Land Committee,

I urge you to pass HB1577. I am in full SUPPORT of this measure to provide additional financial and staff support for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) to continue their long-term restoration of Kaho`olawe, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. This funding is necessary for the KIRC to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and managing the appropriate, safe uses of the Reserve for the people of Hawai'i. Funding will enable the continuation of innovative land and ocean restoration programs for Kaho`olawe, while also entrusting a unique and critical opportunity to introduce, encourage and develop the next generation of land, ocean and cultural resource managers through an integrated mauka to makai volunteer program. Through immersive, hands-on experience within a cooperative natural and cultural resource management system, these opportunities incorporate both traditional indigenous practices and modern scientific methods. I respectfully ask you to please PASS HB1577.

I have been a member of Protect Kaho`olawe `Ohana since 1991 and have been seen firsthand the incredible impact that KIRC has had on island bringing groups to re green this most sacred place. As a Makahiki practitioner we have recieved so much support from KIRC over many years.

Thank you,

Kelvin Ho

**HB-1577-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 1:54:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Steven Thomas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support

**HB-1577-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 3:03:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Margaret Pulver	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e Members of the House Finance Committee,

I urge you to pass HB1577. I am in full SUPPORT of this measure to provide additional financial and staff support for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) to continue their long-term restoration of Kaho`olawe, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. This funding is necessary for the KIRC to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and managing the appropriate, safe uses of the Reserve for the people of Hawai'i. Funding will enable the continuation of innovative land and ocean restoration programs for Kaho`olawe, while also entrusting a unique and critical opportunity to introduce, encourage and develop the next generation of land, ocean and cultural resource managers through an integrated mauka to makai volunteer program. Through immersive, hands-on experience within a cooperative natural and cultural resource management system, these opportunities incorporate both traditional indigenous practices and modern scientific methods. I respectfully ask you to please PASS HB1577.

Mahalo for your time.

Aloha 'aina,

Margaret Pulver



**HB-1577-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 3:10:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Michele McLean	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Committee Members,

Please accept this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1577 HD1 to provide funding support for the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC). I worked on the KIRC staff for approximately five years and then served as Chair of the Commission for eight years, and so I can attest from first-hand experience that the KIRC knows how to make the most of any funding it has. The work that the staff can and does perform with limited resources and a difficult physical environment is nothing short of miraculous. Their dedication to the restoration and preservation of the Kahoolawe Island Reserve and its natural and cultural resources is exemplary. This funding request would be a very responsible use of taxpayer dollars and deserves your support.

Mahalo for your consideration,  
Michele McLean, AICP  
Planning Director, Maui County

**HB-1577-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 3:30:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Martha Evans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I urge you to pass HB1577. I am in full SUPPORT of this measure to provide additional financial and staff support for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) to continue their long-term restoration of Kaho`olawe, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. This funding is necessary for the KIRC to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and managing the appropriate, safe uses of the Reserve for the people of Hawai'i. Funding will enable the continuation of innovative land and ocean restoration programs for Kaho`olawe, while also entrusting a unique and critical opportunity to introduce, encourage and develop the next generation of land, ocean and cultural resource managers through an integrated mauka to makai volunteer program. Through immersive, hands-on experience within a cooperative natural and cultural resource management system, these opportunities incorporate both traditional indigenous practices and modern scientific methods. I respectfully ask you to please PASS HB1577.

Thank you,

Martha A. Evans

**HB-1577-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 4:15:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Paul john Hopwood	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear members of the HFC.

Iam writing to you on behalf of KIRC.

regarding bill HB1577 application for further funding

for the continued restoration and cultural importance of Kaho’olawe.

Having had a couple of previous oppotunitys and the honor to Volunteer

With the Kirc organisation and work alongside PKO members

it left a life long impression on me just how important protecting sensitive enviromental and Cultural

Places such as Kaho’olawe really is .

I was also was very blessed to have worked alongside the late great Ed lyndsey

and Maui Cultural Lands.

