

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
KE KE'ENA O KA MEIA
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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LATE

RICK BLANGIARDI
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MICHAEL D. FORMBY
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PO'O HO'OKELE

KRISHNA F. JAYARAM
DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O HO'OKELE

April 6, 2026

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary
415 S. Beretania St., Room 016
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee:

The City and County of Honolulu respectfully submits testimony in opposition to HB1881 SD1.

The City is concerned that this measure would create significant legal and administrative challenges by retroactively impacting projects that have already been reviewed and approved under existing law. Specifically, the City has already issued a Conditional Use Permit (Minor) for a project of the type that this bill seeks to prohibit.

At the time of approval, the permit applicant complied with all applicable zoning, land use, and permitting requirements. The permit was duly processed and granted in accordance with the City's Land Use Ordinance and established administrative procedures. As such, the permit holder has reasonably relied on the validity of that approval. If HB1881 is enacted and applied in a manner that invalidates or requires revocation of previously issued permits, the City could be exposed to substantial legal risk. In particular, the permit holder may assert that such action constitutes a regulatory taking under applicable constitutional law, entitling them to compensation. This could result in costly litigation and potential liability for the City.

Beyond legal exposure, this measure raises broader concerns regarding fairness, predictability, and the integrity of the permitting process. Applicants must be able to rely on approvals granted under existing regulations. Retroactive changes that undermine those approvals may erode public confidence in government processes and discourage investment in projects that comply with current law.

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
And Members of the Committee on Judiciary
April 6, 2026
Page 2

The City acknowledges the Legislature's interest in regulating this type of land use; however, any such changes should be applied prospectively to avoid unintended legal and financial consequences. For these reasons, the City requests that the Committee defer this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should there be any questions, please contact Anthony Miranda, Legislative liaison at 808-768-6608 or via email at anthony.miranda@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Formby', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael D. Formby
Managing Director



April 4, 2026,

RE: SUPPORT FOR HB 1881, HD 1, SD1 PROHIBITING PASSENGER ROPEWAYS ON MOUNTAIN LANDS IN ALL LAND USE DISTRICTS.

Dear Members of the Senate JDC Committee:

Defend Oahu Coalition strongly supports HB1881, HD 1 in order to protect our natural resources from over development; maintaining respect for our aina for the betterment of our residents; and providing for future generations.

Foremost is respecting the aina, which is mother to us and sacred, it's what give us life. With this knowledge to honor our land and further documented in many State of Hawaii Departments' missions and directives, HB1881, HD1, SD1 will accomplish this kuleana.

Furthermore, the time to legislate this protection of our natural resources is needed to consistently uphold the management of our aina, Hawaii. Privatizing natural resources must be prohibited.

Mahalo,
Margaret Primacio
President

Keep the North Shore Country

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhodes, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, April 7, 2026
TIME: 10:15 AM
PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

HB 1881 HD1 SD1 - RELATING TO LAND USE

Prohibits passenger ropeways in all land use districts, with an exemption for a government entity or official government government-recognized corporation or nonprofit organization, subject to legislative approval.

Keep the North Shore Country **supports the prohibition of passenger ropeways** in Hawaii as described in this bill.

As the endangered species capital of the world, Hawaii must remain especially vigilant against developments that may adversely impact our natural resources. Over 500 plant and animal species in our state are listed as endangered or threatened, with a great many of these residing in our upper watersheds, hillsides and mountains.

Passenger ropeways create an unnecessary risk to our endangered and threatened species in valuable habitat that deserves protection. They should not be allowed in Hawaii.

Thank you for moving forward HB1881 HD1 SD1.

HB-1881-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 4:33:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen M. Pahinui	Testifying for North Shore NB #27	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha -

The North Shore NB #27 supports restricting these types of rides on the sides of our mauna. They degrade the cultural significance of nā kuahiwi. We must respect and protect the beauty of our ‘āina.

Mālama ‘āina,

Kathleen M Pahinui

HB-1881-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 8:15:20 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Taylor	Testifying for Kaukonahua Ranch	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Committee:

Kaukonahua Ranch submits this testimony in strong **opposition** to HB 1881 (HD1). This bill would prohibit passenger ropeways—including gondolas and aerial tramways—on mountain lands across **all** land use districts statewide. While presented as a broad land-use policy, it is clearly a targeted effort to override Kaukonahua Ranch’s existing, permitted project. As such, we urge the Committee to **defer or defeat** this bill.

