



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

House Committee on Finance

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

10:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 308 and Videoconference

In Support

House Bill No. 1800, Relating to the State Budget

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

The Office of the Governor supports H.B. No. 1800, Relating to the State Budget. This bill adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2025-2027 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

The Office of the Governor respectfully requests one (1) operating budget request of \$100,000 in non-recurring funds to support gubernatorial transition costs for FY 2027. This request is made pursuant to Section 30-6, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, which authorizes funding to ensure continuity of executive branch operations and an orderly transition process. These funds will support administrative, staffing, and operational needs associated with the transition and are necessary to maintain effective executive branch operations and coordination across state departments.

As Hawai'i navigates ongoing fiscal and operational challenges, continuity within the executive branch remains critical. The Office of the Governor remains committed to working collaboratively with the Legislature, state agencies, community partners, and the private sector to respond to Hawaii's most pressing needs. We value transparency and accessibility and appreciate the Legislature's continued support as we work together to address the State's highest priorities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2026**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 1800, RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

DATE: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 **TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 308

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Brenden B. Kinoshita, Administrative Services Manager

Chair Todd and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) strongly supports this bill, specifically, those appropriations within the budget that provide funding for the continued operations of the Department for the remainder of the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium.

Among the Department's requests for fiscal year 2026-2027 are an increase to the Department's line-item budget for litigation to address increasing litigation costs and fees, non-general fund adjustments to meet state funding match requirements for federal funds, and some cost-neutral housekeeping adjustments to better align the Department's budget with its programmatic and organizational structure. The Department's budget also includes a request from the administratively attached Law Enforcement Standards Board (LESB); the Department defers to the testimony of the LESB regarding its budget request, which is submitted independently from the Department.

Altogether, these budget requests ensure the Department's ability and capacity to continue to deliver high quality legal services on behalf of the State and that the Department's budget accurately reflects its current programs and activities.

We thank the Committee for allowing the Department to provide testimony and respectfully ask the Committee to pass this bill with the requested appropriations.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

SETH S. COLBY
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

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

TESTIMONY BY SETH S. COLBY, Ph.D.
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1800

March 11, 2026
10:00 a.m.
Room 308 and Videoconference

RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

The Department of Budget and Finance strongly supports this bill.

House Bill No. 1800 is the FY 27 Executive Supplemental Budget bill. It amends Act 250, SLH 2025, to make adjustments to the Executive operating and capital improvement program FY 27 appropriations to address priority program requirements.

The Administration limited the supplemental budget requests submitted to the Legislature to control growth of the State budget. This is a key component of our efforts to ensure the State general fund financial plan is sound. The Committee has heard detailed testimony from all of the Executive departments and agencies regarding their limited supplemental budget requests. Departmental staffs have also responded to your Committee staff's questions and provided the additional information requested.

The Administration believes that we have sound justification for the supplemental budget requests that have been submitted and urge the Committee to pass the bill with minimal amendments.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

JOSH GREEN M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

Ka 'Oihana 'Auhau
P.O. BOX 259

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

GARY S. SUGANUMA
DIRECTOR

KRISTEN M.R. SAKAMOTO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**TESTIMONY OF
GARY S. SUGANUMA, DIRECTOR OF TAXATION**

TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. No. 1800, Relating to the State Budget

BEFORE THE:

House Committee on Finance

DATE: Wednesday, March 11, 2026

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 308

Chair Todd, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Taxation (DOTAX) supports H.B. 1800, which adjusts and makes supplemental appropriations for the operations and capital improvement projects of the Executive Branch for the fiscal biennium 2025 to 2027.

DOTAX's budget requests include a transfer of funding for the Tax Review Commission from fiscal year (FY) 2026 to FY 2027 and other cost-neutral, but essential, transfers to support the department's operations.

DOTAX requests that the Committee pass this bill with the requested adjustments. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

H.B. 1800

MARCH 11, 2026, 10:00 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 308 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill (H.B.) 1800, Relating to the State Budget, which adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2025-2027 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) **supports** the Governor's executive budget. We are seeking funding for critical needs in support of our goal to provide quality and consistency in the delivery of essential support services to other State departments and agencies. The following are highlights of our approved budget requests.

- I. Operating Budget – Highlights of our Executive Operating Budget items included in this measure:
 - Adds \$211,000,000 in revolving fund ceiling in FY 27 for State Risk Management & Insurance Administration for the expenditure/distribution of insurance proceeds for the Maui wildfires recovery.
 - Adds \$728,927 and 3.00 FTE in FY 27 to establish the Special Project Branch within the Public Works Division.

- Adds \$1,065,000 in FY 27 for utilities, statewide, including electricity, water, and sewer.
- Increases revolving fund ceiling by \$1,300,000 in FY 27 for electrical infrastructure and equipment to support electrical vehicle chargers for the Automotive Management Division – Motor Pool.
- Increases revolving fund ceiling by \$500,000 in FY 27 for maintenance and modernization projects for the Automotive Management Division – Parking Control.
- Adds \$326,882 and 2.00 FTE in FY 27 for the State Building Code Council.
- Adds \$36,888 for the Hawaii Broadband Office in FY 27 for salaries.

II. CIP Budget - DAGS appreciates the support included for CIP in the Executive Budget for the following items:

- Adds \$30,500,000 in FY 27 for Lump Sum Maintenance, of existing facilities, statewide.

Lastly, while not included in the Governor's executive budget, DAGS requests that the Hawaii Broadband Office program budget be transferred into its own Program ID (AGS-895/AH) as established by the Department of Budget and Finance. This change would ensure that the Hawaii Broadband Office is properly reflected as an administratively attached agency and ensure accurate representation within the department's budget structure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



JOSH GREEN, M. D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

BRENN A. HASHIMOTO
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

BRIAN K. FURUTO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMŌHALA LIMAHANA
235 S. BERETANIA STREET
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Statement of
BRENN A. HASHIMOTO
Director, Department of Human Resources Development

Before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Wednesday, March 11, 2026
10:00AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HB1800, RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and the members of the committee:

The purpose of HB1800 is to adjust and request appropriations for fiscal biennium 2025-2027 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

The Department of Human Resources Development (HRD) strongly supports HB1800 as it relates to our biennium budget requests.

Program ID: HRD102	Priority: 1 of 2	FY26	0.00	\$	0
		FY27	3.00	\$306,144	
Description of Request <i>Add 3.00 Positions and Funds for ESD (Employee Staffing Division Recruitment and Outreach).</i>					

The request to institutionalize the 3.00 ESD FTEs as permanent positions will ensure that the progress made in recruiting efforts is preserved. These positions are currently exempt from civil service, temporary, and funded with ARPA funds that expire in September 2026. The team's focus is to promote and market the State as an employer of choice; engage in targeted outreach and relationship building with schools, colleges, universities, and other sources of talent to develop pathways to State jobs; utilize social media and employment-related social networking tools to actively engage candidates, particularly in hard-to-fill occupations; and, on behalf of all State agencies, organize, coordinate, and participate in in-person recruiting events throughout the state.

The team’s accomplishments are substantial, and it is critical to sustain the momentum of its success. This team has enhanced recruitment and outreach capabilities within ESD, enabling the State to meet its workforce needs more effectively. Without this funding and resources, ESD remains constrained in its ability to attract and retain top-tier talent, and the State will revert to facing an annually increasing vacancy rate as occurred from 2015 through 2023 – affecting the State's ability to deliver critical public services effectively.

Program achievements include:

- 116 statewide events, including job fairs, campus outreach, and rapid-hiring events over the last two years
- 12 rapid-hire events resulting in 910 applications and, to date, the hiring of over 134 candidates
- OHHI has resulted in over 8,900 applications processed and 236 positions filled under OHHI
- Reduction in overall vacancy rate from approximately 26.7% to 22%, when excluding newly appropriated positions
- Increased branding and advertising through Consolidated Theatres, TheBus, UH Athletics, shopping malls, and digital platforms (LinkedIn and Meta)
- Created partnerships with UH, U.S. Department of Defense SkillBridge, and community organizations to build career pipelines

Program ID: HRD102	Priority: 2 of 2	FY26	0.00	\$ 0
		FY27	2.00	\$217,372
Description of Request <i>Add 2.00 Positions and Funds for PTO (Employee Records and Transactions).</i>				

The requested 2.00 FTE HRMS Analyst positions are currently temporary, exempt from civil service, and funded with ARPA funds that expire in September 2026.

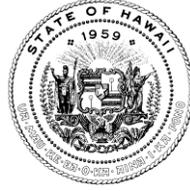
The PTO team is:

- Working to review legacy processes and provide recommendations to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of human resources components within HIP, as well as explore other opportunities to integrate systems
- Streamlining processes by reducing redundancy, integrating data, and developing a catalog of standardized reports to support human resources analysis and informed decision-making
- Responsible for auditing hires, separations, reallocations, and other employee transactions, and ensuring the required quality of transactions to maintain compliance with statute, policies, executive orders, and other authoritative guidance
- Serving in a significant role for the EFS and ERP implementations, by collaborating directly with AGS and project consultants to deliver a smooth integration with HRMS, the executive branch’s authoritative system of record

There is a need for these positions, as reflected in the 15% increase in transactions from the previous fiscal year. Without these positions, maintaining the centralized, comprehensive human resources information system within the executive branch will remain inefficient, and staff will continue to be inundated with routine tasks. Most importantly, we would jeopardize the timely and accurate processing of employees' pay and benefits, as well as their employment security.

Further, HRD recognizes the Legislature's interest in ensuring streamlined HRD operations to best support line departments. To that end, ESD administered a Recruitment Priorities Survey as part of HRD's data collection efforts to support tracking and analysis of departments' recruitment priorities, needs and related considerations. HRD will meet with individual departments to discuss survey results and develop actionable plans.

HRD appreciates the Legislature's support. We are aware of the challenges ahead and remain committed to work with the Legislature to seek solutions that effectively balance short and long-term priorities. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. We are available to answer any questions or provide further information as needed.



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
KA 'OIHANA PILI KĀLEPA
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JOSH GREEN, M.D.
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SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

NADINE Y. ANDO
DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

DEAN I HAZAMA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
House Committee on Finance**

**Wednesday, March 11, 2026
10:00 a.m.**

Conference Room 308 State Capitol & Via Videoconference

**On the following measure:
H.B. 1800, RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET**

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nadine Ando, and I am the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (Department). The Department supports this bill.

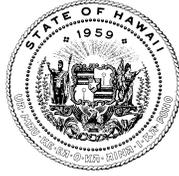
The purpose of this bill is to adjust and request appropriations for fiscal biennium 2025-2027 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

We appreciate the Committee's time at our budget briefing in January and we continue to support our submitted budget requests. For the Committee's information, the relevant program appropriations for the Department are on pages 59 to 61 of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

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

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



KALI WATSON
CHAIRPERSON, HHC
Ka Luna Ho'okele

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

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

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF KALI WATSON, CHAIR
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON MARCH 11, 2026 AT 10:00AM IN CR 308

IN SUPPORT OF

HB 1800, RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

March 11, 2026

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1800. The Governor's Supplemental Budget request for FY 2027 includes funding to support the Department's existing personnel, administrative and operating costs. This budget adds \$23 million in revolving funds to align with projected expenditures of NAHASDA and \$19.192 million for lump sum repair and maintenance for existing infrastructure.

The Hawaiian Homes Commission (HHC) approved the "Sufficient Sums" budget request, which the Department submitted to the Governor and the Legislature as detailed in our budget testimony that can be reviewed at: https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2026/testimony/Info_Testimony_WAM_01-08-26_HHL.pdf. We are grateful for the Governor's and Legislature's support of the Department. Nevertheless, we kindly ask for your endorsement of the HHC-approved "Sufficient Sums" request to ensure the Department's continued fulfillment of its responsibilities to Native Hawaiians, especially DHHL beneficiaries.

In addition, the Department testifies in strong support of the Governor's budgeted \$2 million Green Fee award to DHHL for wildfire mitigation and community resilience initiatives serving Native Hawaiian homestead communities statewide. DHHL urgently needs these funds to address significant wildfire risks across its homelands. The 2023 Lāhainā wildfire underscored the growing wildfire threat throughout Hawai'i. Many DHHL subdivisions are located in high-risk areas and are surrounded by unmanaged fuels and dry vegetation. The Green Fee funding will support both large-scale land management strategies and homestead-based wildfire preparedness efforts.

DHHL has identified five priority mitigation projects: 6.88 miles of firebreak construction and maintenance in Wai'anae and Nānākuli; fire hazard and erosion mitigation at Lālāmilo Preservation Lands on Hawai'i Island; ground maintenance and firebreak work at Pi'ilani Mai Ke Kai in Anahola, Kaua'i; ground maintenance of dry stream beds on Moloka'i; and maintenance of the Leiali'i Parkway landscape in Maui. These projects focus on fuel reduction, firebreak maintenance, erosion control, and vegetation management in high-risk DHHL homestead areas.

The Green Fee will also support two community initiatives in partnership with the Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO). First, a DHHL-dedicated Firewise Support Specialist will assist 15-20 homestead communities through the Firewise USA© certification process by providing technical assistance, risk assessments, workshops, and mitigation planning support. Second, DHHL will fund 10-15 Homestead Community-Led Wildfire Mitigation projects through grants of \$5,000-\$10,000 per community for defensible space, brush clearing, vegetation removal, and evacuation route maintenance. Participating communities will form Firewise committees and contribute volunteer labor or in-kind support. These investments align with the goals of Act 96, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2025, to strengthen Hawai'i's resilience to climate-driven disasters.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA
P.O. BOX 621
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DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY
CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
Acting Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Wednesday, March 11, 2026
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET**

House Bill 1800 proposes to adjust and request appropriations for fiscal biennium 2025-2027 funding requirements for operation and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill.**

Operating Budget:

The Department respectfully requests for your favorable consideration of the following requests:

LNR 401:

- Increase ceiling in Personal Services to cover reallocation of Position #122913 from Office Assistant III to IV (S-313), \$11,367, MOF B.
- Add position and funds for one (1) Program Specialist V, \$59,722, MOF B.

LNR 402:

- Add 6 positions (.50 FTE each) for the Non-Game grant (two (2) Wildlife Biologist IV, one (1) Natural Resources Management Specialist, and three (3) Forestry & Wildlife Technician IV, \$135,749, MOF N.
- Change MOF of Forester V (#118122) from MOF P (\$71,856) to MOF A \$44,910.
- Transfer out funds from Other Current Expenditures to Personal Services to fund Forester V (#118122): (\$44,910), MOF A.

LNR 407

- Conversion of fifteen (FTE 15.00) unbudgeted positions funded with existing federal grant, \$1,517,510, MOF P.

LNR 801

- Non-recurring ceiling increase for Motor Vehicles, \$250,000, MOF B.
- Non-recurring ceiling increase to procure a vessel, \$150,000, MOF B.
- Ceiling increase for postponed maintenance and repair projects to prevent further deterioration and increased future costs at Small Boat Harbors, \$5,000,000, MOF B.

LNR 804

- Trade-off from Other Current Expenditures to redescribe position (Pseudo No. #92369C) from Abstractor V to Assistant Administrator, EM 07, \$47,223, MOF A.
- Add 6 positions (.50 FTE each) for the Non-Game grant (two (2) Wildlife Biologist IV, one (1) Natural Resources Management Specialist, and three (3) Forestry & Wildlife Technician IV), \$135,749, MOF N.

LNR 806

- Transfer funds from Other Current Expenditures to Personal Services to fund twenty-seven (27) new permanent positions, \$1,646,640, MOF A.

LNR 810

- Increase expenditure ceiling for the redescription of Position #119210 from Office Assistant III to Procurement Specialist I (S-323), \$23,271, MOF B.
- Increase expenditure ceiling to provide supplemental funds for Other Current Expenditures to support the Special Fund Assessment and program positions and activities (S-323), \$74,000, MOF B.

LNR 906

- Conversion of three (3) unbudgeted positions funded with existing federal grant, \$318,355, MOF P.
- Add ceiling to Red Hill Remediation Special Fund (S-379-C), \$2,000,000, MOF B

For the various Program IDs, the Department is also requesting inclusion of the following:

- Federal fund ceiling adjustment is being requested based on currently anticipated federal fund requirements for FY27.

Governor's Message No. 5

- Public Lands Management – Land Management Division (LNR 101)

Add \$7,000,000 in special funds in FY27 to increase the expenditure ceiling for land management activities that include hazardous material remediation, debris removal, and tree trimming.

The Department notes that the following proposed change to the FY27 Supplemental Budget remains pending the Governor’s review and consideration at this time:

- LNR 806: Parks Administration

Request one-time increase in expenditure ceiling of the State Parks Special Fund, Appropriation Account S-312 to fund land management activities, including hazardous materials remediation, debris removal, tree trimming, enforcement, and other related activities necessary to ensure public health and safety on managed state-owned lands, \$3,000,000, MOF B.

Formal Governor’s Message request attached.

While the request below was not included in the Department’s original FY27 Supplemental Budget request, it has been proposed in prior years and was not advanced in the Governor’s Executive Budget. The Department believes this request warrants reconsideration at this time due to sustained workload growth and increased operational demands and its importance in effectively carrying out the Department’s statutory responsibilities. This request results in no net increase in positions or costs and allows the Department to make effective use of existing resources by replacing dormant positions with operational ones.

➤ Request:

- Trade-off UPW positions to HGEA positions. The Department is requesting the deletion of two (2) UPW positions and the establishment of two (2) new HGEA positions to properly align staffing with operational and fiscal realities. This request is cost-neutral.

The Department has identified the following positions under this request:

PROG ID	POS NO.	POSITION TITLE	PERM/TEMP (P/T)
LNR906	13332	Accountant IV	P
LNR906	118680	Accountant IV	P

*** A detailed description of the LNR906 Request for Consideration and Budget Inclusion is attached.

Capital Improvement Program Budget:

The Department respectfully requests your support for the projects as outlined in HB1800 and Governor’s Message #5. A list of the Department’s requests is attached.

In addition, the Department requests the inclusion of a pending Governor’s Message CIP budget request to support a critical irrigation system associated with Lake Wilson, which supplies water to farmers in Wahiawa, Waialua, and Haleiwa on the island of Oahu. Lake Wilson also serves as an important recreational and community resource for the surrounding area and the State.

- LNR 806: Parks Administration
Lake Wilson Acquisition, Oahu (MOF B)

Add \$4,000,000 for plans, design, and construction to conduct additional testing for contamination and environmental hazards to implement remediation measures and debris removal to protect public health and safety, to ensure compliance with Hawaii Department of Health requirements, and perform related work.

In light of the Department’s anticipated acquisition of the Lake Wilson parcels pursuant to Act 218, SLH 2023, this funding is urgently needed to address existing hazards and ensure the continued reliability of agricultural operations, the community water supply, and public use of this important resource.

The Department offers the following, additional comments:

- The Department’s mission is to enhance protect, conserve, and manage Hawai’i’s unique and limited natural, cultural, and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of the people of Hawai’i nei, and its visitors, in partnership with others from public and private sectors.
- Projects were selected and prioritized based on wildfire recovery, public safety, compliance, and public trust resource protection, in accordance with statutory mandates that guide the Department’s vision, mission, goals and objectives to manage resources for the benefit of the public, and to protect the resources and the public.

Operating and CIP Budget Requests – Green Fee:

The Department respectfully requests your support for the attached requests associated with the Green Fee proposal. These requests will provide critical resources to support the protection, management, and maintenance of Hawai’i’s natural and cultural resources impacted by increasing visitor use.

Funding generated through the Green Fee will help enhance resource stewardship, improve the maintenance of state-managed lands and facilities, and ensure the long-term sustainability of these areas for residents and visitors alike.

The Department appreciates your consideration and respectfully requests your support.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

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DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARK

February 20, 2026

TO: The Honorable Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawaii

THROUGH: Seth S. Colby, Ph.D., Director
Department of Budget and Finance

FROM: Ryan K.P. Kanaka'ole, Acting Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources

SUBJECT: Governor's Message Request for Amendments to the Department of Land and Natural Resources' FB 2025-27 Supplemental Budget Request

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Kanaka'ole".

We respectfully submit the following proposed changes to the FB 2025-27 Supplemental Budget Request under LNR806 (Parks Administration) for your consideration as Governor's Message Items:

1. Adjustment to the FB 2025-27 Supplemental Operating Budget Request

LNR806: Parks Administration

- Request one-time increase in expenditure ceiling of the State Parks Special Fund, Appropriation Account S-312 to fund land management activities, including hazardous materials remediation, debris removal, tree trimming, enforcement, and other related activities necessary to ensure public health and safety on managed state-owned lands (MOF B, \$3,000,000)

2. Adjustment to the FB 2025-27 Supplemental CIP Budget Request

LNR806: Parks Administration
Lake Wilson Acquisition, Oahu (MOF B)

- Add \$4,000,000 for plans, design, and construction to conduct additional testing for contamination and environmental hazards to implement remediation measures

The Honorable Josh Green, M.D.
Governor's Message Request for LNR806
February 20, 2026
Page 2 of 2

and debris clearing to project public health and safety, to ensure compliance with DOH requirements and perform related work.

This request is submitted for your consideration to support a critical irrigation system that supplies water to farmers in Wahiawa, Waialua, and Hale'iwa on the island of O'ahu. Lake Wilson also serves as an important recreational resource for the surrounding community and the State.

With DLNR's acquisition of the Lake Wilson parcels pursuant to Act 218, SLH 2023, this funding is urgently needed to address existing hazards and ensure the continued reliability of agricultural operations and the broader community water supply.

Attached for your information is Table R for the above request.

Your favorable consideration of this request will be greatly appreciated. If there are any questions, please contact Cynthia C. Gomez, Fiscal Management Officer of the Administrative Services Office, at (808) 587-0340 or cynthia.c.gomez@hawaii.gov, or Dina U. Lau, Acting Chief Engineer of the Engineering Division, at dina.u.lau@hawaii.gov or at (808) 587-0244.

Attachment

C: Chair's Office
ASO/Fiscal Office
State Parks

TABLE R CAPITAL PROJECT INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION SHEET

EXPENDING AGENCY:		
USER PROGRAM ID		CAPITAL PROJECT
DEPT	NUMBER	NUMBER
LNR	806	0

PROJECT TITLE:
LAKE WILSON ACQUISITION, OAHU

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
PLANS, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION TO CONDUCT ADDITIONAL TESTING FOR CONTAMINATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS; TO IMPLEMENT REMEDIATION MEASURES AND DEBRIS CLEARING TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY; TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH DOH REQUIREMENTS; AND TO PERFORM RELATED WORK.

TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COST (In Thousands of Dollars)

COST ELEMENT	PRIOR APPROPRIATIONS (Including MOF)															APPROPRIATIONS (including MOF)			TOTAL PROJECT COST	
	ACT	YR	ITEM	ACT	YR	ITEM	ACT	YR	ITEM	ACT	YR	ITEM	ACT	YR	ITEM	FY 2026	FY 2027	FUTURE YEARS		
BREAKOUT BY COST ELEMENT																				
PLANS																0	1,000			
LAND																0				
DESIGN																0	1,000			
CONSTRUCT																0	2,000			
EQUIPMENT																0				
TOTALS		0			0			0			0			0		0	4,000	0		0

PROJECT INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION (use back if necessary):

a. Total Scope of Project.

Conduct additional sampling and testing to identify the extent of environmental hazards and contamination on the Lake Wilson property that may be acquired by DLNR for use as a State Park. Remediate the identified conditions to address public health and DOH regulatory requirements.

b. Identification of Need and Evaluation of Existing Situation.

Initial testing already conducted (Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments) have detected multiple sites of potentially significant contamination and environmental hazards. Further testing is necessary to assess the extent of the contamination in order to assess the potential risks to public health and safety and legal and regulatory liability that may be incurred by the State if the property were to be acquired. The information provided by the additional testing will also determine the extent of necessary remediation. This information is required in order for DLNR to determine whether to acquire the property. If the additional testing is not conducted, and the necessary information cannot be obtained, DLNR will not acquire the property. Additional funding is also required to conduct the necessary remediation to address public health and safety and DOH regulatory requirements. If funding for remediation is not provided, DLNR cannot utilize the property as a State Park open to public recreation.

c. Alternatives Considered and Impact if Project is Deferred.

If funding for testing and remediation is not provided, DLNR will not acquire the property.

d. Discuss What Improvements Will Take Place When Project Completed (including benefits to be derived and/or deficiencies this project intends to correct).

n/a

[REDACTED]

e. Impact Upon Future Operating Requirements (show initial and ongoing funding requirements by cost element, including position count, means of financing, fiscal year).

n/a

f. Additional Information:

None

**DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
LNR906 Request for Consideration and Budget Inclusion**

The Department respectfully requests the Committee’s consideration of the request outlined below. While this item was not included in the Department’s original FY27 Supplemental Budget Request, it has been proposed in prior years and was not advanced in the Governor’s Executive Budget. However, the Department believes this request warrants reconsideration at this time due to sustained workload growth and increased operational demands and its importance in effectively carrying out the Department’s statutory responsibilities.

➤ **Request:**

Trade-off UPW positions to HGEA positions. DLNR is requesting the deletion of two (2) UPW positions and the establishment of two (2) new HGEA positions to properly align staffing with operational and fiscal realities. This request is cost-neutral.

➤ **Background:**

- Position #13332 and Position #118680 were originally assigned to DOFAW, were unfunded, and were targeted for deletion during the 2021 legislative session.
- After funding was identified, the positions were transferred to LNR906 (Administrative Services Office) pursuant to Act 88, SLH 2021, with the intent to redescribe them as Accountant IV positions.
- Starting FY 22, the department made good-faith efforts to effectuate the redescrptions and engaged the affected unions. However, UPW did not concur with the proposed change, and consistent with established requirements, DHRD did not approve the redescription without union concurrence.
- During the last two (2) legislative sessions (FB 2023–2025), DLNR requested authorization to trade off the UPW positions for HGEA positions to enable redescription, and recruitment; however, these requests were not included in the Governor’s Budget.

Request made to the FB 2023-2025 Biennium

LNR906/AA	3A	Trade-off: Reduce two (2) UPW BU3 positions and funds: Positions #13332 (\$55,200) and #118680 (\$55,200) transferred to LNR906 per Act 88, SLH 2021 and to be redescribed to Accountant IV positions.	A	(2.00)	-	(110,400)	(2.00)	-	(110,400)
LNR906/AA	3B	Trade-off: Add two (2) new Accountant IV positions and funds, SR22, BU13	A	2.00	-	110,400	2.00	-	110,400

Request made to the FB 2023-2025 Supplemental Year

LNR906/AA	2A	Trade-off: Reduce two Accountant IV positions and funds: Positions #13332 (\$55,200) and #118680 (\$55,200).	A				(2.00)		(110,400)
LNR906/AA	2B	Trade-off: Add two new Accountant IV positions and funds (no-cost)	A				2.00		110,400

➤ **Justification:**

The requested action will allow DLNR to align position classifications with the actual fiscal and accounting responsibilities required to support the department's operations. Without legislative approval to delete the UPW positions and establish HGEA positions, DLNR is unable to recruit and fill these critical Accountant IV roles, resulting in ongoing operational demands and staffing shortages, and the resulting strain on the Department's ability to meet its statutory and operational responsibilities.

Approval of this request will enable DLNR to fully utilize existing funding, ensure compliance with personnel and collective bargaining requirements, and strengthen the department's fiscal management capacity.

These positions are essential and non-discretionary to the Department's ability to meet its fiscal management responsibilities and legislative expectations for accountability, transparency, and effective oversight of public funds. The substantial increase in program deliverables, together with expanded compliance and reporting requirements across multiple funding sources, including general funds, federal funds, and general obligation bonds, etc., has exceeded the capacity of existing fiscal staff.

The establishment of these positions is necessary to ensure timely and accurate fiscal operations, maintain strong internal controls, and support compliance with statutory and legislative reporting requirements. Adequate staffing is critical to ensure that appropriated funds are properly managed, expenditures are accurately tracked, and legislative intent is fully executed without delays or risk of noncompliance.

This request is cost-neutral at the Program ID level (LNR906/AA) and will be implemented using existing, budgeted funds, with no additional fiscal impact.

➤ **Fiscal Impact:**

This request results in no net increase in positions or costs and allows DLNR to make effective use of existing resources by replacing dormant positions with operational ones.

➤ **Conclusion:**

We strongly believe that legislatively approved action—authorizing the conversion of these positions to the appropriate bargaining unit, as requested, is the most efficient and effective path forward. This approach would eliminate unnecessary administrative burden, allowing staff time and effort currently spent on paperwork and union consultations to be redirected toward mission-critical work. As a result, the department would gain increased capacity to support growing procurement, fiscal management, and grant management demands, strengthening our ability to meet grant deliverables and maximize the effective use of public funds.

Prog ID	Project Title	MOF	ACT 250, SLH 2025 CIP Appropriations		FY27 Supplemental CIP Requests & GM#5			Total FB 2025-27 Requests	
			FY 26	FY 27	Dept Priority #	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

A. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LNR141	ROCKFALL AND FLOOD MITIGATION, STATEWIDE	C	2,000,000	-	2		2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
LNR401	ANUENUE FISHERIES RESEARCH CENTER ANNEX, ROOF REPAIR/PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM INSTALLATION, OAHU	C	750,000	-				750,000	-
LNR401	FISHING ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS, OAHU	C	400,000	-				400,000	-
LNR401	DAR ANUENUE FISHERIES RESEARCH CENTER (AFRC) ANNEX SEWER CONNECTION, OAHU	C			3	-	550,000	-	550,000

D. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

LNR402	KAWAINUI MARSH PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENTS, OAHU	C	8,750,000	-				8,750,000	-
LNR402	POHAKEA FIRE PREVENTION AND SUPPRESSION INFRASTRUCTURE, MAUI	C	1,750,000	-				1,750,000	-
LNR402	MAUI BASEYARD OFFICE ROOF REPAIR AND REPLACE, MAUI	C			10	-	750,000	-	750,000
LNR404	KEAUHOU AQUIFER SYSTEM, HAWAII	C	4,000,000	-				4,000,000	-
LNR404	DEEP MONITOR WELLS, STATEWIDE	C	2,000,000	-	30	-	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
LNR405	LND ACQSTN, PLNS, & DSGN FOR DIV OF CNSERVTN & RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT FACILITY, OAHU	C	2,450,000	-				2,450,000	-
LNR405	DOCARE HAWAII BRANCH OFFICE BUILDING RENOVATION, HAWAII	C	2,000,000	-	6		1,000,000	2,000,000	1,000,000
LNR407	KAWAINUI MARSH, OAHU	C	2,200,000	-				2,200,000	-
LNR407	WATERSHED PROTECTION AND INITIATIVES, STATEWIDE	C	5,000,000	-				5,000,000	-
LNR906	HAWAII PACIFIC UNIVERSITY HAWAII LOA CAMPUS ACQUISITION AND RENOVATION, OAHU	C	-	-	1	-	4,000,000	-	4,000,000
LNR405	DOCARE HAWAII BRANCH OFFICE BUILDING RENOVATION, HAWAII	C	-	-	GM#5	(2,000,000)	(1,000,000)	(2,000,000)	(1,000,000)
LNR405	DOCARE HAWAII BRANCH OFFICE BUILDING REPLACEMENT, HAWAII	C	-	-	GM#5	2,000,000	1,000,000	2,000,000	1,000,000

H. CULTURE AND RECREATION

LNR801	LAHAINA SMALL BOAT HARBOR MAINTENANCE DREDGING, MAUI	C	5,000,000	-				5,000,000	-
LNR801	LAHAINA SMALL BOAT HARBOR RECONSTRUCTION OF OUTER MARGINAL WHARF, MAUI	C	8,000,000	-				8,000,000	-
LNR801	ALA WAI CANAL WALL REPAIR, OAHU	C	5,000,000	-				5,000,000	-
LNR801	KAWAIHAE NORTH SMALL BOAT HARBOR, HAWAII	C	9,450,000	-				9,450,000	-
LNR801	POHOIKI SAFE SWIM AREA, HAWAII	C	200,000	-				200,000	-
LNR801	REPLACEMENT OF FISH HOIST AND CONCRETE LANDING STRUCTURES, MILOLII LANDING, HAWAII	C	1,000,000	-				1,000,000	-
LNR801	LAHAINA SMALL BOAT HARBOR - LUMP SUM IMPROVEMENTS FOR REBUILD POST-WILDFIRE, MAUI	C			7	-	12,500,000	-	12,500,000
LNR806	WAHIAWA FRESHWATER STATE RECREATION AREA PARK IMPROVEMENTS, OAHU	C	5,750,000	2,150,000				5,750,000	2,150,000
LNR806	WAHIAWA FRESHWATER STATE RECREATION AREA PARK IMPROVEMENTS, OAHU	N	250,000	250,000				250,000	250,000
LNR806	STATE PARKS INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS, LUMP SUM,	C			8	-	8,500,000	-	8,500,000

Prog ID	Project Title	MOF	ACT 250, SLH 2025 CIP Appropriations		FY27 Supplemental CIP Requests & GM#5			Total FB 2025-27 Requests	
			FY 26	FY 27	Dept Priority #	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
LNR806	STATE PARKS INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS, LUMP SUM,	N			8	-	500,000	-	500,000
LNR806	STATE PARKS INFRASTRUCTURE AND PARK IMPROVEMENTS, LUMP SUM, STATEWIDE	C	2,650,000	-		-	-	2,650,000	-
LNR806	STATE PARKS INFRASTRUCTURE AND PARK IMPROVEMENTS, LUMP SUM, STATEWIDE	N	500,000	-		-	-	500,000	-
LNR806	WAILUKU RIVER STATE PARK EXPANSION, HAWAII	C			31	-	3,500,000	-	3,500,000
LNR806	WAILUKU RIVER STATE PARK EXPANSION, HAWAII	P			31	-	1,000	-	1,000

K. GOVERNMENT-WIDE SUPPORT

LNR101	DEMOLITION OF EXISTING IMPROVEMENTS AT 121 BANYAN DRIVE, HAWAII	C	1,200,000	-		-	-	1,200,000	-
LNR101	HALAI STREET PROPERTY, AUWAI DRAINAGE, HAWAII	C	1,455,000	-		-	-	1,455,000	-
LNR101	STADIUM IMPROVEMENTS, KAUAI	C	700,000	-		-	-	700,000	-
LNR101	CESSPOOL CLOSURES IN ACCORDANCE WITH EPA CONSENT ORDER, STATEWIDE	B	1,500,000	-		-	-	1,500,000	-
LNR101	SHANGRI LA BREAKWATER REMOVAL, OAHU	B	700,000	-		-	-	700,000	-
LNR101	LOWER KAPAHAI RESERVOIR REMOVAL, KAUAI	B	500,000	-		-	-	500,000	-
LNR101	EAST KAPOLEI TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, OAHU	B	500,000	-		-	-	500,000	-
LNR101	PUBLIC LAND ACQUISITION, OAHU	C			GM#5		14,000,000	-	14,000,000
LNR101	WAIMANALO PATHWAYS, OAHU	C	-	-	GM#5	-	2,500,000	-	2,500,000
TOTAL - NEW REQUESTS BY MOF			75,655,000	2,400,000		-	51,801,000	75,655,000	54,201,000

Special Funds	B	3,200,000	-	-	-	3,200,000	-
General Obligation Bonds	C	71,705,000	2,150,000	-	51,300,000	71,705,000	53,450,000
Federal Funds	N	750,000	250,000	-	500,000	750,000	750,000
Other Federal Funds	P	-	-	-	1,000	-	1,000
TOTAL		75,655,000	2,400,000	-	51,801,000	75,655,000	54,201,000

**FY 27 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET
DEPARTMENT SUMMARY OF OPERATING BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUESTS - GREEN FEE
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

REQ CAT	B&F CODE	PROG ID/ ORG	DEPT PRI	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	MOF	DEPARTMENT REQUEST			GOVERNOR'S DECISION		
							FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
Sustainable Tourism	ST	LNR172/DA	7	Integrated Forest Defense: Biosecurity Enhancements and Early Threat Detection		A			932,242			-
Climate & Hazard Resilience	CH	LNR172/DA	12	Strengthening Public Safety Measures Throughout Hawai'i's State Forest Reserves	Request to Add Funds for Strengthening Public Safety Measures Throughout Hawai'i's State Forest Reserves	A			1,410,000			513,677
Sustainable Tourism	ST	LNR172/DA	18	Advancing Co-Stewardship of Community Forests on Public Land in Response to the Adoption of HCR40		A			200,000			-
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR172/DA	30	Kahua Ola: Foundations for Protecting Hawai'i's Native and Endangered Species		A			605,000			-
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR172/DA	39	Revitalizing Native Landscapes: Protection and Enhancement of Hawaiian Flora and Habitats		A			793,000			-
Sustainable Tourism	ST	LNR401/CA	4	Protecting Communities from Wave Energy and Storm Surge by Maintaining Natural Coral Reef Breakwaters	Engaging and educating visitors through community-led outreach is key to reducing tourism impacts and protecting Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources. This program will target high-traffic sites such as Pupukea MLC, Ha'ena CBSFA, and 'Ahihi-Kina'u NAR to provide on-the-ground education about ecological and cultural significance while promoting sustainable visitor practices.	A			980,000			980,000
Climate & Hazard Resilience	CH	LNR401/CA	5	West Hawai'i Coral Restoration Program		A			250,000			-
Climate & Hazard Resilience	CH	LNR401/CA	9	Day-use mooring buoy maintenance		A			350,000			-
Climate & Hazard Resilience	CH	LNR401/CA	13	Watershed coordination and restoration for reef resilience	Mitigating land-based pollution and restoring ecosystem function in priority watershed areas is essential to protecting coastal water quality and the health of coral reefs. Coral reef ecosystems are directly linked to coastal resilience and support a range of ocean uses, including recreation and subsistence activities.	A			750,000			750,000
Sustainable Tourism	ST	LNR401/CA	14	Visitor Engagement with Hawai'i's Marine Wildlife		A			700,000			-
Climate & Hazard Resilience	CH	LNR401/CA	16	Enhanced Biosecurity through Eradication of Aquatic Invasive Species		A			600,000			-
Climate & Hazard Resilience	CH	LNR401/CA	17	Marine Rapid Response		A			250,000			-
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR401/CA	21	Pilot Cesspool Conversions in Coral Hotspots		A			500,000			-

