

**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF PLANNING  
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LT. GOVERNOR

**MARY ALICE EVANS**  
INTERIM DIRECTOR

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Statement of  
**MARY ALICE EVANS, Interim Director**

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of  
**HOUSE BILL 1923 HD1  
RELATING TO CAMPS.**

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land:

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **supports** HB1923 HD1, which retains the prohibition against overnight camps in the State Agricultural District contained in § 205-4.5 (a) (6), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) but allows “overnight camps in operation prior to January 1, 1961” to be approved by special permit.

OPSD recognizes the public benefit provided by overnight camps that existed prior to the establishment of the State Land Use Classifications and that these grandfathered uses are likely not in areas appropriate for reclassification to the Urban District. HB1923 HD1 allows these camps to continue to operate with a special permit while protecting the Agricultural District from new non-agricultural overnight camp use.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**DEXTER KISHIDA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024  
1:00 PM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 229**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1923, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO CAMPS**

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1923, HD1 that retains the existing prohibition on overnight camps in the Agricultural District and allows overnight camps that have been in operation prior to January 1, 1961, to be regulated by the Special Permit process. The Department of Agriculture (Department) supports the retention of the existing prohibition on overnight camps in the Agricultural District.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony.





# LAND USE COMMISSION

*Komikina Ho'ohana 'Āina*

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM  
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'omōhala Pā'oihana, 'Imi Wai wai a Ho'omāka'ika'i*

**JOSH GREEN, MD**  
GOVERNOR

**DANIEL ORODENKER**  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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Statement of  
**Daniel E. Orodenker**  
Executive Officer  
State Land Use Commission

**LATE**

Before the  
**Senate Committee on Water and Land**

Wednesday March 13, 2024  
1:00 PM  
State Capitol, Room 229

In consideration of  
**HB1923 HD1**

**RELATING TO CAMPS**

Chair Inouye; Vice Chair Elefante; and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land:

The Land Use Commission ("LUC") has the following comments on this measure as amended in HD1. The amendments made in HD1 appear to have addressed many of the issues of concern raised by the State Department of Agriculture, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, State Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, and other testifiers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



**March 11, 2024**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND**

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, March 13, 2024

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 229, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1923, HD1**

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of House Bill 1923, HD1.

I am testifying on behalf of hundreds of active Scouts and adult volunteers who utilize Camp Maluhia north of Wailuku, which is one of the most widely used wilderness facilities within Maui County. Resting on the island's cool windward slopes and with a panoramic view of the Pacific Ocean, Camp Maluhia has been a favorite destination for over 100 years of Maui's Scouts

Throughout the year, Maui scouts utilize the camp for overnight camping, in addition to Summer Camp. This camp is an integral part of the Maui Scouting experience.

Our camp currently operates under a special permit set to expire in 2025. We plan to seek renewal of this permit.

Camp Maluhia operated prior to the adoption of the State Land Use law and is considered "grandfathered" for use. Based on the March 2023 Hawai'i Supreme Court our camp will no longer be able to obtain time extensions for the respective special permit, and instead would be required to change our State Land Use classification from "Agricultural" to "Urban." This would create an immense burden for our non-profit, which would require a long and expensive rezoning process. Camp Maluhia is a in rural setting with no urban uses in the nearby vicinity.

If approved this bill would re-establish the regulatory process for overnight camps that existed for over 30 years prior to the recent ruling, allowing Special Permits to be used as a permitting vehicle for overnight camps, requiring approval from the Planning Commissions (or Land Use Commission for uses over 15 acres) via the Special Permit process, including notification neighbors and a public hearing.





BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

ALOHA COUNCIL

We are not asking for an exclusion or exemption, we are asking to remain operable by special use permits, it is a guaranteed way for local control to ensure that we are operating as set forth by our use permit.

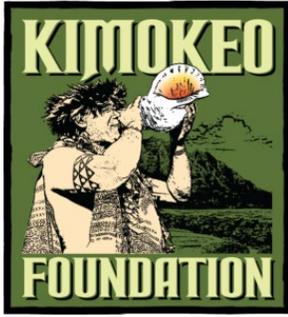
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Blake Parsons  
CEO / Scout Executive  
Boy Scouts of America, Aloha Council

42 Puiwa Road  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
(808) 595-6366 Tel.  
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[www.ScoutingHawaii.org](http://www.ScoutingHawaii.org)

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## Kimoqueo Foundation

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March 12, 2024

Senate Committee on Water & Land  
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair  
Senator Brandon J. C. Elefante, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, March 13, 2024  
TIME: 1:00 P.M.  
PLACE: Conference Room 229  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

RE: **TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1923 HD1**  
Testimony of Kimoqueo Kapahulehua

Aloha kākou e Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Water & Land Committee,

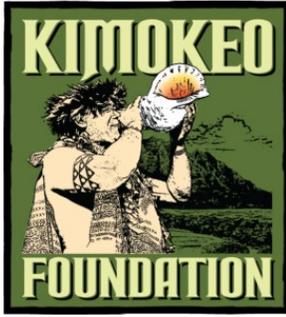
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of House Bill 1923 HD1. My name is Kimoqueo Kapahulehua and I'm a Native Hawaiian and President of the Kimoqueo Foundation who has seen the importance that Camp Olowalu has provided to Maui's community over time.

For over twenty years, my partners and I have had the privilege of educating our local community about the Hawaiian culture and environment amongst Maui's families and high school students. Through our culture-based education program, we use the traditional practice of hoe wa'a (canoe paddling) to teach program participants about the vital relationship of the ocean connecting with the land. Our participants have paddled from the ancient Hawaiian fishpond of Kō'ie'ie in Kīhei to the shores of Olowalu where they have been able to embrace the mana (spirit) of the ocean. Once at Camp Olowalu, they learn about the environment and in conjunction with Kīpuka Olowalu, they plant Native Hawaiian plants to give back to the land. We have served hundreds of program participants over the years.