The Kamananui Agribusiness Project Will Deliver Real Public Benefits

The Kamananui Agribusiness project on the 2,300+ acre Kaukonahua Ranch in Waialua will maintain productive agricultural use of prime lands while providing unprecedented public access and community benefits.

- **Unprecedented community access to private lands for recreation and cultural practices:** For generations, these private lands have been off-limits to the public. The Kamananui public access and agribusiness project includes trails, educational programs, and guided access via the gondola, allowing Hawaii residents and visitors to safely access and experience the Kaukonahua Valley through hiking, cultural education, and direct connection to Ranch lands—opportunities not otherwise available from large private landowners in the area.
- **Creation of hundreds of local jobs:** The project is projected to create and sustain **more than 200 permanent jobs** for North Shore residents, along with support for related local businesses. In a region facing limited employment options, this project will provide meaningful economic opportunities without converting agricultural lands to urban or resort developments.
- **Preservation of large, contiguous agricultural lands:** With more than 51% of the Ranch being dedicated to active agriculture and native plant restoration (as required by the project permit), the Kamananui Agribusiness project will ensure low-impact access. Indeed, the structures for this project, including the gondola itself, will ultimately occupy less than 1/1,000th of the Ranch’s total acreage. Keeping the rest in active agriculture and preservation will serve to prevent future subdivision of large open parcels of agricultural lands into smaller “gentleman farms” or estate lots, which is already existing the trend in

the North Shore area, including the lower portions of the Kaukonahua valley, which would fragment the land, reduce agricultural productivity, and further erode the rural and open character of the area—outcomes contrary to Hawaii’s land-use goals and the goals of the North Shore Sustainable Communities Plan.

- **Ropeways are an ideal eco-friendly transportation mode:** Allowing access to the lands using a gondola minimizes the ecological impact and footprint to transport people and agricultural materials across the Kaukonahua Stream Valley's difficult terrain (as opposed to a significant road network and running buses like other operations). This is the primary reason why ropeway systems are utilized globally for transportation of goods and materials. Ropeways have been installed at more than eight (8) UNESCO World Heritage Sites now - showing the value and minimal impact other highly valuable biological and cultural resource sites use a ropeway system as an ideal access tool.
- **Agribusiness allows for better land stewardship:** The gondola planned for the Kaukonahua Ranch is a key piece of the agribusiness. The Agribusiness will now allow to provide the additional resources to manage the lands at a much higher level of stewardship than these lands have ever been managed before. The CUP we operate under has very high standards of biological and cultural resource management that would not be happening if the lands operated without agribusiness activities or if a future land owner looked at highest and best use opportunities that would likely lead to CPR lots being established, which is what most of our neighboring land has become. Our current work we have done to meet conditions include extensive wildfire mitigation work (which successfully stopped an extensive fire in June 2025), AIS study that has informed us on cultural sites that we will protect and restore for educational purposes, A threatened and endangered species study that informed us for future trails and educational programming as just a few examples of stewardship of the land that would not be otherwise happening. The agribusiness operated using the proposed ropeway will allow the 2300 acres to remain intact as one of Oahu's largest active ranches featuring cattle ranching, forestry and crop production that all support the community food needs as well as educate and engage the community and travelers on lands never that have never been accessible before.
- **Ropeways Enhance the Visitor Experience:** Beyond their transport function, ropeways transform the journey itself into an experience. Low impact construction and operations features smooth and quiet transportation, and innovative designs turn the ride into a memorable highlight – often before visitors even reach their final destination. In many global venues, ropeways have become signature attractions that significantly enhance visitor satisfaction and overall destination appeal. For Hawaii, creating more experiences in the Mauka lands helps to disperse the tourism impact that is currently primarily focused on the shorelines of the islands. By providing barrier-free access to previously difficult or unreachable locations, ropeways also open destinations to new target groups. This inclusivity strengthens social participation while increasing visitor numbers and dwell time – key success factors for sustainable tourism development. Many international examples show that ropeways, even in the most culturally sensitive environments, can generate lasting economic value for the community while helping to preserve those natural and cultural resources that make the area special: they stimulate local businesses, create local jobs, extend access for many to new and exciting locations, including local and community organizations. Many have partnered with ropeway

operators and landowners to set up and maintain community-focused operations in areas that were previously inaccessible. Everywhere ropeways have been installed globally, the ropeway operations and relevant land areas have enhanced the global visibility of such projects and community partnerships.