REQ CAT	B&F CODE	PROG ID/ ORG	DEPT PRI	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	MOF	DEPARTMENT REQUEST			GOVERNOR'S DECISION		
							FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
Sustainable Tourism	ST	LNR401/CA	22	Regulatory and Interpretive Signage Plan and Implementation	This project strengthens conservation by making it easier for both visitors and residents to understand and follow regulations that protect Hawaii's fragile marine and coastal environments. Clear, consistent regulatory signage will ensure that rules around fishing, habitat protection, and marine resource management are visible and enforceable. By mapping, updating, and standardizing every sign in Marine Managed Areas, DAR is creating a reliable system for compliance and stewardship. These updates not only safeguard fish populations and ecosystems but also build long-term accountability for natural resource protection .	A			250,000			500,000
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR401/CA	23	Community led Marine Debris Clean-up	Marine debris poses a growing threat to Hawaii's marine ecosystems, endangered species, and safe ocean recreation, creating risks from entanglement, ingestion, habitat damage, and navigation hazards . State agencies, nonprofits, and community groups currently bear much of the response with limited resources.	A			250,000			250,000
Climate & Hazard Resilience	CH	LNR401/CA	26	Climate Resilient Fisheries		A			300,000			-
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR401/CA	27	Na Manu Elele Makai (Environmental Ambassador program)	Engaging and educating visitors through community-led outreach is key to reducing tourism impacts and protecting Hawaii's natural and cultural resources. This program will target high-traffic sites such as POpOkea MLCD, Ha'ena CBSFA, and 'Ahihi-Kina'u NAR to provide on-the-ground education about ecological and cultural significance while promoting sustainable visitor practices.	A			1,000,000			1,250,000
Climate & Hazard Resilience	CH	LNR401/CA	29	A Collaborative Approach: Hawaii's Emergency Reef Restoration Network (HERR)		A			950,000			-
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR401/CA	31	Enhancing Fishing Opportunities through Improved Fish Aggregation Devices		A			200,000			-
Sustainable Tourism	ST	LNR401/CA	35	Kō a Kai Community Partnership Pathway		A			126,000			-
Climate & Hazard Resilience	CH	LNR401/CA	36	Kauai Coral Restoration Program	The Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) on Kaua'i is expanding its capacity to conduct coral restoration, aimed at enhancing the resilience and recovery of Hawaii's coral reefs. In partnership with local stakeholders, DAR is establishing its first coral restoration and nursery facility on Kaua'i.	A			500,000			500,000
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR401/CA	43	Fishpond 'Ama'ama Production	The Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) realizes the importance of supporting traditional aquaculture in Hawaii, especially for producing native species such as 'ama'ama (stripe mullet) that are highly valued as food and prized in our local fisheries. This can be accomplished through DAR's collaboration with stakeholders in aquaculture, Hawaiian fishpond practitioners, and fishers.	A			150,000			150,000
Sustainable Tourism	ST	LNR401/CA	46	Marine Carrying Capacity Projects		A			500,000			-

REQ CAT	B&F CODE	PROG ID/ ORG	DEPT PRI	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	MOF	DEPARTMENT REQUEST			GOVERNOR'S DECISION		
							FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR401/CA	54	Community driven, Marine Resources Resiliency Planning (Holomua Initiative)	The Holomua Marine Initiative brings communities and the Division of Aquatic Resources together to create management frameworks that prioritize participation, cultural relevance, and measurable outcomes .	A			550,000			550,000
Climate & Hazard Resilience	CH	LNR401/CA	55	Sustaining Community-Based Biocultural Restoration in He'eia		A			890,000			-
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR401/CA	65	Habitat Restoration and Improved Fishing at Waiakea and Wailoa State Recreational Area		A			500,000			-
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR401/CA		Supporting the resilience of Hawaii's coral reefs through coral restoration	Plans, design, and construction to maintain healthy coral reefs using state-of-the-art techniques, including coral resilience and stress testing, on man-made structures and breakwalls to reduce erosion and enhance large-scale coastal restoration in partnership with community organizations to support the Division of Aquatic Resources' Hawaii Coral Reef Nursery Program.	A			-			250,000
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR401/CA		Support ocean monitoring for coral reefs, nearshore fisheries resources, and water quality, to support effective management.	Monitoring of water quality, fisheries and reef resource condition through key initiatives, such as the Hawai'i Coral Reef Assessment and Monitoring Program (CRAMP) and at priority sites such as Pupukea, Maunaloa, Hā'ena, Hanalei, Ka'anapali, and existing coral reef monitoring and water quality monitoring sites statement, to enable effective management responses, community co-management, and scalable fisheries management to inform climate adaptation.	A			-			1,255,000
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR401/CA		Establish a Hawaiian plant nursery in key restoration areas statewide	Create a Hawaiian plant nursery in key restoration sites statewide, such as the Waianae Coast, Maui, Molokai, to supply native and traditional food plants for two community food forests and a Native Hawaiian Cultural Practitioner Forest to address critical food insecurity and educate residents.	A			-			250,000
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR402/DA	6	Forest Bird Captive Care		A			1,529,918			-
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR402/DA	8	Biological Control of Forest Weeds and Pests		A			250,000			-
Sustainable Tourism	ST	LNR402/DA	10	Little Fire Ant Control and Containment Through Maui Invasive Species Committee		A			500,000			-
Climate & Hazard Resilience	CH	LNR402/DA	25	Wildfire Reduction and Ecosystem Benefits at Kawai'ele Waterbird Sanctuary and Mānā Extension, Kaua'i		A			197,417			-
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR402/DA	37	Integrated Pest Management Using IIT and BTi to Protect Native Forest Birds by Controlling Mosquitoes and Avian Malaria		A			1,000,000			-
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR402/DA	40	Mauna Kea Forest Restoration		A			250,000			-
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR402/DA	41	Hawaii Invasive Species Council - Competitive Grant Process for Interagency Projects and Programs		A			2,000,000			-
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR402/DA	44	Endangered Forest Bird Mosquito Abatement	Add Funds for Endangered Forest Bird Mosquito Abatement	A			1,600,000			1,600,000

REQ CAT	B&F CODE	PROG ID/ ORG	DEPT PRI	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	MOF	DEPARTMENT REQUEST			GOVERNOR'S DECISION		
							FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR402/DA	48	Supplementing Palila Recovery Actions Through Rear and Release		A			250,000			-
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR402/DA	49	Integrated Acoustic and Point Count Monitoring of Maui Forest Birds to Evaluate Mosquito Suppression Techniques		A			465,000			-
Climate & Hazard Resilience	CH	LNR402/DA	51	Kawainui Levee Flood Hazard Abatement		A			950,000			-
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR402/DA	52	Threatened and Endangered Seabird Colony Management and Recovery on Kaua'i		A			353,653			-
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR402/DA	53	Landscape-Scale Predator Grid and Monitoring on Mauna Kea		A			404,050			-
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR402/DA	56	DLNR Mosquito Control Project Specialist		A			150,000			-
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR402/DA	59	Kure Atoll Ecological Restoration Field Station		A			650,000			-
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR402/DA	60	Seabird Habitat Protection Through Invasive Species Control on Kauai Offshore Islets		A			226,140			-
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR402/DA	62	Using Automated Recording Units (ARUs) to Comprehensively Monitor Hawaii Island's Forest Bird		A			516,003			-
Climate & Hazard Resilience	CH	LNR402/DA		West Maui Climate Modeling	This project delivers urgently needed, actionable projections of climate hazards for Ka'anapali, Lāhainā, and Kealahou moku, West Maui—addressing sea level rise, wildfire, extreme heat, declining rainfall, deepening drought, and coastal erosion. These multiple threats endanger communities, cultural sites, and ecological resilience. Using cutting-edge, high-resolution digital elevation models and integrating refined hydrodynamic models, we will identify who and what is most at risk across landscapes and infrastructure. A risk and vulnerability analysis co-developed with community and government leaders will pinpoint the most promising, culturally rooted, nature-based restoration actions and guide urgent decisions about fuel loads, water management, and heat adaptation. Incorporating wildfire planning, projections for heat and drought, and new real-time groundwater data will give West Maui the scientific foundation needed to design adaptive measures for true community resilience.	A			-			500,000

REQ CAT	B&F CODE	PROG ID/ ORG	DEPT PRI	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	MOF	DEPARTMENT REQUEST			GOVERNOR'S DECISION		
							FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
Climate & Hazard Resilience	CH	LNR402/DA		Hawai'i Wildfire Rise Reduction Program / Firewise	The Hawai'i Wildfire Risk Reduction Program and Firewise Communities Program together empower neighborhoods and high-risk regions to take proactive, science-based steps to reduce wildfire danger. As the state's only community-driven fire preparedness program—and one that is rapidly expanding—it lacks consistent funding despite its proven impact. Strengthened investment would support cross-boundary collaboration, enabling communities, landowners, and agencies to plan and implement mitigation, outreach, and fuels-reduction projects at the scale today's wildfire risks demand. These programs deliver measurable results, from acres of hazardous vegetation removed to improved evacuation readiness and documented reductions in community exposure. By building community capability and advancing coordinated, landscape-level mitigation, they directly contribute to Hawai'i's statewide climate adaptation and resilience goals.	A			-			6,000,000
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR402/DA		Native Bird Protection	Work with non-profit partners to aid in the protection and recovery of Hawai'i's native birds from mosquito-born avian malaria and other existential threats.	A			-			1,600,000
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR404/GC	11	Funding to Update of the Hawai'i Water Conservation Plan	Funding would support the update of the Hawai'i Water Conservation Plan (2013). The update would involve re-evaluating the state's water use profiles, cataloguing public and private water supply conservation and water shortage plans, evaluating current water conservation programs, and revising the State's water conservation program elements.	A			250,000			250,000
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR404/GC	15	Funding for the Hawai'i Mesonet Network		A			500,000			-
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR404/GC	19	Funding to Update of the Hawai'i Drought Plan	Funding would support the update of the Hawaii Drought Plan, which was last updated in 2017. New data, risk analysis, and drought impact sector participation would be included. We anticipate coordinating with the Pacific Drought Knowledge Exchange and the National Drought Mitigation Center, as well as organizations and individuals in the water supply, agriculture & commerce, and the environment, public health and safety sectors. This plan would focus on drought mitigation as well as drought response actions.	A			250,000			250,000
	ES ST	LNR404/GC	61	Funding for Hydrologic Studies and Research		A			1,500,000			-
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR404/GC	63	Water Audit and Water Conservation Implementation Projects		A			350,000			-

REQ CAT	B&F CODE	PROG ID/ ORG	DEPT PRI	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	MOF	DEPARTMENT REQUEST			GOVERNOR'S DECISION		
							FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR405/HA	2	Makai Watch Program Expansion	This project directly supports the protection and management of Hawai'i's marine and coastal resources through collaboration with more than 20 active community groups statewide. By serving as the "eyes and ears" of their communities, Makai Watch volunteers assist DOCARE in identifying and reporting illegal activities, strengthening enforcement presence and resource protection. Makai Watch volunteers educate visitors on fishing rules, marine life etiquette. and cultural stewardship practices, improving visitor awareness and behavior. Several groups also conduct community monitoring to track visitor impacts, providing DLNR with valuable data that informs site management, restoration, and maintenance efforts.	A			360,916			360,916
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR405/HA		Fostering effective marine resource enforcement through DOCARE-Makai Watch community partnerships	Funding for 20 community-DOCARE Makai Watch groups statewide (\$50K - \$100K per community)	A			-			2,500,000
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR407/NA	20	Improving Seed Storage Intake and Fern Lab Operations		A			200,000			-
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR407/NA	24	Endangered Plant Seed Banking	Request to Add Funds for Endangered Plant Seed Banking	A			450,000			450,000
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR407/NA	28	Plant Extinction Prevention Program	Request to Add Funds for the Plant Extinction Prevention Program	A			300,000			300,000
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR407/NA	32	Expanding Invasive Plant Control in Molokai Core Watershed Areas	Request to Add Funds for Expanding Invasive Plant Control in Molokai Core Watershed Areas	A			150,000			150,000
Sustainable Tourism	ST	LNR407/NA	33	Kuia and Honopu Trail Improvement	Request to Add Funds for Kuia and Honopu Trail Improvement to develop a comprehensive, sustainable trail system to improve visitor safety, elevate the hiking experience, and protect Hawai'i's most sensitive natural areas. Many reserves currently face unplanned access that accelerates erosion, harms native species, and puts hikers at risk. Using proven National Park Service-aligned planning methods, the project will design trails that minimize ecological impact, safeguard cultural and wildlife resources, and provide clear, safe routes for public enjoyment. Deliverables include trail design standards, impact assessments, and a phased implementation plan, ensuring long-term resilience, responsible access, and high-quality outdoor experiences in Hawai'i's natural heritage areas.	A			250,000			250,000
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR407/NA	42	Hawai'i Invertebrate Program- Statewide Operational Support for Native Invertebrate Conservation		A			378,000			-
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR407/NA	45	Maui Nui Endangered Species Predator Control	Request to Add Funds for Maui Nui Endangered Species Predator Control	A			436,464			436,464

REQ CAT	B&F CODE	PROG ID/ ORG	DEPT PRI	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	MOF	DEPARTMENT REQUEST			GOVERNOR'S DECISION		
							FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR407/NA	47	Pia Natural Area Reserve Native Forest Restoration Project	The Pia Natural Area Reserve, established in 2022 to protect rare lowland mesic forests, requires additional funding to restore a heavily degraded habitat that supports several threatened and endangered plant species. The project will establish an A24 rat control grid, install a 55-gallon water catchment, manage invasive plants, reintroduce 500 native plants, and collect propagules for future restoration. Restoration is urgently needed due to landslide damage, ungulate impacts, and the loss of two previously documented endangered species, with helicopter access required to safely and efficiently complete on-site work. These efforts will strengthen watershed health, stabilize soils, and support the long-term survival of species that have no other suitable habitat.	A			140,000			140,000
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR407/NA	50	Research and Management Actions for Yellow-Faced Bee Nesting Habitats on West Maui		A			161,762			-
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR407/NA	57	Hawaii Branch Avian Team		A			440,000			-
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR407/NA	58	Coastal Habitat Restoration and Monitoring for Endangered Yellow-Faced Bee Populations on O'ahu		A			261,315			-
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR407/NA	64	Maui Nui Endangered Plant and Invertebrate Support		A			250,000			-
Climate & Hazard Resilience	CH	LNR407/NA		Climate Resilience Crews	This appropriation would establish a scalable, statewide climate disaster resilience workforce that conducts vegetation management, reduces wildfire fuel loads, and maintains defensible space in high-risk areas. Crews would be trained to support both year-round mitigation and emergency readiness, expanding Hawai'i's limited disaster-response capacity as climate-driven risks become more frequent and more severe. Building on recent post-wildfire recovery experience, this investment would create a Hawai'i-based workforce capable of addressing priority needs across islands—from hazardous-fuel reduction to community preparedness assessments. Depending on the funding level, the program could field a core crew or scale up to a larger statewide team able to deliver more comprehensive mitigation results. By protecting critical infrastructure and strengthening community readiness, this initiative advances statewide climate adaptation and hazard-resilience goals.	A			-			3,000,000
Climate & Hazard Resilience	CH	LNR407/NA		Indigenous Climate Infrastructure - Waipi'o	The project addresses critical flood risk and water security in Waipi'o Valley by reconstructing ancestral auwai (irrigation canals), rebuilding degraded loi kalo (taro terraces), stabilizing erosion-prone slopes with native plantings, and outplanting indigenous species to restore watershed health. The project builds climate-ready infrastructure—including a traditional learning hale, reinforced trails, and footbridges—enabling safe year-round access for Native Hawaiian producers while installing hydrological monitoring systems to track water flow, soil conditions, and vegetation health for adaptive management.	A			-			500,000

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							FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR407/NA		Public-private watershed management, Statewide	Support all public-private watershed partnerships and any coordinating bodies of them, to help sustain fieldwork, outreach and awareness of statewide watershed efforts by supporting positions to implement cohesive strategic planning and implementation across watersheds.	A			-			1,000,000
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR407/NA		Conservation Corps for community partnership and workforce capacity development for green jobs and climate resiliency	This initiative would support existing efforts to develop workforce capacity and green jobs creation via a conservation corps to advance the conservation, development, and management of natural resources and recreational areas. The initiative would support temporary work and training opportunities in natural resource management; agriculture; or other sustainability-related professions related to climate resiliency and conservation.	A			-			1,250,000
Sustainable Tourism	ST	LNR804/DA	34	Nā Manu 'Elele Statewide Land Steward Program	The Na Manu 'Elele Trail Steward Program strengthens sustainable tourism by placing trained local stewards in Hawai'i's highest-use, most culturally and ecologically sensitive trail areas. Stewards educate visitors on cultural history, natural resources, safety, and proper trail etiquette - reducing impacts. preventing accidents, and protecting heritage sites. The program has delivered major benefits: safer hiking conditions, improved visitor behavior, preserved resources, reduced emergency responses and crime, and less congestion at popular !railheads, ensuring a high-quality, low-impact visitor experience .	A			1,000,000			1,000,000
Climate & Hazard Resilience	CH	LNR810/GD	66	Upgrade and Modernize the Hawaii Flood Hazard Assessment Tool (FHAT), a web-based GIS flood map viewer for the State of Hawaii.	To upgrade and modernize the Hawai'i Flood Hazard Assessment Tool (FHAT), a web-based GIS flood map viewer for the State of Hawai'i. The tool integrates FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and other relevant agency data to provide accessible, clear and concise flood hazard information required for NFIP compliance and community resilience.	A			300,000			300,000
	ES CH ST	LNR906/AA	1	Green Fee Community Stewardship Program		A			10,000,000			-
Climate & Hazard Resilience	CH	LNR906/AA (CO/OCCL)	3	Loko I'a Resilience Program	Funding for community-led efforts to support statewide loko i'a (Native Hawaiian fishpond) resilience and capacity to protect against climate-related threats like sea level rise and increasing sea surface temperatures.	A			162,250			162,250
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR906/AA LNR407/NA		Green Fee Community Stewardship (ahupuaa restoration): Support community-based ahupuaa restoration, statewide	Support community-based and broad partnership driven reforestation and habitat recovery efforts in places such as Kaua'i (Waipa, Niu), Maui (Kula, Kahikinui, Haleakala), Hawai'i Island (Kohala, Ka'u, and Kana), Lana'i (Kanepu'u), Moloka'i (Kapuaiwa), and O'ahu (Hamakua Wetland, Maunawili, Ulupo, Kuli'ou'ou, Leeward O'ahu) where existing capacity allows for immediate impact of upland (koa and ohia). mesic dryland lowland and marshland native forests.	A			-			10,560,000

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							FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR906/AA LNR401/CA		Green Fee Community Stewardship (nearshore marine environments): Supporting community co-management for coral reef resilience	Support for community-based marine management and ridge-to-reef initiatives to manage fisheries and coral reef habitat for coastal resilience, working collaboratively with state agencies. Funding will support outreach, education, monitoring, improved enforcement, and restoration efforts to implement community 'aina-based stewardship initiatives, in priority sites such as Ka'opulehu, He'eia, Kiholo, Kipahulu - East Maui, Miloli'i - South Kana, Honaunau, Pu'u Kukui and Honolua, Ha'ena, Limahuli, Maunaloa Bay, Niu Valley - Maunaloa, Niu Valley - Kauai, and more.	A			-			5,750,000
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR906/AA LNR401/CA		Green Fee Community Stewardship (coral restoration): Supporting community driven coral and coastal restoration initiatives for coastal resilience and storm protection	Funding to support community-based coral restoration areas, limu restoration, and innovation in finance to bolster coastal resilience, flood control, storm protection and to complement existing upstream restoration work with downstream coral planting to strengthen resilience across the ahupua'a and ensure coral recovery is positioned for success, including through partnerships with mauna-based restoration groups such as watershed partnerships to engage community in the process, through involvement of communities in decision-making, feedback, and active restoration, and through unique financing innovations such as storm damage reef insurance policy.	A			-			1,500,000
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR906/AA LNR402/DA		Green Fee Community Stewardship (muliwai): Restore wetlands, anchialine ponds, and riparian zones with community partners, for flood control, habitat improvement, and coastal resiliency	Funding to restore Hawai'i's culturally significant wetlands, anchialine ponds, and riparian zones through invasive species removal, native habitat rehabilitation, waterway restoration, and regenerative food production. Each initiative strengthens community stewardship by engaging residents, students, and visitors in hands-on restoration, cultural education, and sustainable land-based practices that improve ecological resilience, water quality, biodiversity, and food security - reviving ancestral landscapes, protecting endangered ecosystems, and rebuilding enduring relationships between people and 'Aina statement in key priority geographies such as Ulopo Nui, Ka'ehu, Hule'ia, Niu Valley- Oahu, Maunawili - O'ahu; Palehua, Kiholo and more.	A			-			1,500,000
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR906/AA LNR401/CA		Green Fee Community Stewardship (fishponds): Restore fishponds statewide and revive traditional aquaculture production with community partners	Revive culturally significant loko i'a to increase coastal resilience and community through community workdays, youth learning, and ecosystem restoration by partnering with local caretakers and community organizations. Funding will expand infrastructure, cultural workshops, and stewardship activities that restore native vegetation, stabilize fishpond walls, improve water flow, and provide hands-on education for schools and visitors. Together, these efforts strengthen traditional aquaculture and this food security, enhance climate and ecosystem resilience, and create a living classroom of community-driven fishponds across Hawai'i.	A			-			1,000,000
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR906/AA LNR402/DA		Green Fee Community Stewardship (coastal): Support coastal ecosystem restoration to improve coastal resilience to storms, floods, and climate disasters	Funding to protect, restore, and manage coastal strand habitat, including dunes, coastal ecosystems, achialine habitats, and nearshore lands in priority geographies to bolster coastal resiliency through aina-based stewardship, such as Makapu'u, Waiale'e, Sand Island, Anahola, Kalaeokauna'oa, Kipahulu, windward Maui and Hawaii islands, West Kaua'i, Wai'anae-O'ahu; Moloka'i, Central Maui; Kohala, Hawai'i and more.	A			-			2,250,000

REQ CAT	B&F CODE	PROG ID/ ORG	DEPT PRI	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	MOF	DEPARTMENT REQUEST			GOVERNOR'S DECISION		
							FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR906/AA LNR402/DA		Green Fee Community Stewardship (invasive species): Community partnerships for invasive species control and capacity	Support community partners statewide to control the spread of invasive plant and animal species such as Miconia, Coqui frogs, and noxious weeds, and other invasives species in priority ecosystems to prevent wildfire, promote ecosystem integrity, and develop capacity in community partners and invasive species committees on all islands.	A			-			5,000,000
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR906/AA (CHAIR'S OFFICE)		Monitoring and Evaluation for the Environmental Stewardship project portfolio	Monitoring and Evaluation capacity to track impact for the Environmental Stewardship project portfolio, to support transparency, accountability, and impact assessment.	A			-			500,000
Climate & Hazard Resilience	CH	LNR908/AC	38	Building Climate Resilience in Kealaikahiki, Kaho`olawe		A			160,000			-

Green Fee Requests TOTAL:
By MOF
General

-	-	44,029,130	-	-	57,258,307
A	-	44,029,130	-	-	57,258,307

**FY 27 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET
DEPARTMENT SUMMARY OF CIP BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUESTS - GREEN FEE
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

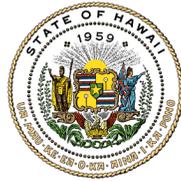
REQ CAT	B&F CODE	PROG ID	DEPT PRI	PROJ NO	NEW ITEM NO.	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	DEPARTMENT REQUEST			GOVERNOR'S DECISION		
								MOF	FY 26	FY 27	MOF	FY 26	FY 27
	ES, CH, ST	LNR404	1	GFC1	D-16.02	WATER SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE INVENTORY AND RESILIENCE STUDY, STATEWIDE	PLANS FOR A WATER SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE INVENTORY AND RESILIENCE STUDY.	A		1,500,000	C	1,500,000	
	ES, CH, ST	LNR401	2	GFD1		ESTABLISHING AN AQUATIC RESOURCE RESILIENCE HEADQUARTERS, OAHU		A		5,000,000			
Climate & Hazard Mitigation	CH	LNR806	3	GFP1		STATE PARKS STATEWIDE FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN, STATEWIDE		A		500,000			
	ES, CH, ST	LNR401	4	GFD2		TESTING THE RESILIENCE OF HAWAII'S CRITICAL AQUATIC RESOURCES, STATEWIDE		A		250,000			
Climate & Hazard Mitigation	CH	LNR806	5	GFP2		STATE PARKS STATEWIDE SEA LEVEL RISE RETREAT PLAN, STATEWIDE		A		500,000			
	CH, ST	LNR801	6	GFB1		PUAKO BOAT RAMP REPAIR AND FLOATING DOCK IMPROVEMENTS, PUAKO, HAWAII		A		3,000,000			
	ES, ST	LNR801	7	GFB2		WAIKAEA BOAT RAMP SITE IMPROVEMENTS, KAPAA, KAUAI		A		6,000,000			
	CH, ST	LNR801	8	GFB3		NAWILIWILI SMALL BOAT HARBOR PIER 400 FLOATING DOCK, LIHUE, KAUAI		A		5,000,000			
Environmental Stewardship	ES	LNR806	9	GFP3		STATE PARKS CESSPOOL UPGRADE AT KOKEE STATE PARK AND WAIMEA CANYON STATE PARK, KAUAI		A		5,000,000			
	CH, ST	LNR101			K-25.01	BEACH AND DUNE RESTORATION, LUMP SUM, STATEWIDE	PLANS, DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND EQUIPMENT FOR BEACH AND DUNE RESTORATION, STATEWIDE; GROUND AND SITE IMPROVEMENTS; EQUIPMENT AND APPURTENANCES.				C	13,800,000	
Climate & Hazard Mitigation	CH	LNR172			A-42.01	WATER TANK REPLACEMENT, HAWAII	PLANS, DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND EQUIPMENT FOR WATER TANKS FOR FIRE SUPPRESSION, HAWAII; GROUND AND SITE IMPROVEMENTS; EQUIPMENT AND APPURTENANCES.				C	2,000,000	
Climate & Hazard Mitigation	CH	LNR401			D-16.01	PILOT CESSPOOL CONVERSIONS IN CORAL HOTSPOTS, HAWAII	PLANS, DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND EQUIPMENT FOR CESSPOOL CONVERSIONS, HAWAII; GROUND AND SITE IMPROVEMENTS; EQUIPMENT AND APPURTENANCES.				C	1,000,000	

**FY 27 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET
DEPARTMENT SUMMARY OF CIP BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUESTS - GREEN FEE
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

REQ CAT	B&F CODE	PROG ID	DEPT PRI	PROJ NO	NEW ITEM NO.	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	DEPARTMENT REQUEST			GOVERNOR'S DECISION			
								MOF	FY 26	FY 27	MOF	FY 26	FY 27	
Sustainable Tourism	ST	LNR801			H-13.01	DAY USE MOORING REPAIRS, STATEWIDE	PLANS, DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND EQUIPMENT FOR NEW INSTALLATION AND REPAIRS OF DAY USE MOORINGS, STATEWIDE; GROUND AND SITE IMPROVEMENTS; EQUIPMENT AND APPURTENANCES.				C	2,500,000		
Sustainable Tourism	ST	LNR806			H-13.02	STATE PARKS IMPROVEMENTS, STATEWIDE	PLANS, DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND EQUIPMENT FOR IMPROVEMENTS AND FIRE MITIGATION AT STATE PARKS, STATEWIDE; GROUND AND SITE IMPROVEMENTS; EQUIPMENT AND APPURTENANCES.				C	9,550,000		
Green Fee Requests TOTAL:														
By MOF														
General Fund								A	-	25,250,000		-	-	
General Obligation Bond Fund								C	-	-		30,350,000	-	
									-	25,250,000		30,350,000	-	

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
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 AND BIOSECURITY**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**MARCH 11, 2026
10:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET**

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1800. This bill amends Act 250, Session Laws of Hawaii 2025 and other appropriations and makes additional appropriations for fiscal biennium 2025-2027. The Department supports this bill.

We respectfully request that budget items that are in the Executive Budget as well as adjustments proposed in Governor's Message No. 2 be considered for this bill. Operating requests include revolving funds for the renovation of office space to accommodate additional staff and special funds to upgrade the animal import software application.

The capital improvements program request includes funds for various irrigation improvements statewide, major repairs to department facilities, and various projects to improve agricultural infrastructure including the development of the Kunia Agricultural Park.

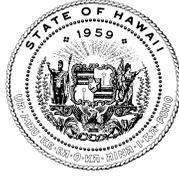
Requests for Green Fee projects in Governor's Message No. 2 include general funds for the Hawaii Mesonet Project that will support statewide weather and climate monitoring and provide real-time environmental data. A general obligation (G.O.) bond fund request is to install photovoltaic and battery energy storage systems for the Department's irrigation systems to prepare for Public Safety Power Shutoffs and other power disruptions.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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

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



KALI WATSON
CHAIRPERSON, HHC
Ka Luna Ho'okele

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

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

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF KALI WATSON, CHAIR
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON MARCH 11, 2026 AT 10:00AM IN CR 308

IN SUPPORT OF

HB 1800, RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

March 11, 2026

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1800. The Governor's Supplemental Budget request for FY 2027 includes funding to support the Department's existing personnel, administrative and operating costs. This budget adds \$23 million in revolving funds to align with projected expenditures of NAHASDA and \$19.192 million for lump sum repair and maintenance for existing infrastructure.

The Hawaiian Homes Commission (HHC) approved the "Sufficient Sums" budget request, which the Department submitted to the Governor and the Legislature as detailed in our budget testimony that can be reviewed at: https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2026/testimony/Info_Testimony_WAM_01-08-26_HHL.pdf. We are grateful for the Governor's and Legislature's support of the Department. Nevertheless, we kindly ask for your endorsement of the HHC-approved "Sufficient Sums" request to ensure the Department's continued fulfillment of its responsibilities to Native Hawaiians, especially DHHL beneficiaries.

In addition, the Department testifies in strong support of the Governor's budgeted \$2 million Green Fee award to DHHL for wildfire mitigation and community resilience initiatives serving Native Hawaiian homestead communities statewide. DHHL urgently needs these funds to address significant wildfire risks across its homelands. The 2023 Lāhainā wildfire underscored the growing wildfire threat throughout Hawai'i. Many DHHL subdivisions are located in high-risk areas and are surrounded by unmanaged fuels and dry vegetation. The Green Fee funding will support both large-scale land management strategies and homestead-based wildfire preparedness efforts.

DHHL has identified five priority mitigation projects: 6.88 miles of firebreak construction and maintenance in Wai'anae and Nānākuli; fire hazard and erosion mitigation at Lālāmilo Preservation Lands on Hawai'i Island; ground maintenance and firebreak work at Pi'ilani Mai Ke Kai in Anahola, Kaua'i; ground maintenance of dry stream beds on Moloka'i; and maintenance of the Leiali'i Parkway landscape in Maui. These projects focus on fuel reduction, firebreak maintenance, erosion control, and vegetation management in high-risk DHHL homestead areas.

The Green Fee will also support two community initiatives in partnership with the Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO). First, a DHHL-dedicated Firewise Support Specialist will assist 15-20 homestead communities through the Firewise USA© certification process by providing technical assistance, risk assessments, workshops, and mitigation planning support. Second, DHHL will fund 10-15 Homestead Community-Led Wildfire Mitigation projects through grants of \$5,000-\$10,000 per community for defensible space, brush clearing, vegetation removal, and evacuation route maintenance. Participating communities will form Firewise committees and contribute volunteer labor or in-kind support. These investments align with the goals of Act 96, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2025, to strengthen Hawai'i's resilience to climate-driven disasters.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/11/2026
Time: 10:00 AM
Location: 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Committee: FIN

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB1800, RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

Purpose of Bill: Adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 20252027 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 1800 and respectfully provides the following comments.

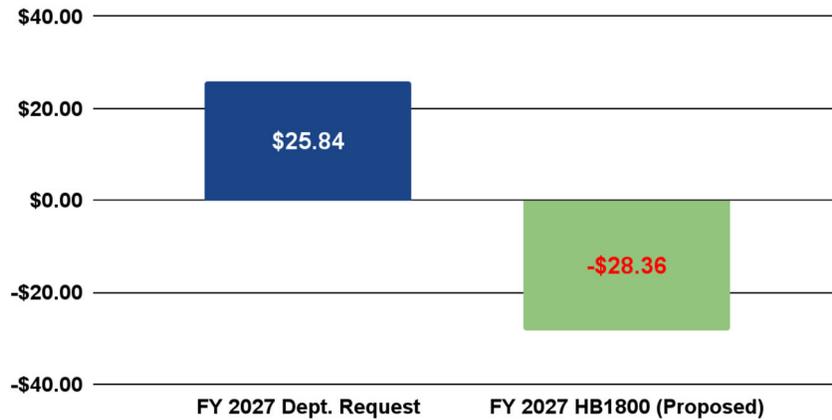
The Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Executive Supplemental Budget as proposed by HB 1800 is the starting point for discussions with the Legislature during the 2026 session. The Department is cognizant of the state's fiscal outlook. We understand that State general fund tax revenues are not as robust as last year.

Investment in public education stands at a critical crossroads during periods of economic downturns and uncertainty. K-12 education, unlike other critical government services, is the state's investment in its future. What may be considered short-term divestments in education – one, two, or even three years – to address budget constraints, have long-term impacts on a generation of students. These young people graduate high school and mature into adults who will make decisions about whether they will live in Hawaii and how they will contribute to our community and economic future.

Operating Budget:

The Department initially put forth a lean and focused general fund operating budget request of \$25.84 million, which was approved by the Hawaii State Board of Education (Board). Given the State's fiscal landscape and the uncertainty with federal government funding, the Department's general fund operating budget was reduced by **-\$28.36 million** as proposed in HB 1800, illustrated in the graph below.

DEPARTMENT REQUEST vs HB1800 PROPOSED BUDGET
(General Funds Only, in millions \$)



The Department’s initial budget request focused on critical public school system needs and was grouped into categories or “buckets” shown in the following table in the column with the heading “DEPARTMENT REQUEST” (general funds only). The category of requests included in HB 1800 are in the column with the heading "HB 1800".

	FY 2027 Supplemental, Critical Needs	DEPARTMENT REQUEST	HB 1800
Category	Description	\$ AMOUNT	\$ AMOUNT
Globally Competitive, Locally Committed	Preparing our graduates with a special sense of responsibility to give back to our island home.	\$3,687,858	\$0
School Food	Sustaining school food service, including staffing, regional kitchen operations, and food cost shortfalls.	\$3,557,748	\$1,640,917
Critical Infrastructure	Addressing essential operational, physical, and technological infrastructure needs.	\$6,774,676	\$0
Health, Safety, Court Mandates	Providing a safe, welcoming learning environment through activities such as refuse disposal, air conditioning maintenance, and wildfire prevention.	\$11,815,562	\$0
Realignment	Redeploying and repurposing program funding and positions for other school-based or related needs.	Net Zero	Net Zero
Federal Fund Replacement	Replacing anticipated losses or uncertainties in federal funding with general funds.	\$6 (\$1 placeholders)	\$0
B&F Adjustment	Budget adjustments made by the Department of Budget and Finance.	-	-\$30,000,000
TOTAL (General Funds Only)		\$25,835,850	-\$28,359,083

By focusing on critical needs for FY 2027, the Department developed a lean budget request while making adjustments to existing program funding and positions to protect core student and school services. Some of our critical needs are related to health and safety such as \$5 million for refuse pick up and \$4.25 million for air conditioning maintenance at schools. None of these made it into HB 1800.

The reason for the proposed reduction in HB 1800 is that \$30 million for preventative maintenance, funded by general funds, was removed from the operating base budget and placed into the proposed Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) budget, to be funded by general obligation bond funds. In addition, the Department's request for central kitchens of \$1.64 million was included in HB 1800 for a net effect of **-\$28.36 million**.

Having preventative maintenance in the operating base budget is much more flexible and reliable due to its recurring nature. If the financial plan cannot accommodate needed sustained support for preventative maintenance in the operating budget, then one-time funding for preventative maintenance via the proposed CIP budget is an understandable consolation. Similarly, while the Department respectfully requests further consideration of its lean and focused operating budget request, it would be appreciated if particular attention can be placed on the health and safety and other "must do" items identified with Committee staff.

Nevertheless, if the Department is unable to secure funds to address critical needs, the Department will need to re-examine its resources for instruction and support services. As to what areas need to be re-examined, the principles of Hawaii State Board of Education Policy 400-4 will need to be followed for reductions in the Department's budget to ensure: (1) that all students will continue to receive equal opportunities for all educational programs or services; (2) that the well-being of students are protected; and (3) that all judicially- and legally-mandated programs and services are preserved.

Green Fee Request Adjustments:

The Governor submitted adjustments to HB 1800 via Governor's Message No. 2, dated January 30, 2026, related to budget requests to be funded by Green Fees. The Governor's Message included one request for the Department: \$4 million in general funds for FY 2027 for brush/vegetation management in order to reduce wildfire risk, improve drainage, and maintain defensible space around the Department's schools. The Department also respectfully requests consideration of this request.

Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Budget:

As with the operating budget, the Department supports HB 1800 with comments and would appreciate CIP funding in the amounts approved by the Board.

The Department's CIP request is significant because the Department manages over 21.5 million square feet of facilities with an average age over 65 years across 258 sites statewide. To improve the execution of the Department's CIP and meet the needs of students across all islands in the most effective and expedient manner, the Department has shifted to a proactive, risk-based approach to address facilities and infrastructure needs. Most of our CIP budget is now organized into categories or "lump-sum buckets". These lump-sum buckets allow the Department to manage and execute projects with greater efficiency and flexibility to meet the growing needs of schools, staff and students. Aside from critical infrastructure and as part of a targeted modernization initiative, the Department has also requested two line items to support the regional kitchen project.

This CIP budget is the Department's renewed effort to manage a more fiscally responsible, targeted and sustainable strategy by making a clear distinction between "needs" and "wants" to address the facility and infrastructure requirements of a constantly evolving and dynamic public education system.

The table below summarizes the Department's FY 2027 Supplemental CIP budget proposal. The means of financing (i.e. source of funds) is general obligation bond

funds (MOF C) unless otherwise noted.