From an educational perspective to perpetuating and nurturing significant Hawaiian Cultural

practices Kaho’olawe has never been more relevant than it is in the world we live in today

and as Ed lyndsey stated its really just about “passing the gift”

mahalo’s for considering my testomony and this important Bill

Yours Sincerely Paul Hopwood



**HB-1577-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 7:51:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Courtney Kerr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Water & Land Committee,

I urge you to pass HB1577. I am in full **SUPPORT** of this measure to provide additional financial and staff support for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) to continue their long-term restoration of Kaho`olawe, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. This funding is necessary for the KIRC to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and managing the appropriate, safe uses of the Reserve for the people of Hawai'i. Funding will enable the continuation of innovative land and ocean restoration programs for Kaho`olawe, while also entrusting a unique and critical opportunity to introduce, encourage and develop the next generation of land, ocean and cultural resource managers through an integrated mauka to makai volunteer program. Through immersive, hands-on experience within a cooperative natural and cultural resource management system, these opportunities incorporate both traditional indigenous practices and modern scientific methods. I respectfully ask you to please **PASS** HB1577.

Thank you,

Courtney Kerr

**HB-1577-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 8:13:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Carmela Noneza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill.

**HB-1577-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 9:41:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
johann winkler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Water & Land Committee,

I urge you to pass HB1577. I am in full SUPPORT of this measure to provide additional financial and staff support for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) to continue their long-term restoration of Kaho`olawe, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. This funding is necessary for the KIRC to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and managing the appropriate, safe uses of the Reserve for the people of Hawai'i. Funding will enable the continuation of innovative land and ocean restoration programs for Kaho`olawe, while also entrusting a unique and critical opportunity to introduce, encourage and develop the next generation of land, ocean and cultural resource managers through an integrated mauka to makai volunteer program. Through immersive, hands-on experience within a cooperative natural and cultural resource management system, these opportunities incorporate both traditional indigenous practices and modern scientific methods. I respectfully ask you to please PASS HB1577.

Thank you,

Johann Winkler

**HB-1577-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 8:27:29 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Nathan Nishimura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support the continued restoration of Kahoolawe by passing HB1577, Mahalo



**HB-1577-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 10:29:43 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Christopher M. Kaipulaumakaniolono	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha nō,

I write today in full support of HB1577 to fund the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission in perpetuity. As Kaho‘olawe is to be held in trust for a future sovereign Hawaiian entity, it is imperative that the island continues be stewarded as a wahi pana and kīpuka for Hawaiian language and cultural revitalization, inclusive of replanting, ceremony and the gathering of Kānaka Maoli communities on the island in pursuit of Kanaka Consciousness.

I ola Kanaloa, i ola kākou.

kaipulaumakaniolono

**HB-1577-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 11:10:44 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kimberley Newhouse	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I urge you to pass HB1577. I am in full SUPPORT of this measure to provide additional financial and staff support for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) to continue their long-term restoration of Kaho`olawe, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. This funding is necessary for the KIRC to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and managing the appropriate, safe uses of the Reserve for the people of Hawai'i. Funding will enable the continuation of innovative land and ocean restoration programs for Kaho`olawe, while also entrusting a unique and critical opportunity to introduce, encourage and develop the next generation of land, ocean and cultural resource managers through an integrated mauka to makai volunteer program. Through immersive, hands-on experience within a cooperative natural and cultural resource management system, these opportunities incorporate both traditional indigenous practices and modern scientific methods.

I have volunteered with the KIRC's skilled and loving staff for almost 30 years. I have made lifelong friends, found appreciation for cultural practices and an honest day's work, and created some of the most meaningful learning moments and memories along side students, leaders and staff. Our children deserve the same opportunity to volunteer and the KIRC requires on island support to make this happen.

I respectfully ask you to please PASS HB1577.