- **Proven Value for Destinations and Regions:** Ropeway systems have repeatedly proven to be powerful drivers of regional economic development. They help distribute visitor flows more evenly, reduce congestion, and connect venues seamlessly with existing transportation systems. As a result, destinations benefit from improved accessibility, increased access, and more predictable visitor management.

This integrated approach supports agriculture, jobs, public access, and cultural stewardship in a balanced way.

HB 1881 Improperly and unconstitutionally Targets One Specific Landowner and One Already-Permitted Project

Despite its general wording, HB 1881 is special legislation designed to single out **Kaukonahua Ranch and the Kamananui project**. Representative Sean Quinlan, the bill's primary sponsor and the representative for the affected North Shore district, has openly admitted in public statements and to the media that the bill is intended to stop this specific, already-permitted development. This was made clear in a July 30, 2025, joint neighborhood board meeting (covered both in the public record and in the November 2025 issue of HONOLULU Magazine ("Keep Country, Country," available at <https://www.honolulumagazine.com/keep-country-country/>)." The article clarifies that, **in response to the project**, Quinlan proposed the bill to ban gondolas outright on any Hawai'i mountain, contending that, if passed and signed, it "could quash at least part of the Mount Ka'ala plan."

This public admission makes the targeting intent clear and unmistakable. The Kamananui agribusiness project already holds a **conditional use permit** from the City Department of Planning and Permitting (issued in 2019). Kaukonahua Ranch has relied on that permit and has been working for years to ensure that implementation of the project is handled wisely and appropriately, taking into account feedback from neighbors, agencies, regulators, community members, and many others. A statewide ban—triggered by specific criteria that covers only the Kamananui Agribusiness project (e.g., over 1,000 feet elevation on mountains). This raises grave constitutional issues for HB 1881:

- It operates as an improper **bill of attainder**, imposing legislative punishment on one landowner without judicial process.
- It violates **due process and equal protection** by arbitrarily discriminating against one permitted project, without a rational, non-pretextual basis.
- It stands to potentially impair **vested property rights** established under the 2019 permit and may constitute an uncompensated regulatory taking under the Hawaii and U.S. Constitutions.

Representative Quinlan's own words in the neighborhood board meetings, and his quotes cited HONOLULU Magazine article, demonstrate that the bill is not neutral policy but a targeted

intervention. The legislature should not allow the legislative process to be improperly subverted in such a manner. Particularly when many residents support and welcome the project, as opposed to the vocal project opponents that Representative Quinlan is assisting and speaking to via HB 1881.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **defer HB 1881**. Allow the established local permitting process and to proceed with addressing any concerns about the Kamananui project.

Mahalo for considering this testimony.

We remain available for any questions.

Mark "Skip" Taylor



Hawaii's Thousand Friends

335 Hahani Street #342132 * Kailua, HI 96734 * Phone/Fax (808) 262-0682 E-Mail: htf3000@gmail.com

April 7, 2026

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhodes, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

HB 1881 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO LAND USE

Hawaii's Thousand Friends is a statewide non-profit water and land use planning organization dedicated to protecting the environment, human health, and cultural and natural resources. **We support HB 1881.**

We agree that passenger ropeways should be prohibited in Hawaii. Culturally and environmentally, there is great opposition to this type of activity, as we clearly see with the controversial project proposed on the side of Mount Kaala.

Our mountains, slopes and hills provide essential habitat for native species, which are under continuous threat of invasive species, climate change and mismanagement of the land. Not all land is meant to be exploited for commercial purposes and passenger ropeways are inappropriate in Hawaii.

Thank you for supporting this bill.

Letter of Testimony

Salt Lake City, March 2026

Ropeways as a High-Value Solution for Points of Interest

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Doppelmayr Group, we are pleased to provide this letter of testimony highlighting ropeway systems as safe, reliable, efficient and low impact mobility solution for Points of Interest (POIs) worldwide.

With a history of more than 130 years, the Doppelmayr Group has been dedicated to the development, installation, and operation of state-of-the-art ropeway solutions worldwide. During this time, we have successfully completed close to 16,000 ropeway installations across 100 countries, serving a wide variety of applications – from iconic mountain regions, impressive tourist attractions and cultural landmarks to natural wonders and leisure destinations as well as urban settings. This long-standing experience forms the foundation of our technological leadership and our deep understanding of how ropeways can unlock the full potential of a destination.