Department of Education Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Supplemental Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (FY 2027)				
Costs in Thousands, EDN 100, MOF C (general obligation bond funds, unless noted otherwise)				
Prioritized List of CIP Projects			FY 2027	FY 2027
			Act 250/ SLH25	Add'l Request
School	Project	Sub category	Appropriated	Project cost
DEFERRED MAINTENANCE PROGRAM			\$0	\$200,000
FEDERAL GRANTS			\$150,000	\$0
Hickam Elementary School	Campus Improvements (qualifies for federal \$)		\$16,500	
		(MOF P)	\$66,000	
Lehua Elementary School	Campus Improvements (qualifies for federal \$)		\$13,500	
		(MOF P)	\$54,000	
HEALTH & SAFETY			\$0	\$50,000
PLANNING, DESIGN AND LAND ACQUISITION			\$0	\$6,000
Various Schools, Statewide	Planning, Design, Site Studies, Land Acquisition	Planning		\$2,000
Various Schools, Statewide	Facility Asset Management Update, Statewide	Planning		\$4,000
CAPACITY			\$0	\$288,308
East Kapolei Elementary School	New School			\$142,028
	(partial use of Fair Share funds)	(MOF X)		\$3,972
King Kamehameha III Elementary School	Replacement School	New School		\$141,000
Koa Ridge Elementary School	New School (start design w/ Fair Share funds)	(MOF X)		\$1,308
TEMPORARY FACILITIES			\$0	\$3,000
Keonepoko Elementary School	Additional Portables with Covered Walkways	Kaiapuni Program		\$3,000
INSTRUCTIONAL			\$0	\$20,000
Waialua High & Intermediate School	New Music Building	Instructional		\$20,000
SUPPORT FACILITIES			\$0	\$68,200
Kohala High School	Gymnasium	Support		\$39,000
Helemano Elementary School	Administration/Library	Support		\$25,500
Nanakuli High & Intermediate School	Baseball Field Improvements	Support		\$3,700
COMPLIANCE			\$0	\$60,950
Various Schools, Statewide	ADA Improvements	ADA		\$2,600
Various Schools,	Gender Equity	Gender Equity		\$2,250

Statewide	Improvements			
Jarrett Middle School	ADA Improvements (OCR)	ADA		\$3,800
Leilehua High School	ADA Improvements (CTE)	ADA		\$4,000
Waiakea High School	Girls Athletic Locker Room	Gender Equity		\$14,100
Waipahu High School	ADA Improvements (CTE)	ADA		\$800
Castle High School	Softball Field Improvements	Gender Equity		\$6,300
Maui High School	Softball Stadium Improvements	Gender Equity		\$7,300
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Subtotal MOF X				\$5,280
Total FY 2027 Budget (Act 250/SLH2025 and Additional Request)			\$166,500	\$784,358

Total Supplemental Budget =	\$950,858
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Conclusion:

The Department, together with families and communities, envisions every graduate as a lifelong learner who is globally competitive and locally committed. Graduates will:

- Apply academic knowledge and an innovative mindset to think critically, communicate effectively, and create impactful contributions in the pursuit of excellence;
- Be resilient and adaptable to an ever-changing world. Graduates will take initiative in charting their next steps to advance their life journey - such as in postsecondary education, career, enterprise, service or exploration; and
- Cultivate well-being and compassion, care for self and others, and build deep roots in Hawaii to fulfill their kuleana and strengthen their community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your continued support of public education.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/11/2026
Time: 10:00 AM
Location: 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Committee: FIN

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

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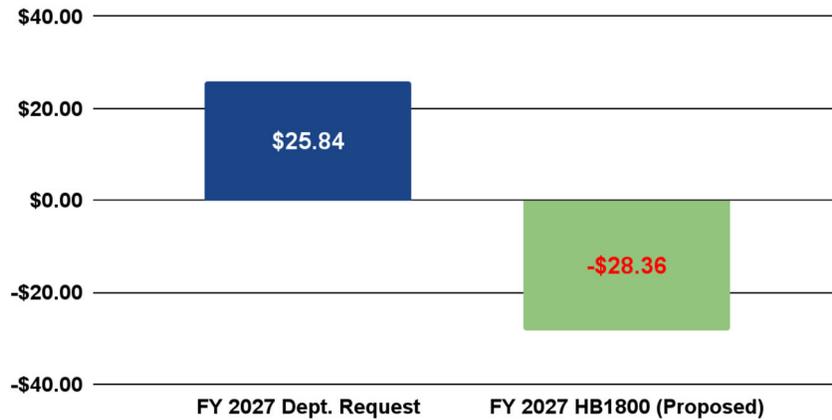
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Total Supplemental Budget =	\$950,858
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Conclusion:

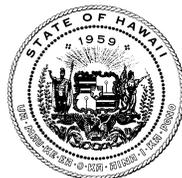
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- Cultivate well-being and compassion, care for self and others, and build deep roots in Hawaii to fulfill their kuleana and strengthen their community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your continued support of public education.

JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
KE KE'ENA O KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STACEY A. ALDRICH
STATE LIBRARIAN
KE PO'O HALE WAIHONA PUKE MOKU'ĀINA

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
'OIHANA HALE WAIHONA PUKE AUPUNI O KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN
44 MERCHANT STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
(808) 586-3704

House Committee on Finance
March 11, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 308

HB 1800 – Relating to the State Budget

To: Rep. Chris Todd, Chair
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

The Hawai'i State Public Library System (HSPLS) **supports** HB1800 which adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2025-2027 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

HSPLS recognizes significant shifts in federal policy are impacting direct funding to programs of the State of Hawai'i, as well as creating uncertainty affecting the State's economy. Although the HSPLS has received federal funding for federal fiscal year 2026, the Institute for Museum and Library Science grant to states program was a target for elimination through most of 2025, and we expect challenges to our federal funding to continue.

Federal funds have been a steady source of funding for HSPLS technology needs statewide, ensuring that all communities have the same access to digital resources. Given the precarious nature of federal funding budgeting currently, HSPLS is even more reliant on State funding in order to maintain services to our communities.

Although not included in the current language of HB1800, the HSPLS respectfully requests the Finance Committee's consideration of the following HSPLS budget requests:

- **Operating Budget – Add \$1.5 million to the base budget for security services.** The current budget for security services is approximately \$2.94 million; the current security guard contract is approximately \$4.2 million. Without the requested funding, approximately 10 libraries will lose security guard services, and several will have reduced hours starting FY2027.

The HSPLS changed security services vendors effective October 1, 2025. Due to the new vendor's higher hourly rate for security guards, the HSPLS reduced the number of service hours and locations covered by the contract to bring the total contract amount in line with the cost of the prior vendor contract. Unfortunately, the cost savings from the reductions is not enough to cover the cost of the fully executed contract. Without the requested increase for security services, public libraries across our islands will not have the security guard services needed beginning in FY2027.

- **Capital Improvement Project Budget – Add \$5 million for planning and design for 'Ewa Beach, Kalihi, Kaimuki and Mililani public libraries.** The funds will be used to initiate planning and design for renovation of these aging public libraries. Construction funding will be requested in future years.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1800 and for your continued support of the Hawai'i State Public Library System.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



RIKI FUJITANI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Hawai'i School Facilities Authority

2759 S. KING STREET, ROOM H201
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

House Committee on Finance

March 11, 2026
10:00 AM

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 308

House Bill 1800, Relating to State Budget

Dear Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The School Facilities Authority (SFA) **strongly supports House Bill 1800**, which would adjust and request appropriations for fiscal biennium 2025-2027 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

SFA builds modern learning spaces for public schools and workforce housing on public lands by improving government processes to maximize long-term project value and accelerate delivery. Its three primary initiatives are preschool expansion, a new Central Maui school, and workforce housing.

SFA asks the committee to approve the capital improvement project for pre-kindergarten capacity in Governor Josh Green's executive budget, which includes \$27,106,000 in general obligation bond funds and \$4,894,000 in special funds (Page 237, Item No. G-20).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Riki Fujitani
Executive Director



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
March 11, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

By

Luis P. Salaveria

Vice President for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer
University of Hawai'i System

HB 1800 – RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today. The University of Hawai'i (UH) **supports** HB 1800, Relating to the State Budget. This measure is this year's "budget bill" and adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2025-2027 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

The UH recognizes the economic uncertainty facing the state and looks forward to continuing to work with the Legislature throughout this session.

The following table provides the items included in UH's portion of the Governor's operating budget request for additional funding, as provided in his December submittal and amended by two subsequent Governor's Messages. All requests are for general funds:

Description	FY27
Aloha Safe Homes - Education and Outreach (GM2)	\$ 300,000
Evaluate sea-level rise effects on buried infrastructure (GM2)	\$ 500,000
Establish a Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) Program (GM5)	\$ 5,000,000
Support salaries and operating expenses at UH Cancer Center (GM5)	\$ 5,000,000
Total	\$ 10,800,000

The following table lists the capital improvement projects requested in the Governor's budget request. All requests are for additional General Obligation (GO) funding:

Description	FY27
System Renew, Improve, and Modernize (RIM)	\$ 65,000,000
Hilo RIM	\$ 9,500,000
Community Colleges Capital Renewal & Deferred Maintenance	\$ 20,000,000
West O'ahu RIM	\$ 3,000,000
Mānoa Athletics Facilities	\$ 7,300,000
Community Colleges Minor CIP	\$ 20,000,000
Waikīkī Aquarium	\$ 7,000,000
Hilo Student Housing	\$ 5,500,000
Total	\$ 137,300,000

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA

March 11, 2026

To: The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair,
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2026
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol

From: Jade T. Butay, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: H.B. 1800 RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

The **DLIR strongly supports** HB1800 and notes that the Department does not have significant requests in the Governor's Executive Supplemental Budget request. The DLIR is fully cognizant of the State's fiscal situation considering federal funding uncertainty and stands ready to work collaboratively with the Legislature to identify solutions that preserve the essential services provided by the Department.

DLIR has two minor adjustments, one involving a trade-off and another involving a transfer to align with the intent of Act 302 (SLH 2025), which transferred the State Fire Council and State Fire Marshal to the Department of Law Enforcement for administrative purposes effective July 1, 2025:

Transfer of General Funds — \$318,000

Pursuant to Act 302, DLIR requests the transfer of \$318,000 in general funds to the Department of Law Enforcement, consisting of:

- \$118,000 for contract services (\$106,000) and travel (\$12,000), and
- \$200,000 for the Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette Program.

Trade-Off Within DLIR — \$134,350

DLIR requests the transfer of \$134,350 from the Personal Services category to the Other Current Expenses category to support current and ongoing operational needs of the Unemployment Insurance Division.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKUPŪAIA O HAWAII
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
AND REHABILITATION**
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'omalua Kalaima
a Ho'oponopono Ola*
1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

TOMMY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

Melanie Martin
Deputy Director
Administration

Vacant
Deputy Director
Correctional Institutions

Sanna Muñoz
Deputy Director
Rehabilitation Services
and
Programs

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

by
Tommy Johnson, Director
Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

House Committee on Finance
Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 11, 2026; 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & via Videoconference

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) supports House Bill (HB) 1800, which proposes to amend Act 250, Session Laws of Hawai'i (SLH) 2025 that appropriates funds for the operating budget and capital improvements program (CIP) for the current fiscal biennium 2025-2027.

DCR's fiscal year 2026-2027 supplemental budget request for the operating budget is an additional 35.0 FTE positions for PSD 421-Health Care. This request is funding neutral via a transfer of funds from PSD 808. In total, the request is for 2,648.60 permanent positions, 43.00 temporary positions, and funding totaling \$319,712,288 for all means of financing.

DCR also requests additional CIP funds of \$45 million for the supplemental fiscal year 2026-2027.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1800.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKAI

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, March 11, 2026
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HB1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT) **strongly supports** HB1800, which adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2025-2027 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs. DBEDT kindly requests consideration of the following Operating and CIP line items included in the Governor's Budget and Governor's Message #2.

[Operating Requests for FY 2027](#)

Business Development and Support Division (BED100/SM)

Convert Community-Based Economic Development Revolving Funds (MOF W) of \$1,823,499 to Special Funds (MOF B).

Creative Industries Division (BED105/CI)

- Trade-off of (1.00 FTE) Permanent Film Industry Development Specialist V position (#96002B) and general funds of (\$71,016), to be transferred to BED142 for 1.00 FTE Permanent Taxation Compliance Coordinator for department-level management of incentives and tax credits.
- Funding offset OCE to reach salary difference in general funds for (\$27,149)
 - Note: Additional offset OCE from BED143 to reach salary difference in general funds for (\$18,100).

Hawaii Tourism Authority – Admin & Governance (BED113/AG)

- \$500,000 in general funds (GM2) for monitoring and evaluation to assess impacts of the Sustainable Tourism Project Portfolio.
 - This request provides funds for the design and development of a dashboard to track and evaluate the results and impacts of Green-Fee-funded sustainable tourism projects, which will support informed policy decisions. HTA is prepared to lead this effort for the State. The dashboard will be readily available to the public and any government agency interested in learning more about sustainable destination management.

Hawaii Tourism Authority - Sports and Signature Events (BED115/SS)

- \$3,000,000 in general funds for Sports Tourism
 - This request funds targeted marketing and promotions with professional and collegiate sports, international teams, and goodwill tournaments that attract traveling fans and participants from key markets including the U.S., Japan, Korea, China, Taiwan, and Australia.
 - The investment will strengthen near-term demand at a time when reduced airlift and cruise itinerary shifts will emerge in response to softening travel demand, and when carriers and cruise lines may redeploy assets to competing destinations absent sustained demand signals.
 - Sports-related travel is a proven, event-driven segment with the interest and capacity to travel, and it can generate compelling reasons to choose Hawai'i. HTA's approach is guided by a sports marketing plan based on target markets, market size, and geographic focus, informed by historical performance and research, and it prioritizes opportunities that address identified gaps and are most likely to stimulate demand.

Hawaii Tourism Authority – Destination Stewardship & Community (BED116/DC)

- \$7,620,000 in general funds (GM2) for community-led visitor education and stewardship systems at high-use sites statewide.
 - This initiative, part of the Green Fee Advisory Council's sustainable tourism project portfolio, will establish or expand community-based teams at high-use sites to provide on-site visitor and resident education on native ecosystems, cultural practices, safety, and responsible behavior, and to lead stewardship work such as habitat restoration, invasive species removal, and protection of culturally significant places.
 - Investing in community-led stewardship reduces impacts on natural and cultural resources, improves safety, strengthens cultural understanding

and respect, and builds long-term local capacity through place-based, culturally grounded approaches. This proposal scales programs already working across the state, aligned with community priorities. HTA is prepared to administer the initiative on behalf of the State of Hawai'i with community organizations, counties, and state agencies, with clear accountability, measurable outcomes, and responsible use of funds.

Director's Office (BED142/AA)

- 1.00 FTE Permanent Taxation Compliance Coordinator and \$116,265 in general funds

This request is a cost-neutral trade-off, with the position transferred from BED105 and funding reallocated from BED105 and BED143.

A centralized tax compliance and policy coordination function is essential to ensuring the consistent, transparent, and accountable administration of DBEDT-managed tax incentives. Without a dedicated compliance function, the Department faces risks of inconsistent statutory interpretation, certification delays, audit exposure, and gaps in implementing legislative changes, issues that directly affect the State's credibility, fiscal oversight, and the Legislature's confidence in the return on investment from tax incentive programs.

DBEDT administers multiple tax incentive programs authorized under HRS Chapter 201 and related statutes, representing tens of millions of dollars in annual State tax expenditures intended to stimulate economic growth, job creation, and industry development. As these programs evolve through legislative amendments and policy updates, the administrative complexity and compliance obligations have increased significantly. DBEDT's proposed legislative updates further expand program scope and reporting requirements, underscoring the need for a dedicated subject-matter expert responsible for coordinating policy interpretation, certification standards, and compliance procedures across programs.

Establishing this position within the Director's Office ensures a single point of accountability for tax incentive oversight, including program compliance, audit coordination, legislative reporting, and interagency coordination with the Department of Taxation, the Office of the Auditor, and the Legislature. Centralizing this function strengthens internal controls and ensures DBEDT's tax incentives are administered consistently and in accordance with statutory intent.

Overseeing programs representing tens of millions in annual State investment, this position helps ensure that tax incentives translate into verified economic

outcomes, workforce development impacts, and measurable returns for the State, while reducing administrative risk and improving transparency and accountability in the management of public resources.

Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (BED143/TE)

- Funding offset OCE to reach salary difference of (\$18,100) in general funds. This supports the position request at BED142 Director's Office for a Taxation Compliance Coordinator handling all department incentives including Section 235-110.9 Research and Development Tax Credit oversight.

Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (BED144/PL)

- \$2,000,000 in general funds (GM2) for the Natural Disaster Economic Recovery Strategy (NDERS) Update and Implementation to prepare small businesses for future disasters. This project will both refresh the NDERS—an existing strategy originally completed in 2014—and fund its implementation to help protect jobs and strengthen economic resilience.
- \$400,000 in general funds (GM2) for the State Climate Adaptation & Resilience Plan to strengthen fiscal resilience, protect critical infrastructure, and prepare communities for a changing climate.

Currently, the State of Hawaii does not have an official, comprehensive statewide Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan. This gap leaves state-owned lands and critical infrastructure vulnerable to escalating climate hazards, increasing the State's fiscal exposure and long-term liability.

A statewide plan is needed to identify high-risk vulnerabilities, assess fiscal and infrastructure risks, and guide proactive investments before significant losses occur. The total requested budget includes:

- A statewide, multi-hazard climate risk and vulnerability modeling to inform capital planning and reduce long-term liabilities.
- Web-based mapping, visualization, and monitoring tools.
- A cost-benefit and fiscal risk assessments to quantify losses and strengthen financial planning.
- Stakeholder engagement, planning, and publication.
- \$158,352 in general funds for 2.0 FTEs to manage and coordinate the multi-year effort.

The need for both staff and contract support reflects the scale and technical complexity of statewide climate modeling, fiscal analysis, cross-agency

coordination, and multi-hazard planning across jurisdictions—work that exceeds current staffing capacity.

This proposal aligns with best practices adopted by other states that have formalized statewide adaptation and resilience plans to integrate climate science into land use, infrastructure, fiscal policy, and emergency preparedness. These frameworks improve coordination, reduce long-term costs, enhance federal funding competitiveness, and address growing concerns from insurers and bond rating agencies as climate-related losses escalate.

Natural Energy Lab of Hawaii Authority (BED146/EL)

- 1.00 FTE Temporary Cultural Practitioner and \$90,170 special fund ceiling. This position will establish essential cultural stewardship capacity needed to support NELHA's statutory mission and ensure timely, community-aligned project development.
- \$126,248 increase in special fund ceiling to restore the salary of unfunded NELHA Admin Assistant. The position provides critical baseline administrative capacity to ensure effective NELHA operations. This position is currently occupied and supports core agency functions.

Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corp (BED160/HA)

- 1.00 FTE Temporary Assistant Controller, and increase ceiling, recurring, by \$176,000 of revolving funds (MOF W).

As the State's lead agency for financing and developing affordable housing, HHFDC continues to broaden and deepen its program portfolio in response to the on-going housing crisis. HHFDC is launching new programs such as the DURF Equity Pilot Program and multifamily bond recycling program; revitalizing previously dormant programs such as the single family mortgage program and down payment assistance program; and managing significantly increased accounting activity in established programs such as the Rental Housing Revolving Fund, multifamily private activity bonds, Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program and various Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund programs. Reflecting this growth, HHFDC's net position reached approximately \$2.7 billion as of June 30, 2025. Also, the number of general ledger accounts that the accounting staff maintains increased to 8,283 accounts in FY 2025 which is an increase by 3,519

accounts over the last 10 fiscal years. HHFDC's accounting section maintains, reconciles and accounts for these 8,283 accounts and continues to increase as new projects are added to the program portfolios. With the expansion in both the number and complexity of programs, current accounting staff at HHFDC are operating at full capacity. It is essential that HHFDC's accounting infrastructure evolves to meet increased operational demands, and reinforce financial management and internal controls. The Assistant Controller will play a critical role in achieving this. This position ensures that HHFDC can maintain accurate, compliant, and timely financial operations across all housing programs to support the development of affordable housing.

Furthermore, HHFDC utilizes a Microsoft-supported accounting system for accounting, recordkeeping, and financial reporting for monetary transactions for the various HHFDC programs and function areas. The accounting software provides a vital foundation for financial integrity through robust financial and management reporting and program tracking. Trial balances and supporting transaction recorded through and within the accounting system are audited by the external financial auditors. The audited financial statements are incorporated into the State's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. However, Microsoft and its partners will discontinue support for the current system, requiring HHFDC to procure and implement a new accounting solution. Managing the procurement, implementation, and parallel operation of both the existing and new systems will place substantial strain on current accounting staff. We anticipate that the Assistant Controller will be fully engaged in managing the entire transition to a new accounting system, including solicitation, procurement, implementation, testing, staff training, and post implementation maintenance and troubleshooting. The accounting system underpins all financial transactions supporting housing development, including loan disbursements, bond transactions, and project funding flows. A failure to transition before software support ends would place HHFDC at risk of disruption in project payments, audit findings affecting bond rating and credibility, and delays in project closings and construction draws.

Stadium Authority (BED180/SA)

- \$49,500,000 Ceiling Increase to Stadium Development Special Funds (SDSF). This adjustment is necessary to enable the Stadium Authority to allot and expend funds previously appropriated under Act 248, SLH 2022, and authorized for deposit into the SDSF via Proviso 17.3. Increasing the ceiling ensures the Stadium Authority possesses the requisite fiscal flexibility to execute the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District (NASED) project efficiently.

CIP Requests for FY 2027

Foreign Trade Zone (BED107/BA)

- \$250,000 in special funds for Tropical Agricultural Tech Center Warehouse, Hawaii, to be reimbursed by Federal earmark.

Hawaii Tourism Authority - Admin & Governance (BED113/XC)

- This \$55 million request was originally submitted as \$81 million: the \$60 million in GO Bonds and \$21 million in special funds.
 - Hawaii Convention Center Improvements, Oahu, GO Bonds for \$60,000,000 is now amended to \$34 million in GO Bonds .
 - Hawaii Convention Center Improvements, Oahu, special funds for \$21,000,000. No amendments to this request.
 - This request will fund approximately 20 repair and upgrade projects at the Hawai'i Convention Center that are separate from the roof repair currently underway, including approximately \$22 million to repair the ballroom gutter and the foyer transom glass adjacent to the roof area.
 - Completing this work concurrently with the roof repair will improve cost efficiency and help minimize future lost business, since the facility is already operating on a modified evenings-and-weekends schedule. The project list is based on cost estimates; if final costs exceed estimates, HTA will adjust the scope by reducing the number of projects to remain within the appropriation.

Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (BED144)

- \$7,000,000 in GO Bonds (GM2) in FY 2026 for Plans, Design, and Construction for Waikiki Beach Restoration Project, Oahu. The FEIS highlights the urgent need to address climate-driven erosion that threatens public safety, residents, and Hawaii's economy.

Natural Energy Lab of Hawaii Authority (BED146/EL)

- \$10,000,000 in GO Bonds to remove six abandoned deep seawater pipelines totaling approximately 22,500 linear feet that present a serious risk to public health and safety and to the environment.
- \$1,675,000 in GO Bonds for design and construction of Host Park Repairs and Improvements including a) security fencing, b) offshore pipeline surveys and improvements, c) Research Campus electrical repair and upgrades, and d) priority roadway repairs. The purpose is to mitigate known safety hazards and preserve essential assets.

Hawaii Community Development Authority (BED150/KA)

- \$1,000,000 in GO bonds for East Kapolei Environmental Impact Statement, Oahu. The project scope is to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement and archaeological/historical/cultural analyses (ka pa‘akai) to cover infrastructure projects, development, and master plan implementation in East Kapolei.

Agribusiness Development Corporation (BED170/KB)

- \$9,300,000 in GO bonds for the Kōke‘e Ditch Irrigation System on Kauai provides irrigation water to approximately 12,000 acres of agricultural land and failure to fund these improvements places productive farmland at immediate risk, undermines the State’s food production objectives, threatens agricultural jobs, and compromises long-term economic stability in the region. Beyond its agricultural function, the Kōke‘e system provides critical water storage capacity that captures storm surges and heavy rainfall, mitigating downstream flooding risks and protecting public safety. Deferred action increases the likelihood of infrastructure failure during extreme weather events, exposing nearby lands, infrastructure, and communities to preventable flood hazards.
- \$2,630,000 in GO Bonds for the Kekaha Irrigation System serves approximately 2,500 acres of agricultural lands in West Kaua‘i is essential to the survival of small and medium-sized farming operations that rely on consistent irrigation to sustain crops and remain economically viable. Aging infrastructure and deferred maintenance have heightened the risk of service disruptions that could immediately impact active farming operations. Without this investment, the State faces significant disruptions to agricultural production, setbacks to Hawai‘i’s food security mandates, economic losses in rural communities, and increased public safety concerns associated with unmanaged stormwater flows. In addition to supporting agriculture, the system plays an important role in regional water management and stormwater control, helping reduce flood risks during heavy rainfall events. Prompt funding is necessary to safeguard both agricultural productivity and community resilience.

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor

Sylvia Luke
Lt. Governor

James Kunane Tokioka
DBEDT Director

Dane K. Wicker
DBEDT Deputy Director

Walter Thoemmes
Stadium Authority Chair

Michael R. Yadao
Stadium Authority Executive Director



Statement of
MICHAEL R. YADAO
Stadium Authority
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, March 11, 2026
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
H.B. 1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi and members of the Committee.

The Stadium Authority respectfully submits testimony in support of HB1800, Relating to the State Budget, specifically the provision appropriating \$49,500,000 in Fiscal Year 2027 to increase the Stadium Development Special Fund (SDSF) ceiling.

This measure is necessary to allow the Stadium Authority to allot and expend funds previously appropriated in Act 248, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022, and authorized by proviso to be deposited into the SDSF. Increasing the ceiling does not create a new program or new spending commitment; rather, it enables the State to fully utilize funds that have already been appropriated for the project's implementation.

The requested ceiling increase provides the Authority with essential financial flexibility to support the continued progress of the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District (NASED) project. As the project transitions from planning and site preparation into active development, expenditures must be timed with construction activities, infrastructure coordination, professional services, and project oversight requirements. The SDSF serves as the primary financial mechanism that allows the Authority to manage these obligations responsibly and efficiently.

Without this adjustment, previously authorized funds cannot be deployed when needed, potentially causing delays, contract complications, and increased project costs. Allowing

the Stadium Authority to access these funds ensures continuity of work, maintains project momentum, and protects the State's investment.

HB1800 supports sound fiscal management by enabling the State to carry out an already-approved project while maintaining proper accounting and oversight. The measure will help ensure that the NASED project proceeds in a timely and responsible manner and continues moving toward delivering a long-term community asset for residents and future generations.

For these reasons, the Stadium Authority respectfully urges the Committee to pass HB1800.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your continued support of this important statewide project.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'I

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT DIVISION

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

DENNIS T. LING
ADMINISTRATOR

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Statement of
DENNIS T. LING
Administrator

Business Development and Support Division
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE**

Wednesday, March 11, 2026
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HB1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi and members of the Committee. The Business Development and Support Division (BDSD) of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) offers the following comments on **HB1800** which adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2025-2027 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs, including the Community-Based Economic Development Program's Revolving Fund.

BDSD acknowledges that the Community-Based Economic Development (CBED) Program was established in 1991 under Act 111, Session Laws of Hawaii 1991, and codified as Chapter 210D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, within DBEDT. The statute also created the CBED Revolving Fund.

From this fund, CBED administers the State's only state-operated small business loan program. It provides loans, typically between \$50,000 and \$125,000, to agricultural producers, manufacturers, and wholesalers seeking to expand their operations.

Structured as a revolving loan program, repayments are returned to the fund and re-lent to new businesses. This mechanism extends the impact of each appropriation, multiplying the effect and creating a sustainable cycle of investment. At the end of 2025, the CBED loan program portfolio totaled \$1.54M loans across 18 local businesses, with no history of defaults. BDSB maintains that this fund functions as a revolving fund and should remain as such, rather than be converted into a special fund.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'I

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
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Statement of
GEORJA SKINNER
Administrator, Creative Industries Division
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, March 11, 2026
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HB1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

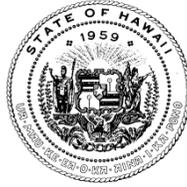
The Creative Industries Division (CID) of the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT) strongly supports HB1800, which adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2025-2027 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

CID kindly requests consideration and support of establishing a Tax Compliance Coordinator position at the department level to serve as lead for all statutory incentive programs to serve in the Director's office and included in DBEDT's request to the Governor.

BED 105 -- Operating Requests for FY 2027

- Trade-off of (1.00 FTE) Permanent Film Industry Development Specialist V for 1.00 FTE Permanent Taxation Compliance Coordinator for department-level management of incentives and tax credits.
- Funding offset OCE to reach salary difference in general funds for (\$27,149)
 - Note: Additional offset OCE from BED143 to reach salary difference in general funds for (\$18,100).

Mahalo for your consideration and available for any questions.



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

10:00 AM

State Capitol, 308

HB1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

House Committee on Finance

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) supports H.B. 1800, which adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2025–2027 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement program (CIP) projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

Additionally, HDOT respectfully requests your favorable consideration for the following budget items and provisions:

Governor's Message No. 2, dated January 30, 2026, requested additional budget appropriations for several projects identified by the Green Fee Advisory Council as priority funding recommendations for climate resilience and hazard mitigation.

Highways Administration (TRN 595/DB)

- Add \$1,000,000 in general funds in FY 27 for the InSAR Satellite Data Collection, a statewide fire mitigation strategy to identify high fire potential due to dry vegetation and slope stability issues.

General Administration (TRN 995/AA)

- Add \$915,000 in general funds in FY 27 for the Kalaeloa Reef Laboratory Project to test the effectiveness of hybrid reef structures on dissipating wave energy prior to reaching the shore.
- Add \$240,000 in general funds in FY 27 for Phase I of the Pilihe'e Fishpond Restoration Project to support protection of a threatened section of Kamehameha Highway in Kualoa, O'ahu.

Additional Green Fee Funding Request (TRN 595/DB)

The DOT intends to submit a Governor's Message requesting \$3,000,000 from the Green Fee General Fund to support debris removal, and illegal dumping cleanup along transportation corridors.

Many areas immediately adjacent to highways, airports, and harbors including county and other lands have experienced increasing trash accumulation and blight, which negatively impacts the safety, environmental quality, and overall quality of life. Because these lands fall outside state jurisdiction, the Department currently has limited ability to address these conditions despite their direct visibility.

This funding would allow the Department to partner with counties, community organizations, and landowners to remove debris, restore affected areas, and improve the appearance of critical transportation corridors, supporting the Green Fee program's goals of environmental stewardship and sustainable visitor management.

Program/Project Appropriations

Governor's Message No. 5, dated March 2, 2026, requested adjustments to funding for HDOT's modal programs:

Ellison Onizuka Kana International Airport at Keahole (TRN 114/BE)

- Reduce \$143,481 in special funds in FY 27 to withdraw the request to redescribe a vacant position (Visitor Information Program Assistant (VIPA) II) to three new positions (Painter 11, Electrician I, and Airport Maintenance Repairer I).
- Trade-off 3.00 permanent full-time equivalent (FTE) positions and \$143,481 in special funds from fringe and collective bargaining to fund and redescribe 3.00 permanent VIPA II positions to 1.00 permanent Painter II, 1.00 permanent Electrician I, and 1.00 permanent Airport Maintenance Repairer I positions.

Airports Administration (TRN 195/BB)

- Add \$2,500,000 in special funds in FY 27 to implement the Seamless Border Entry to streamline and speed up the customs clearance experience for travelers and increase funds pertaining to the ongoing maintenance and software licensing.
- Add \$500,000 in special funds in FY 27 to support the continued implementation and expansion of the Internship and Workforce Development Program (IWOP), including resources for coordination, program administration, participant support, and other related improvements throughout the airports statewide.

Harbors Administration (TRN 395/CB)

- Add \$200,000 in special funds in FY 27 to support the continued implementation and expansion of IWDP, including resources for coordination, program administration, participant support, and other related improvements.

Hawai'i Highways - Hawai'i District (TRN 511/DD)

- Add \$15,000 in special funds in FY 27 to support the continued implementation and expansion of the IWDP, including resources for coordination, program administration, participant support, and other related improvements.

Maui Highways - Maui District (TRN 531/DF)

- Transfer \$83,328 in special funds from payroll savings to personal services in FY 27 to fund a General Laborer II position.
- Add \$35,000 in special funds in FY 27 to support the continued implementation and expansion of IWDP, including resources for coordination, program administration, participant support, and other related improvements.

Highways Administration (TRN 595/DA)

- Transfer in 1.00 permanent FTE position (Highway Landscape Architect) and \$165,000 in special funds from General Administration (TRN 995/AA) in FY 27 to more appropriately align the budget with program operations.
- Reduce 4.00 permanent FTE positions (2.00 Highways Administration Engineer IV, 1.00 Highways Administration Land Boundary Surveyor IV, and 1.00 Highways Administration Land Surveyor II positions) and \$510,030 in special funds in FY 27 for a trade-off/transfer to establish 4.00 new permanent FTE positions (1.00 Highway Safety Manager, 1.00 Program Specialist V, and 2.00 Information Specialist III positions) in Highways Safety (TRN 597/AB) to support the Automated Red Light and Speed Enforcement Program (ARLSEP) and to provide dedicated assistance with federal compliance requirements.

Highways Administration (TRN 595/DB)

- Add \$240,000 in special funds in FY 27 for Systems, Applications, and Products in Data Processing consulting services to provide specialized technical expertise to support initial version upgrade, review and test version upgrade deliverables, and ensure a seamless transition that preserves system functionality and data integrity.
- Add \$201,000 in special funds in FY 27 to support the continued implementation and expansion of IWDP, including resources for coordination, program administration, participant support, and other related improvements.
- Reduce \$3,283,087 in special funds in FY 27 to withdraw the request in FY 27 to provide additional State Highway special funds (SHSF) for the Automated Speed Enforcement Program (ASEP).
- Reduce \$790,500 in special funds in FY 27 to withdraw the request in FY 27 to provide additional funding for the 5% surcharge payment to Central Services as required by Chapter 36-28, HRS, for the ASEP Special Fund (ASEPSF).
- Reduce \$3,283,087 in special funds in FY 27 to withdraw the request in FY 27 to provide additional SHSF for the Photo Red Light Imaging Detector System (PRLIDS).
- Reduce \$172,422 in special funds in FY 27 to withdraw the request in FY 27 to provide funding for the 5% surcharge payment to Central Services as required by Chapter 36-28, HRS, for the Photo Red Light Imaging Detector Systems Special Fund (PRLIDSSF).

Highways Safety - Motor Vehicle Safety Office (TRN 597/AB)

- Add 4.00 new permanent FTE positions (1.00 Highway Safety Manager, 1.00 Program Specialist V, and 2.00 FTE Information Specialist III positions) and \$510,030 in special funds in FY 27 to support the ARLSEP and to provide dedicated assistance with federal compliance requirements. Equivalent FTE positions and funds are being traded off/transferred from Highways Administration (TRN 595/DA).
- Add \$3,283,087 in special funds in FY 27 to provide additional SHSF for ASEP.
- Add \$790,500 in special funds in FY 27 to provide additional funding for the 5% surcharge payment to Central Services as required by Chapter 3628, HRS, for the ASEPSF.
- Add \$3,283,087 in special funds in FY 27 to provide additional SHSF for the PRLIDS.
- Add \$172,422 in special funds in FY 27 to provide funding for the 5% surcharge payment to Central Services as required by Chapter 36-28, HRS, for the PRLIDSSF.

Aloha Tower Development Corporation (TRN 695/AC)

- Reduce 1.00 permanent FTE position and \$73,393 in special funds in other current expenses and add 1.00 temporary FTE position and \$73,393 in special funds in personal services in FY 27 to convert the Aloha Tower Development Corporation Program Specialist to a temporary position, which will provide flexibility to respond to the changes associated with development and management demands.

General Administration - Departmental Administration (TRN 995/AA)

- Add \$231,000 in special funds in FY 27 to increase payment to the Transportation Division of the Department of the Attorney General for services of one additional Deputy Attorney General.
- Transfer out 1.00 permanent FTE position (Highway Landscape Architect) and \$165,000 in special funds in FY 27 to Highways Administration (TRN 595/DA) to more appropriately align the budget with program operations.
- Transfer \$61,632 in special funds out from other personal services in FY 27 to support the reclassification of a Human Resources Assistant (HRA) V to a Departmental Program Officer (DPO) (Workforce Development (WO)).
- Transfer \$61,632 in special funds into personal services in FY 27 to support the reclassification of a HRA V to a DPO (WO).

Provisos/Provisions

HDOT respectfully requests your favorable consideration to change debt service funding for a prior CIP appropriation indicated for TRN 595, Farrington Highway Widening, Kapolei Golf Course to Fort Weaver Road, Oahu, by providing the following:

"SECTION ###. Any law or provision to the contrary notwithstanding, for the capital improvement project authorized under Act 40, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019, as amended by Act 6, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020, Section 4, Item C-

47.11, no debt service costs, including but not limited to bond principal, interest, reserve requirements, issuance costs, or other financing-related expenses, shall be paid or reimbursed from the state highway fund. All debt service costs for the project identified in this section shall be paid from the general fund."

HDOT respectfully requests your favorable consideration for two provisos to specifically authorize HDOT the flexibility to transfer funds and transfer positions by providing the following:

"SECTION ###. Unless otherwise provided in this Act, the governor is authorized to transfer operating funds between appropriations within the same fund, within the department of transportation, for operating purposes."

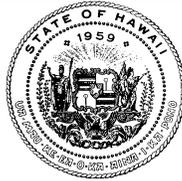
"SECTION ###. Except as otherwise provided in this Act, the department of transportation is authorized to transfer positions within its respective authorized position ceiling for the purpose of maximizing the utilization of personnel resources and staff productivity; provided further that all such actions shall be with the prior approval of the governor and shall be consistent with appropriations provided in this Act and with provisions of part II of chapter 37, Hawaii Revised Statutes."

HDOT respectfully requests your favorable consideration to reauthorize a prior operating grant-in-aid for TRN 995/AA, Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, Inc., by including the following:

"SECTION ###. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 as a grant pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, Inc. for costs relating to charging stations and a fleet of electric vehicles and all expenses related to their application of funds. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of transportation (TRN995) for the purposes of this section."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'AINA O KA MOKU'AINA 'O HAWAII



KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1800
RELATING TO RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.**

REP. CHRIS TODD, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: March 11, 2026

Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Sufficient appropriations are required for the Department of Health (DOH)
2 to implement statutory obligations. Insufficient funding will jeopardize public health at large
3 and for vulnerable populations.

4 **Department Testimony:** The DOH supports HB1800, in particular where priorities identified
5 in the Governor's Executive Budget Request have been funded at requested levels.

