

**HCR-165**

Submitted on: 4/13/2026 7:41:03 PM

Testimony for EIG on 4/16/2026 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Grace Ong-Burd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Grace Ong-Burd, and I live in Hawai'i Kai. I'm writing in strong support of HCR165.

I play at Kamilo'iki a few times a week, and the pickleball community out here has really grown.

Permanent nets would keep the courts consistently playable for all residents, without the hurdle of setting up temporary equipment.

The addition of court lighting is a matter of both accessibility and safety. Currently, working residents and families are unable to utilize the courts after sundown. Lighting would extend the courts' utility into the evening, providing a safe, well-lit environment.

This would be a wonderful addition for the Hawai'i Kai community, and I respectfully urge the committee to pass HCR165.

Sincerely,

Grace Ong-Burd

**HCR-165**

Submitted on: 4/13/2026 7:48:02 PM

Testimony for EIG on 4/16/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mel Ona	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HCR165 (2026)**

Kamilo Iki Community Park Pickleball Improvements

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

My name is Dr. Mel Ona, and I am a resident of East Honolulu. I write in strong support of HCR165, which advances the installation of permanent lighting and pickleball infrastructure at Kamilo Iki Community Park.

This resolution builds directly upon meaningful progress already made in our community. On March 25, 2026, the Honolulu City Council adopted Resolution 26-045, accepting a gift from my wife, Jennifer, our pickleball community, and me to install three permanent pickleball net systems at the park. This initial phase represents half of the six dedicated courts and reflects both the growing demand and the community’s commitment to activating this space.

I am also grateful that the House version of this resolution has already passed (4/7/26), reflecting strong support for this initiative. This concurrent resolution provides an important opportunity to reinforce that momentum and move this vision forward.

Since that approval, we have already seen strong community engagement and enthusiasm around this project. Pickleball has become a unifying force, bringing together families, keiki, working adults, and kupuna in a shared space of movement, connection, and joy. It is one of the rare activities that transcends age, skill level, and background.

However, without adequate lighting, access remains limited. Many residents, especially those who work during the day, are unable to fully utilize the courts. The addition of permanent lighting will extend safe playing hours, increase accessibility, and maximize the value of an already activated public space.

As a physician, I see firsthand the consequences of sedentary lifestyles, social isolation, and chronic disease. Investments like this are not merely recreational; they are preventive health measures. They promote physical activity, mental well-being, and community engagement in a way that is both sustainable and inclusive.

HCR165 represents a thoughtful and forward-looking investment in the health, safety, and spirit of our community. It completes the vision that has already begun and ensures that Kamilo Iki Community Park can serve as a vibrant hub for years to come.

I respectfully urge your strong support of this resolution.

Mahalo to Representative Joe Gedeon for his leadership in introducing this measure and for his dedication to our community.

With gratitude and aloha,  
Dr. Mel A. Ona  
East Honolulu Resident

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
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CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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**LATE**

RICK BLANGIARDI  
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MEIA



LAURA H. THIELEN  
DIRECTOR  
PO'O

KĒHAULANI R. PU'U  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
HOPE PO'O

April 15, 2026

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee:

Subject: HCR 165 – Requesting the City and County of Honolulu  
Department of Parks and Recreation to Install Permanent Pickleball Nets  
and Court Lighting at the Tennis Courts at Kamiloiki Community Park

The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), City and County of Honolulu is in **OPPOSITION** to HCR 165 which requests the Department of Parks and Recreation to install permanent pickleball nets and court lighting at the tennis courts at Kamiloiki Community Park.

Currently, Kamiloiki Community Park has six (6) dedicated pickleball courts of which three (3) courts will have permanent pickleball nets. However, DPR is not able to support the request for court lighting at Kamiloiki Community Park tennis courts. Should the State Legislature dedicate funds for lighting for the tennis courts, DPR would move forward with the lighting project.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding HCR 165.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura H. Thielen".

✍️ Laura H. Thielen, Director  
Department of Parks and Recreation

**LATE**

**HCR-165**

Submitted on: 4/16/2026 8:53:57 AM

Testimony for EIG on 4/16/2026 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tina Cheng	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I respectfully oppose HCR165. While I support recreational access and growing interest in pickleball. This bill raises concerns to long term community impact, misuse, and loss of shared space flexibility.

1. Permanent lighting introduces misuse. Extended nighttime use will increase noise complaints for nearby residents as myself. Once lighting is installed, it will be difficult to control hours of operations.
2. Permanent nets changes the purpose of multi use courts and reduces adaptability for future community needs.
3. The proposal doesn't clearly address operations oversight, maintenance costs or any form of enforcement plan.

I would suggest, keeping the court as is, where it is multi use, and no addition of court lights, so that the homeowners who live in the surround areas are not impacted from informal night use, light pollution and safety concerns. Any significant changes should be evaluated with long term neighbor impact in mind. At a time of limited public resources, funding should be directed towards needs that benefit the entire community, not towards permanent upgrades that primarily serve a narrow segment of users.