Ropeways: Safe, Reliable and Low-Impact Mobility

Ropeways are among the safest and most reliable transport systems available today. Designed for continuous operation in demanding environments, they ensure stable performance, high availability, and predictable capacity – even under challenging topographical or climatic conditions. Their proven technology enables the safe transport of large numbers of visitors every day while maintaining a high level of comfort and accessibility for all user groups, including families, elderly visitors, and people with reduced mobility.

At the same time, ropeways are a low-impact mobility solution. With minimal land use, low noise emissions, and energy-efficient operation, they integrate harmoniously into sensitive natural and cultural landscapes. This makes them particularly well suited for POIs where environmental protection, heritage conservation, and visual integrity are paramount. Numerous projects worldwide demonstrate that ropeways can improve accessibility without compromising the character of a destination.

Enhancing the Visitor Experience

Beyond their transport function, ropeways transform the journey itself into an experience. Spectacular views, smooth and quiet operation, and innovative designs turn the ride into a memorable highlight – often before visitors even reach their final destination. In many POIs, ropeways have become signature attractions that significantly enhance visitor satisfaction and overall destination appeal.

By providing barrier-free access to previously difficult or unreachable locations, ropeways also open destinations to new target groups. This inclusivity strengthens social participation while increasing visitor numbers and dwell time – key success factors for sustainable tourism development.

Many international examples show that ropeways, even in the most culturally sensitive environments, can generate lasting economic value for the community while helping to preserve those natural and cultural resources that make the area special: they stimulate local businesses, create local jobs, extend access for many to new and exciting locations, including local and community organizations. Many have partnered with ropeway operators and landowners to set up and maintain community-focused operations in areas that were previously inaccessible. Everywhere ropeways have been installed, the ropeway operations and relevant land areas have enhanced the global visibility of such projects and community partnerships.

Proven Value for Destinations and Regions

Ropeway systems have repeatedly proven to be powerful drivers of regional development. They help distribute visitor flows more evenly, reduce congestion, and connect POIs seamlessly with existing transport infrastructure. As a result, destinations benefit from improved accessibility, increased capacity, and more predictable visitor management.

Global Experience, Local Solutions

With installations across all continents – from urban leisure destinations and UNESCO World Heritage Sites to remote natural landmarks – the Doppelmayr Group combines global experience with locally tailored solutions. Each project is developed in close cooperation with stakeholders, ensuring that technical design, capacity, and integration are precisely aligned with the specific requirements of the site and its visitors.

Our approach extends far beyond construction. We support projects from initial feasibility studies through implementation and long-term operation, ensuring reliability, safety, and sustained value over the entire lifecycle of a ropeway system.

Conclusion

Based on more than a century of experience and thousands of successfully realized projects worldwide, we are convinced that ropeways represent an exceptional solution for Points of Interest. They combine safety, reliability, comfort, and sustainability with a unique ability to create memorable experiences and long-term economic value.

We therefore strongly support the consideration of ropeway systems as an integral component of future-oriented destination development and remain at your disposal to share our expertise and insights.

Yours sincerely,

Doppelmayr Group

LATE



April 7, 2026

TESTIMONY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS
To the Senate Committee on Judiciary
In Support of

HB1881 HD1 SD1- RELATING TO LAND USE

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the committee:

The Association of Hawaii Civic Clubs **supports** HB 1881 HD1 SD1 Relating to Land Use, which would create a statutory prohibition on Passenger Ropeways on Hawai'i mountain lands in all state land use districts.

Hawai'i is home to some of the most ecologically diverse and sensitive lands in the world, especially within some of our mountain areas. Establishing the prohibition on Passenger Ropeways, including the proposed Ka'ala gondola project, is an important step toward ensuring protection from commercial development intruding upon our fragile mauka environments under the guise of agricultural use.

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs supported adoption of a statutory kapu or prohibition on commercial and non-agricultural development of the entire Wai'anae mountain range as noted in the attached Resolution No. 2025-83 adopted at our annual convention held in Keauhou, Hawai'i last year.

HB 1881 HD1 SD1 provides a clear statutory framework for a prohibition on Passenger Ropeways on Hawai'i mauka lands across all districts. Establishing this statewide policy will help protect Hawai'i's mauka lands for future generations while preserving the cultural, environmental, and watershed values these landscapes provide.

Founded by Prince Kūhiō in 1918, the Hawaiian Civic Club movement is the oldest Native Hawaiian community-based advocacy movement. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs is a not-for-profit confederation of 60 individual and autonomous Hawaiian Civic Clubs and 3,500 members located across Hawai'i and across the continental United States.