6 The DOH's guiding principles include:

- 7 • Implementing and maintaining core public health functions, including assessment, policy,
8 and assurance,
- 9 • Satisfying federal mandates, including court-ordered settlements,
- 10 • Directing resources at problems that pose the greatest risk to the public's health and the
11 environment,
- 12 • Dispersing appropriate and cost-effective resources geographically, and
- 13 • Providing services of last resort for uninsurable populations and where there is no other
14 satisfactory alternative.

15 The Executive biennium budget requests also include new temporary and permanent FTE, as
16 well as trade-off transfer requests which consist of housekeeping adjustments to reduce negative
17 personal services adjustment budget lines and other housekeeping requests to fold in statutorily
18 exempt positions and align the budget to previously acknowledged reorganizations. Federal fund

1 adjustment requests are also being submitted to align the federal budget ceiling with updated
2 actual and anticipated federal fund awards.

3 The DOH continues to address the health of our State through a combination of population
4 health management and strategic partnerships to address the needs of our most vulnerable
5 populations. We look forward to advancing Hawaii's health agenda through the leveraging of
6 resources and capitalizing on health care reform options which support accessible, affordable,
7 and quality health care.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



RYAN I. YAMANE
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

March 10, 2026

TO: The Honorable Representative Chris Todd, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 1800 – RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.**

Hearing: March Date, 2026, Time p.m.
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill and provides comments regarding the department's supplemental budget requests. We thank the Legislature for its continuing support of the department's programs, workforce, and operational needs.

With the significant amendments made by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), Public Law 21-14, signed on July 4, 2025, DHS is focused on implementing programmatic changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid, with the priority to maintain access and eligibility to available public assistance.

While responding to federal law and policy changes, it is important that our staffing levels remain as we continue to recruit, redescribe available positions, and reorganize to adapt and respond to changing fiscal and operational circumstances. DHS continues to face high vacancy rates, driven by another year of retirements and a general shortage of human services workers due to wage gaps and the toll of serving residents with complex needs. We must continue to have the resources and flexibility to innovate, train, and support career pathways and the professional development of the current and future human services workforce.

Highlights of the supplemental budget reflect shifts in federal policies as we begin to meet the requirements of OBBBA. Significant requests to support the SNAP program include additional state funds to offset the reduction in federal fund match from 50% to 25% of SNAP administrative expenses. Additional investment in modifying the eligibility systems is also required to meet OBBBA work or "community engagement" requirements and address other changes aimed at reducing SNAP program errors. Increases to Medicaid capitation funds are included to meet an anticipated 12% increase in health care across all populations.

Other program requests include funds to subsidize general liability insurance costs for child welfare-contracted providers and to support homeless triage and medical respite programs on Oahu.

Operational funds are needed to complete the consolidation of staff from private leases to government buildings, aimed at improving public access to services and reducing lease costs. The Office of Wellness & Resilience (OWR) and the State Office on Homelessness & Housing Solutions (SOHHS) both need appropriations to cover operational expenses and continue their programs.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) requests a housekeeping measure to convert all Federal "N" Funds to "W" Revolving Funds. This is a continuation of efforts commenced in the 2025 legislative session. See HPHA testimony submitted separately. The Office of Youth Services (OYS) requests a trade-off to convert a social worker position into an administrative assistant II position to assist with procurement and contracts.

Importantly, we also require an emergency appropriation for \$30,748,126 in general funds to restore DHS program funding for state fiscal year (SFY) 2025-2026. (See HB2310 HD1/SB2211 SD1(admin measure)). This request for emergency appropriation includes \$14,248,126 to restore funding used to address the food insecurity of SNAP recipients and residents during the 2025 federal government shutdown. \$16,500,000 is necessary to help residents continue to afford health care coverage under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Without emergency appropriations, multiple programs will likely experience a 4th-quarter shortfall and may not be able to meet their SFY 2026 fiscal obligations. For health care coverage, certain residents may not be able to maintain coverage obtained through the federal marketplace. We respectfully request that the emergency appropriations be approved expeditiously to meet current obligations and avoid penalties or payment delays.

However, this supplemental budget does not address the additional upcoming OBBBA impacts on health care, increases in contracted provider costs, such as the 2026 minimum wage increase, and other increases, including premium increases for liability and health insurance for contracted providers across the department.

DHS continues to process a high number of monthly applications, and caseloads for Medicaid, SNAP, and child care remain above or near pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels as individuals and families continue to seek assistance. To address the "affordability" crisis, DHS launched the Hawaii Relief Program, adapted from a program developed in response to the Maui Wildfires, to provide housing and utility assistance statewide to eligible families with minor children facing financial crisis. The Hawaii Relief Program uses federal funds from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. Housing stability is foundational as a safe home supports positive child development and family well-being, leading to educational success and sustained employment, and strengthens communities. In contrast, housing instability and experiencing evictions have long-lasting negative impacts on children's and adults' well-being, educational and health outcomes, and degrade community cohesiveness.

Organizational Structure

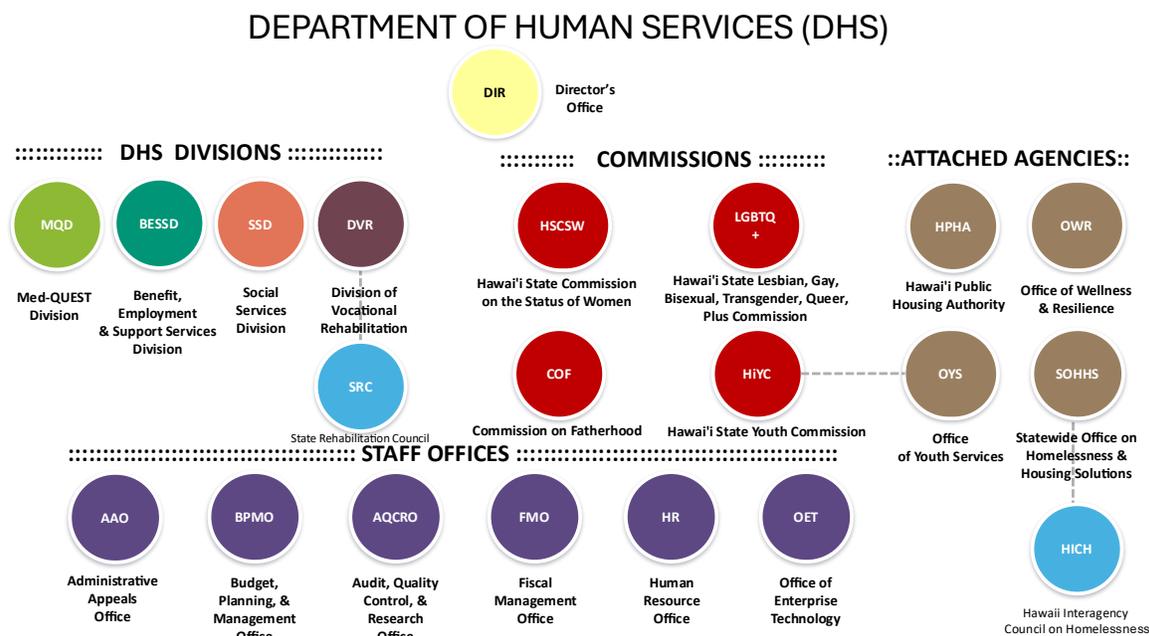


Figure 1. DHS Organizational Chart, ver. 2025

DHS provides benefits and services with the following organizational structure (as illustrated above):

- Four Divisions: Benefit, Employment & Support Services (BESSD), Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), Med-QUEST Division (MQD), Social Services Division (SSD).
- Four attached agencies: the Office of Youth Services (OYS), which includes the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF), the Hawai'i Public Housing Agency (HPHA), the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (SOHHS), and the Office of Wellness & Resilience.
- Four attached commissions and two councils: the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women (HSCSW), the Commission on Fatherhood (COF), the Hawai'i State

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus Commission (HSLGBTQ+), the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC), and the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH).

- Six staff offices that provide services to all divisions, attached agencies, and commissions: Administrative Appeals Office (AAO), Audit, Quality Control & Research Office (AQCRO), Budget, Planning, & Management Office (BPMO), Fiscal Management Office (FMO), Human Resources (HR), and Office of Information Technology (OIT); and
- The Director’s Office provides overall management of the department. It also leads departmental emergency management responsibilities, including Maui Wildfire recovery efforts and piloting cross-department projects such as Family Resource Centers, including the Family Resource & Visitation Center at Waiawa Correctional Facility, and serves as a representative on multiple legislative and national work groups and task forces.

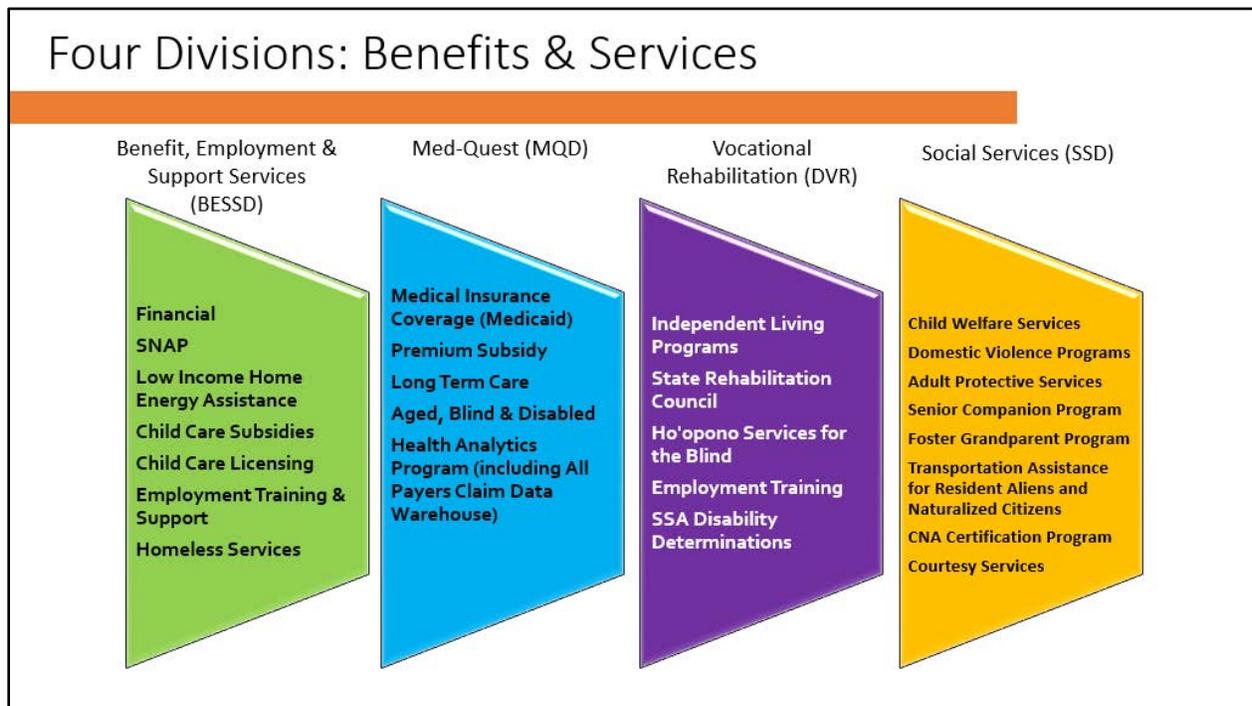


Figure 2. Major DHS programs by division, ver.2026

With more than 2,400 positions (permanent and temporary) in more than 80 offices statewide, DHS continues to serve nearly 1/3 of Hawaii's population with one or more benefits or services. In SFY2026, DHS manages an annual budget of over \$4.77B, of which more than 62.68% are federal funds. Notably, DHS distributes a vast majority of federal funds as benefits or services and accesses federal matching funds or seeks federal reimbursement to pay for salaries and operations. To continue to serve Hawaii's residents efficiently and effectively, we have the following strategic goals:

Goal 1: Improve the self-sufficiency and well-being of Hawai'i's individuals and families.

DHS provides benefits and services to individuals and families by assisting with financial and nutrition assistance, housing and utility assistance, employment and skills training, supporting early childhood development and school readiness with child care subsidies and regulations, providing access to health care, intervention and prevention services that address abuse and neglect, and homeless services.

Goal 2: Improve service integration and delivery to develop solutions that deliver sustainable outcomes.

DHS benefits and services support Hawaii's individuals, families, and communities, contribute to our local economy, and establish Hawai'i DHS as a national human service delivery leader. We continue to innovate by transforming our policies, processes, and systems to increase access to available benefits that improve the self-sufficiency and well-being of Hawai'i's residents. We aim to serve residents across programs and divisions with Aloha and a vision for the future that connects residents quickly to available resources.

- (1) Modernizing the DHS IT infrastructure,
- (2) Implementing our multigenerational 'Ohana Nui framework to end intergenerational poverty, and
- (3) Developing and implementing the department's strategic plan and performance measures.

Most workers have returned to offices since the COVID-19 pandemic, and DHS maintains the capability to support a hybrid work environment while ensuring and increasing safe access to benefits and services. The hybrid flexibility also allows staff to provide statewide assistance where and when necessary.

In this latest crisis caused by the federal government shutdown, knowledgeable and experienced leadership, dedicated staff, and community partners quickly implemented multiple initiatives to address its impact. Administrators and staff relied on their teams and lessons learned in responding to the extraordinary demands of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Maui Wildfires.

Goal 3: Improve staff health and development.

Like many human services agencies across the country, DHS continues to face high vacancies as higher-paying private- and public-sector jobs attract the available workforce. Findings from a recent wage equity study from the University of Washington School of Social Work found that in Washington:

- 1) "human services workers are systematically paid less than workers in non-care industries, with estimated pay gaps of 30% or more across different econometric models[,] and
- 2) "human services workers are paid less than workers in other industries or sectors whose tasks are rated as comparable through a systematic job evaluation process." Romich, J. L., et al. (2022). *Wage Equity for Non-Profit Human Services Workers*. University of Washington School of Social Work

As such, we need to address compensation and pursue broad cross-sector opportunities to encourage and support the State's health and human services workforce through career pathways and professional development that build skills and foster leadership. Also, OWR has begun trauma-informed staff training to increase staff awareness and knowledge, helping DHS and other agencies become trauma-informed organizations.

On the horizon, significant programmatic and operational changes are needed to implement OBBBA and other federal policies. Uncertainty persists as we await federal programmatic guidance; DHS will need to continue modernizing our IT infrastructure and engage with community providers to support resident eligibility. We are looking for ways and resources to improve our internal and external communication, maintain transparency and access to benefits, and reduce confusion.

The significant conditions impacting DHS operations and the ability to meet all program goals are:

- Major cost shifting from federal to state funds per OBBBA and federal programmatic and policy changes to health care and human services programs.
- Uncertainty due to multiple changes with the federal administration, including the elimination of federal offices, loss of long-term relationships with federal programmatic oversight staff, and changes and delays in reimbursement processes.
- Uncertainty of pending federal administration guidance and rules to implement OBBBA.
- Continued high application rates and caseloads.
- Vacancies across the department and retiring staff.
- Need for additional communication and training resources to maintain transparency and reduce confusion as we navigate OBBBA and other federal and fiscal changes.
- The impact of the cost of doing business on contracted services, and
- The end of COVID-19 pandemic era funding.

It is well known that DHS caseloads are counter-cyclical; that is, if the economy weakens, people seek government assistance, and caseloads go up. If the national and state economies slow or face additional disruptions that affect employment opportunities or raise consumer prices, we anticipate applications remaining steady or increasing as residents seek assistance.

The following summarizes the significant OBBBA changes to the SNAP and Medicaid programs. For SNAP, these include:

- Able Bodied Adult work requirements apply to additional groups, and certain non-citizens are no longer eligible, effective **November 1, 2025**.
- The federal share of State Administrative Expense (SAE) for SNAP will decrease from 50% to 25% starting **October 1, 2026** (FFY 2027). As the Federal share of SAE decreases, the State's SAE will increase by an estimated \$14.8M annually. This includes funding for salaries, equipment, other operating expenses related to SNAP administration, and funding for the SNAP Outreach program. General fund increases are needed in Program IDs HMS 236, HMS 903, and HMS 904. These estimates are based on the current SAE, which has varied from year to year.
- States become responsible for a percentage of the SNAP benefit amount based on the Payment Error Rate (PER) starting **October 1, 2027** (FFY 2028). Currently, the SNAP benefits are 100% federally funded and are not reflected in the State executive budget. If we consider Hawaii's PER for FFY 2024 (the most recent completed year), it is 6.68%. At a 5% cost share, the State's contribution required for the actual SNAP benefit could exceed \$34M.

For the Medicaid program, OBBBA changes include:

- **Limiting eligibility for immigrants:** **Starting October 1, 2026**, OBBBA amends the definition of "qualified alien" to **cut** Medicaid eligibility for certain non-citizens:
 - Refugees,
 - humanitarian parolees,
 - asylum grantees,
 - certain spouses and children fleeing violence/abuse, and
 - certain trafficking victims.

We estimate that 1,200 to 2,400 current members who lose coverage would be eligible only for emergency services. Some of the individuals may qualify for our state-funded Aged, Blind, or Disabled category.

- **Reducing retroactive coverage period:** **Effective January 1, 2027**, the retroactive coverage period is reduced from 90 days to:
 - One month for the adult Expansion population, and
 - Two months for other Medicaid and CHIP eligibility categories.

Hospitals must treat individuals in the emergency room regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. Not applying for Medicaid in a timely manner may lead to increased costs for hospitals and greater medical debt for individuals.

- **Revising the home equity limit - Eligibility for Long Term Care:** Effective January 1, 2028, the maximum home equity limit of \$1 million is set for purposes of determining eligibility for nursing facility services or other long-term care services. The limit cannot be waived through asset disregards and is not inflated annually.

These changes would differentially harm Aged, Blind, and Disabled individuals in locations with high housing costs, make it more difficult to access long-term care, and make it more difficult for individuals to age in their community or to pass their homes onto future generations, which can further exacerbate the State's housing crisis.

- **Increasing requirements for the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Expansion adults** to enroll and maintain coverage.
 - Effective December 31, 2026, eligibility renewals increase to every 6 months from the current annual renewal.
 - Effective December 31, 2026, states are required to **establish work/community engagement requirements** for ACA Expansion adults **aged 19-64** as a condition of Medicaid eligibility. Working, community service, or a work program, or at least half-time enrollment in an educational program, or a combination of these activities for 80 hours; or monthly income that is at least 80 times the federal hourly minimum wage; seasonal workers with average monthly income over previous 6 months that is at least 80 times the federal hourly minimum wage (\$580 per month).
 - Exceptions and a hardship waiver process exist
 - States must **verify** at application and renewal
 - State must use an automated process (**ex parte**) to determine:
 - 1) if an individual has met the requirement to demonstrate community engagement; and
 - 2) if the individual has met an exception.
 - States are required to: conduct advance **outreach** to members to make them aware of the requirements; establish due process procedures; provide members who are not compliant with 30 days to demonstrate compliance or exempted status; follow typical disenrollment requirements (e.g., assess eligibility on other grounds, notice, fair hearings).

Given current enrollment trends of slow decline, DHS estimates that enrollment of Expansion adult residents will be **119,000** as of **January 1, 2027**. With the added eligibility requirements, estimates of **coverage loss** from the 6-month renewals and community engagement requirements range from 16% to 32%, or from **19,000 to 38,000**, of current Med-QUEST expansion adult members could lose coverage.

Summaries by Division and the Office of Youth Services

Benefit, Employment & Support Services (BESSD)

Table 1. BESSD Position Counts.

BESSD Statewide Branch – Processing Centers				
POSITION	POSITION COUNT	FILLED	VACANT	% VACANT
Eligibility Worker	301	226	75	24.9%
Office Assistant	84	56	28	33.3%

BESSD continues to experience high vacancies in its Statewide Branch Processing Centers due to retirements, a lack of interested applicants, and opportunities for higher-wage jobs, making positions difficult to fill. The challenge of filling Eligibility Worker (EW) and Office Assistant (OA) positions is a national issue, and BESSD continues to actively recruit for both roles through Wiki Wiki Hire. Compared to the prior year, the vacancy rate for EW positions increased slightly from 23.3%, and the vacancy rate for OA positions declined from 58.3% to 33.3%.

While the vacancy rate for OAs has declined, the continued high vacancy rate for EWs remains a critical concern, as the number of phone calls and SNAP applications continues to grow, and we anticipate more calls as the impact of OBBBA changes begins to be felt. On average in 2025, the Processing Centers received 7,575 applications per month and 4,097 SNAP recertifications.

The federal government shutdown directly impacted the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). In general, SNAP provides over \$58M in federal benefits per month to more than 86,000 households (=169,000+ individuals) statewide, or more than one in ten residents. As the shutdown entered mid-October, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued multiple guidance documents and directed DHS and other states to suspend and reduce SNAP benefits effective November 1. SNAP benefits were suspended through November 12th, and USDA issued guidance to resume issuing benefits on November 13th.

To support residents' food and economic security, DHS redirected general funds and worked with community providers to deploy the following resources:

- **The Hawaii Emergency Food Assistance Program (HEFAP)**
 - An emergency SNAP food benefit was established to provide \$250 per person for households that were authorized to receive November SNAP benefits prior to the end of the government shutdown on November 12, 2025.
 - Used a combination of federal TANF reserve funds and general funds.
 - Recipients have until December 31, 2025, to use these funds.

- **Increased Support to the Food Bank Network**
 - \$2M to support the Hawaii Foodbank and its partners, The Food Basket and Maui Food Bank, to address increased demand for food.
 - Together, the three agencies have a presence on each major island and a network of over 500 partner agencies and food pantries.
- **Provided resources for a Centralized Call Center**
 - \$450,000 to support the Aloha United Way 2-1-1 to handle increased demand for calls for information and assistance, including information regarding the Hawaii Relief Program, HEFAP, and other food resources.

With existing federal TANF funds, DHS also launched:

- **The Hawaii Relief Program**
 - \$100M in federal TANF funds are obligated to provide housing and utility payments to eligible families with a dependent child who experiences a financial crisis or unexpected event. DHS contracted Catholic Charities Hawaii and Maui Economic Opportunity to administer the program. Families do not have to be recipients of TANF monthly benefits to apply.

The federal government shutdown highlighted how shifts in federal policy can rapidly affect Hawaii's economy and residents' well-being. On a positive note, the crisis also showed the strength of a whole-of-government and community approach, as DHS leadership and staff collaborated with other state agencies, community partners, and media to quickly stand up these efforts to meet residents' nutritional and fiscal needs.

During "blue skies," the number of SNAP recipients is relatively stable, though it remains slightly above pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels.

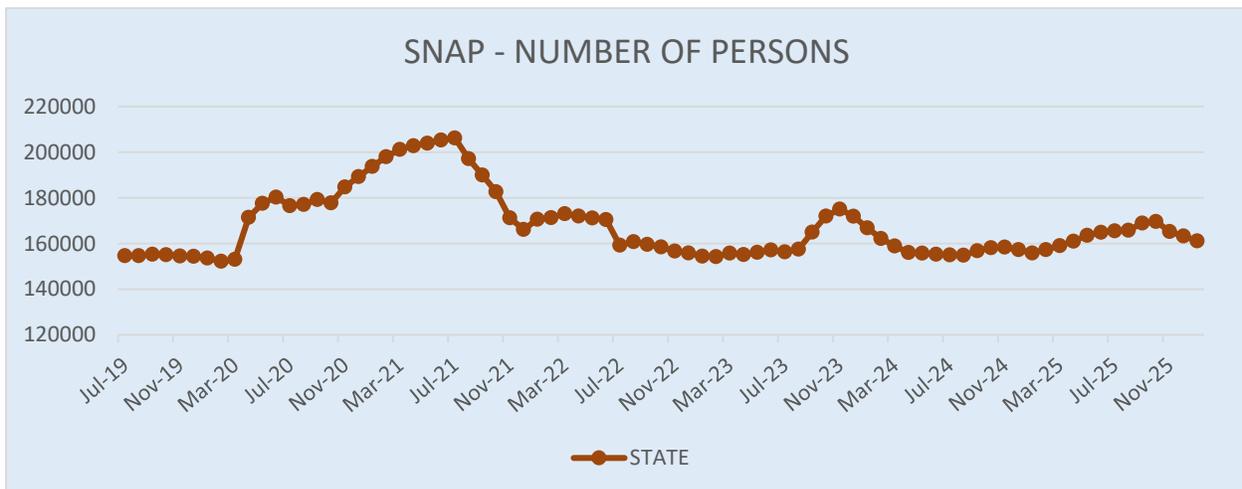


Figure 3. Graph of SNAP recipients July 2019 – November 2025

In 2025, DHS implemented Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) provisions and removed the net income limit for eligible households. A report by the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization (UHERO) estimated that this policy change would add 14,000 to 15,000 additional households to the SNAP caseload. Between February 2025 and October 2025, the number of households and persons receiving SNAP increased from 81,883 households (=157,306 people) to 86,472 households (=169,604 people), or a nearly 6% increase in households and nearly 8% increase in people receiving SNAP.

In 2025, BESSD continued quality improvement efforts, restructuring its call center services, resulting in a higher percentage of interview calls completed, shorter wait times for callers, and shorter lines and wait times for in-person services at Processing Centers. Importantly, SNAP processing timeliness improved, and BESSD **decreased the State's PER** range from mid-20% range in FFYs 2022 and 2023 to 6.68% in FFY 24.

Table 2. SNAP Quality Improvement Measures, October 2024 v October 2025

Quality Improvement Measures	October 2024	October 2025
SNAP Timeliness	84.7%	91.10%
Percentage of Same-Day Interview Calls Completed	38.90%	86.90%
Avg. Wait Time for Interview Calls	4 hours, 37 minutes	16 minutes, 27 seconds

A continued priority for the Division is the ongoing development of a new Benefits Eligibility Solution (BES) to replace the 40-year-old Hawaii Automated Welfare Information (HAWI) legacy system. With OBBBA requirements, modifications to BES are also necessary. BES is now scheduled to be implemented in mid-2027.

Regarding child care programs, BESSD is preparing to implement Act 203, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2025. Act 203 expands the eligibility of the Preschool Open Doors program (POD) to three years prior to kindergarten entry. In 2025, to increase access to subsidies, BESSD expanded the eligible income limits through an administrative rule. The expansion by administrative rule had a significant operational impact. For the 2025 – 2026 program year, POD has received more than 6,000 applications and enrolled 3,235 children as of January 2026. Applications continue to be submitted, and staff are actively processing them on a first-come, first-served basis. Enrollment has increased substantially, well above the 2,300+ children served in the last program year and far exceeding the approximately 650 children served prior to the initial expansion.

As we enter the 2026 legislative session, BESSD requests the Legislature's continued support to address our resource needs to comply with OBBBA and other federal administrative changes, our ongoing efforts to improve the IT infrastructure and service delivery, and our working environment and conditions.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVR)

DVR administers statewide vocational rehabilitation services programs for people with physical, intellectual, and mental health disabilities. These programs include independent living rehabilitation services, general services for people who are blind or visually impaired, and disability determinations for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits issued by the Social Security Administration.

DVR provides vocational rehabilitation programs as required by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Randolph-Sheppard Vending Stands Act, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and other applicable federal and state laws, regulations, policies, and agreements with other state agencies and the federal government.

DVR MISSION – DVR serves participants who require assistance in preparing for, securing, retaining, or advancing in "competitive, integrated employment" (CIE).¹ DVR staff work as a team to help participants achieve their hopes and aspirations for meaningful employment through timely, individualized vocational rehabilitation services.

In 2025, DVR has filled positions, but vacancies persist:

Table 3. DVR Position Count and Vacancies as of 11/30/2025

Program ID	Position Count	Vacancies as of 11/30/2025
HMS 802 (Vocational Rehabilitation)	112	36.5 (32.02%)
HMS 238 (Disability Determination):	50	19 (40%)

Despite the vacancies, in SFY2025, DVR served more residents with disabilities who are interested in employment:

Table 4. DVR programs and numbers served in SFY2025 and FFY2025

Program	Clients
Business Enterprise Program (Blind Vendors)	45

¹ "The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) defines competitive integrated employment (CIE) as work that is performed on a full-time or part-time basis for which an individual is:

- Compensated at or above minimum wage and comparable to the customary rate paid by the employer to employees without disabilities performing similar duties and with similar training and experience;
- Receiving the same level of benefits provided to other employees without disabilities in similar positions;
- At a location where the employee interacts with other individuals without disabilities; and
- Presented opportunities for advancement similar to other employees without disabilities in similar positions." [US Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy.](#)

Program	Clients
Low Vision Clinic	73
Comprehensive Services Center (for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind)	1,430
Students with Disabilities	1,147
Independent Living for Older Individuals who are Blind	234
Disability Determinations (FFY2025)	10,198

The increasing demand for DVR services continued in SFY 2025, with Hawaii residents with disabilities eager to prepare for, obtain, retain, or advance in competitive integrated employment. Additionally, DVR continues to work with employers in all sectors to encourage them to hire qualified individuals with disabilities.

Table 5. Comparison of Program Metrics SFY2025 v SFY2024 and increases.

Metric	SFY25	SFY24	% Increase
Consumers Served	4,756	4,253	9%
Applications Received	990	548	55%
Total Determined Eligible	861	510	59%
Total IPEs Developed	799	418	52%
Successful CIE Closures	107	30	357%

Notably, the increase in DVR services enabled DVR to use more of its available federal grant funds. To continue meeting service demand, DVR needs to fill positions and maintain resource levels. In the coming years, DVR may need to request additional state funds to support the increasing demand. DVR is currently working with DHS Human Resources and the Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) to lower minimum qualification standards (by removing the requirement for a master's degree) and to encourage internal career pathways for Vocational Rehabilitation Specialists (VRS). Once finalized, this is expected to enhance recruitment and retention of qualified staff. It should be noted that all VRS positions are approximately 80% federally funded.

Furthermore, when DVR participants are placed in employment, this generates state tax revenue, benefits employers, and reduces reliance on state and federal benefits. Finally, when DVR participants who receive SSI or SSDI are placed in competitive, integrated employment, the Social Security Administration may reimburse the Division for certain expenditures, which generates program income for DVR.

DVR's Disability Determination Branch is 100% federally funded by the Social Security Administration and was impacted by the federal government shutdown, which required a temporary funds transfer to meet HMS 238 payroll requirements. Continuing congressional gridlock and federal administrative policy changes are creating ongoing uncertainty that may undermine service delivery. DVR funding and oversight are through the U.S. Department of Education (US DOE). Significant funding cuts and policy changes to the US DOE will directly impact DVR. A future concern is that available state general funds necessary for DVR services may be limited by increases required to support vital Medicaid and SNAP assistance.

In 2025, the Legislature appropriated funds to DVR to continue its work on the Neighbor Island Blind and Visually Impaired pilot program authorized by Act 253, SLH 2023. The pilot program will assist neighbor island residents who are blind or have low vision in gaining skills to improve their communication and independence. The pilot will serve individuals who may not be interested in employment and do not qualify for services available through the Department of Education, as well as individuals aged 55 or older. DVR is working on position descriptions and developing the scope of contracted services.

Med-QUEST Division (MQD)

The Med-QUEST Division (MQD) administers the State's Medicaid program QUEST Integration, which provides health coverage and state-funded medical assistance programs to eligible Hawai'i residents, primarily through managed care plans. Medicaid began in 1965 under Title XIX of the Social Security Act and is administered as a joint federal-state program that provides health coverage and long-term care for children, pregnant women, parents of eligible children, low-income adults, former foster care children, and the aged, blind, and disabled. MQD's mission is to empower Hawai'i's residents to improve and sustain well-being by developing, promoting, and administering innovative and high-quality healthcare programs with aloha.

As of March 2, 2026, MQD provides Medicaid coverage for 385,385 residents, representing about 27% of Hawaii's population. The figure below illustrates a gradual decrease from the peak of 468,120 enrollees during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency in April of 2023. Though enrollment numbers are decreasing, they remain more than 58,000 above the 327,119 enrollees pre-COVID-19.

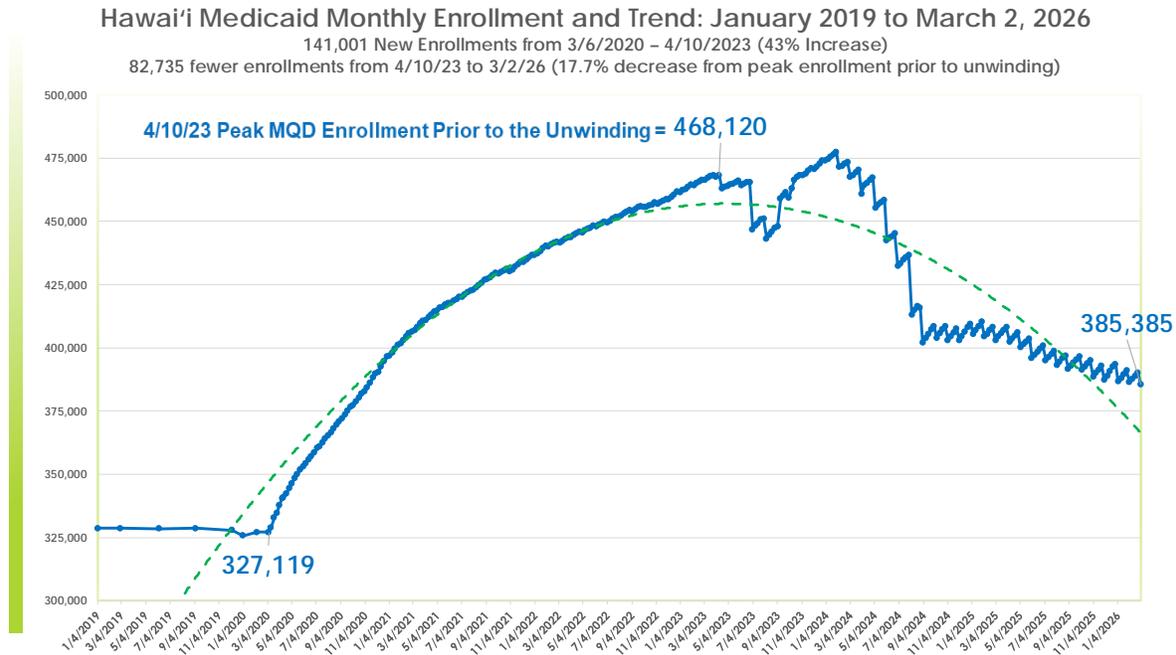


Figure 4. Medicaid Enrollment, January 2019 –March 2, 2026.

The following figure reflects the changes in Medicaid enrollment by County:

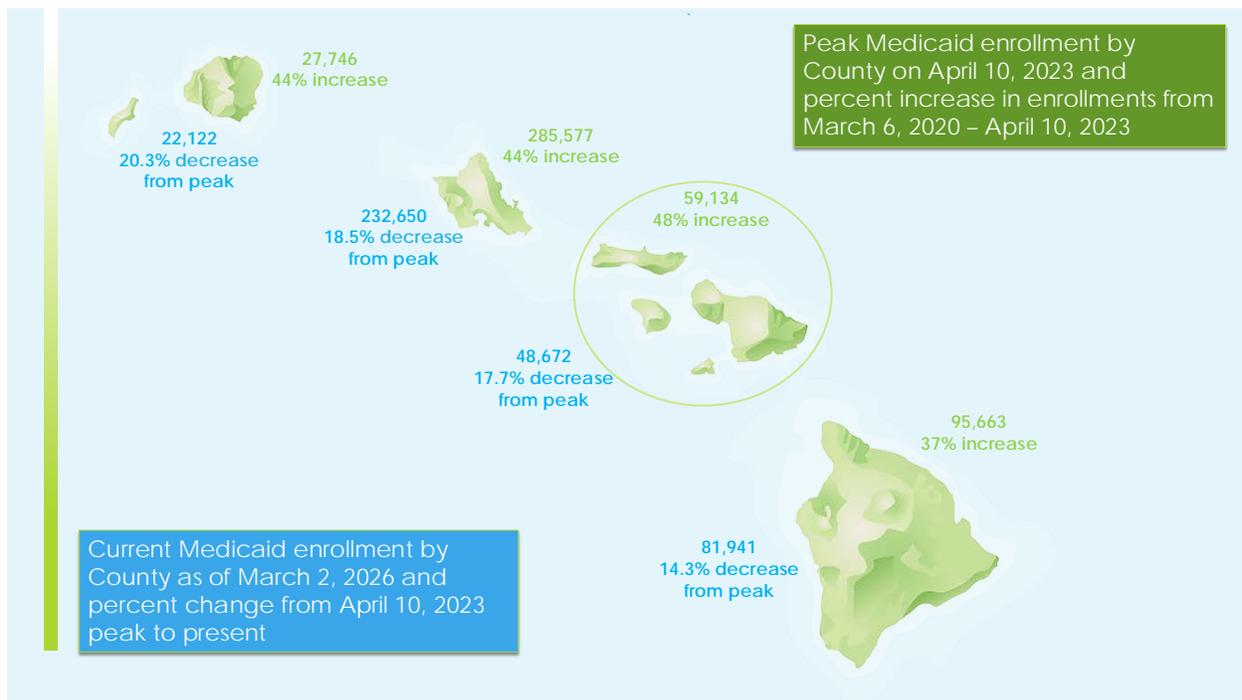


Figure 5. Medicaid enrollment by County as of March 2, 2026.

As discussed above, MQD has a tremendous task ahead to implement the provisions of OBBBA and other federal policy changes. Maintaining eligibility for eligible residents will require a collaborative and community approach. For a full discussion of the impacts of OBBBA on

Medicaid and other health care policies, please see the [materials](#) and [recording](#) from the HHS-CPN Informational Briefing of December 19, 2025.

Social Services Division (SSD) - Child Welfare Services Branch (CWS) and Adult Protective & Community Services Branch (APCS)

The Social Services Division (SSD) provides services to eligible families and individuals. The Child Welfare Services Branch (CWS) provides prevention and intervention services to reduce the incidence and impact of child abuse and neglect. The Adult Protective & Community Services Branch (APCS) responds to reports of adult neglect or abuse and oversees the Adult Foster Care Program, Senior Companion Program, Nurse Aid Training, and Re-Certification curriculum. The pie chart below reflects the types and percentages of abuse investigated by SSD.