We could not have done this culture-based program over the past two decades without the support and utilization of Camp Olowalu. Its location enables us to teach about the ancient Hawaiian ahupua'a system and connect participants from the mountains at Kīpuka Olowalu, to the shores of Camp Olowalu and into the ocean. Because of its importance to our education program and the many other benefits that this establishment offers Maui's community and visitors, **I'm urging you to support HB 1923 HD1**. By supporting this bill, this will enable not only Camp Olowalu, but also its counterparts on Maui, to remain operable for additional education programs to occur in the future. There are no comparable sites like this on Maui.

Each of the campgrounds that are impacted by this bill were established prior to the adoption of the State Land Use law and are considered "grandfathered" uses. Camp Olowalu and Camp Maluhia are two of the existing campgrounds which have Special Permits (SPs) with time extensions coming up in the next year and a half. Based on the March 2023 Hawai'i Supreme Court ruling, both campgrounds would be unable to obtain time extensions for their respective SPs, and instead would be required to change their State Land Use classification from "Agricultural" to "Urban." The campgrounds on Maui are in rural settings with no urban uses in the nearby vicinity.

*The mission of Kimoqueo Foundation is to preserve and perpetuate the Native Hawaiian culture, its traditions, practices and language, Maui's environment and community's health through educational programs which benefit the people of Hawai'i.*



## Kimokeo Foundation

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If approved, this bill will reestablish the regulatory process for overnight camps that existed for over 30 years prior to the recent ruling, allowing SPs to be used as a permitting vehicle for overnight camps, requiring approval from the Planning Commissions (or Land Use Commission for uses over 15 acres) via the Special Permit process, including notification neighbors and a public hearing. I also see the immense value in enabling these campsites to have access to water rights so that they may safely operate and care for the needs of their users and sites.

As a dedicated community supporter, I support the fact that this is not a request for exclusion or exemption. Rather, this is a means to guarantee a way for local control and ensure that Camp Olowalu and other similar camps on Maui operate as set forth in their special use permits.

Thank you for your consideration and please join me in supporting SB 2756. If you should have any questions, I can be reached at [honokohau@gmail.com](mailto:honokohau@gmail.com).

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimokeo Kapahulehua". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Kimokeo Kapahulehua  
President

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*The mission of Kimokeo Foundation is to preserve and perpetuate the Native Hawaiian culture, its traditions, practices and language, Maui's environment and community's health through educational programs which benefit the people of Hawai'i.*

**2024 Board of Directors:** President Kimokeo Kapahulehua, Vice President Nāpua Aloy, Treasurer Michael Phillips  
Secretary Nancy La Joy, Director Nāmomi McCorriston, Director Brian Walsh and Director/Hawaiian Cultural Advisor Kahu Lyons Naone

**HB-1923-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 12:12:31 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/13/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dustin Tester	Testifying for Maui Surfer Girls, Inc	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

On behalf of my loyal staff & two decades of local and mainland campers, my business Maui Surfer Girls, would be devastated to not have an overnight camp facility to host our empowering surf camp programs. Please reconsider, allowing 60+ year presedence of Camp Olowalu operating with a special use permit on Ag land. Our Maui community need places to host programs like Camp Imua, Boys Scouts, YMCA camps, & Maui Surfer Girls.

Just to give a little historical context Olowalu has always been a Puu Honua, or place of refuge. When I was 10 years old, I was a church camper there with Holy Innocence church camps. In my 20s I took a leap of faith and hosted our first 2 week overnight surf camp for 20 teen girls in 2001. For the past 24 years, we've witnessed how vital access to nature, giving back with service projects, & all the healing & lifelong friendships that are created within the safe community like Camp Olowalu. As a company we've weathered so many storms, recession, pandemic, Lahaina wild fires. It would be a major blow to our business to not have a place to conduct our empowering camp programs.

Now more than ever, especially after the Lahaina fire, Maui needs places and programs that provide our residents refuge to heal. In conjunction with my new non-profit Mana O Maui, last January, we provided three Lahaina women free tuition to attend our 7 day overnight program hosted at Camp Olowalu through Maui Surfer Girls. Please allow us to continue to offer these opportunities for Maui residents by not taking away another place of shelter and healing at Camp Olowalu.



**MAUI**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**LATE**

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND  
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 229  
Wednesday, March 13, 2024 AT 1:00 P.M.**

To The Honorable Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Water and Land

**SUPPORT HB1923 HD1 RELATING TO CAMPS**

The Maui Chamber of Commerce **SUPPORTS HB1923 HD1.**

The Chamber notes there was a Hawaii Supreme Court ruling that disallowed camping as a special use in a district that prohibited the use. Here, on Maui, there are four campgrounds in agricultural districts each established before the adoption of the state land use law and considered grandfathered uses. Two campgrounds have special permits expiring in the next year and a half. Based on the Hawaii Supreme Court's ruling, these two campgrounds would need to obtain a district boundary amendment to change the land use classification from agricultural to urban. Changing the land use classification to urban would be a type of spot zoning since the campgrounds are in rural, country type settings with no urban uses in the nearby vicinity.

We support this bill that repeals the prohibition on overnight camps in agricultural districts in order to allow overnight camps to be regulated via the special permit process.

For these reasons, we **SUPPORT HB1923 HD1.**

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap  
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.

**HB-1923-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/9/2024 11:10:08 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/13/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha,**

RELATING TO CAMPS.

Yes to regulation via the special permit process overnight camps in operation prior to January 1, 1961.