We appreciate your favorable consideration of this measure.

ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

A RESOLUTION

NO. 2025 - 83

URGING THE HAWAI'I STATE LEGISLATURE TO PLACE A STATUTORY KAPU (PROHIBITION) ON COMMERCIAL AND NON-AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE WAI'ANAЕ MOUNTAIN RANGE TO PROTECT SACRED LANDS, BIODIVERSITY, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE

WHEREAS, the Wai'anae mountain range is the oldest mountain range on the island of O'ahu and includes Ka'ala, its highest peak, a wao akua and sacred place in Native Hawaiian worldview; and

WHEREAS, the mountain range holds profound cultural significance as a storied and revered landscape featured in oli, mo'olelo, mo'okū'auhau and 'aha; and

WHEREAS, the Wai'anae range is home to some of the most fragile and biodiverse ecosystems in the Hawaiian islands, including rare and endangered species such as the kāhuli, 'apapane, 'o'opu, 'ohe mauka, koli'i, 'ape'ape, and the pueo, among many others; and

WHEREAS, despite its ecological and cultural importance, the Wai'anae mountains continue to be targeted for commercial development under the guise of agricultural use, threatening permanent harm to both the 'āina and kānaka; and

WHEREAS, the concept of kapu reflects traditional Native Hawaiian systems of governance and protection, wherein specific places, species, and practices are safeguarded from disturbance or desecration in perpetuity; and

WHEREAS, placing a statutory kapu on development across the Wai'anae mountain range would align with the State's constitutional commitment to protect all rights customarily and traditionally exercised by Native Hawaiians, as stated in Article XII, Section 7 of the Hawai'i State Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the continued exploitation of sacred and ecologically sensitive mountain lands for short-term commercial gain undermines long-term sustainability, climate resilience, and the spiritual and cultural continuity of future generations; and

WHEREAS, this resolution has the full support of Ke One o Kākuhihewa, as affirmed by a vote of the Council at its duly noticed meeting held on August 9, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 66th Annual Convention in Keauhou, Hawai‘i, in the malama of Welehu and the rising of Mōhalu, this 1st day of November 2025, urging the Hawai‘i State Legislature to place a statutory kapu (prohibition) on commercial and non-agricultural development across the Wai‘anae mountain range to protect sacred lands, biodiversity, and Native Hawaiian cultural heritage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), the DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife, and the State Historic Preservation Division, as well as the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, President of the State Senate, Speaker of the State House of Representatives, Chair of the State Senate subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the State House subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and all County Mayors.



The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted in the malama of Welehu and the rising of Mōhalu, on the 1st day of November 2025, at the 66th Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Keauhou, Hawai‘i.

DreanaLee Kalili

DreanaLee Kalili, President

HB-1881-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 12:31:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Archuleta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for **HB1881 SD1**. This measure ensures that our land use districts remain protected from unregulated private transit developments that could impact our natural landscapes and community aesthetics.

By restricting passenger ropeways to government-vetted entities and requiring legislative approval, this bill provides a necessary layer of public accountability and environmental oversight. It ensures that such significant infrastructure projects are only undertaken when they serve a clear public interest and have undergone rigorous state-level review.

I urge the committee to pass this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I am writing to express my strong support for **HB1881 SD1**. This measure ensures that our land use districts remain protected from unregulated private transit developments that could impact our natural landscapes and community aesthetics.

By restricting passenger ropeways to government-vetted entities and requiring legislative approval, this bill provides a necessary layer of public accountability and environmental oversight. It ensures that such significant infrastructure projects are only undertaken when they serve a clear public interest and have undergone rigorous state-level review.

I urge the committee to pass this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1881-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 5:05:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Chun	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Life time resident of Haleiwa. Former Waiialua High teacher. I can't believe any resident would be in favor of this outlandish destruction of our beautiful area. I know of absolutely no long time resident , tax payer in favor of allowing a gandola situation. I strongly oppose this bill

HB-1881-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 8:35:52 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Pao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of Bill HB1881.

I have been a resident of Hale‘iwa for over 50 years, and I have witnessed firsthand the significant changes our small town has undergone. The rapid growth in recent years has already placed considerable strain on our infrastructure, and our community simply cannot support additional commercial development.

The proposal suggesting an estimated 1,700 visitors per day is deeply concerning. Our roads—particularly the two-lane access routes in and out of the North Shore—are already operating beyond capacity. Increased traffic would not only worsen daily congestion but could also compromise emergency access and evacuation safety, especially in light of the recent storms that have already highlighted our vulnerabilities.