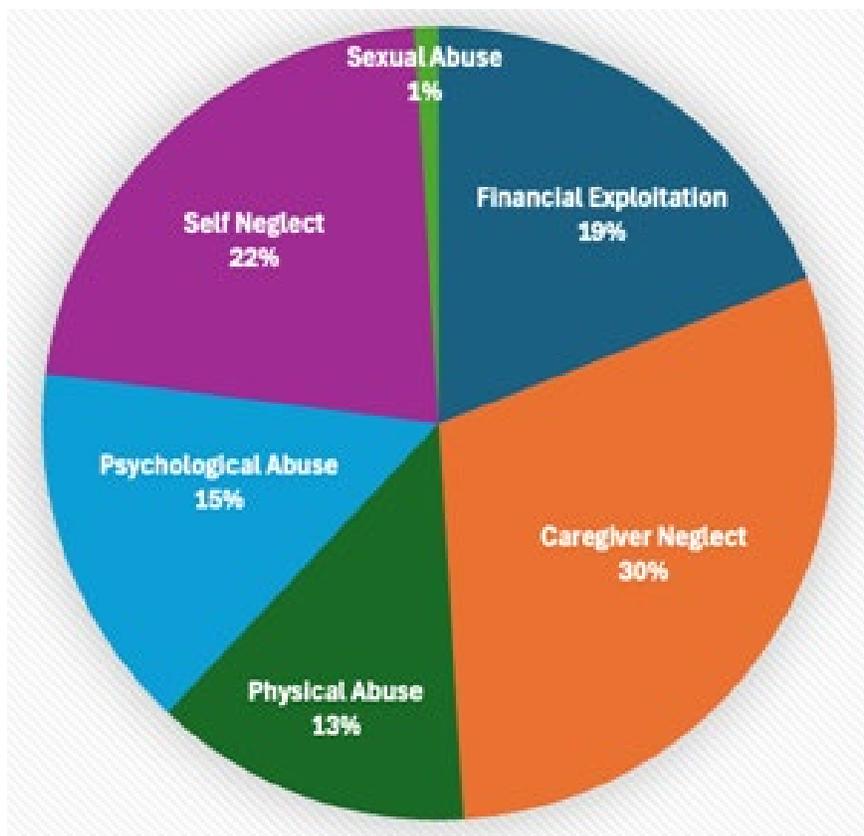


Figure 6. Investigations by type and percentage.

CWS has actively worked to reduce the number of children entering Hawaii’s foster care system, including the launch in 2021 of the Family First Hawaii program authorized by the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018. The figure below illustrates a statewide 20-year downward trend (SFYs 2004-2024) of the total number of children in foster care at any point during each year. Each child in foster care was counted only once per SFY; however, if a child was in foster care for more than one year, that child was counted in each year they were in foster care.

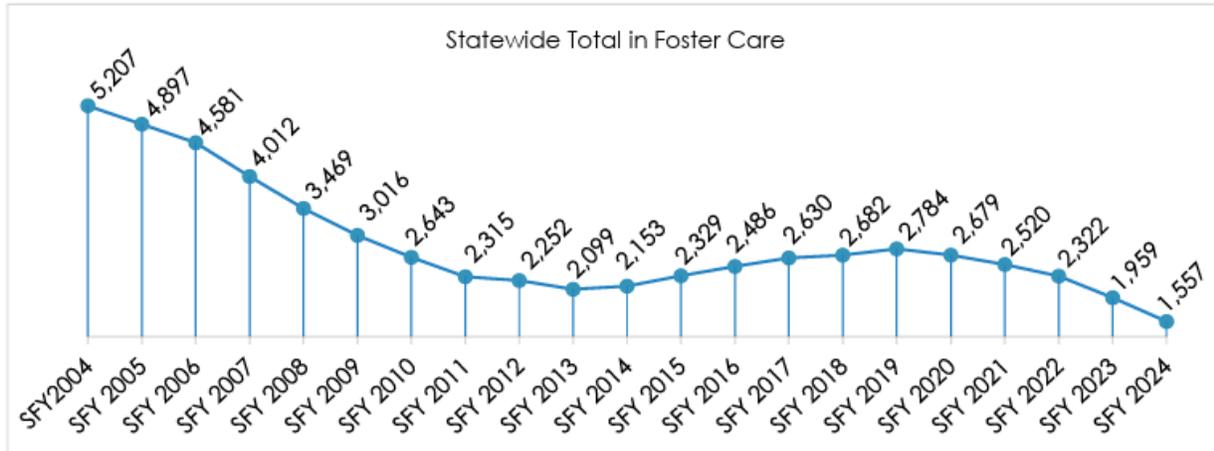


Figure 7. 20-year downward trend of children in foster care.

In 2025, CWS entered into Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with:

- the Department of Education (DOE) – to support educational stability and provide more opportunities for children to learn when there is a stable school environment, and
- the Liliuokalani Trust, which allows CWS to refer all Native Hawaiian children to receive tailored services that meet Hawaiian cultural values. Forty-six percent (46%) of Native Hawaiian children are represented in CWS.

CWS also launched the Kako'o Program, which increases CWS staff's wellness visits for children in foster care during non-traditional work hours. These visits occur on weekends and holidays, times that can pose a higher risk of safety-related issues. CWS continues to work with the OWR to address community concerns and to increase staff knowledge about trauma-informed practices.

SSD continues to modernize its case management systems, so social workers have better tools to document case progress, reduce cumbersome processes, free up time to spend with children and families, and help them connect with providers and resource caregivers.

CWS expects federal policy changes from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in 2026, aimed at reducing unnecessary regulation and increasing the number of available foster homes for children in foster care as mandated by the Executive Order issued on November 13, 2025. On December 19, 2025, ACF issued [Technical Bulletin #14](#) as its first action in response to the November Executive Order, outlining changes to the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs) and associated Program Improvement Plans (PIPs).

For the Adult Protective & Community Services Branch, staff investigated 756 reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults, which include increasing number of reports of financial exploitation. APCS maintains a vacancy rate below the national average, hovering at

approximately 14%. APCS has also added a reliable, validated tool to measure cognition and screen for dementia.

Office of Youth Services (OYS)

With a strong commitment to meeting the needs of children and families, the Office of Youth Services (OYS) is responsible for planning, case management, and service delivery to youth at risk (section 352D-1, HRS). In addition, OYS oversees the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facilities (HYCF), the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (section 352D-7.5, HRS), and the support staff for the Hawaii State Youth Commission (section 352D-11, HRS).

Community-wide juvenile justice reform, including investment in OYS contracted programs has had a positive impact on reducing juvenile arrests and successfully diverting youth from the justice system.

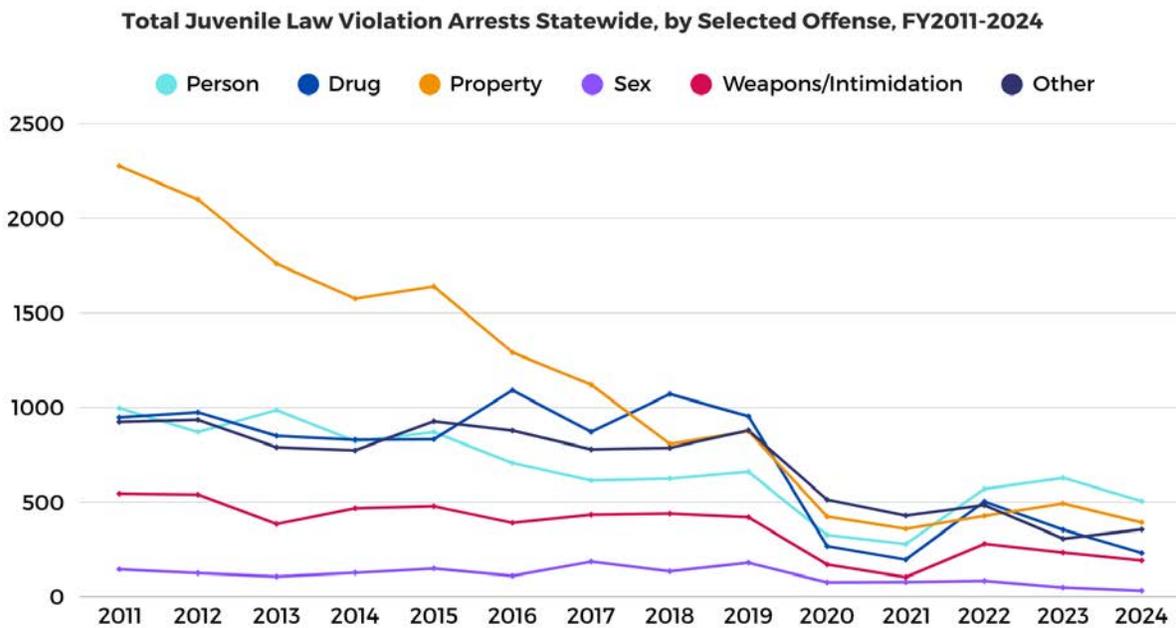


Figure 8. Total Juvenile Law Violations Statewide, by selected offense, FY2011-2024.

These positive results are due to upfront system prevention programs and services for at-risk youth, including positive youth development, cultural programs, outreach and advocacy, housing, and diversion programs. However, funding reductions of these programs or failures to address the increased needs of children will counteract these positive trends, decrease public safety, and likely increase the number of youths entering and moving deeper through the juvenile justice system.

Figure 9 below shows juvenile admissions to HYCF from fiscal years 2008 through 2025. From 2009, when Hawaii invested in the national Juvenile Detention Alternatives (JDAI) program, to

2023, admissions to HYCF were reduced by 83%. Alarming, admissions to HYCF in FY23 increased by 64% from the previous year, only to decrease slightly in FY24 and FY25. With concerns that youth behavioral and mental health issues are rising, the number of admissions is expected to rise.

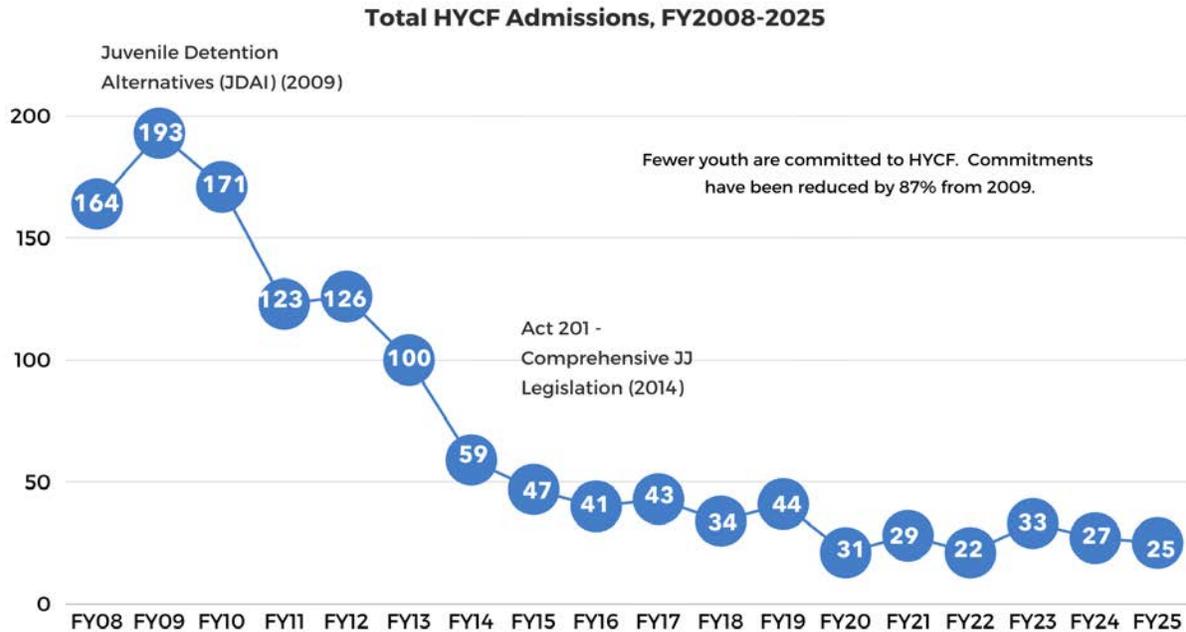


Figure 9. Total HYCF Admissions FY2008 – FY2025

Any increase in the population at HYCF indicates that the system is not meeting the community’s need for increased support. With the additional displacement and trauma experienced by victims of the 2023 Maui wildfires, community needs will likely continue to increase in the coming years.

Act 130, Safe Spaces for Youth Pilot Program (SLH 2022), tasked the OYS with conducting a 3-year pilot safe spaces program for homeless youth, ages 14 to 24, that provides, in each county, overnight lodging, meals, showers, behavioral health services, and educational opportunities. Recent appropriations for Safe Spaces have been:

- FY23 \$ 600,000 + 1 FTE,
- FY24 \$ 800,000 + 1 FTE, and
- FY25 \$ 800,000 + 1 FTE.
- Last session, Act 297 (SLH 2025)/HB613 HD1 SD1 CD1 made the Safe Spaces Program permanent within the OYS to establish safe spaces in each county for youth, up to age 25, who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. OYS continues to implement the Safe Spaces Program with Act 297 appropriations of:
 - FY26 \$ 800,000 + 1 FTE and
 - FY27 \$1,841,016 + 1 FTE.

- OYS has recently issued a Request for Information for Safe Spaces Emergency Shelter for Young Adults on Maui. A contract is anticipated to be issued effective July 1, 2026.

Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

In 1964, Governor John A. Burns created the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women (CSW or Commission) by Executive Order. The work of the CSW is codified in sections 367-1, HRS, and sections 367-3 (1) through (8), HRS.

SFY2025 results include:

- Executive Director hired in December 2024,
- Re-opening of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women (HSCSW) office,
- Resumed Annual Report (FY24) submissions to the Governor and State Legislature,
- Recruitment for HSCSW Administrative Assistant,
- Re-establishment as a field placement site for student interns,
- Submission of twenty-four (24) pieces of written testimony,
- Fourteen (14) pieces of legislation were successfully passed, and
- Resumed participation in task forces, committees, coalitions, and workgroups.

Hiring an administrative assistant is delayed because the program budget was redirected to support the emergency food response during the federal government shutdown, and CSW needs an additional appropriation to cover increases resulting from collective bargaining. CSW is discussing whether to request additional salary through a Governor's Message.

Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA), see HPHA budget testimony submitted separately.

- **Federal Funds**

The DHS SFY 27 supplemental budget includes federal fund adjustments totaling \$111,545,328 N funds, bringing the projected total to \$3,097,045,633 N funds. Note that these amounts are projections of funds DHS may access. However, to access federal funds, programs may require general fund contributions as a match, or federal funds may be available for reimbursement to the State, meaning the general funds need to be available and spent to seek reimbursement. The majority of the federal funds are for health care premiums or are issued directly to recipients as benefits.

Hawai'i Public Housing Authority (HPHA), see HPHA testimony submitted separately.

- **Non-General Funds**

The report on non-general funds for DHS, pursuant to section 37-47, HRS, may be accessed at:

<https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/reports/legislative-reports/>.

- **Budget Request Process**

The administration, divisions, attached agencies, and commissions submit budget requests, with justifications and prioritizations, in accordance with the budget instructions issued by the Department of Budget & Finance (B&F). The DHS Budget, Planning, and Management Office (BPMO) reviews the budget requests, and after discussion with BPMO and each division administrator, the Director prioritizes the department's budget requests by applying the budget guidelines identified above and a second layer of prioritization by benefits to clients, support to staff, and infrastructure improvements. The proposed budget requests are then submitted to B&F for review and preliminary decisions. Programs may submit additional information to appeal B&F's initial denial. After consideration of any appeals, B&F makes the final recommendations that become the Governor's budget.

Budget Requests

For requests from the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority, see HPHA budget testimony submitted separately.

Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Budget Requests

HMS 503 – Kawaioloa Youth and Family Wellness Center

Req Cat	Dept Pri	Prog ID	Proj No.	Project Title	MOF	FY 27
M	1	HMS 503	FY27.1	KYFWC MASTER PLAN, OAHU	C	3.500.000

503 FY 27.1 - KYFWC Master Plan, Oahu

This request is for \$3.5M for SFY 27. The original budget for DAGS002 04-02-21 was to develop a process for the master plan to upgrade and renovate the Kawaioloa Youth and Family Wellness Campus (KYFWC). This project also prioritized the CIP Implementation plan, provided budgetary estimates, and prepared an environmental impact statement. These improvements will add another 25 years of longevity to the campus and create a safe space for a transitional/residential/mental health program for Hawaii's high-risk youth and their families.

The KYFWC campus is 96 years old, built in 1928 by the Territorial Government of Hawaii as the Kawaioloa Training School for Girls. The Master Plan will allow for upgrades to campus infrastructure, the demolition of condemned buildings, and the creation of additional program space for youth mental health programming. KYFWC is adapting to the changing needs of the youths we serve, and this master plan and funding are needed to continue serving them effectively.

Currently, the population of youth needs a higher level of mental health treatment, as the State of Hawaii sends youths with multiple mental health diagnoses to the mainland for treatment. The community alternatives for mental health residential type programming are dwindling, and there are no real alternatives to assist the high-risk youth. Hawaii needs to begin planning for the future of caring for this high-risk population so these youths can get proper treatment and not have to be relocated to another state.

KYFWC is being designed to address social service gaps in our state systems (Department of Health, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division (CAMHD), DOE, CWS, OYS, and the Judiciary), with a focus on the 14-24-year-old age group. The programs for KYFWC will primarily be designed to assist youths in transitioning out of our state services while still providing the critical support needed for them to succeed upon leaving our program.

Operating requirements will remain, with additional resources being provided by other partner state agencies.

Operating Budget Requests

Office of Youth Services (OYS)

HMS 501 – In-Community Youth Programs

		BUDGET REQUEST		FY 27		
Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	Amount (\$)
503YA		Tradeoff Social Worker III for Administrative Assistant II	A	(1.00)		(58,296)
503YA		Tradeoff Social Worker III for Administrative Assistant II	A	1.00		48,648

501YA-71: Add 1.00 Permanent Administrative Assistant II for the Office of Youth Services

OYS HMS 501 respectfully requests a tradeoff of a Social Worker III 2318 in HMS 503 for Administrative Assistant II 97007K in HMS 501. This 1.0 FTE permanent civil service Administrative Assistant II, SR14 position is needed to support the Program Development Office (PDO), which performs all administrative tasks related to contracts and procurement. This position will assist with the current workload, freeing up time and tasks for other staff who are now required to perform clerical work. The position will be cross-trained and cover additional duties when the only Administrative Assistant is on leave. The tradeoff will enhance the PDO's productivity and support for at-risk youth.

In 2007, OYS had 30 positions, including 12 Program Specialists and 7 clerical staff. OYS' responsibilities and workload have increased significantly over time to monitor nearly 100 contracts for a full continuum of care from community-based prevention services, diversion programs, transitional services (including shelters and residential services) to in-facility services for youth in addition to leading the implementation of the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (SLH 2018), Hawaii Youth Commission (SLH 2020), Pacific Islander Youth Program List development (HCR 71, SLH 2023), the Family Court collaboration to identify strategies for partnering with community partners (HCR 72, SLH 2023), Safe Spaces for Youth Program (Act 297, SLH 2025), and other initiatives to improve collaboration and partnerships for systems change.

In 2025, OYS is currently staffed with 19 positions (63% of 2007 positions), including 8 Program Specialists and 3 clerical staff. Two of these Program Specialists and 1 clerical staff are specifically assigned to our statewide OJJDP Title II federal grant program, and another Program Specialist specifically oversees the Youth Commission. As a result, all other responsibilities of the Program Development Office (PDO) for procurement and contract management are performed by one program development officer and 3 existing program specialists, with no administrative assistant supporting PDO. On average, one program specialist carries about 25 contracts and additional responsibilities for procuring services. All program specialists perform many administrative tasks to maintain communication with providers, monitor progress, and evaluate outcomes. Program specialists also conduct site visits to the neighbor island providers. The travel approval requests and completed travel expenditure are prepared by one Administrative Assistant.

The additional Administrative Assistant will improve program efficiency, as the current workload for each program specialist is overwhelming, making it difficult to meet expectations and manage contracts effectively without adding to the clerical burden. In addition, the position will share the workload of the existing Administrative Assistant, who already has a significant workload preparing and processing paperwork.

Without this position, PDO will continue to rely on a single OYS Administrative Assistant, with no temporary or alternative coverage, which impacts efficiency and procurement processes.

Benefits, Employment & Support Services Division

HMS 236 – Case Management for Self-Sufficiency

		BUDGET REQUEST	FY27			
Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
236LC-71	1	General Funds to Offset Reduced Federal Match for SNAP Administrative Expenses Effective Federal Fiscal Year 2027	A	79.32		4,098,721
236LC-71	1	General Funds to Offset Reduced Federal Match for SNAP Administrative Expenses	N	(79.32)		(4,098,721)
236LC-72	5	Furnishing and Moving Costs to Consolidate Multiple Eligibility Determination Offices at Kapolei State Building into One Office and Create a Singular Kapolei Processing Center	A			18,240
236LC-72	5	Furnishing and Moving Costs to Consolidate Multiple Eligibility Determination Offices at Kapolei State Building into One Office and Create a Singular Kapolei Processing Center	N			13,760

236LC-71: General Funds to Offset Reduced Federal Match for SNAP Administrative Expenses Effective Federal Fiscal Year 2027

This funding request for HMS 236 reflects the additional State share for SNAP Administrative Expenses to ensure uninterrupted processing of applications and delivery of SNAP benefits, which currently serve 165,659 individuals (84,869 households) monthly. The "One Big Beautiful Bill" Act of 2025 (OBBBA or H.R. 1) significantly altered SNAP administrative funding, resulting in a cost shift to states for the program's administrative costs to continue operating the SNAP program. Beginning in FFY2027, the federal government will reduce its share of SNAP administrative costs from 50 percent to 25 percent, requiring states to pay the remaining 75 percent.

This request is to adjust the cost allocation for the 439 positions affected by this cost shift to the state. The positions affected include eligibility workers, administrative assistants, other clerical support, and section administrators who provide the day-to-day direct services to the public. This request is also to adjust the allocation cost for the office operational expenses related to maintaining daily operations

The Division's estimates were developed on the following:

- 43% is the current federal share.
- 85% of the federal share is SNAP.
- 85% of 43% equals 37% (rounded to the nearest whole number). This is the SNAP portion.
- We are losing $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SNAP portion, half of 37% is 18% (dropped the remainder).
- We are losing 18% of the current federal share of 43%, the difference is 25% ($43\% - 18\% = 25\%$).
- 25% would be the new federal share for SNAP. In SFY2027, the new federal share will apply to 3 quarters of the year, and in SFY2028, it will apply to the entire year.

Without the requested funds, the Division will not be able to maintain the necessary administrative duties to operate the SNAP program.

236LC-72: Furnishing and Moving Costs to Consolidate Multiple Eligibility Determination Offices at Kapolei State Building into One Office and Create a Singular Kapolei Processing Center

BESSD's Kapolei Processing Center currently comprises two physical locations on two different floors (the first and fourth floors) in the Kapolei State Office Building. The purpose of this request is to allow the Division to relocate fourth-floor staff to the first floor. This will improve access for clients, especially those with mobility limitations, and allow for a more streamlined experience for the public. At present, clients begin their visit by entering the first-floor lobby and may then be directed to the fourth floor for service. This causes a delay in service for those clients because they must go up the elevator and check in on the fourth-floor lobby to confirm their identity before service can be provided. With all services consolidated to one floor, there will not be a need for a secondary fourth-floor lobby or service. The Division will coordinate the relocation of 13 staff from the fourth floor to the first floor, including moving the existing modulares and furniture. Also included in this cost is removing and upgrading existing network cabling and ensuring power access for each modular unit moved.

Through this office consolidation, and in conjunction with request 903FA-72, Staff Development Office (SDO) Move, DHS will reduce its use of private-lease office space and no longer need to pay the approximately \$180,000.00 annual payment for the BESSD portion of lease 33-33-0494. The Kapolei Processing Center reduced the total number of file cabinets on both floors, maximizing the use of state-owned office space, allowing the relocation of staff cubicles from the fourth floor to the first floor. This, in turn, allows us to relocate the SDO from a private, leased space to a state-owned office on the fourth floor. With the requested appropriation, we estimate completing the SDO move by the first quarter of 2027. The request breaks down as follows:

- a. Total funding request: \$32,000
- b. \$13,800 for breakdown and re-installation of modulares from 4th floor to 1st floor for 13 staff.
 - i. Total move for 22 employees = \$18,000. $\$18,000 / 22 \text{ staff} = \818 per staff .
 $\$818 \times 13 \text{ (SDO staff)} = \$10,634$.
 - ii. Add \$3,166 for other equipment and furniture disposal.
 - iii. $\$13,800 \times 57\% = \$7,866$ (A) $\$13,800 \times 43\% = \$5,934$ (N)

- c. 5 modulars are to be built/installed in room 106 and 8 in room 117.
- d. \$18,200 for removing, relocating, and installing Cat 6 cabling for 13 modulars and wiring for power for each. \$30K is an estimate based on \$45K cost that was applied to more staff at Koolau PC, 1st floor, for re-cabling.
 - i. 13 staff install Cat 6 cables for 13 staff
 - ii. Complete telecom requests to transfer phones and other telecommunication lines
 - iii. Estimate based on actual cost for Child Care Subsidy Office of \$36,400 to install cabling for 2 offices. This budget request is based on an estimated \$36,400 for 2 office spaces (\$18,200 per office space) for cable installation, multiplied by 1 office space in Kapolei, for a **total of \$18,200.**
 - iv. $\$18,200 \times 57\% = \$10,374$ (A) $\$18,200 \times 43\% = \$7,826$ (N)
- e. No adding phone lines.
- f. No disposal costs and no added furniture.

HMS 903 – General Support for Self-Sufficiency Services

Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	BUDGET REQUEST Description	MOF	FY27		
				FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
903FA-71	1	General Funds to Offset Reduced Federal Match for SNAP Administrative Expenses Effective Federal Fiscal Year 2027	A	16.95		9,325,071
903FA-71	1	General Funds to Offset Reduced Federal Match for SNAP Administrative Expenses	N	(16.95)		(9,325,071)
903FA-72	4	Furnishing and Moving Costs of the Benefit, Employment, and Self-Sufficiency Division's Staff Development Office from Private Lease Space to the Kapolei State Office Building	A			74,830
903FA-72	4	Furnishing and Moving Costs of the Benefit, Employment, and Self-Sufficiency Division's Staff Development Office from Private Lease Space to the Kapolei State Office Building	A			(90,270)

		BUDGET REQUEST	FY27			
Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
903FA-72	4	Furnishing and Moving Costs of the Benefit, Employment, and Self-Sufficiency Division's Staff Development Office from Private Lease Space to the Kapolei State Office Building	N			56,451

903FA-71: General Funds to Offset Reduced Federal Match for SNAP Administrative Expenses Effective Federal Fiscal Year 2027.

This is another request addressing OBBBA amendments to SNAP administrative funding, the program ID is HMS 903. As described elsewhere, beginning in FFY2027, the federal government will reduce its share of SNAP administrative costs from 50 percent to 25 percent, requiring states to pay the remaining 75 percent.

The result of this change is to magnify the financial burden to states for the continued operation of the SNAP program. This funding request reflects the additional amount the state will be responsible for to ensure uninterrupted service delivery of the SNAP program, which currently serves 165,659 individuals (84,869 households) statewide.

This request is to adjust the cost allocation for the 80 positions affected by this cost shift to the state. The positions affected include program specialists and program administrators; administrative assistants and other clerical support; investigators and investigation support staff; division support staff; and division administration, which provides day-to-day administrative services to ensure compliance and policy direction. This request also seeks to adjust the cost allocation for operational expenses related to maintaining the program's ongoing needs and the staff resources needed to perform their work.

Estimates were developed by the Division based on the following:

- 43% is the current federal share
- 85% of the federal share is SNAP
- 85% of 43% equals 37% (rounded to the nearest whole number). This is the SNAP portion
- We are losing ½ of the SNAP portion, half of 37% is 18% (dropped the remainder)
- We are losing 18% of the current federal share of 43%, the difference is 25% (43%-18%=25%).
- 25% would be the new federal share for SNAP. In SFY2027, the new federal share would apply to 3 quarters of the year, and in SFY2028, it would apply to the entire year.

903FA - 72: Furnishing and moving costs of the Benefit, Employment, and Self-Sufficiency Division's Staff Development Office from private lease space to the Kapolei State Office Building.

The BESSD Staff Development Office (SDO) is the training office for employees that provides the required and necessary training to Division staff so that they can deliver services to the public such as processing and disposing of applications for public assistance (e.g., SNAP and cash assistance), processing and disposing of applications for child care subsidies, delivering employment and training services, and licensing child care operations. The SDO currently occupies and operates from privately leased office space at an estimated annual cost of \$500,000 and must be funded with 100% state funding because the property owners cannot accept any funding from or be leveraged by a federal source.

This is the estimated cost to move 9 training staff to Kapolei; purchase of new modulars to accommodate space and training staff needs; dispose of old modulars; remove, relocate, and install Cat 6 cables for 9 staff; remove cabling for 25 training computers; complete telecom requests to transfer phones and other telecommunication lines; and dispose of old office equipment in 4 training rooms, office spaces for 9 employees, and a file room.

This request is to move the Division's SDO into state-owned office space, where federal funding could also be claimed by the State. This would result in greater cost efficiencies for the state and align with the state's desire for agencies to reduce their use of privately leased office space. This request, along with request 236LC-72 Consolidation of Kapolei Processing Center, would allow the Division to achieve this goal.

Based on the BESSD lease information as of July 21, 2020, BESSD paid \$148,322 annually to cover the cost of occupying 420 Waiakamilo Road, Suite 416. Based on Amendment #5 to lease agreement No. 32-33-0494, the monthly base rent is \$19,157.40 + \$903 (4.712% tax) = \$20,060 per month, of which BESSD pays 75%, or \$15,045 monthly and \$180,540 annually. BESSD will continue to pay the monthly rent until this move is completed. Annual cost savings of \$180,540 should start to be realized around the 2nd quarter of SFY 2027. BESSD intends to complete this move by the end of the 1st quarter of SFY 2027. The breakdown of the request is:

- a. \$94,719 for modular furniture:

Table 6. Breakdown of Appropriation Request for Modular Furniture for HMS 903

Cost estimate for 9 modulares based on most recent modular purchase for BESSD Child Care Subsidy Program – vendor response to request for quote for modular furniture or 25 staff	\$244,775 highest quote provided from vendors. \$244,775/25 = \$9,791 per staff. \$9,791x9 SDO staff = \$88,119	\$88,119 x 57% = \$50,228 (A) \$88,119 x 43% = \$37,891 (N)
Additional cost for sit/ <u>stand</u> desks in 4 training rooms (2 desks in each) trainers do virtual training with at least 2 trainers conducting training and taking notes	\$825.00 estimated cost per sit/stand desk x 8 = \$6,600	\$6600x57% = \$3,762 (A) \$6600x43% = \$2,838 (N)
Total request for modular furniture		\$53,990 (A) \$40,729 (N) Total: \$94,719

- b. \$10,362 moving and disposal cost based on Form A request for Wahiawa PC and FTW move.
 - i. Total move for 22 employees = \$18,000. \$18,000/22 staff = \$818 per staff. \$818x9 (SDO staff) = \$7362,
 - ii. Add \$3,000 for other equipment and furniture disposal and move for 4 training rooms, a storage room, and a file room, and
 - iii. \$10,362x57%=\$5,906 (A) \$10,362x43%=\$4,456 (N).
- c. \$26,200 for Removal and Installation of data lines
 - i. 9 staff remove, relocate, and install Cat 6 cables for 9 staff and 4 training rooms
 - ii. Remove cabling in the current SDO training rooms for 25 training computers
 - iii. Complete telecom requests to transfer phones and other telecommunication lines
 - iv. Estimate based on actual cost for Child Care Subsidy Office removal of cabling for 2 office spaces, \$4000, and \$36,400 install cabling for 2 offices. The budget request is based on an estimated \$2,000 per office for cable removal across 4 office spaces (SDO) and 1 office space (Kapolei), for a total of \$8,000. The budget request is based on an estimated \$36,400 for 2 office spaces, \$18,200 per office space, for cable installation, multiplied by 1 office space in Kapolei, total of \$18,200
 - v. \$26,200x57%=\$14,934 (A) \$26,200x43%=\$11,266 (N)

With these funds, DHS will reduce its reliance on leased private space and maximize the use of available State-owned facilities and office space.

Med-QUEST Division (MQD)

HMS 401 – Health Care Payments

		BUDGET REQUEST		FY27		
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Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
401PE-71	3	Additional Funds for Projected Increases in Capitation Expenditures	A			45,000,000
401PE-71	3	Additional Funds for Projected Increases in Capitation Expenditures	N			63,375,276

401PE-71: Additional Funds for Projected Increases in Capitation Expenditures

Additional general funds are needed to address a projected shortfall in HMS 401. Capitation expenditures are projected to increase because 2026 capitation rates are projected to increase by nearly 12% across all populations, as calculated by the actuaries. This will lead to a shortfall in general funds for FY 2027 and beyond. In addition, OBBBA makes drastic changes to the Medicaid program, which will likely lead to increased expenditures as the acuity of members remaining in the program is expected to rise. An increase in the federal ceiling will also be required to draw down the federal match to the general funds. No federal cuts are expected at this time.

HMS 902 – General Support for Health Care Payments:

		BUDGET REQUEST	FY27			
Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
902IA-71	2	Add Funds for Various System Upgrades and Staff Augmentation to Implement the Provisions of Congressional OBBBA, which was signed in July 2025	A			30,000,000
902IA-71	2	Add Funds for Various System Upgrades and Staff Augmentation to Implement the Provisions of Congressional OBBBA, which was signed in July 2025	N			30,000,000

902IA-71: Add Funds for Various System Upgrades and Staff Augmentation to Implement the Provisions of Congressional OBBBA, which was signed into law July 4, 2025.

This placeholder request is for additional funding needed to implement the various provisions of OBBBA, which made comprehensive changes to the Medicaid program. Additional support will be needed for various system upgrades, enhancements, and system builds/contracts to comply with the significant changes resulting from OBBBA, including complex eligibility

changes, implementation of work requirements, and community engagement. Also needed is additional funding for contracted assistance to help MQD navigate the planning and implementation of OBBBA's many provisions. A detailed assessment of staffing, contracting, and system support is still underway. Specific details will be provided once the analysis is complete.

Social Services Division (SSD)

HMS 301 – Child Protective Services

		BUDGET REQUEST	FY27			
Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
301/SA		Additional funds for contract services for Child Protective Services due to rising costs of liability insurance	A			1,500,000

HMS301/SA Request for funds for contracted services for Child Protective Services due to the rising cost of liability insurance.

Child Welfare Services Branch (CWSB - HMS 301) provides protective services to vulnerable children and their families by investigating reports of suspected child abuse and/or neglect or children who are at risk of abuse and/or neglect. If safety concerns cannot be mitigated and placement into foster care is required, a search for a relative or kin is conducted to lessen the trauma of removal. While a search for a foster home or resource care home is in process, children may also be placed in emergency shelter or in transition programs that support the youth's independent living and transition to adulthood. CWSB maintains 103 contracts to strengthen families, provides emergency shelter and transitional services, and coordinates sex trafficking screening and treatment services for minor sex trafficking victims.

Currently, child welfare and other human services providers in Hawaii and across the nation are facing increasing costs for general liability insurance. For child welfare services, foster care is considered a high-risk activity due to the increased number of claims, extensions of statutes of limitations, and the number of payouts. This year, one contractor informed CWSB that its insurance carrier was no longer underwriting and was cancelling its general liability policy, requiring the provider to seek and obtain new insurance at an increased cost. Without additional funding, rising insurance rates or lack of available coverage may impact providers' future ability to continue the needed child welfare services. These increased insurance costs are in addition to providers' previous requests to address staff compensation rates. This request for additional funds will support CWS's contracted providers' capacity to provide necessary services for children in foster care in the most appropriate and least restrictive settings. If funded, CWSB will be able to claim federal reimbursement at the appropriate percent.

CWSB contracts cover a variety of services required by federal and state law. The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 required state Child Welfare Service (CWS) systems to improve their response to sex trafficking of minors by screening and identifying youths who are sex trafficking victims or at risk of sex trafficking and provide appropriate services. State agencies are required to report instances of sex trafficking to law enforcement. Hawaii CWS worked with community agencies to establish a reporting line for sex trafficking reports and contracted a provider to conduct screening, assessment, and treatment for sex trafficking minor victims.

The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 amended the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act by adding human trafficking and child pornography as forms of child abuse. Hawaii changed its reporting statute section 350, HRS, to include human trafficking as a form of harm. Both federal statutes expanded CWS's reach to all sex trafficked victims and not just those who are victims of abuse and neglect by their parents, guardians, or caregivers. The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) (PL 114-198), signed into law on 7/22/16, required State Plans to address the health and substance use disorder treatment needs of infants through a Plan of Safe Care.

To assist families who experience domestic violence, the need for shelters is critical in preventing children from being removed from the care of a protective parent who must leave an unsafe situation with their child(ren).

Statewide Office on Homelessness & Housing Solution (SOHHS)

HMS 777 – Office on Homelessness & Housing Solutions

		BUDGET REQUEST	FY27			
Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
777HH-51	7	Add Funding for Homeless Triage and Medical Respite Resources to Support Successful Placements from the Streets to Homeless Programs	A			8,000,000
777HH-72	10	Add Funding for SOHHS Operating Costs to Support Administrative Functions	A			308,960

777HH-51: Add Funding for Homeless Triage and Medical Respite Resources to Support Successful Placements from the Streets to Homeless Programs
 SOHHS is requesting an appropriation to support homeless triage and medical respite programs that directly impact unsheltered homelessness.

SOHHS is responsible for implementing innovative solutions to end homelessness statewide. While Kauhale and Ohana Zones projects have successfully added over 1,000 shelter and housing beds since original implementation, there remains an ongoing need for resources to quickly transition unsheltered individuals to safer alternatives when existing shelters, Kauhale, and Ohana Zones projects are at capacity. The 2024 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count identified approximately 4,024 individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness statewide, and approximately 52% of these individuals surveyed were chronically homeless, meaning that they have one or more disabilities and have been experiencing homelessness for one year or longer. The funding request addresses the funding to continue the existing Homeless Outreach and Navigation for the Unsheltered (HONU) program and A'ala Medical Respite programs operated by the City & County of Honolulu and subcontracted partners. The HONU and A'ala Medical Respite programs are currently funded using FY25 funds to extend services through June 30, 2026. These services require additional appropriation to continue operations.

The HONU program provides between 60-80 short-term triage beds for unsheltered individuals seeking placement at shelters or other appropriate placements. This mobile program can relocate to various locations on O'ahu to support region-specific interventions for 90-120 days. The city contributes City-owned parks and infrastructure to support the HONU. The A'ala Medical Respite program provides 62 total Kauhale and respite beds for homeless adults with health needs, including individuals referred from hospital emergency rooms, street medicine teams, and outreach providers. This program offers enhanced medical support services beyond the scope of regular shelters or Kauhale. The City contributes the use of the City-owned property at 355 N. King Street (the former First Hawaiian Bank building) for the operation of the A'ala Medical Respite program.