Mahalo nui,

Kimberley K. Newhouse

**HB-1577-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 7:29:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Tambara Garrick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Water & Land Committee,

I urge you to pass HB1577. I am in full SUPPORT of this measure to provide additional financial and staff support for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) to continue their long-term restoration of Kaho`olawe, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. This funding is necessary for the KIRC to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and managing the appropriate, safe uses of the Reserve for the people of Hawai'i. Funding will enable the continuation of innovative land and ocean restoration programs for Kaho`olawe, while also entrusting a unique and critical opportunity to introduce, encourage and develop the next generation of land, ocean and cultural resource managers through an integrated mauka to makai volunteer program. Through immersive, hands-on experience within a cooperative natural and cultural resource management system, these opportunities incorporate both traditional indigenous practices and modern scientific methods. I respectfully ask you to please PASS HB1577.

Mahalo,

Tambara Garrick

**HB-1577-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 9:15:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Laurie K Akana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I urge you to pass HB1577. I am in full **SUPPORT** of this measure to provide additional financial and staff support for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) to continue their long-term restoration of Kaho`olawe, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. The island of Kaho`olawe has endured so much trauma at the hands of the US military. The least the state of HI can do is commit with funding to repair the damage that has been done. The island may never fully heal but that doesn't mean effort to do what is pono shouldn't be continued. There has been amazing improvements done already but so much more is needed.

This funding is necessary for the KIRC to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and managing the appropriate, safe uses of the Reserve for the people of Hawai'i. Funding will enable the continuation of innovative land and ocean restoration programs for Kaho`olawe, while also entrusting a unique and critical opportunity to introduce, encourage and develop the next generation of land, ocean and cultural resource managers through an integrated mauka to makai volunteer program. Through immersive, hands-on experience within a cooperative natural and cultural resource management system, these opportunities incorporate both traditional indigenous practices and modern scientific methods. I respectfully urge you to please **PASS** HB1577. The people of this land must have a voice and this is what we are saying.

Thank you,

Laurie Kawehiokalani Akana

**HB-1577-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 11:30:11 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
pookela hanson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Water & Land Committee,

I urge you to pass HB1577. I am in full **SUPPORT** of this measure to provide additional financial and staff support for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) to continue their long-term restoration of Kaho`olawe, which will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. This funding is necessary for the KIRC to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring, preserving and managing the appropriate, safe uses of the Reserve for the people of Hawai'i. Funding will enable the continuation of innovative land and ocean restoration programs for Kaho`olawe, while also entrusting a unique and critical opportunity to introduce, encourage and develop the next generation of land, ocean and cultural resource managers through an integrated mauka to makai volunteer program. Through immersive, hands-on experience within a cooperative natural and cultural resource management system, these opportunities incorporate both traditional indigenous practices and modern scientific methods. Allow the people of Hawai'i to restore, protect, and preserve this most sacred place. I respectfully ask you to please **PASS** HB1577.

Mahalo, Pookela Hanson

February 28, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Carmen Hulu Lindsey, Chair  
Board of Trustees at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs

SUBJECT: HB 1577 – RELATING TO THE KAHO‘OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE  
COMMISSION.

Hearing: February 28, 2022, 12:30 p.m.  
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

As a current KIRC Commissioner, I am providing written testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB1577. In 1994, the U.S. Navy conveyed the ownership of Kaho‘olawe to the State of Hawai‘i. In 2004, the U.S. Navy transferred the management and control of Kaho‘olawe to the State of Hawai‘i and Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission which is within the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I point these years out because the State has a responsibility to manage activities on the Kaho‘olawe as owner and KIRC is the State’s vessel to carry out that responsibility. KIRC has done amazing work over the years to restore and preserve Kaho‘olawe after decades of bombings; however, the work is far from done. KIRC is in critical need of the Committee’s support to secure funding so that they have the resources needed to continue their important work. So, I humbly ask the Committee for their consideration and support of this measure. Mahalo nui iā ‘oukou for this opportunity to offer my written testimony of support.