Equally important is the preservation of our natural and cultural resources. Our ‘āina is precious and has been increasingly exploited. The idea of constructing a gondola or introducing any commercial recreational activity on Mt. Ka‘ala is especially troubling. Mt. Ka‘ala is a sacred mountain, and such development would be a profound disrespect to the cultural and spiritual significance it holds for the people of this community.

This bill represents an important step toward protecting both the integrity of our land and the quality of life for North Shore residents. I strongly urge you to support and pass HB1881.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Diane Pao

HB-1881-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 8:35:52 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Pao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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I have been a resident of Hale‘iwa for over 50 years, and I have witnessed firsthand the significant changes our small town has undergone. The rapid growth in recent years has already placed considerable strain on our infrastructure, and our community simply cannot support additional commercial development.

The proposal suggesting an estimated 1,700 visitors per day is deeply concerning. Our roads—particularly the two-lane access routes in and out of the North Shore—are already operating beyond capacity. Increased traffic would not only worsen daily congestion but could also compromise emergency access and evacuation safety, especially in light of the recent storms that have already highlighted our vulnerabilities.

Equally important is the preservation of our natural and cultural resources. Our ‘āina is precious and has been increasingly exploited. The idea of constructing a gondola or introducing any commercial recreational activity on Mt. Ka‘ala is especially troubling. Mt. Ka‘ala is a sacred mountain, and such development would be a profound disrespect to the cultural and spiritual significance it holds for the people of this community.

This bill represents an important step toward protecting both the integrity of our land and the quality of life for North Shore residents. I strongly urge you to support and pass HB1881.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Diane Pao

HB-1881-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 8:54:35 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denise E Antolini	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha JDC Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I strongly support HB1881 - to ban aerial "ropeways" in Hawai'i - in all land use districts.

The SD1 amendments made very good changes (mahalo to Senatore Lee!) but a few loose ends remain on the wording.

Now the bill just needs some *housekeeping amendments* to make the language clearer and consistent throughout the sections and to add a severability clause.

I am happy to provide suggestions on those clarifying amendments at your convenience.

The clear intent of the bill is to protect Hawai'i from aerial ropeways in all forms - these kinds of structures are inconsistent with our islands' cultural, social, land use, and environmental values.

The very limited exceptions in SD1 (single family home, government purpose) should be more strictly worded to avoid evasion by private commercial interests.

Mahalo for moving this forward to conference with housekeeping and clarifying amendments!

Denise Antolini

Pūpūkea resident, O'ahu

HB-1881-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 8:57:50 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Kirk-Kuwaye	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair and Members,

I support HB 1881. Hard to imagine gondolas amidst the clouds and waterfalls as you drive up the Pali and Likelike.

HB-1881-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:33:03 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine L. Andrews, J.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Christine Andrews. I am a lawyer and long-term resident of Wailuku, Maui. I have just learned about this bill, and write to you today in strong support. In my neighborhood there have been rumors that a for-profit entity is interested in putting up a zipline or other kind of artificial transportation device in the West Maui mountains above my home. We do not need anymore visitor-centered intrusions on our mountains impacting fragile native ecosystems. I strongly support this bill and respectfully request your vote in support as well.

Mahalo nui,

Christine Andrews

LATE

HB-1881-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 1:57:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Philips	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure, which appropriately prohibits the use of passenger ropeways across all land use districts, with limited and accountable exceptions, as it helps safeguard Hawai‘i’s unique cultural landscapes and fragile mountain ecosystems . Our upland areas are not only environmentally sensitive, serving as critical watersheds, native habitat, and erosion buffers, but are also deeply rooted in Native Hawaiian cultural practices, ‘ike, and spiritual connection to the ‘āina. Introducing permanent infrastructure such as aerial tramways or lifts risks irreversible impacts to these resources, including habitat disruption, visual degradation, and potentially restricted access to traditional gathering and cultural sites. This measure reflects a thoughtful and precautionary approach, ensuring that any future consideration of such developments remains under legislative oversight, while prioritizing the protection of Hawai‘i’s natural and cultural heritage for future generations.

LATE

HB-1881-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 6:56:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT for HB1881 HD1 SD1

Prohibit passenger ropeways in all land use districts, with an exemption for a government entity or official government government-recognized corporation or nonprofit organization, subject to legislative approval.

Mahalo