Continuing these programs through SFY27 will allow SOHHS and the City & County of Honolulu to continue to make positive progress toward ending unsheltered homelessness while providing safe, dignified places for individuals to reside and being navigated to other housing resources.

SOHHS is committed to bringing additional Kauhale projects online during the fiscal biennium 2025-2027, thereby alleviating pressure on longer-term beds. Furthermore, SOHHS is working in partnership with MQD to plan for the anticipated eligibility of medical respite services under the State's Medicaid 1115 Waiver. The goal is to be able to make claims to or seek reimbursement from Medicaid for medical respite costs, thereby reducing future State appropriation requests for this type of program. If the A'ala Medical Respite program requires fewer operating funds due to upcoming Medicaid claims or reimbursements, SOHHS will work to increase the capacity for medical respite services at other locations.

In 2023, the Legislature appropriated a total of \$63 million for the Kauhale Initiative (\$48 million) and the Ohana Zones pilot program (\$15 million) during the fiscal biennium 2023-2025. Act 309, SLH 2025, added funding for the Kauhale and Ohana Zones programs and established new requirements for their ongoing implementation. Some of these requirements include

quarterly reporting to the Legislature, a statewide needs assessment and plan, and the solicitation of bids for any construction and development work exceeding \$1 million. SOHHS currently contracts with service providers to operate the Kauhale and Ohana Zone projects, leveraging the expertise necessary to run these programs. Contracts are managed within SOHHS by the Fiscal and Contracting Specialist. The City & County of Honolulu administers the contracts for the HONU and A'ala Medical Respite programs. City staff and special duty Honolulu Police Department officers directly operate the HONU program, while the City subcontracts a qualified medical provider to operate the A'ala Respite program. SOHHS has received interest from providers interested in expanding medical respite services if future funding is available.

Key program activities are directly related to reducing the number of homeless people in the statewide PIT count, increasing the number of beds for people experiencing homelessness, and increasing the percentage of people exiting homelessness to permanent housing. The HONU program adds approximately 40 shelter beds to O'ahu's Housing Inventory Count, which may serve up to 400 individuals over 90-120 days due to the program's short-term nature. This equates to approximately 1,600 individuals per year, roughly half of whom are transitioned from the streets while still in the program. The A'ala Medical Respite program adds 62 shelter beds to O'ahu's Housing Inventory Count. The program has served over 120 individuals in the past year, including individuals who would otherwise be unable to safely reside in other shelters or Kauhale due to their medical needs.

SOHHS determined that these projects provide critical beds for people experiencing homelessness. Discontinuing funding for existing projects would have a negative impact on homelessness, as individuals would like be displaced to the streets. Funding beyond SFY2026 is required because these projects provide safe, dignified places for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness to move off the streets and receive services. The loss of these projects would have a negative impact on unsheltered homelessness, as there would be fewer places for individuals to receive shelter and services, and existing participants would potentially be displaced to the streets.

Reducing and ending homelessness is a key priority of the State, and requires coordination among state agencies, federal agencies, counties, and the private sector. SOHHS is tasked with testing innovative solutions to ending homelessness, such as the HONU mobile shelter and the A'ala Medical Respite program. This request addresses this priority by funding critical projects that directly address unsheltered homelessness and create pathways off the streets.

777HH-72: Add Funding for SOHHS Operating Costs to Support Administrative Functions

The Fiscal Biennium 2025-2027 Budget did not include operating funds for SOHHS's ongoing administrative expenses. SOHHS requires a modest operating budget to carry out its functions mandated in statute, including developing and testing innovative housing solutions, administering the Kauhale and 'Ohana Zones programs, providing administrative support and management of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH), managing State-

owned homeless facilities under the Kauhale program, and responding to inquiries and requests from legislators, community groups, and constituents. This appropriation to restore SOHHS's previous operating budget will allow SOHHS to perform essential duties without reducing the amount of funding required to continue direct services and operations of the Kauhale and Ohana Zones projects.

In 2023, the Legislature appropriated a total of \$1,920,000 for SOHHS positions and operating costs for the Fiscal Biennium 2023-2025. This amount included \$611,040 for personnel costs in each fiscal year and \$388,960 (FY24) and \$308,960 (FY25) for other operating costs, respectively.

SOHHS's projected operating expenses include phone (\$4,800); travel (\$20,000); transportation (\$5,000); supplies (\$2,000); consultation and professional services (\$160,000); training (\$5,000); and miscellaneous current expenses (\$112,160). These projections are based on the previous year's expenditures and projected adjustments based on SOHHS's anticipated activities. For example, SOHHS anticipates spending more on intrastate travel to support new Kauhale projects on the neighbor islands, which will require site visits and inspections. Miscellaneous current expenses will include unforeseen operating costs at State-owned Kauhale properties, administrative expenses related to the HICH, additional administrative costs related to potential federal homeless funding cuts or policy changes, and other administrative costs necessary to meet SOHHS's statutory obligations.

Act 309, SLH 2025, added funding for the Kauhale and Ohana Zones programs and established new requirements for their ongoing implementation. Some of these requirements include quarterly reporting to the Legislature, a statewide needs assessment and plan, and the solicitation of bids for any construction and development work exceeding \$1M. This will increase the administrative staffing requirements necessary to implement these new requirements.

Key program activities related to SOHHS administrative functions include the number of inter-organizational/agency meetings held, the number of training sessions conducted for service providers/partners, the number of speaking engagements by staff, and the number of policy briefs/reports authored/distributed. This appropriation will directly impact SOHHS's ability to conduct these program activities, including hosting HICH meetings and other provider webinars, traveling to meetings and site visits, performing remote and on-site monitoring, and conducting project evaluations.

SOHHS's mandatory functions require operating funds to be successfully executed; SOHHS does not have other operational funding available to consider tradeoffs.

Reducing and ending homelessness is a key area of focus for the state, requiring coordination among state agencies, federal and county governments, and the private sector. This request addresses the funding needed to efficiently operate the SOHHS, which collaborates with state

agencies and the HICH advisory board and develops policies to expand housing and supportive services for people experiencing homelessness statewide.

Office of Wellness & Resilience

		BUDGET REQUEST		FY27		
Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
555WR-71	8	Funding for Other Current Expenses for Office of Wellness and Resilience	A			297,500
555WR-73	11	Funding for Collective Bargaining Adjustments for the Office of Wellness and Resilience	A			22,080

555WR-71 Funding for Other Current Expenses for the Office of Wellness and Resilience

This is a request for funds for the OWR’s other current expenses (OCE) that were not included in the biennium budget and are necessary for SFY2027 to efficiently meet its responsibilities and programmatic requirements.

Pursuant to Act 291, SLH 2022 (Act 291), OWR was created to support and implement the statewide framework for trauma-informed care. Consistent with the intent of Act 291, consultant services are necessary to continue the momentum gained toward the responsibilities of OWR that include:

- 1) Addressing issues identified and implementing the recommendations of the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force.
- 2) Identifying common issues, unmet needs, and challenges encountered by departments and working to solve those issues through a cross-representation of state departments and the private sector, including private donors.
- 3) Seeking funding solutions using moneys that each department has access to, including federal, state, and private sources, working with philanthropic organizations and other entities from the private sector to re-evaluate the state's funding priorities, and finding funding solutions to implement interdepartmental programming.
- 4) Interacting with community agencies, organizations, and other stakeholders to ensure the office is meeting the needs and wellness requirements of communities throughout the state; and
- 5) Creating a social determinant of health electronic dashboard that identifies a baseline of needs and concerns that impede high quality-of-life outcomes.

The Office of Wellness and Resilience transferred from the Office of the Governor to the Department of Human Services effective July 1, 2025. The Act 250, SLH 2025, FY27 budget for OWR includes \$300,000 for consultant services and \$101,000 for other office supplies. Based on our legislatively mandated activities under Act 106, SLH 2024, and Act 291, SLH 2022, the OWR has determined that an additional \$297,500 is necessary to fulfill these mandates. The additional funds will allow OWR to continue implementing the social determinants of health dashboard by administering the survey biannually, analyzing the data, populating and maintaining the dashboard, and distributing the findings. We also hope to begin to better utilize data to inform policy.

In addition, as part of our training and technical assistance to the departments and county partners, as outlined in Act 106, SLH 2024, the learning management system creation and expansion of a state certification for trauma and for mental health and wellness service enhancement and establishment across first responders, health care entities, and schools would be reduced in capacity without the requested OCE.

During the 2025 legislative session, OWR requested \$470,000 for personal services and \$424,528 for OCE to maintain funding levels from Act 291, SLH 2022, which appropriated \$894,528 for FY23. Since we did not receive the OCE portion, our ability to deliver the mandated activities outlined in the recommendation report and in Act 291 legislation will remain minimal without this modest request for \$297,500.

If funds are not appropriated, initiatives will be postponed, or the task force's recommendations will be scaled back. As we have already postponed initiatives, if we don't receive the requested funds, this will severely impact our ability to meet our objectives as a state entity.

555-WR73 Funding for collective bargaining adjustments for the Office of Wellness and Resilience.

The Office of Wellness and Resilience transferred from the Office of the Governor to the Department of Human Services effective July 1, 2025.

This request is for \$10,080 in incremental funding to account for salary adjustments that were not provided to DHS on behalf of OWR SFY26. These calculations for FY27 are based on FY25 vs. FY26 salaries for OWR positions. The request would provide an equitable work environment in line with other positions in the salary range with similar credentials and qualifications.

This request also includes a one-time \$12,000 request for FY27 to cover a collective bargaining payout of \$2,000 per employee for the six positions listed that were not provided to DHS on behalf of OWR for FY26. The requested amount is consistent with collective bargaining agreements for lump-sum payments to employees who were not eligible for a step movement and would enable OWR to retroactively compensate the six positions.

General Administration for DHS

HMS 904 – General Administration for DHS

		BUDGET REQUEST	FY27			
Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
904AA-71	1	General Funds to Offset Reduced Federal Match for SNAP Administrative Expenses	A	5.26		
904AA-71	1	General Funds to Offset Reduced Federal Match for SNAP Administrative Expenses	N	(5.26)		

904AA-71: General Funds to Offset Reduced Federal Match for SNAP Administrative Expenses Effective Federal Fiscal Year 2027

This request is required for the federal reduction of the federal share and the increase in the State’s requirement for SNAP Administrative expenses, as amended by OBBBA; this request is for HMS 904.

The result of this change is to magnify the financial burden to states for the continued operation of the SNAP program. This funding request reflects the additional amount the state will be responsible for to ensure uninterrupted service delivery of the SNAP program, which currently serves 165,659 individuals (84,869 households) statewide.

This request is to adjust the cost allocation for the 82 positions affected by this cost shift to the state. The positions affected include accountants and payment staff, budget staff, administrative assistants, other clerical support staff, research staff, human resources staff, administrative appeals staff, IT staff, and department administration that provide ongoing administrative services to ensure the program complies with federal and state practices and overarching state priorities. This request also seeks to adjust the cost allocation for operational expenses related to maintaining the ongoing needs of the program and BESSD.

Estimates were developed by the Division based on the following:

- Per DHS Fiscal Management Office (FMO), 34% of the federal share is SNAP.
- We are losing ½ of the SNAP portion, half of 34% is 17%.
- Added 17% to the state portion of each position and decreased the 17% of the federal portion of each position and recalculated the cost allocation for each position.
- 17% would be the new federal share for SNAP. In SFY2027, the new federal share would apply to 3 quarters of the year, and in SFY2028, it would apply to the entire year.

This request is in response to decreased federal funding for administrative expenses to maintain current SNAP operations and service delivery.

DHS Overall

Federal Fund Adjustment Requests

		BUDGET REQUEST		FY27		
Prog ID/Org	Dept Pri	Description	MOF	FTE (P)	FTE (T)	\$ Amount
902IA-FF	16	Federal Fund Ceiling	N			27,655,000
401PE-FF	17	Federal Fund Ceiling	N			10,931,701
302DA-FF	18	Federal Fund Ceiling	N			2,162,230
220RH-FF	19	Federal Fund Ceiling	N			11,800
222RA-FF	20	Federal Fund Ceiling	N			2,257,511
501YA-FF	21	Federal Fund Ceiling	N			565,865

Form FF Reconciliation

An additional federal fund ceiling is requested based on a comparison of federal fund appropriations under Act 250, SLH 2025, and anticipated federal fund requirements for FY27.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of these supplemental budget requests.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET**

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Chris Todd, Chair
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Testimony of Caroline Cadirao
Director, Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing: Wednesday, March 11, 2026, 10:00 A.M., Conference Room 308

1 **EOA Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of Health
2 (DOH), **strongly supports HB1800.**

3 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2025-
4 2027 to fund operations and capital improvement projects of the Executive Branch agencies and
5 programs. The Executive Office on Aging's operating budget is included in the Program Appropriations
6 section on page 41, No. 25 HTH 904.

7 As Hawai'i's aging population grows, adequate appropriations for long-term care services and
8 supports are essential to ensure the health, safety, and independence of our kūpuna. We appreciate your
9 consideration of this measure.

10 **Recommendation:** EOA strongly supports this measure and respectfully requests your support for
11 EOA's operating budget.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII

Executive Office on Early Learning

Ke'ena Ho'okele Ho'ona'auao Pae Kamali'i o Hawai'i Moku'āina
2759 South King Street, Room C6
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

TO: Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: Testimony on H.B. No. 1800 – RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET
Committee: FIN
Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2026
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Conference Room 308

Executive Office on Early Learning's Position: **SUPPORT**

The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) offers the following comments in support of H.B. No. 1800 and respectfully requests your consideration of the following budget requests.

EOEL is requesting three (3.00) permanent general fund positions to support the growing workload and responsibilities of the office in coordinating Hawai'i's statewide early learning system. This request is budget-neutral, as funding for the positions will be covered through internal transfers from other current expenses to personal services.

2.00 FTE – Program Specialist IV

These positions will sustain and advance statewide initiatives that support the early learning system. They will ensure continuity of work initiated through Preschool Development Grant – Birth to Five (PDG B-5) activities, support future grant applications, and build capacity to implement the updated Hawai'i Early Childhood State Plan.

The positions will support implementation of the updated Early Childhood State Plan by monitoring progress, facilitating data collection, and reporting on statewide outcomes toward the plan's goals over the next five years. They will also assist with future revisions to the plan.

The positions will also execute current PDG B-5 grant activities. In addition, they will continue and expand the family support, outreach, and community-building efforts initiated through prior PDG B-5 grants, helping connect more families to early learning opportunities and system resources.

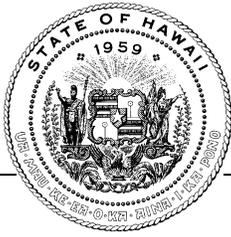
1.00 FTE – Evaluation Specialist II

The Evaluation Specialist will provide leadership, expertise, planning, and coordination to evaluate the effectiveness of statewide early learning programs and assess the extent to which the objectives of the early learning system are being achieved. The position will also help the office identify needs, develop project proposals, and provide data and analysis for a variety of audiences, including decision-makers.

This position will expand EOEL's capacity to meet its statutory responsibilities for data, program evaluation, and policy recommendations as outlined in section 302L-1.5(d), HRS.

EOEL strongly supports these budget requests, which will strengthen statewide coordination, improve data-informed decision-making, advance educational equity, and improve access to high-quality early learning for keiki.

We appreciate the Legislature's ongoing investment and shared commitment to strengthening Hawai'i's early learning system for our youngest keiki and their 'ohana. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony, and we respectfully request your support of these budget requests.



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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS, Director

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Wednesday, March 11, 2026, 10:00AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of
HB 1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance, the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) supports HB 1800, Relating to the State Budget.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (BED144/PL) requests the Committee's support for the following GM 2 Green Fee requests:

- \$2,000,000 in general funds (GM2) for the Natural Disaster Economic Recovery Strategy (NDERS) Update and Implementation to prepare small businesses for future disasters. This project will both refresh the NDERS—an existing strategy originally completed in 2014—and fund its implementation to help protect jobs and strengthen economic resilience.
- \$400,000 in general funds (GM2) for the State Climate Adaptation & Resilience Plan to strengthen fiscal resilience, protect critical infrastructure, and prepare communities for a changing climate.

Currently, the State of Hawaii does not have an official, comprehensive statewide Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan. A statewide plan is needed to identify high-risk vulnerabilities, assess fiscal and infrastructure risks, and guide proactive investments before significant losses occur. The request includes:

- A statewide, multi-hazard climate risk and vulnerability modeling to inform capital planning and reduce long-term liabilities.
- Web-based mapping, visualization, and monitoring tools.
- A cost-benefit and fiscal risk assessments to quantify losses and strengthen financial planning.
- Stakeholder engagement, planning, and publication.

- \$158,352 in general funds for 2.0 FTEs to manage and coordinate the multi-year effort. The work exceeds current staffing capacity.

This proposal aligns with best practices adopted by other states that have formalized statewide adaptation and resilience plans to integrate climate science into land use, infrastructure, fiscal policy, and emergency preparedness. These frameworks improve coordination, reduce long-term costs, enhance federal funding competitiveness, and address growing concerns from insurers and bond rating agencies as climate-related losses escalate.

- \$7,000,000 in GO Bonds (GM2) in FY 2026 for Plans, Design, and Construction for Waikiki Beach Restoration Project, Oahu. The FEIS highlights the urgent need to address climate-driven erosion that threatens public safety, residents, and Hawaii's economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Green Fee Advisory Council

To: Representative Chris Todd, Chair
House Committee on Finance (FIN)

Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance (FIN)

From: Carmela Resuma, Member
Green Fee Advisory Council (GFAC)

HB1800 – Relating to Green Fee Appropriations – Support with Comments
Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 10:00 AM HT
State Capitol – Conference Room 308

Aloha Chair Chris Todd, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and Members of the FIN Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify as Chair of the Governor’s Green Fee Advisory Council (GFAC) in support of appropriating Green Fee revenues to the projects we recommended. Act 96 (SLH 2025) established Hawai‘i’s Green Fee, a 0.75% increase in the Transient Accommodations Tax, expected to generate approximately \$100 million annually for environmental stewardship, climate and hazard resilience, and sustainable tourism.

As the Green Fee is now law, the Council’s focus has been on ensuring these funds are invested strategically, transparently, and in alignment with statutory intent. The law requires that funds be split equally into three categories:

- 1. Environmental Stewardship;**
- 2. Climate and Hazard Resilience;**
- 3. and Sustainable Tourism.**

The Green Fee Advisory Council, convened by Governor Green, has worked since fall 2025 to implement this mandate. Central to this work was the development of a rigorous, standardized evaluation framework to ensure fairness, transparency, and accountability in how projects were prioritized.

How Projects Were Evaluated (Methodology and Rationale): The Council reviewed more than 500 public project ideas submitted through its Public Ideas Portal and over 100 formal proposals submitted by state departments and agencies, representing more than \$2 billion in funding requests for roughly \$100 million in available Year 1 resources.

Each formal proposal was evaluated by multiple reviewers using five core criteria grounded in Act 96, existing state plans, climate science, risk data, and community impact:

- 1. Results:** The degree to which the project delivers measurable outcomes that reduce risk, restore ecosystems, or strengthen community resilience.



Green Fee Advisory Council

- 2. Readiness:** Whether the project has necessary permits, access, compliance steps, and implementation capacity in place to responsibly expend funds within the fiscal timeline.
- 3. Relevance:** Alignment with Act 96 statutory categories, documented climate and hazard risks, cultural knowledge, and demonstrated community need.
- 4. Relationships:** Evidence of collaboration across agencies, nonprofits, and community-based organizations, particularly in climate-vulnerable or historically underserved communities.
- 5. Region:** Consideration of geographic vulnerability, overtourism pressure, chronic underinvestment, or disproportionate risk exposure.

Conflict-of-interest safeguards were implemented throughout the process, and projects were scored independently before deliberative discussion.

Given the significant gap between available funds (\$100M) and statewide need (estimated \$500M-\$1B annually), the Council prioritized projects that were ready to move forward immediately, leveraged additional funding or partnerships, and delivered the greatest public benefit per dollar invested.

The Council then organized recommendations within each of the three statutory funding categories into clear subcategories to reflect Hawai'i's most urgent risk areas, such as wildfire mitigation, watershed protection, coral reef resilience, flood mitigation, visitor impact management, and community-led stewardship.

The resulting Year 1 slate includes **75 high-impact projects totaling approximately \$126 million** in recommended funding across all three categories, each selected through this structured, criteria-based evaluation process.

The Council's Year 1 funding recommendations represent projects that are ready to move forward, deliver measurable benefits, and strengthen resilience statewide. Examples include:

- Community-based watershed and ahupua'a restoration initiatives
- Endangered forest bird mosquito abatement and native species protection
- Wildfire fuel reduction and climate resilience workforce development
- Hurricane home retrofits and evacuation shelter hardening
- Coastal dune restoration and flood early warning systems
- Beach restoration and destination-management infrastructure
- Monitoring and evaluation capacity to ensure measurable impact

(See full description and funding amounts in the [Funding Recommendations Grid](#).)

Summary of Support: We strongly support funding the entire portfolio of projects GFAC recommended, which align with community-based priorities and needs. Hawai'i faces escalating climate and hazard risks, including wildfire, sea level rise, extreme rainfall, and coral reef degradation, all of which threaten public safety, cultural resources, and economic stability.



Green Fee Advisory Council

Strategic mitigation and resilience investments today reduce long-term disaster recovery costs and protect both communities and critical infrastructure.

Key Clarification: It is important to note that the Council serves in an advisory capacity only. The final funding proposal submitted to the Legislature reflects the Governor’s review of feasibility, departmental capacity, and timing considerations. However, the underlying evaluation process, criteria, and prioritization methodology remain those established by the Council and described in the [Year 1 Funding Recommendations Report](#).

Recommendations: We urge the Legislature to approve the appropriation of Green Fee funds as proposed. This means funding all 75 GFAC-recommended projects in all three categories, as prioritized through the Council’s transparent, criteria-based evaluation process.

We also ask members to support accountability measures: establishing a public online dashboard and annual reporting will ensure transparency and maintain public trust. Monitoring and evaluation funding is embedded within each category to track outcomes and performance.

It is vital that these funds be additive to environmental and resilience budgets, not supplant existing programs.

Requested Action: We urge this committee to advance the supplemental budget with the GFAC-recommended project portfolio intact as presented.

The proposed portfolio contains high-impact, geographically diverse actions that work together synergistically across the three legislatively identified funding areas: Environmental Stewardship, Climate and Hazard Resilience, and Sustainable Tourism.

We also urge the legislature to authorize the timely release of the funds, and include provisions for public oversight (regular reports, data dashboards and outcome tracking) to demonstrate progress and results.

By advancing this rigorously developed, balanced set of recommendations, the Legislature will implement Act 96 as intended: **a long-term, visitor-funded investment in Hawai‘i’s environmental integrity, community resilience, and sustainable tourism management.**

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration. The Green Fee Advisory Council looks forward to working with the Legislature to ensure these funds are used effectively and equitably.

With aloha,
Jeff Mikulina, Chair
Green Fee Advisory Council (GFAC)

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR



Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority

An Agency of the State of Hawaii

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
CHAIR

GWEN S YAMAMOTO LAU
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Testimony of
Gwen Yamamoto Lau
Executive Director
Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, March 11, 2026
10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

in consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of House Bill 1800, which provides the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority (“HGIA”) (BED 138) the ability to continue administering its financing programs for underserved ratepayers, as well as bridge the access to capital gap for nonprofits, small businesses, commercial property owners and condo associations statewide.

HGIA’s base budget request includes the Authority’s lending ceiling, bond ceiling and operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1800.



STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
415 S. BERETANIA ST. #415
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Testimony on H.B. 1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

March 11, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.; Room Number: 308

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

The Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** H.B. 1800 Relating to the State Budget and offers comments.

Established in 2022 under Act 291, Session Laws of Hawai'i, as the nation's first statewide-legislated wellness office, OWR carries out our kuleana to strengthen state service systems to create a trauma-informed state. Through training and technical assistance, data and assessment, partnerships and collaboration, and policy and program development, our statewide staff and trainees are currently managing numerous projects and tasks across five strategic priority areas: (1) Trauma-Informed Systems Transformation, (2) Workforce Well-Being and Secondary Trauma Prevention, (3) Community Resilience and Disaster Mental Health, (4) Innovation and Sustainable Funding Infrastructure, and (5) Innovative Programs Rooted in Trauma-Informed Care. A summary of our recent efforts are included in our 2025 Annual Report, available at <https://owr.hawaii.gov/reports/>.

The OWR appreciates the opportunity to present our Office's budget requests for two line items.

Program ID: HMS555	FY27	0.00 FTE	\$297,500
Description of Request 1		Add Other Current Expenditures (OCE) for OWR	
<p>This request would fund the operational costs required to fulfill OWR's legislative mandate under HRS §27-65 and advance our five strategic priorities. Specifically, these funds would support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The biannual Hawai'i Quality of Life and Well-Being Survey and Dashboard in partnership with the University of Hawai'i (the largest quality of life dataset in state history, with 8,300+ respondents); • Development, dissemination, and management of our Trauma-Informed Care Certification curriculum and Learning Management System; • Content-specific consultants and subject matter experts for training and technical assistance; • Facilitation and coordination of the annual Kūpa'a Maui Ola Wellness and Resilience Summit that serves as a delivery point for training state employees; • Interisland travel to deliver training, technical assistance, and supervision support across all four counties; and • Development of trauma-informed care resource libraries, toolkits, and outreach materials. <p>Without recurring OCE funding, OWR cannot sustain the core infrastructure that powers these legislatively mandated programs.</p>			

Program ID: HMS555	FY27	0.00 FTE	\$22,080
Description of Request 2		OWR Adjustment for Collective Bargaining Increases	
<p>This request for \$22,080 addresses collective bargaining increases for OWR's six positions that were not included in funding provided to the Department of Human Services (DHS), under which OWR's budget is administratively housed. The amount covers both incremental salary adjustments and a one-time collective bargaining payout per employee. These increases were negotiated and approved through the collective bargaining process and have been funded for comparable positions across other state offices. Providing this adjustment ensures OWR staff receive equitable compensation consistent with employees in similar salary ranges, credentials, and qualifications statewide.</p>			

This funding is essential to sustain our core operations: delivering legislatively mandated programs under HRS §27-65, conducting biannual statewide wellness surveys that inform evidence-based policy, and scaling proven interventions across state agencies and Communities.

Without recurring OCE funds, OWR faces critical operational impacts: termination of our research partnership with University of Hawai'i that powers the Quality of Life Dashboard (now used by policymakers, state and county departments, and community organizations statewide), loss of data collection capabilities that track our 8,300+ survey respondents, and inability to measure progress on legislative mandates. This would effectively dismantle three years of infrastructure development.

The OWR expresses its sincere gratitude for the Legislature's continued support and remains available to address any questions or provide additional information as needed.

Tia L.R. Hartsock, MSW, MSCJA
 Director, Office of Wellness & Resilience

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 17907
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO:

26:OED

Statement of the
Hawaii Public Housing Authority

Before the
House Committee on Finance

Wednesday, March 11, 2026
10:00 AM – Room 308, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
HB 1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Honorable Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports House Bill (HB) 1800 which adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2025-2027 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

HPHA respectfully requests the Committee's support for the following budget adjustment.

HMS 229 – HPHA Administration

Request ID: 229HA-01

Description of Request:

Request to convert \$27,840,930 in federal funds currently budgeted as MOF "N" (Federal Funds) to MOF "W" (Revolving Funds) for fiscal year 2027.

Reason for Request:

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has implemented changes to the operating structure for public housing authorities nationwide. Under this revised structure, administrative costs for public housing programs are no longer funded directly through federal operating subsidies to HMS 229. Instead, administrative funding is generated through program management fees associated with HMS 220 and HMS 222.



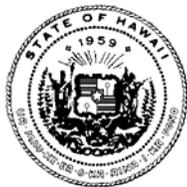
Because this federal structural change occurred after the State budget was developed, the State's budget tables still reflect the previous funding mechanism. This request corrects that discrepancy by converting the method of financing so that the State budget will be accurately reflected going forward.

This request does not represent new funding and does not increase the State budget. Rather, it is a technical adjustment to align the State's budget structure with the updated federal funding model and to ensure transparency and accuracy in how federal funds supporting HPHA operations are reflected in the State budget.

HPHA will continue to update its budget tables to ensure that the Legislature has accurate fiscal information for the upcoming biennium.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your continued commitment to addressing Hawaii's housing needs.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



RYAN I. YAMANE
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'ŌKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'ŌKELE

March 10, 2026

TO: The Honorable Representative Chris Todd, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Jun D. Yang, Coordinator on Homelessness

SUBJECT: **HB 1800 – RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET**

Hearing: March 11, 2026, Time 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 308 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

AGENCY'S POSITION: The Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (SOHHS) strongly supports this bill and provides comments regarding the office's supplemental budget requests. We thank the Legislature for its ongoing support of the office's programmatic and operational needs.

SOHHS's mission is to develop and test innovative solutions to ending homelessness across the state, including working with other state, county, and community agencies to develop transitional housing, permanent housing, and supportive services for people experiencing homelessness. Examples include the Kauhale Initiative, which has funded over 1,000 beds for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness since 2023, and the 'Ohana Zones program, which has funded a range of supportive services, emergency shelter and triage beds, and permanent supportive housing units in partnerships with the four major counties. SOHHS also administers the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH), a coordinating body of 27 member agencies and stakeholders committed to statewide policy and solutions to end homelessness.

Add Funding for Homeless Triage and Medical Respite Resources (\$8,000,000)

SOHHS is requesting a total of \$8,000,000 to support critical homeless programs for unsheltered individuals on O'ahu that were not included in the office's appropriation for Kauhale and 'Ohana Zone projects in Act 309, Session Laws of Hawai'i (SLH) 2025. Funding is requested for the Homeless Outreach and Navigation for Unsheltered Persons (HONU) program and the A'ala Medical Respite program. These programs directly impact people experiencing unsheltered homelessness on O'ahu, where approximately 70% of the state's homeless population resides. Supplemental funding will sustain these programs through State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2027, with the opportunity to extend services as cost savings and programmatic efficiencies are realized.

The HONU program is a mobile, low-barrier triage program designed to navigate unsheltered individuals to other appropriate settings, including shelters, kauhale, permanent housing, family reunification, and relocation. As one of the limited walk-in shelters with the ability to accept pets and reconfigure beds based on family household composition needs, the program The program has recently expanded its capacity to serve approximately 60-80 individuals at any time, and serves approximately 230 individuals each quarter. Since opening as an 'Ohana Zone program in December 2019, the HONU has served over 4,700 individuals.

The A'ala Medical Respite program includes capacity for up to 62 individuals, including individuals requiring 24-hour supervision due to medical needs. The program combines intensive medical respite beds with a surrounding kauhale village to provide residents with a place to recover from health issues and work toward independence. Medical respite beds serve individuals with higher levels of medical acuity than regular shelter or kauhale beds, with specialty services provided by on-site medical professionals. As individuals stabilize and recover, they may transition to the kauhale component of the program or be referred to other housing resources. The model is based on recommendations from the first medical respite kauhale at Pūlama Ola, a temporary program that operated outside of Washington Place from May through December 2023. The program has served over 245 individuals since July 2024. Operating funds are necessary for this program to continue without interruption or

significant impacts to the target population as the Medicaid 1115 waiver amendment for medical respite reimbursement continues to ramp up and undergo process improvements.

For more information about the Kauhale Initiative and 'Ohana Zones projects, see the [Combined SOHHS, HICH, and Act 309 \(SLH 2025\) Report to the 2026 Legislature](#).

Restore Funding for SOHHS Operating Costs (\$308,000)

In addition to supplemental funding for Kauhale and 'Ohana Zones programs, SOHHS is requesting to restore operating funds that were not included in the biennium budget. The appropriation of \$308,000 for office operating expenses and administrative costs will allow SOHHS to continue its statewide policy and planning mandates, including facilitating HICH meetings and producing reports, continuing the development of a data clearinghouse and related reporting, and monitoring existing programs. For additional information about the HICH and the Hawai'i Ten-Year Strategic Plan and Framework to End Homelessness (2022-2032), please visit the [Hawai'i Interagency Council on Homelessness website](#).

Add General Obligation Bond Funding for Kauhale Projects (\$10,100,000)

SOHHS is requesting an additional \$10,100,000 in general obligation bond funds for Capital Improvement Project (CIP) costs related to kauhale. The appropriation of general obligation bonds will support the development of additional or expanded kauhale sites, including potential locations in central and leeward O'ahu to address unmet housing needs. Additional neighbor island kauhale projects on Hawai'i island and Kaua'i have already been funded in the biennium and are in the pre-development and planning stages. For a description of current and planned kauhale projects on all four major islands, see the [Act 309, Session Laws of Hawai'i \(SLH\) SFY 2026 Q2 Report on Kauhale and 'Ohana Zones Programs](#). The creation of additional kauhale sites is consistent with recommendation in SOHHS's [Comprehensive Needs Assessment](#), conducted pursuant to Act 309, SLH 2025. Increasing the inventory of deeply affordable, low-barrier residential facilities where people experiencing unsheltered homelessness can heal from trauma and transform their lives will improve future housing stability and upward mobility.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



DEAN MINAKAMI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

FAX: (808) 587-0600

Statement of

DEAN MINAKAMI

Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation

Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

March 11, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Room 308

In consideration of

HOUSE BILL 1800

RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee.

HHFDC **supports** House Bill 1800, which includes a request under BED 160 to add 1.00 FTE Temporary Assistant Controller and increase the agency's expenditure ceiling by \$176,000 in revolving funds (MOF W) to fund the position.

There are existing appropriations of \$40 million to the Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund (DURF) and \$100 million to the Rental Housing Revolving Fund (RHRF) in the Fiscal Year 2027 budget. HHFDC appreciates the Legislature's continued support for these appropriations.

\$40,000,000 (MOF: C) for BED 160 Cash Infusion for Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund
DURF may be used for the acquisition of real property; development and construction of residential, commercial, and industrial properties; interim and permanent loans to developers; development of regional infrastructure; and all other necessary activities to carry out the purposes of HHFDC's Housing Development Program, including administrative expenses.

\$100,000,000 (MOF: C) for BED 160 Cash Infusion for Rental Housing Revolving Fund
RHRF provides loans for the development, pre-development, construction, acquisition, preservation, and substantial rehabilitation of rental housing units.

Requested Position

The requested position is essential to ensure that HHFDC can continue to meet the State's urgent need for affordable housing production. As the State's lead financing and development agency for affordable housing, HHFDC has experienced substantial growth in both the scope

and complexity of its programs. This expansion is driven directly by the magnitude of Hawaii's housing crisis and the Legislature's charge to deliver more affordable units, faster. HHFDC has recently launched new initiatives such as the DURF Equity Pilot Program (DEP) and the multifamily bond recycling program, and has revitalized dormant programs, including the Kama'aina Homes mortgage program and down payment assistance program. At the same time, activity within established programs such as RHRF, Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program, multifamily private activity bonds, and multiple DURF-funded initiatives have continued to increase significantly.

Reflecting this statewide expansion of affordable housing investments, HHFDC's net position reached approximately \$2.7 billion as of June 30, 2025. The agency's accounting workload has likewise increased: the number of general ledger accounts maintained by staff rose to 8,283 in FY 2025, representing an increase of 3,519 accounts over the past decade. Each account requires active maintenance, reconciliation, reporting, and audit support. HHFDC's current accounting team operates at full capacity and cannot absorb further increases without risking delays, compliance challenges, or operational disruptions.

HHFDC requests the addition of an Assistant Controller position as it will reinforce its financial management, internal controls, and operational resiliency across all programs that support affordable housing development. The Assistant Controller will ensure accurate, timely, and compliant financial operations that are foundational to delivering housing units.

Additionally, HHFDC faces a critical, time-sensitive transition: Microsoft and its partners will discontinue support for the agency's current accounting system. This system is integral to all HHFDC program operations, including bond transactions, loan disbursements, construction draws, and project-funded expenditures. The HHFDC financial statement is incorporated into the State's audited *Annual Comprehensive Financial Report*.

The procurement, implementation, testing, and parallel operation of a new accounting system will be an extraordinarily complex undertaking. Without additional capacity, this transition places HHFDC at risk of:

1. Disruption in project payments.
2. Audit findings that could jeopardize the State's bond ratings.
3. Delays in project closings.
4. Slowed delivery of urgently needed affordable housing.

The Assistant Controller will be fully engaged in managing this transition from end to end, ensuring uninterrupted financial operations during a period of unprecedented affordable housing investment.

For these reasons, the requested position and funding increase are not merely administrative. They are a strategic necessity to safeguard the State's affordable housing pipeline, protect financial integrity, and ensure the continued delivery of housing opportunities for Hawaii's residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



DEAN MINAKAMI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

FAX: (808) 587-0600

Statement of

DEAN MINAKAMI

Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation

Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

March 11, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Room 308

In consideration of

HOUSE BILL 1800

RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS BOARD
KALANIMOKU BUILDING
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, #111B
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VICTOR R. MCCRAW
ADMINISTRATOR

March 9, 2026

Chair Chris Todd
Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi
House Committee on Finance
State Capitol, Conference Room 308
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: HB1800 Relating to the State Budget

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Law Enforcement Standards Board (LESB) submits this testimony in support of HB 1800. This bill relating to the state budget provides funding to the LESB that will allow it to progress towards accomplishing the board's statutory mandates in HRS Chapter 139.

The LESB was created in 2018 and is administratively attached to the Department of the Attorney General. The purpose was to have a board that certifies law enforcement officers to ensure the highest standards of professionalism, uniformity of standards, and accountability. The LESB's purpose remains just as important today as it did when it was created.

However, the LESB did not receive any significant funding until HB 1800. Currently staffed by only an administrator, Victor McCraw, and with funding in hand, the LESB expects to be able to demonstrate palpable progress towards its statutory mandates. Funding will allow the LESB to hire three full-time employees and purchase sorely needed infrastructure that will go towards tracking law enforcement officer education and training as well as a statewide certification database.

LESB TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1800

March 9, 2026

Page 2

For these reasons, the Hawaii Law Enforcement Standards Board strongly supports HB 1800. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ Adrian Dhakhwa
Chair, Hawaii Law Enforcement Standards Board



TESTIMONY OF
CAROLINE ANDERSON
Interim President & CEO
Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, March 11, 2026
10:00 AM

State Capitol, Room 308

In consideration of

HB 1800

RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) offers comments on HB 1800 regarding HTA programs and Green Fee advisory council projects that will be administered by HTA.

BED113/XC: \$55 million for Hawai'i Convention Center (HCC) Repairs and Maintenance Projects. This \$55 million request was originally submitted as \$81 million: the \$60 million is reduced to \$34 million in C funds and \$21 million in B funds. This request will fund approximately 20 repair and upgrade projects at HCC, separate from the roof repair project in progress. Completing this work concurrently with the roof repair will improve cost efficiency and help minimize future lost business, since the facility is already operating on a modified schedule.

Hawai'i Convention Center Project	Estimated Cost**
Ballroom gutter, foyer and lobby transom glass and soffit repair	\$22,123,054
Slate tile repair	\$1,575,000
House sound audio	\$5,381,306
Parking system equipment upgrade	\$1,050,000
Interior building painting	\$3,768,084
Digital signage upgrade i	\$3,150,000
Carpet replacement	\$4,269,047
Air wall repairs, fabric replacement	\$1,396,944
Roll-up door replacement	\$211,411
IT network switch upgrade	\$346,500
Facility equipment replacement	\$760,342
ADA compliance, possibly other issues	\$171,450
Kalakaua kitchen boiler replacement	\$210,000
Cafe 808 renovation	\$2,715,508
Frictionless concession	\$1,665,508
1801 renovation	\$3,870,704

Ice machines replacement	\$1,048,893
Loading dock supply fan replacement	\$236,250
Lobby door replacement	\$525,000
Xorel wallcovering replacement	\$525,000
TOTAL	\$55,000,000

**The project list is based on cost estimates; if final costs exceed estimates, HTA will adjust the scope by reducing the number of projects to remain within the appropriation.

BED115/SS: \$3,000,000 for Sports Tourism Program Expansion. This request funds targeted marketing and promotions with professional and collegiate sports, international teams, and goodwill tournaments that attract traveling fans and participants from key markets including the U.S., Japan, Korea, China, Taiwan, and Australia.

Political uncertainty, unfavorable exchange rates, and rising inflation are setting higher barriers to travel in 2026 and 2027. At the same time, the cruise lines and air carriers have scheduled flights and cruises to Hawai'i. If cabins and flights are not filled this year and next, we can expect those ships and planes to be rerouted to other destinations with stronger demand. That means it's critical that Hawai'i create compelling reasons to travel to Hawai'i over the next two years, particularly among groups with the interest and means to do so. One segment stands out as meeting these criteria and responding well to a compelling reason to travel: sports participants and fans.

Sports-related travel is a proven, event-driven segment with the interest and capacity to travel, and it can generate compelling reasons to choose Hawai'i. The funds will be applied to a sports marketing plan based on target markets, market size, and geographic focus, informed by historical performance and research, which prioritizes opportunities that address identified gaps and are most likely to stimulate demand.

BED113/AG: \$500,000 for Tourism Hotspot Monitoring and Evaluation. This request provides funds for the design and development of a system to monitor and evaluate sustainable tourism projects. The development of data visualization and a dashboard track and evaluate the outcomes and impacts of Green-Fee-funded sustainable tourism projects, supporting informed policy decisions and helping tell the story of the success of projects. HTA is prepared to lead this effort for the State. The dashboard will be readily available to the public and any government agency interested in learning more about sustainable destination management.

BED116/DC: \$7,620,000 for Statewide Community-Led Visitor Education and Stewardship Systems at High-Use Sites. This initiative, part of the Green Fee Advisory Council's sustainable tourism project portfolio, will establish or expand community-based teams at high-use sites to provide on-site visitor and resident education on native ecosystems, cultural practices, safety, and responsible behavior, and to lead stewardship work such as habitat restoration, invasive species removal, and protection of culturally significant places.

Investing in community-led stewardship reduces impacts on natural and cultural resources, improves safety, strengthens cultural understanding and respect, and builds long-term local capacity through place-based, culturally grounded approaches. This proposal scales programs already working across the state, aligned with community priorities. HTA is prepared to administer the initiative on behalf of the State of Hawai'i with community organizations, counties, and state agencies, with clear accountability, measurable outcomes, and responsible use of funds.

HTA stands ready to provide any technical context on program needs, expected deliverables at proposed funding levels, and how best to maintain accountability and continuity across the fiscal biennium.



TESTIMONY OF
CAROLINE ANDERSON
Interim President & CEO
Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, March 11, 2026
10:00 AM

State Capitol, Room 308

In consideration of

HB 1800

RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) offers comments on HB 1800 regarding HTA programs and Green Fee advisory council projects that will be administered by HTA.

BED113/XC: \$55 million for Hawai'i Convention Center (HCC) Repairs and Maintenance Projects. This \$55 million request was originally submitted as \$81 million: the \$60 million is reduced to \$34 million in C funds and \$21 million in B funds. This request will fund approximately 20 repair and upgrade projects at HCC, separate from the roof repair project in progress. Completing this work concurrently with the roof repair will improve cost efficiency and help minimize future lost business, since the facility is already operating on a modified schedule.

Hawai'i Convention Center Project	Estimated Cost**
Ballroom gutter, foyer and lobby transom glass and soffit repair	\$22,123,054
Slate tile repair	\$1,575,000
House sound audio	\$5,381,306
Parking system equipment upgrade	\$1,050,000
Interior building painting	\$3,768,084
Digital signage upgrade i	\$3,150,000
Carpet replacement	\$4,269,047
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HTA stands ready to provide any technical context on program needs, expected deliverables at proposed funding levels, and how best to maintain accountability and continuity across the fiscal biennium.



STATE OF HAWAII
Early Learning Board
2759 South King Street, Room C6
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

March 9, 2026

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Finance

From: Elaine Yamashita, Chair
Early Learning Board

Re: HB1800 support
March 11, 2026, 10 a.m. Finance Committee hearing

Aloha Honorable Chair Todd, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, and members of the House Finance Committee:

The Early Learning Board (ELB) formulates statewide policy relating to early learning, as well as directing the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL).

ELB supports HB1800, which includes the Executive Office on Early Learning's request for 3.00 permanent general fund position counts that are budget neutral to uphold its ongoing and increasing responsibilities. This measure aligns with the legislative priorities passed by the board which support the Hawai'i Early Childhood State Plan (2025-2030). The board strongly supports EOEL's detailed testimony for these positions.

It's an exciting time for early learning in the state and these positions as described in the EOEL testimony will support the implementation of the Early Childhood State Plan beyond 2030.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. The Early Learning Board appreciates the continued support of our youngest keiki and their 'ohana.

Sincerely,

Elaine Yamashita
Early Learning Board Chair
elb@eoel.hawaii.gov

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS BOARD
KALANIMOKU BUILDING
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, #111B
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

ADRIAN DHAKHWA
CHAIR

MIKE LAMBERT
VICE-CHAIR

BOARD MEMBERS
SHERRY BIRD
ELLIOT "KALANI" KE
HARRY KUBOJIRI
ANNE E. LOPEZ
REED MAHUNA
JOHN PELLETIER
JARED REDULLA
JASON REDULLA
DON FAUMUINA
GARY SUGANUMA
CRAIG TANAKA
RADE VANIC

VICTOR R. MCCRAW
ADMINISTRATOR

March 11, 2026

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

TO:

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

FROM:

Victor R. McCraw
Administrator, Hawai'i Law Enforcement Standards Board

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

I submit this testimony in support of HB 1800 in my capacity as Administrator of the Hawai'i Law Enforcement Standards Board.

The Law Enforcement Standards Board is administratively attached to the Department of the Attorney General, and the funding reflected in HB 1800 will allow the Board to begin operational implementation of its statutory responsibilities under chapter 139, Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

Chapter 139 assigns the Board responsibility for establishing and maintaining statewide law enforcement training and employment standards, administering certification, maintaining a centralized certification system, and supporting certification-related review and action when required. These functions require personnel, operational support, and core technology systems to be conducted in a consistent and defensible manner.

Victor McCraw, Administrator
Hawaii Law Enforcement Standards Board
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1800
March 11, 2026
Page 2

The budget request associated with HB 1800 includes three new positions necessary for the Board to begin this work. The LESB Administrative Manager, the Law Enforcement Training and Curriculum Coordinator, and the Lead Investigative Agent establish the Board's foundational administrative, training standards, and certification-related investigative capacity. These positions allow the Board to begin building the administrative framework, training standards oversight, and certification review processes required to implement statewide law enforcement standards.

Additionally, this request includes the operational infrastructure necessary to support these functions. This includes a learning management system to support training delivery, tracking, and compliance oversight, and a statewide certification management system to maintain officer certification, training, and employment eligibility records. These systems form the operational backbone required to administer statewide standards and certification.

With these resources in place, the Board will be positioned to begin implementing the statewide framework established by the Legislature and to make measurable progress toward fulfilling its statutory mandates.

For these reasons, the Hawai'i Law Enforcement Standards Board respectfully supports HB 1800.

Respectfully submitted,



Victor R. McCraw
Administrator, Hawai'i Law Enforcement Standards Board



Green Fee Advisory Council

To: Representative Chris Todd, Chair
House Committee on Finance (FIN)

Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance (FIN)

From: Carmela Resuma, Member
Green Fee Advisory Council (GFAC)

HB1800 – Relating to Green Fee Appropriations – Support with Comments
Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 10:00 AM HT
State Capitol – Conference Room 308

Aloha Chair Chris Todd, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and Members of the FIN Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of appropriating Green Fee revenues to the projects recommended through the Green Fee Advisory Council (GFAC) Year 1 process.

Act 96 (SLH 2025) established Hawai'i's Green Fee, a 0.75% increase in the Transient Accommodations Tax, to generate approximately \$100 million annually for environmental stewardship, climate and hazard resilience, and sustainable tourism.

Now that the Green Fee is law, our responsibility is not to re-debate its creation, but to ensure it is implemented with integrity, transparency, while centering the needs of our community and 'āina

A Structured, Criteria-Based Evaluation Process: The Council's recommendations were grounded in extensive community input and evaluated using a structured framework informed by equity principles and industry best practices. As outlined in the [Year 1 Funding Recommendations Report](#), the Council reviewed:

- More than 500 public ideas submitted through the Public Ideas Portal
- Over 100 formal proposals from departments and agencies
- More than \$2 billion in funding requests
- For approximately \$100 million in available Year 1 resources

Given this gap between available funds and documented statewide need (estimated at \$500M-\$1B annually), prioritization was essential.

Each proposal was independently evaluated using a standardized framework built around five core criteria:

1. **Results:** Clear, measurable impact
2. **Readiness:** Permitting, capacity and timeline feasibility



Green Fee Advisory Council

3. **Relevance:** Alignment with Act 96 statutory intent and documented risk
4. **Relationships:** Demonstrated collaboration across sectors and communities
5. **Region:** Geographic equity and vulnerability considerations

Conflict-of-interest safeguards were implemented throughout the review process.

The outcome was not a collection of isolated projects, but a strategically balanced portfolio designed to address Hawai'i's most urgent risks while ensuring funds could move responsibly and demonstrate impact within the fiscal year.

Why These Investments Matter Now: Across all three categories (Environmental Stewardship, Climate & Hazard Resilience, and Sustainable Tourism) the recommended projects reflect a systems-based approach. For example:

- **Community-based watershed and nearshore restoration programs** strengthen mauka to makai resilience while building local stewardship capacity
- **Wildfire risk reduction, vegetation management and climate resilience crews** invest in prevention rather than reaction
- **Hurricane home retrofit feasibility and community mitigation programs** reduce household-level vulnerability before the next major storm
- **Coastal dune restoration and flood early warning systems** address accelerating sea level rise and rainfall intensity
- **Destination management and visitor education programs** reduce pressure on fragile ecosystems while improving safety, integrating culture, and creating a more meaningful visitor experience

Each category also includes dedicated monitoring and evaluation funding to ensure measurable outcomes and public transparency. These projects were prioritized because they are ready, collaborative, and capable of delivering tangible benefit statewide.

Fiscal Responsibility and Long-Term Stability: The Green Fee represents a structural investment in prevention:

- Mitigation costs less than disaster recovery.
- Planning costs less than emergency response.
- Resilience costs less than rebuilding.

Wildfire, coastal erosion, extreme rainfall, coral reef degradation and infrastructure vulnerability are already impacting communities and state budgets. The recommended projects are designed to reduce long-term fiscal exposure while protecting public safety and economic stability. Strategic investment today prevents significantly larger liabilities tomorrow.

Advisory Role Clarification: It is important to note that GFAC serves in an advisory capacity only. The final funding proposal reflects the Governor's review of feasibility, timing and



Green Fee Advisory Council

departmental capacity. However, the underlying evaluation framework, scoring methodology and prioritization structure were developed by the Council and documented in the [Year 1 Funding Recommendations Report](#).

Requested Action: I respectfully urge the Legislature to:

1. Approve the full appropriation of Green Fee funds across all three statutory categories.
2. Maintain the equal funding split established by Act 96.
3. Support public accountability tools, including annual reporting and an online dashboard.
4. Ensure that Green Fee funds remain additive and do not supplant existing environmental or resilience budgets.

By funding the Council's recommendations, the Legislature will implement Act 96 as intended: a long-term, visitor-funded investment in Hawai'i's environmental integrity, hazard resilience and sustainable tourism management.

Mahalo for your leadership and careful review of these recommendations.

Me ka ha'aha'a,
Carmela Resuma, Member
Green Fee Advisory Council (GFAC)

Chair
JENNIFER STOTTER

Commissioners
EDIE IGNACIO NEUMILLER | STACEY MONIZ
ROSE MEDINA KEMNA | MELISSA SOTELO

Executive Director
LLASMIN CHAINE



March 10, 2026

Position: **SUPPORT** of **HB1800**, Relating to the State Budget

To: Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Llasmin Chaine, LSW, Executive Director, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1800, Relating to the State Budget

Hearing: Wednesday, March 11, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

On behalf of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, I would like to thank the committee for hearing this important bill. The Commission is in **strong support of HB1800**, as it enables our continued funding and the opportunity to advance programs, services, and gender equity goals for Hawaii's women and girls.

In light of the federal administrative priorities and active measures: to dissuade and disrupt gender equity policies; to reduce or eliminate funding for diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts; and the promotion of regressive gender roles; ongoing state budgetary support of the Commission on the Status of Women is especially needed and greatly appreciated.

The HSCSW was created by executive order on May 15, 1964, to function as a central clearinghouse of resources, services and advocacy for women and girls. The Commission engages in legislative advocacy and implementation, develops programs, collaborates with community organizations and state departments, provides field placements for students, delivers trainings and technical assistance, and serves as an informational resource for Hawaii's women and girls, on a broad range of policies and issues.

I respectfully urge this Committee to **pass HB1800**. Thank you for your consideration and this opportunity to submit testimony in support of the continued funding of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



MIKE LAMBERT
Director

ERNEST J. ROBELLO
Deputy Director
Administration

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR
KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai
715 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96813

JARED K. REDULLA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET
Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

Wednesday, March 11, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 308
Testifier: Mike Lambert

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) supports House Bill 1800, which adjusts and appropriates funding for the State's operating and capital improvement budgets for the fiscal biennium.

Adequate and stable funding through the State's budget is essential to ensuring that DLE can effectively carry out our statutory responsibilities. As a relatively new department, DLE continues to build its operational capacity and infrastructure to meet statewide law enforcement needs. The State budget serves as the primary mechanism for providing the personnel, equipment, facilities, and technological resources necessary to support these expanding responsibilities. Funding appropriated through this measure will assist the Department in maintaining public safety operations, strengthening statewide enforcement capabilities, and supporting initiatives that improve coordination among state and county public safety partners.

The Department appreciates the Legislature's continued commitment to maintaining a strong and well-resourced public safety system. Ensuring that law enforcement agencies have the resources necessary to operate effectively is essential to protecting the people of Hawai'i and maintaining public confidence in government services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Councilmembers
K. Kauano'e Batangan
Tom Cook
Gabe Johnson
Tamara Paltin
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez
Shane M. Sinenci
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins



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

Deputy Director of Council Services
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

March 9, 2026

TO: Honorable Chris Todd, Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Finance

FROM: Nohelani U'u-Hodgins *Nohelani U'u-Hodgins*
Councilmember

DATE: Wednesday, March 11, 2026
10:00 a.m., Conference Room 308

SUBJECT: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1800, RELATING TO THE STATE
BUDGET**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to adjust and request appropriations for fiscal biennium 2025-2027 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

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 would like to highlight the critical importance of including \$142 million in the State Budget for the development of King Kamehameha III Elementary School in Lahaina.

As a Maui resident, I cannot overstate how urgent it is to restore a piko of learning for our keiki in Lahaina. King Kamehameha III Elementary School holds deep historical and cultural significance in Lahaina, honoring the legacy of King Kamehameha III and the area's rich history. Its restoration represents far more than rebuilding a school – it represents rebuilding the heart of the community.

Time is of the essence. State investment is the foundation for advancing this project. It demonstrates the State's commitment, accelerates planning, and unlocks complementary funding from federal and philanthropic partners who look to the State

March 9, 2026

Page 2

for leadership. Without this allocation, momentum stalls and the path home for our keiki becomes even longer.

Schools are not just places of learning - they are stabilizing anchors for families, hubs of community resilience, and safe, nurturing environments where keiki can learn, heal, and imagine their futures. In the wake of the immense loss in Lahaina, the return of King Kamehameha III Elementary School represents the return of hope.

Securing the full \$142 million allocation is essential to ensuring that this project can move forward without delay and welcome keiki home to Lahaina once again.

I respectfully urge you to support this funding and help bring this new school back to the community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your continued commitment to Hawai'i's keiki and their future.

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

530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 300 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-4141 • FAX: (808) 768-4242 • WEBSITE: honolulu.gov

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



MICHAEL D. FORMBY
MANAGING DIRECTOR
PO'O HO'OKELE

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

March 10, 2026

The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Committee on Finance
Hawaii State House of Representatives
415 South Beretania Street, Rm 308
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

SUBJECT: Support for House Bill 1800

Dear Chair Todd, Vice-Chair Takenouchi and Committee Members:

The City and County of Honolulu (City), **strongly supports HB1800**, particularly the provisions appropriating funding to HMS 777 for the Homeless Outreach and Navigation for Unsheltered Persons (HONU) program and the A'ala Respite (AMR) program.

The City greatly values its partnership with the State in addressing homelessness, which remains one of the most complex challenges facing our community. While these programs are operated by the City, they were developed in alignment with the State's broader strategy to address homelessness through coordinated outreach, stabilization services, and pathways to housing. As such, they function as integral components of the statewide homelessness response system.

The HONU and AMR programs have become critical elements of O'ahu's crisis response network, helping connect unsheltered individuals with immediate services, stabilization resources, and longer-term housing opportunities. These programs advance a coordinated, data-driven, and compassionate approach that prioritizes stabilization, treatment, and long-term housing outcomes for individuals experiencing homelessness.

The City also contributes substantial resources to support these efforts beyond the State's use of general funds. For example, the City provides key facilities and infrastructure that allow these programs to operate in locations where services are most needed. The A'ala Respite program operates at A'ala Park, a City-owned facility in the heart of downtown Honolulu, where the City provides the space while a contracted

The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Committee on Finance
March 10, 2026
Page 2

service provider delivers the day-to-day services. Identifying a similarly accessible location at an affordable cost would be extremely difficult for either the State or a service provider to secure independently. The City also contributes parks, buildings, operational coordination, and public safety support that allow these programs to function effectively.

In addition, the City works closely with State agencies to support encampment resolution efforts, improve outreach coordination, and reduce reliance on emergency medical and public safety systems among unsheltered individuals. Programs like HONU play a vital role in diverting individuals from repeated emergency service use by connecting them with appropriate medical, behavioral health, and social service supports.

It is also important to recognize that approximately seventy percent of the State's homeless population resides on O'ahu. As a result, many of the State's largest and most comprehensive response programs are necessarily located here in order to effectively serve the majority of individuals experiencing homelessness in Hawai'i.

Together, joint City and State investments have made measurable progress in expanding system capacity and improving placements into shelter and housing. Between Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025, the City and its partners achieved an increase of 937 additional beds compared to Fiscal Years 2022–2023, including specialized beds and services that address the root causes of homelessness.

The proposed appropriation of \$8,000,000 to support these programs is vital to sustaining and strengthening this collaborative work. These investments help ensure that the State and City can continue operating a coordinated response system that addresses immediate needs while moving individuals toward long-term stability and housing.

The City appreciates the Legislature's recognition that addressing homelessness requires strong partnerships and shared responsibility across jurisdictions. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Anthony Miranda, Legislative Liaison, at (808) 768-6608.

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

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov

TO: Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

FROM: Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor
John Smith, Recovery Administrator
Fire Chief Bradford Ventura

DATE: March 10, 2026

SUBJECT: **COMMENTS FOR HB1800, RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **COMMENTS** on this measure which would adjust and request appropriations for fiscal biennium 2025-2027 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

We strongly support HB1800's investments in climate resilience, disaster preparedness, and hazard mitigation. We respectfully request clarification to ensure that multi-use trails and multi-modal evacuation corridors are explicitly recognized as eligible resilience infrastructure under this measure.

Recent disasters across Hawai'i have demonstrated that resilience is not only about hardened buildings and warning systems — it is also about safe, redundant mobility. When primary highways are compromised by wildfire, flooding, landslides, or sea level rise, communities require alternative evacuation routes and non-vehicular access corridors.

Multi-use trails and protected active transportation facilities:

- Provide redundant evacuation capacity
- Reduce vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions
- Support emergency access when fuel or roadways are limited
- Improve public health and safety
- Advance Hawai'i's Complete Streets mandate
- Align with transportation decarbonization goals under the Navahine settlement

As Hawai'i continues implementing climate adaptation strategies, it is critical that evacuation-ready, multi-modal corridors be clearly eligible under resilience and disaster mitigation funding frameworks.

We respectfully offer the following clarifying amendment language for consideration:

“For purposes of capital improvement projects relating to natural disasters, hazard mitigation, and climate resilience, eligible infrastructure shall include multi-modal evacuation corridors, including protected multi-use trails and active transportation facilities designed to provide redundant emergency access, reduce vehicle miles traveled, and increase community resilience to natural and climate-related disasters.”

Recognizing multi-use corridors as resilience infrastructure ensures that Hawai‘i’s funding mechanisms reflect lessons learned from recent disasters and support comprehensive, future-ready solutions.

Mahalo for your consideration.

COUNTY COUNCIL

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



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

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

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

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

March 10, 2026

TESTIMONY OF KIPUKAI KUALI'I
COUNCIL VICE CHAIR, KAUA'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
HB 1800, RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET
House Committee on Finance
March 11, 2026
10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 308
Via Videoconference

Dear Chair Todd and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1800, Relating to the State Budget. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as the Vice Chair of the Kaua'i County Council.

I unreservedly support the Governor's budgeted \$2,000,000 Green Fee award to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) for wildfire mitigation and community resilience initiatives serving Native Hawaiian homestead communities statewide.

DHHL urgently needs these funds to address significant wildfire risks across its homelands. The 2023 Lahaina wildfire underscored the growing wildfire threat throughout Hawai'i. Many DHHL subdivisions are located in high-risk areas and are surrounded by unmanaged fuels and dry vegetation. The Green Fee funding will support both large-scale land management strategies and homestead-based wildfire preparedness efforts.

Specifically, DHHL has identified five (5) priority mitigation projects: 6.88 miles of firebreak construction and maintenance in Wai'anae and Nanakuli; fire hazard and erosion mitigation at Lālāmilo Preservation Lands on Hawai'i Island; ground maintenance and firebreak work at Pi'ilani Mai Ke Kai in Anahola, Kaua'i; ground maintenance of dry stream beds on Moloka'i; and maintenance of the Leiali'i Parkway landscape in Maui. These projects focus on fuel reduction, firebreak maintenance, erosion control, and vegetation management in high-risk DHHL homestead areas.

Chair Todd and Members of the Committee
Re: Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1800
March 10, 2026
Page 2

The Green Fee will also support two (2) community initiatives in partnership with the Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO). First, a DHHL-dedicated Firewise Support Specialist will assist fifteen (15) to twenty (20) homestead communities through the Firewise USA® certification process by providing technical assistance, risk assessments, workshops, and mitigation planning support. Second, DHHL will fund ten (10) to fifteen (15) Homestead Community-Led Wildfire Mitigation projects through grants of \$5,000–\$10,000 per community for defensible space, brush clearing, vegetation removal, and evacuation route maintenance. Participating communities will form Firewise committees and contribute volunteer labor or in-kind support.

These investments align with the goals of Act 96 (SB 1396) to strengthen Hawai'i's resilience to climate-driven disasters.

Mahalo for your leadership and thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB 1800. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via email to cokcouncil@kauai.gov.

Sincerely,



KIPUKAI KUALII
Council Vice Chair, Kaua'i County Council

RM:dmc



HAWAII WING HEADQUARTERS
CIVIL AIR PATROL
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY
419 Lele St.
Honolulu, HI 96819



10 March 2026

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET**

**TESTIMONY TO:
REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS TODD, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE JENNA TAKENOUCI, VICE CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**BY:
COLONEL DANA MCLAUGHLIN
COMMANDER, HAWAII WING, CIVIL AIR PATROL**

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1800 the State Budget

For over 80 years, the Civil Air Patrol ("CAP"), an auxiliary of the United State Air Force, has provided critical services to the State of Hawai'i in times of emergencies. The Hawai'i Wing has worked closely with emergency management agencies in all four counties and with the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency and has conducted missions including, but not limited to: Search and Rescue (SAR), damage assessments, aerial photographs of impacted areas, alerts and notifications, and transportation of supplies.

When emergencies occur, efficiency is paramount to ensure the expediency of our response. To accomplish this, it is our experience that pre-planned coordination between agencies is required. For this reason, we are looking for a line item that appropriates funding for a Hawai'i State Search and Rescue Coordination Office, within the Office of the Governor for special purposes, to evaluate SAR training and capabilities, develop a state SAR framework, mutual aid system, and provide incident related data and information.

This is especially relevant in situations where local emergency responders are overwhelmed and require additional resources from other counties, and specialized support from the state, including requesting the Civil Air Patrol.

Hawai'i does not lack responders. We lack a neutral statewide coordination function.

Thank you,
[Col. Dana McLaughlin](#)
Hawaii Wing Commander
Civil Air Patrol, U.S. Air Force Auxiliary



HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS

C O R P O R A T I O N

Quality Healthcare For All

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Chris Todd, Chair

Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

10:00 a.m.

Via Videoconference

Conference Room 308

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Testimony in Support of House Bill 1800 RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

Adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2025-2027 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

Edward N. Chu

President and Chief Executive Officer
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) Corporate Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **support of H.B. 1800** that adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2025-2027 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) plays a vital role in the healthcare delivery system for the State of Hawaii. In fiscal year 2025, HHSC's acute discharges for the four HHSC regions were 14,466, which accounts for approximately 13% of all acute care discharges in the State of Hawaii. In fiscal year 2025, HHSC's emergency department visits for the four HHSC regions were 91,900, representing approximately 19% of all emergency department visits statewide.

The impact of HHSC's facilities on the neighbor islands is even more impressive.

- For residents of the County of Hawaii, HHSC's facilities cared for nearly 73% of all acute care discharges and 80% of all emergency department visits.
- For residents of the County of Kauai, HHSC's facilities cared for approximately 22% of all acute care discharges and 42% of all emergency department visits.

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Healthcare Landscape

Healthcare providers operate in a very complex, highly regulated, and rapidly changing environment with constant pressure from payors to deliver higher quality care at a lower cost. Development of health information technology, physician networks, quality improvement, and expertise in healthcare compliance rules and regulations and the revenue cycle is essential for successful hospital operations. Private hospitals have invested substantially in these areas while HHSC, with limited resources, is challenged to keep pace.

Historical Challenges

HHSC's facilities face challenges such as:

- Large percentage of Medicaid/QUEST and uninsured patients.
- Inadequate government and third-party reimbursements for healthcare services.
- Labor costs well above industry norms. HHSC's fringe benefit rate as a state agency is 64% as compared to the average private Hawaii hospital fringe benefit rate of 30%. Given HHSC's salaries expense, that difference alone represents \$90 million of HHSC's need for general fund appropriations.
- Difficulty in attracting and retaining specialized health sector workforce in rural communities due to cost of living and lack of education and training opportunities.
- High cost contracted nursing and other clinical personnel to meet staffing shortages.
- Small scale operations which are costly to maintain.
- The need for capital investment in new medical technology.
- Aging facilities, with life and safety code issues and deferred maintenance, well beyond the average for similar facilities across the country.
- The impact of national changes to healthcare policy, federal mandates, and federal budget reductions, especially H.R.1.

Accomplishments

In spite of its many challenges, HHSC continues to provide high quality healthcare to the island communities it serves and is making progress in key areas. The following are some of the major accomplishments over the past year:

- Commitment to Providing Quality Care:
 - Honoka'a Hospital and Skilled Nursing, Leahi Hospital, Maluhia, and Samuel Mahelona Memorial Hospital achieved the highest possible overall five-star rating from Medicare's Nursing Home Compare website. Hilo Benioff Medical Center received an overall four-star rating.
 - Kauai Veterans Memorial Hospital achieved a five-star rating from Medicare's Hospital Compare website.
- Focus on Growing Revenue: Despite the challenges of staffing shortages and increased operational costs, HHSC managed to increase its operating revenues for

fiscal year 2025 approximately 10.1% from fiscal year 2024 and 22.5% from fiscal year 2023. Two primary drivers of this revenue growth were:

- Achieving Equity with Hawaii Private Hospitals in Commercial Contract Negotiations: Utilizing the resources of a consulting firm and published payment rates available as a result of federal price transparency legislation, HHSC continued its negotiation of contracts for its commercial lines of business that will bring HHSC's reimbursement rates for healthcare services up to par with those of the private hospitals in the State of Hawaii. The increases in reimbursement rates have contributed to HHSC's revenue growth in fiscal year 2025, and will continue into the future as new contracts are negotiated.
- Maximizing Federal Funding Opportunities: HHSC worked with the State of Hawaii MedQUEST Division to establish a public hospital uncompensated care pool which provides federal funds to partially subsidize HHSC's losses from providing care to Medicaid, MedQUEST, and uninsured patients. HHSC received nearly \$70 million in funds in fiscal year 2025 from this program.
- Seeking Philanthropy: HHSC facilities and their associated foundations have continued to generate private funding through philanthropy. In fiscal year 2025, the East Hawaii Region received a pledge of \$25 million to build an outpatient health center in Kea'au to improve access to medical services in the underserved Puna District. The Kauai Region recently received nearly \$11 million from the Helmsley Charitable Trust to help expand and develop its facility's magnetic resonance imaging suite and expand simulation healthcare training.
- Regional Enhancement of Services: HHSC is making significant investments in upgrading medical equipment, expanding patient care capacity, and modernizing hospital facilities. The East Hawaii Region has started construction for a medical office building, intensive care unit expansion, and other building renovations. The Kauai Region has begun design work and construction for its emergency room renovations, inpatient psych/behavioral facility, major upgrades of imaging equipment, and a sizeable master campus plan.
- Workforce Recruitment: HHSC continues to see recruitment success through its continued commitment to its in-house workforce development programs (e.g. surgical technologist programs, nurse residency programs, specialized nursing certificate programs, certified nurse assistant program, the Hawaii Island Family Residency Program at Hilo Benioff Medical Center) and collaborations with the Healthcare Association of Hawaii and the Good Jobs Hawaii Program. Despite these efforts, HHSC continues to face significant clinical staffing shortages, requiring the supplementation of its staff with contracted nursing and other clinical personnel. This is due to the high cost of living, the scarcity of affordable and available housing, and the limited capacity of Hawaii's colleges and universities to accept and graduate nursing students and clinical technicians. In fiscal year 2025, HHSC spent nearly \$36 million in contracted nursing and other clinical personnel as compared to \$14.4 million in fiscal

year 2021. With the implementation of workforce programs and initiatives, HHSC's contract labor costs decreased by 16% compared to the previous fiscal year.

- System Product Standardization: As medical supply costs continue to rise, HHSC committed to a supply standardization program that is designed to minimize cost increases and result in cost savings. HHSC has already realized nearly \$1 million in annual savings through pricing and rebates on medical/surgical commodities and clinical preference supplies that HHSC facilities purchase.

HHSC BUDGET REQUEST

HHSC-Regions Fiscal Year 2027 Supplemental Budget Request (HTH 210 & 212)

Please note that the funding amounts and requests under HTH 212 do not include the Oahu Region of HHSC, as Act 248, SLH 2022, established a new organization code for the HHSC-Oahu Region (HTH 215). As a result, HTH 212 (HHSC-Regions) is now comprised of the HHSC East Hawaii, West Hawaii, and Kauai Regions.

A summary of the amounts appropriated for fiscal years 2026 and 2027, the total funding requested by HHSC-Regions for fiscal year 2027, and recommended by the Governor for fiscal year 2027 are summarized below.

HTH 210, 212: HHSC REGIONS, CORPORATE OFFICE				
Funding Type	FY 2026	FY 2027	HHSC FY 2027 Request	HHSC FY 2027 Gov Dec
General Fund Appropriations for Operations (A Funds)	203,307,303	197,534,303	197,534,303	197,534,303
EPIC IT System (A Funds)	13,230,000	2,282,000	2,282,000	2,282,000
TOTAL GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS	216,537,303	199,816,303	199,816,303	199,816,303
CIP APPROPRIATIONS				
General Obligation Bonds	28,839,000	53,709,000	89,761,000	118,761,000
General Funds	-	-	-	-
TOTAL CIP APPROPRIATIONS	28,839,000	53,709,000	89,761,000	118,761,000

Oahu Region Fiscal Year 2027 Supplemental Budget Request (HTH 215)

A summary of the amounts appropriated for fiscal years 2026 and 2027, the total funding requested by HHSC-Oahu Region for fiscal year 2027, and recommended by the Governor for fiscal year 2027 are summarized below.

HTH 215: OAHU REGION				
Funding Type	FY 2026	FY 2027	Oahu FY 2027 Request	Oahu FY 2027 Gov Dec
General Fund Appropriations for Operations (A Funds)	8,000,000	14,000,000	14,000,000	14,000,000
CIP APPROPRIATIONS				
General Obligation Bonds	5,600,000	5,110,000	5,110,000	6,821,745
General Funds	-	-	-	-
TOTAL CIP APPROPRIATIONS	5,600,000	5,110,000	5,110,000	6,821,745

Kahuku Medical Center Fiscal Year 2027 Supplemental Budget Request (HTH 211)

A summary of the amounts appropriated for fiscal years 2026 and 2027, the total funding requested by Kahuku Medical Center for fiscal year 2027, and recommended by the Governor for fiscal year 2027 are summarized below.

HTH 211: KAHUKU MEDICAL CENTER				
Funding Type	FY 2026	FY 2027	KMC FY 2027 Request	KMC FY 2027 Gov Dec
General Fund Appropriations for Operations (A Funds)	2,157,500	2,032,500	5,250,500	3,448,750
CIP APPROPRIATIONS				
General Obligation Bonds	5,800,000	5,000,000	8,980,000	6,262,000
General Funds	-	-	-	-
TOTAL CIP APPROPRIATIONS	5,800,000	5,000,000	8,980,000	6,262,000

CONCLUSION

Despite our progress in financial and operational performance as indicated under “Accomplishments” above, HHSC is unable to keep up with collective bargaining pay increases and future mandated increases in the fringe rate for pension and retiree health insurance costs (OPEB). Additionally, with the impacts to Medicare and Medicaid coverage and reimbursement and future potential effects on rising costs, HHSC will face the issue of increased need for general fund appropriations. HHSC strongly urges the Legislature to provide the general fund appropriation and capital improvement project appropriation levels that are being requested by HHSC so that our facilities can continue to serve those who depend on our services the most in our rural communities. In this effort, HHSC consistently evaluates its current operations to identify opportunities for improving efficiency and effectiveness across the system, ensuring the provision of accessible, high quality services that address the healthcare needs of Hawaii’s unique island communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



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phone: 808.322.4423 fax: 808.322.4488 clayton.mcghanl@hhsc.org

TO: The Honorable Representative Chris Todd, Chair
 The Honorable Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
 House Committee on Finance

FROM: Amy Feeley-Austin, Regional Chief Operations Officer
 Hawaii Health Systems, West Hawaii Region

SUBJECT: Support of HB1800 – Relating to the State Budget

DATE: March 11th, 2026

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi and Members of the Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of HB1800 and the Green Fee Project Portfolio**. On behalf of HHSC's West Hawaii Region, I would like to specifically express support for the funding recommendation that includes hazard mitigation and sustainability improvements for Kona Community Hospital and Kohala Hospital on Hawai'i Island.

Kona Community Hospital and Kohala Hospital serve as critical healthcare access points for West Hawai'i residents and visitors. As essential community infrastructure, our facilities must be prepared to continue operating during emergencies and natural disasters. The proposed project will support hazard mitigation planning and implementation, as well as energy redundancy improvements that will strengthen our ability to maintain operations during severe weather events, power disruptions, and other emergencies.

Investing in the resilience of our hospitals is an investment in the safety and well-being of our entire community. These improvements will help ensure that our healthcare facilities remain operational when they are needed most.

Mahalo for your continued leadership and for supporting projects that strengthen Hawai'i's community resilience. I respectfully urge your support for HB1800 and the recommended funding for these critical hospital improvements.



Hawai'i State House of Representatives
Committee on Finance

HB1800 – Relating to the State Budget

RE: Support and Recommendations for HB1800

March 11, 2026

Aloha,

The passing of Act 96 (2025) into law marks a watershed moment in Hawai'i's economy and community. Addressing the tourism industry's rising footprint on the ecosystem, waters, and local residents of Hawai'i nei, the Green Fee offers a unique opportunity for revenues from the transient accommodation tax to be redirected towards community sustainability initiatives. As the Green Fee begins to take effect in 2026, the State must take on the formidable task of determining its project priorities and long-term goals.

Hawaiian Council is committed to creating sustainable, mutually beneficial futures for the 'āina, its inhabitants, and our visitors. As such, we write in support of proposed projects dedicated to regenerative tourism, climate resilience, and Native Hawaiian values of stewardship. **Hawaiian Council strongly supports proposals BED116/DC, LNR906/AA, DEF118/AD, and LNR401**, with some small feedback and recommendations regarding the implementation of the proposals based on our collaborative efforts with industry partners and community members. We urge the Legislature to support the Green Fee Project Recommendations in full, and work with state agencies to encourage strong community leadership and co-management to fulfill these ambitious and important priorities.

Category	Program ID	Project Title	Proposed funding for FY 2027	Recommended Changes to Proposal
Sustainable Tourism	BED113/AG	Community-led Visitor Education and Stewardship System	\$7,620,000.00	None (Strong Support)
Environmental Stewardship	LNR906/AA	Green Fee Community Stewardship (Ahupua'a Restoration)	\$10,560,000.00	None (Strong Support)
Climate & Hazard Mitigation	DEF118/AD	Home Retrofit Program (Hurricane)	\$5,000,000.00	Expand to include broad climate resilience protections
Climate & Hazard Mitigation	LNR401	Pilot Cesspool Conversions in Coral Hotspots	\$1,000,000.00	None (Strong Support)

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Community-Led Visitor Education and Stewardship System (BED116/DC)

Following a lull in visitor arrivals during the COVID-19 pandemic, Hawai'i has seen a return of its tourism market with a formidable energy. The brief pause that the islands had to breathe illuminated the shifting trends impacting the tourism industry in recent years. The recovery of Hawai'i's ocean and terrestrial ecosystems during the pandemic further exacerbated the need for a renewed model of tourism that not only engages in sustainable practices but actively participates in the regenerative efforts. As discourse on responsible travel become increasingly relevant for both visitors and businesses, it is critical for the state to anticipate rising demands of regenerative tourism programming. As such, **Hawaiian Council strongly supports the allocation of \$7,260,000 towards the development of a community-led visitor education and stewardship system.**

The proposal for a community-led visitor education and stewardship system establishes a cooperative relationship between local grassroots organizations and state agencies to develop opportunities for visitors to engage with native cultural practices and participate in mālama 'āina activities. Focusing on high-traffic areas across the islands such as East Maui, Keaukaha, Kīholo Bay, and Kahalu'u Bay, the programs would offer engagement opportunities for visitors and kama'āina alike.¹ Collaborative efforts between the state and local communities would ensure that the implemented programs are grounded in place-based community knowledge and have the resources to support long-term restorative efforts.

The lack of visitor education programs that are designed with the unique pressures of individual local communities has historically resulted in preventable damages and casualties for both residents and visitors. Illegal parking, trespassing, traffic snarls, and water-related injuries have all become regular occurrences in heavily trafficked areas such as the Road to Hana on Maui and Keaukaha beach on Hawai'i Island. Such issues, while partially attributable to unique geographies and infrastructure that are not built with high demand in mind, are rooted in a lack of place-based education rooted in community perspectives and values. The proposed education programs will not only benefit the visitor experience, but also relieve pressures placed on local communities to alter their day-to-day lives and practices.

There is strong precedent for community-based programs working with the tourism industry to offer culturally rich experiences for visitors. Since 2023, Hawaiian Council has partnered with the Hawai'i Tourism Authority to develop 'Umeke, a program that provides development opportunities for

¹ Hawaii Tourism Authority, "Tourism Briefing 2026," December 12, 2025.



community organizations working on destination management projects. Inspired by the calabash gourds of the same name that nourished our kūpuna, 'Umeke has served as a valuable repository available to the community to promote aloha 'āina values and Hawaiian culture in the visitor experience. In 2025, Hawaiian Council provided support to 134 organizations across the islands through 'Umeke.² These community partnerships produced projects such as cultural tours of the Limahuli Garden and Preserve on Kaua'i and 'āina workdays on the ahupua'a of Pūpūkea and Waimea on O'ahu.

Such projects have demonstrated the tourism industry's promising futures of environmental restoration whilst honoring ancestral knowledge and Hawaiian cultural values. Despite the existence of development opportunities through organizations like Hawaiian Council, funding-related issues remain the primary concern for community partners. Among over 400 local businesses (out of 921) surveyed in 2024 that offer regenerative tourism programming, limited staffing and funding were two of the top barriers against greater participation in the visitor industry.³ An additional 220 businesses and organizations expressed interest in participating in regenerative tourism in the future, given they had the necessary support.⁴ As Hawai'i's visitor industry sees a shift towards community-oriented experiences, it is crucial that the systemic structures exist to support those working at the grassroots level. The stable source of funding the Green Fee would be instrumental in expanding similar projects across the pae'āina and ensuring that our commitment to regenerative practices lasts through generations.

Ahupua'a Restoration and Stewardship (LNR906/AA)

In line with the aforementioned partnership with community-led visitor education systems, **Hawaiian Council strongly supports the allocation of \$10,560,000 towards statewide ahupua'a restoration projects.** For generations, ahupua'a have existed as the central units in which cultivation, gathering, and trade took place. Spanning the 'ōhi'a forests that populated the *mauka* regions to the fish ponds (loko i'a) that were maintained by families *makai*, those who embraced the ahupua'a system were nourished by shared resources and access to waters. At its core, the concept of the ahupua'a is based on principles of self-sufficiency and collective kuleana to provide for the community.

² Hawaiian Council & Hawaii Tourism Authority, "Destination Stewardship Update," November 2025.

³ Hawai'i Tourism Authority (Prepared by Kilohana, Ward Research, and Solutions Pacific), *Turning the Tide: Visitor Industry Needs Assessment Report* (2024), 7, <https://regenerativetourismhawaii.info/needsassessment>.

⁴ Hawai'i Tourism Authority, *Turning the Tide* (2024), 6.

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The privatization and development of Hawai'i's lands have transformed the relationships Native Hawaiians maintain to the 'āina. The introduction of invasive species decimated native ecosystems, and private land grants severed ancestral cultivation systems. In spite of the systemic dismantling of the ahupua'a system, its core principles and practices are still embraced by Kanaka 'Ōiwi today. In the current discourse of ecosystemic health and food sovereignty, the ahupua'a system offers a place-based model for regenerative futures grounded in stewardship and indigenous knowledge.

Ahupua'a restoration projects consider the task of 'āina stewardship from a holistic, systemic level. Restorative efforts spearheaded by organizations such as Kāko'o 'Ōiwi on He'eia and Pu'uhonua O Waimānalo include the cultivation of lo'i kalo, management of fish ponds, and restoration of native species in forest regions.⁵ Central to these efforts is community participation, with projects being advanced with the support of volunteer workdays that bring in both local residents and visitors to the islands. In turn, produce grown in restored sites are returned to the community through the production of value-added goods and the supply of local kitchens. The successes of organizations across the pae'āina demonstrates the value of the ahupua'a model within existing frameworks of production and sustainability practices.

Like the proposal for community-based visitor education programs, ahupua'a restoration projects are founded upon the idea that the people of and from a place know it best. The concept of kaiāulu, or community, is not limited to the bounds of human relations—rather, it encompasses nā mea a puni (everything which surrounds). The concept of kaiāulu in Hawaiian culture speaks to the deep pilina (relationships) Native Hawaiians maintain to their ancestral lands and its elemental inhabitants. Families that have stewarded ahupua'a lands generationally hold valuable knowledge and cultural memory that can enrich a Hawaiian sense of place in local residents and visitors alike.

The 'ōlelo no'eau “ho'okahi no lā o ka malihini” (“a stranger only for a day”) encapsulates the concept that everyone—visitors and residents alike—share a collective kuleana (responsibility) to contribute towards caring for our lands. With the fiscal support of ahupua'a restoration projects through Green Fee funds, the growing regenerative tourism industry can further imbue the visitor experience with place-based knowledge and a sense of kuleana to Hawai'i.

⁵ Kāko'o 'Ōiwi, “History of He'eia,” *Kāko'o 'Ōiwi*, <https://kakooiwi.org/history-of-he%ca%bbeia/>; Pu'uhonua o Waimānalo, “Ahupua'a Restoration at Pu'uhonua O Waimanalo,” *Nation of Hawai'i*, <https://www.nationofhawaii.org/am-ahupuaa/>.

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Home Retrofit Programs for Climate Resiliency (DEF118/AD)

In addition to promoting the development of Hawai'i's regenerative tourism industry, Hawaiian Council supports the allocation of Green Fee funds towards restoring local infrastructure to ensure a safer, more resilient Hawai'i. The rise in climate-related emergencies in Hawai'i, including storms that brought high winds and flooding to the islands over the past few months, highlights the need for the state to address key infrastructure issues in advance. As such, **Hawaiian Council supports the allocation of \$5,000,000 towards home retrofit programs and recommends that the program language be clarified to ensure that homes are eligible for protection from multi-hazard threats along with hurricane/wind preparedness.**

Previous studies by the State Legislature have concluded that Hawai'i's infrastructure is not prepared for a major climate disaster. As a result of warming ocean waters across the Pacific, hurricanes classified as Category 3 or above have increased in frequency and intensity, with an increased likelihood of passing through the islands.⁶ The legislature further found that models predict the frequency of Category 5 storms to increase nearly eightfold over the next 60 years. Despite historic natural disasters like Hurricane Iniki in 1992 and the Maui wildfires in 2023 pressing the need for infrastructure reforms, the state still lags behind in preparing for the next crisis. The current state building code's requirement for new buildings to withstand Category 3 winds is insufficient for the future of Hawai'i's climate landscape, and many low- and moderate-income families live in older homes that are at even higher risk.⁷

The process of retrofitting homes is a significant investment that many households cannot currently afford independently. But for every \$1 spent on disaster resilience, it is estimated that the state will save up to \$6 on subsequent costs during an event. With a stable, regular source of funding such as that provided by the Green Fee, the state can begin the process of strengthening Hawai'i's residential infrastructure starting with our 'ohana at the highest risk. Developing an effective and efficient home retrofit program requires fiscal and technical expertise alongside community consultation—and this allocation provides an opportunity for the benefits to be delivered to the maximum number of households.

Dedicated to promoting community energy sovereignty and climate resilience, Hawaiian Council's Kalāhiki program has worked closely with low- and moderate-income households to strengthen the

⁶ Relating to Income Tax Credit, H.B. 355, Hawai'i State House of Representatives, Thirty-Third Legislature (2025).

⁷ Noel Morin, "Is Hawaii Ready For The Next Big Hurricane?" *Honolulu Civil Beat*, September 23, 2024, <https://www.civilbeat.org/2024/09/is-hawaii-ready-for-the-next-big-hurricane/>.

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infrastructure of at-risk communities with minimal financial burden on residents. As a facilitator between clients, contractors, and government agencies, the Kalāhiki program provides key insights into the needs of the community. In our work with its clients and partners, we have found that the largest barriers to household preparedness are fiscal and logistical, and that emerging threats such as fire, flood, and high temperatures are joining hurricane risk as major concerns for local communities. As such, Hawaiian Council recommends that the Home Retrofit Program’s proposal ensure coverage of general climate resilience multi-hazard measures across all three aspects of this line item.

Working with contractors and business partners, Hawaiian Council has found that a major factor in the cost of a home retrofit is the baseline transport, supplies, and staffing to the site. Professional and technical labor can cost anywhere between \$50 to upwards of \$150 an hour, including travel, set-up, and break-down time.⁸ Such costs can be significant, especially for suburban and rural areas that often are at higher risk. As such, a general multi-hazard climate resilience approach can maximize the benefit to at-risk households with a relatively minimal increase in cost. Hawaiian Council supports the multi-hazard approach used by the Hawai’i Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) and we are in strong support of a full allocation of this amount to be administered by HI-EMA.

Cesspool Conversions in Coral Hotspots (LNR401)

Hawaiian Council additionally **supports the allocation of \$1,000,000 to pilot cesspool conversions in coral hotspots** in a further effort to renew Hawai’i’s residential infrastructure and contribute to regenerative practices. Cesspool runoff in areas such as Kahalu’u Bay and Hōnaunau have been detrimental to local ecosystems and coastal landscapes. The introduction of contaminants into the waters of these hotspots have resulted in coral bleaching and death, leading to detrimental domino effects on fish feeding practices, turtle resting areas, and shoreline erosion. The damages at Kahalu’u specifically, considered a wahi pana (storied site) to Native Hawaiians in the area, is further exacerbated by heavy visitor traffic—estimated to number over half a million annually.⁹ The layered ecological and tourism-based factors that affect these coral hotspots make the issue of cesspool runoff a major environmental and public health issue.

⁸ Embrick Enterprises, “Hurricane Straps Retrofit Cost: Budgeting For Roof Reinforcement,” August 30, 2025, <https://embickroofing.com/hurricane-straps-retrofit-cost/>; Hawai’i Construction Career Days Guide (2019).

⁹ The Kohala Center, “Kahalu’u Bay and Beach Park,” <https://kohalacenter.org/kahaluu-bay>.



Act 125 of the 2017 legislative session requires all cesspool owners to convert to a sewer system by 2050.¹⁰ Despite this, little progress has been made in the conversion process. With cesspool projects being a relatively low priority for independent contractors, the fiscal and logistical support provided through Green Fee funds is especially important. A key issue in the field currently is a lack of trained personnel—the limited career paths available on-island for residents to gain specialized fields risks the outsourcing of conversion projects to partners outside of Hawai‘i. With each community having unique needs and risks regarding the conversion process, it is crucial that the industry is locally rooted. The investment of the Green Fee fund will ensure that the necessary workforce is present on island, generating a positive feedback loop that will ultimately benefit local communities.

Since 2019, Hawaiian Council has operated its Trades Academy across the islands of Kaua‘i, Maui, Moloka‘i, and O‘ahu. With over 45 academies across the pae‘āina, the Hawaiian Trades Academy has supported over 1,000 students in accessing training resources and career paths in sectors including carpentry, emergency response, construction, and the creative arts. Program graduates leave with a wide network of local leaders, a strong sense of Native Hawaiian values, and the financial empowerment to ensure that they can support their families in Hawai‘i nei. With new career opportunities opening through the support of Green Fee projects, Hawaiian Council looks forward to expanding the Trades Academy to address shifting needs in the workforce. Projects such as cesspool conversions, with training programs like Hawaiian Council’s, would provide reliable job opportunities to local residents. Beyond the technical work of such projects, additional opportunities could include cultural protocol training and liaising with residents to determine community needs.

Conclusion

Recent climate-related crises have made clear that building a self-sufficient and resilient Hawai‘i must be a top priority. Reaching Hawai‘i’s climate goals in the coming decades requires immediate action that address systemic issues regarding funding and trained personnel. The Green Fee fund offers a unique opportunity for reliable funding to be allocated to projects that will have direct, reverberating effects across Hawai‘i’s visitors and residents alike. Committed to the cultural, economic, political, and community development of Native Hawaiians, Hawaiian Council is dedicated to paving the way for regenerative, secure futures for the lāhui.

¹⁰ Relating to Cesspools, Act 125, Hawai‘i State House of Representatives, Twenty-Ninth Legislature (2017).



HAWAIIAN COUNCIL

Therefore, Hawaiian Council respectfully urges the committee to **maintain BED116/DC, LNR906/AA, DEF118/AD, and LNR401 as projects to receive full fiscal support from the Green Fee.** Mahalo piha for your commitment to the futures of our lāhui and the ‘āina that surrounds us.

Me ke aloha ‘āina,

Madelyn McKeague

Director of Advocacy, Hawaiian Council

HAWAIIANS ADVANCING HAWAI‘I

91-1270 Kinoiki Street, Building 1, Kapolei, HI 96707

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phone: 808.322.4423 fax: 808.322.4488 clayton.mcghanl@hhsc.org

TO: The Honorable Representative Chris Todd, Chair
 The Honorable Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
 House Committee on Finance

FROM: Clayton McGhan, Regional Chief Executive Officer
 Hawaii Health Systems, West Hawaii Region

SUBJECT: Support of HB1800 – Relating to the State Budget

DATE: March 11th, 2026

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) – West Hawaii Region, we submit this testimony in **strong support of HB1800**, which provides critical capital improvement project funding for the planning and early development of a West Hawai'i Medical Office Building which is also known as the Outpatient Care Center to serve West Hawai'i.

West Hawai'i is facing growing challenges in access to care as our population continues to increase, age, and shift northward. Kona Community Hospital is experiencing capacity constraints that contribute to longer wait times and limited access to specialty services. Many outpatient and specialty services remain dispersed across small and aging facilities that are no longer adequate to meet the health care needs of our region.

An independent analysis conducted by ECG Management Consultants underscores the urgency of this issue. The study found that approximately 40% of inpatient cases and 62% of outpatient procedures for West Hawai'i residents currently occur off-island or outside the region. Patients routinely experience wait times exceeding 30 to 60 days for critical specialties such as cardiology, pediatrics, and orthopedics. These access challenges are further compounded by a shortage of at least 25 physicians across key service areas. The Legislature has already demonstrated its commitment to addressing these challenges by funding the needs assessment and site assessment that informed both the planning and location of the proposed Outpatient Care Center.

HB1800 supports the development of an Outpatient Care Center on three to five acres of land generously donated by The Queen's Health Systems, adjacent to its new hospital campus. The proposed facility, totaling more than 50,000 square feet, will consolidate outpatient and specialty services into a single, modern, and accessible

location. This center will complement services at Kona Community Hospital while expanding capacity to meet current and future community needs.

Importantly, this project delivers near-term benefits while broader hospital planning continues. By expanding outpatient and specialty care capacity, the Outpatient Care Center will reduce wait times, improve the patient experience, and keep more care in West Hawai'i—minimizing the need for costly and disruptive off-island travel. The facility will also strengthen the local health care workforce by helping attract and retain physicians, nurses, and specialists, while creating new clinical and support jobs for island residents.

HHSC – West Hawaii Region's request for state funding to support planning, design, grading, and other preparatory work is a necessary and prudent step to move this project forward. Early investment now will strengthen West Hawai'i's health care infrastructure and ensure our community has timely, equitable access to the care they deserve.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your strong support of HB1800 and the continued inclusion of the executive budget request for the West Hawaii Medical Office Building. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this measure.



NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY



An Authority of the State of Hawaii attached to the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism

Statement of
Laurence Sombardier, Deputy Director
For Riley M. Saito, Executive Director
Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Wednesday, March 11, 2026; 10:00 am
State Capitol, Conference Room 415 & Videoconference

in consideration of
HB 1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

The Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA) strongly supports HB 1800, which adjusts and requests operating and capital improvement appropriations and authorizations for Executive Branch agencies and programs for Fiscal Biennium 2025-27. We respectfully request favorable consideration of adjustments to NELHA's operating budget and capital improvement program (BED146) to ensure we can continue to fulfill our statutory mission and maintain critical public infrastructure.

Operating Requests

BED146 - \$90,170 each year for Temporary Cultural Practitioner (Special Funds). This position will establish essential cultural stewardship capacity within NELHA. As HOST Park continues to attract ocean- and energy-related projects, culturally grounded planning and community engagement are increasingly important. The position will also play a key role in the modernization of NELHA's Master Plan and the update of its comprehensive Environmental

Impact Statement (EIS), ensuring that both documents reflect current cultural practices, community priorities, and place-based knowledge. This capacity is critical to aligning project development with NELHA's statutory mission and supporting responsible, community-informed growth.

BED146 - \$126,248 each year to restore the salary of unfunded NELHA Admin Assistant (Special Funds). This request includes a salary of \$78,905 plus fringe benefits at 60% equaling \$47,343, for a total request of \$126,248. The position provides critical baseline administrative capacity to ensure effective NELHA operations. While currently occupied, the position was defunded during COVID and has never been formally restored. NELHA was able to temporarily maintain the position using salary savings from vacancies, but as the agency moves toward full staffing by the end of FY26, those temporary savings will no longer exist. Restoring this position now is necessary to ensure continuity of operations, maintain compliance and administrative functions.

CIP Requests

BED146 - \$10,000,000 in GO Bonds FY27 for removal of six abandoned deep seawater pipelines. These pipelines, totaling approximately 22,500 linear feet, pose significant risks to public health, safety, and the environment. Their removal is necessary to mitigate hazards, protect coastal resources, and preserve the integrity of HOST Park's seawater infrastructure. The safety hazards include detached pipelines that create collision risks for vessels and potential harm to people, along with entanglement hazards for adjacent operational pipelines and the possibility of damaging nearby reef areas. While phasing the work may be feasible, each additional contractor mobilization is estimated to add approximately \$1.6

million to the project cost, not including the effects of inflation if any portion of the removal is deferred.

BED146 - \$1,675,000 in GO Bonds FY27 for Host Park Repairs and Improvements. The purpose is to mitigate known safety hazards and preserve essential assets. This request includes security fencing, offshore pipeline surveys and improvements, Research Campus electrical repairs and upgrades, and priority roadway repairs. These projects address documented risks to tenants, researchers, and the public, including deteriorating infrastructure, unsecured areas, and aging electrical systems. Failure to complete this work in a timely manner increases the likelihood of safety incidents, service disruptions, and damage to critical facilities. Deferred maintenance also drives up long-term costs as conditions worsen and emergency repairs become more likely. Delaying underwater surveys and maintenance may further jeopardize the reliable delivery of seawater to HOST Park clients. Overall, this request is essential to maintain safe operations, protect key assets, and ensure reliable service for tenants, researchers, and commercial partners.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB1800.



MACZAC

MACZAC Members:

Hawai'i Island

Sylvia Yanagiasko-Vice
Chair

Robert Nishimoto

Kaua'i

Taryn Dizon

Lāna'i

Will Sankey

Maui

Donna Brown
Rich Brunner
Denver Coon

Moloka'i

Vacant

O'ahu

Scott Sullivan-Chair
Kimbal Thompson
Jim Nicolow

Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council

Ke Kahu O Na Kumu Wai

February 6, 2026

On behalf of the Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council (MACZAC), we write to express our strong support for Green Fee Advisory Council's proposed projects and to offer MACZAC's recommendations regarding the allocation of Green Fee resources.

MACZAC was established to provide informed, stakeholder-driven guidance on the stewardship of Hawai'i's marine and coastal resources. The Council represents a diverse range of perspectives, all of whom share a common commitment to the long-term health, resilience, and accessibility of Hawai'i's marine and coastal environments. In this role, MACZAC brings community-grounded and practical insights that complement agency expertise and policy development.

MACZAC believes that Green Fee investments should prioritize restoration and adaptation to changing environmental and use conditions. The following projects further conservation and responsible management of Hawai'i's marine and coastal zones:

1. Green Fee Community Stewardship Program (ahupua'a restoration): Community-based ahupua'a restoration
2. Green Fee Community Stewardship Program (nearshore marine environments): Community co-management for coral reef resilience
3. Green Fee Community Stewardship Program (coastal): Support coastal ecosystem restoration to improve coastal resilience to storms, floods, and climate disasters
4. Green Fee Community Stewardship Program (muliwai): Restore wetlands, anchialine ponds, and riparian zones with community partners for flood control, habitat improvement, and coastal resilience
5. Green Fee Community Stewardship Program (fishponds): Restore fishponds statewide and revive traditional aquaculture production with community partners
6. Public-private Watershed Management, Statewide
7. Community-driven Marine Resources Resiliency Planning (Holomua Marine Initiative)

8. Pilot Cesspool Conversions in Coral Hotspots
9. Loko I‘a Resilience
10. Watershed Coordination and Restoration for Reef Resilience

Collectively, these projects reflect a place-based approach to conservation that recognizes the connectivity between mauka and makai systems, the importance of community stewardship, and the need for long-term resilience. MACZAC appreciates the thoughtful and transparent approach taken by the Green Fee Advisory Council in developing and prioritizing these initiatives.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide these recommendations. We look forward to continuing to advance the responsible stewardship of Hawai‘i’s marine and coastal resources.

Sincerely,

Scott P. Sullivan

Scott Sullivan, Chair

Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council



March 11, 2026 at 10:00 am
Conference Room 308

House Committee on Finance

To: Chair Chris Todd
Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi

From: Paige Heckathorn Choy
Vice President, Government Affairs
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**
HB 1800, Relating to the State Budget

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the health care continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high-quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 30,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **support** for this measure, specifically the funding for the construction of the Waiakea High School Health Learning Lab. The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH) has launched a statewide initiative to modernize the classrooms in all public high schools with a Health Services Pathway into hands-on learning labs that better prepare students for careers in healthcare. These learning labs are designed to provide students with real clinical training environments to enable them to enter meaningful employment right after graduation.

Based on the results of our most recent workforce demand survey, the healthcare industry currently faces more than 4,000 job openings statewide. This is why our members have highlighted workforce development as one of the most urgent challenges facing our healthcare system today. The learning lab model addresses this challenge directly by providing students with opportunities to gain clinical skills, earn healthcare certificates, and transition more seamlessly from the classroom to employment in hospitals, clinics, long-term care facilities, and other healthcare settings. Through HAH's healthcare certificate employment program, more than 200 students have already been trained and hired directly from high school into healthcare careers.

The proposed Waiakea Learning Lab represents the next major step in this initiative. The project will renovate approximately 8,706 square feet of space—nearly three times the size of the first learning lab currently being completed at Wai‘anae High School—into a modern training environment that supports hands-on clinical practice and instruction.

Importantly, the Waiakea Learning Lab is designed as a proof-of-concept model that can be replicated across the state to create a best-in-the-nation network of health learning labs at public high schools in Hawaii. By supporting clinical learning, strengthening healthcare certificate programs such as Certified Nurse Assistant training, and creating direct pathways into employment, this initiative will help ensure that Hawaii grows and retains its own healthcare workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this important initiative.



holomua

COLLABORATIVE

OUR MISSION

To support and advance public policies that make Hawai'i affordable for all working families.

OUR VISION

Collaborative, sustainable, and evidence-based public policies that create a diverse and sustainable Hawai'i economy, an abundance of quality job opportunities, and a future where all working families living in Hawai'i can thrive.

BOARD MEMBERS

Jason Fujimoto
Meli James, *Board Chair*
Micah Kāne
Brandon Kurisu
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ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Josh Feldman
Brittany Heyd
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Page 1 of 2

Committee: House Committee on Finance
Bill Number: HB 1800, Relating to the State Budget
Hearing Date and Time: March 11, 2026, 10:00am (Room 308)
Re: Testimony of Holomua Collaborative in support

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB1800. In particular, Holomua Collaborative writes **in support of program appropriation item no. K-39.1, which appropriates \$326,882 for 2.0 FTE positions for the State Building Code Council (SBCC).**

Hawai'i remains in a severe housing crisis. Skyrocketing home prices leave many local families struggling to secure safe, attainable places to live. The median single family home price in Hawai'i now exceeds \$1,000,000, while the median for a condominium is nearly \$650,000, creating an impossible barrier for most residents. As a result, many local families are being forced to leave in search of more affordable options elsewhere. Between July 2024 and July 2025, an average of 11 people left Hawai'i *each day*.¹ More Native Hawaiians now live outside Hawai'i than within it, representing a staggering loss of our culture, traditions, and the very essence of what makes Hawai'i home.

In October 2025, a survey² on the day-to-day financial experience of local workers suggested that this crisis continues to reach alarming levels. When nearly 3,200 local workers were asked if they might need to move to a less expensive state, only 25 percent answered a definitive “no”, which is a decrease from 31 percent in 2024. Meanwhile, 75 percent said “yes” or were “unsure”, representing an increase from 69 percent in 2024. Additionally, more than half of respondents cited housing costs as the primary driver of their high cost of living. A notable driver in the increased cost of housing is the frequent and unpredictable code changes, which results in moving targets for builders, and delays and increased costs that are ultimately passed down to local residents and homebuyers.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division Estimates, released January 2026; and calculations by the Hawai'i State Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, Hawai'i State Data Center.

https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/census/popestimate/2025/state-pop/2025_daily_est_state.pdf

² 2025 Hawai'i Affordability Survey - <https://holomuacollective.org/survey-25/#3>

A significant yet fixable driver of high housing costs is the frequent and unpredictable nature of code changes and the burdens placed on the SBCC to review and implement these changes. The SBCC, established pursuant to section 107-22, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, consists of 12 voting members and 1 ex officio member who are not compensated for their work and often serve in this role in addition to full-time jobs. It is essentially a volunteer-run council. This group is tasked with establishing and maintaining safe statewide building codes, including the continual review, editing, amendment, and adoption of the complex and highly technical documents that comprise the seven codes under the SBCC's jurisdiction. In many instances, the numerous and complex duties assigned to this group of volunteers have resulted in missed statutory deadlines, which in turn create uncertainty and increase costs for home builders and businesses alike.

Section 107-23, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, requires the appointment of an Executive Director and Executive Assistant to the SBCC. ***Despite this requirement, neither position has been filled since the SBCC was established in 2007.*** Funding and staffing the SBCC will provide the support necessary to assist this volunteer body in preparing timely and efficient code updates, reducing housing and commercial development costs, and providing greater predictability for builders.

We must reform the systems that make building in Hawai'i unnecessarily expensive. By funding and staffing the SBCC, we can help ensure that more local families can afford to remain in Hawai'i.

We respectfully urge the Committee to include this budget item in HB1800. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Matthew Prellberg
Policy and Communications Director



KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA
KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
KŌMIKINA MĀLAMA KAHO'OLAWE

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

Testimony of
MICHAEL K. NĀHO'OPĪ
Executive Director

Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

Wednesday, March 11, 2026
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

House Bill 1800 adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2025-2027 funding requirements for operations and capital improvements projects for Executive Branch agencies and programs. The Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) supports this measure.

The Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission respectfully request the addition of Capitol Improvement Project (CIP) funding for its Project A01A: Kaho'olawe Restoration and Resilience Center, Maui (Phase 2), LNR908 in the amount of \$4,250,00 (Planning: \$350,000; Design: \$3,000,000; Construction: \$900,000).

The KIRC has the unique opportunity to build the Kaho'olawe Restoration and Resilience Center at its base yard property located adjacent to the Kīhei Small Boat Harbor. This project will not only consolidate and provide a single KIRC office on Maui but will also tell the story of Kaho'olawe's cultural significance, its ecological devastation and the efforts to restore and demonstrate our communities' resiliency to heal the damages of the past. Additionally, this facility will also create a revenue generating venue in the South Kīhei corridor to assist in Maui's economic recovery, generate additional tax revenues and create income opportunities for the KIRC to fund restoration efforts on Kaho'olawe.

Phase 2 of the project is to develop the detailed drawings and plans necessary to build this project. This includes final construction drawings and specifications, planning and development of exhibits and archive storage, final planning, design for office layout, and final design of the building infrastructure (HVAC, network).

Additionally, this request includes construction efforts to expand the current boathouse to include a larger concrete pad and two additional covered wings for additional boat storage as well as creating a small educational pavilion and restroom facilities adjacent to the current boathouse.



Testimony Before The
House Committee on Finance
IN SUPPORT OF HB1800

March 11, 2026, 10:00 a.m., Room 308 & via Videoconference

We are Olan Leimomi Fisher and Kevin Chang, Kua'āina Advocate and Executive Director, respectively, testifying on behalf of [Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo \(or KUA\)](#). "Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo" stands for "grassroots growing through shared responsibility," and our acronym "KUA" means "backbone." **Our mission is to connect and empower communities to improve their quality of life through the collective care for their biocultural (natural and cultural) heritage, serving as a "backbone organization" that supports creative and community-driven solutions to problems stemming from environmental degradation.** Hawai'i's biocultural resources continue to be negatively impacted by political, economic, and social changes, and the increasing dangers of climate change make fostering and empowering resilient communities acutely critical.

Currently KUA supports three major networks of: (1) over 40 mālama 'āina (caring for our 'āina or "that which feeds") community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together); (2) over 60 loko i'a (fishpond aquaculture systems unique to Hawai'i) and wai 'ōpae (anchialine pool systems) sites in varying stages of restoration and development, with numerous caretakers, stakeholders, and volunteers known as the Hui Mālama Loko I'a ("caretakers of fishponds"); and (3) the Limu Hui made up of over 50 loea (traditional experts) and practitioners in all things "limu" or locally-grown "seaweed." **Our shared vision is to once again experience what our kūpuna (ancestors) referred to as 'ĀINA MOMONA – abundant and healthy ecological systems that sustain our community resilience and well-being.**

KUA supports HB1800, and urges the inclusion of funding recommendations as set forth by the Green Fee Advisory Council.

We strongly supported the passage of Act 96 (2025) to establish environmental stewardship "green" fees, and still believe that empowering our Native Hawaiian and local communities in direct environmental management and governance, often in collaboration with our state agencies, is key to overcoming the many challenges of our climate crisis and negative effects of tourism. Act 96 requires funds collected through the "green fee," to be equally allocated to support healthy 'āina ecosystems, resilient communities, and visitor management. As such, we strongly urge your committee to consider the [Funding Recommendations](#) of the Green Fee Advisory Council, particularly supporting Environmental Stewardship and the Green Fee Community Stewardship Program. This session KUA is also supporting passage of [HB1949](#), establishing a Green Fee Transparency & Accountability Program and Resiliency Impact Dashboard, and hope you will continue to support that measure as well.

We appreciate the necessary, creative, and collaborative approaches our state supports that build up our incoming generations with intention, and in a way that benefits ongoing community efforts to support ecosystem regeneration. The communities we work with are

committed to ensuring the long-term health of our biocultural ‘āina that they have cared for and depended on for generations since time immemorial. **We believe our environment, the foundation of our very existence, is about sustained and long-term commitments toward achieving ‘āina momona abundance once again.** To get there requires maintaining essential ‘auwai (resource flows) for mālama ‘āina efforts and people, including through this bill. Our decisions today will continue to shape the future that our keiki’s keiki’s keiki will one day inherit – we hope for a future of shared and harmonious abundance, and hope you do, too.

Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to submit testimony. Please **PASS** HB1800, with careful consideration given to the Green Fee Advisory Committee Funding Recommendations.

Aloha ‘Āina Momona no nā kau ā kau.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, March 11, 2026; 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1800, RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 1800, RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

This bill, as received by your Committee, would make adjustments and appropriate funds for fiscal biennium 2025-2027 for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

The bill would take effect upon its approval.

Testimony on House Bill No. 1800

Wednesday, March 11, 2026; 10:00 a.m.

Page 2

I. The Problem

During the interim following the Adjournment Sine Die of the 2025 Regular Session, three events took place that have enormous ramifications on Hawaii's social safety net. These were: the enactment of House Resolution No. 1 (H.R. 1), the "One Big Beautiful Bill" Act, which was signed into law on July 4, 2025; the reversal of interpretation of "federal public benefit" under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, or "PRWORA", by the United States Department of Health and Human Services; and the announcement that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services will share personal data of Medicaid enrollees to Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials.

In tandem, these three developments will fundamentally alter Hawaii's Medicaid Program by shifting current Medicaid recipients to the uninsured population. Among other things, H.R. 1 will:

- (1) Prohibit the use of federal matching funds for health care services to immigrants not lawfully present under federal law, effective October 1, 2026;
- (2) Establish work or volunteer requirements for all Medicaid recipients of at least 80 hours per month (or 20 hours per week), effective December 31, 2026; and
- (3) Require redeterminations for every Medicaid recipient every six-months, also effective December 31, 2026.

Currently, Hawaii's uninsured population is estimated to be 38,400 or 2.8% of the total population. Based on research provided by the Kaiser Family Foundation as well as our review of Medicaid enrollment historically in Hawaii, we believe the uninsured population will at least double within two to three years if nothing is done.

Without health insurance coverage, citizens will no longer be able to manage chronic disease such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and other maladies. When they become ill, they will not get treated until the situation becomes so bad that they will need to go to a provider for emergency treatment. By then, the illness has become much more severe and costly to remedy. Also, by law, the emergency provider will have to provide stabilizing treatment to the patient regardless of the patient's ability to pay. These costs will subsequently be borne by the provider, creating additional stress to the safety net that is already facing reduced funding and reimbursement.

In the worst-case scenario, hospitals and FQHCs will not be able to treat the increase in indigent patients. While federal law requires FQHCs to provide services to all patients who are not eligible for Medicaid or private insurance on a sliding fee scale based on their ability to pay, federal grant funding to offset these costs were not adjusted to address the increase that will occur. As such, should Hawaii

Testimony on House Bill No. 1800

Wednesday, March 11, 2026; 10:00 a.m.

Page 3

experience the largest projected increase in uninsured (and assuming that the level of services currently provided remains the same), FQHCs will run out of funds within two to three months.

II. A Possible Solution

On December 19, 2025, the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services and Consumer Protection was briefed by MedQUEST and the State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA) on the impacts of these federal policy changes. During that briefing, SHPDA Administrator Jack Lewin stated that during the Waihee Administration, the Department of Health ran a very successful program that provided coverage for persons who could not obtain employer-sponsored health insurance under the Prepaid Health Care Act, but were not eligible for Medicaid because of income restrictions. This coverage offered a significantly reduced package of benefits (i.e., up to 6 doctor visits and some prescription drugs) and was provided by Medicaid managed care plans under an agreement with the State. According to Dr. Lewin, the State agreed to cover loss costs that go beyond a certain level. However, Lewin stated that loss costs never reached that point and that the expenditure of additional general funds were not necessary.

When the State established the MedQUEST Program, the "gap group" coverage was transferred from the Department of Health to the Department of Human Services. However, according to Meredith Nichols, acting MedQUEST Administrator, when the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services reviewed the coverage for the "gap group", they disallowed MedQUEST from offering it citing the need for coverages offered under the State's Medicaid Program to meet certain baseline benefit standards.

Despite this, the Green Administration did not submit a bill as part of his Legislative Package that would reestablishment of the "gap group" coverage under the Department of Health. However, there are measures pending further action that could conceivably address this problem:

- House Bill No. 1546, House Draft 1, which would establish a three-year Health Coverage Continuity Pilot Program to assist individuals who have lost Medicaid health insurance coverage and lack access to other health insurance options; and
- Senate Bill No. 2087, the companion to House Bill No. 1546, which is pending further action.

Both measures would require the infusion of a significant amount of State funds to either capitalize a new insurance program, or subsidize thousands of Medicaid enrollees who will shortly be disenrolled and become uninsured.

If the Legislature is so inclined, use of Emergency and Budget Reserve Funds for this purpose would be warranted to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of the general public.

III. High Stakes

The establishment of a high deductible or catastrophic health plan could result in unintended consequences. Hawaii is the only state that requires employers to offer health insurance to employees who work more than 20 hours per week. Hawaii is able to do this because the Prepaid Health Care Act is exempted from federal preemption under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. Hawaii retains this exemption so long as the substantive terms of the Prepaid Health Care Act are not materially changed.

It will be vital that the provision of a high deductible or catastrophic health plan not be construed by federal regulators as materially altering the Prepaid Health Care Act. Conceivably, this could happen if the implementation of such a program shifts the manner in which the Prepaid Health Care Act is enforced. Should that happen, such action could invalidate the preemption exemption that is necessary for the Prepaid Health Care Act to operate.

In addition, H.R. 1, includes provisions that require any program intended to replicate Medicaid benefits to a prohibited population be solely general funded. Violations of this could lead to the loss of more federal funding and the imposition of penalties to Hawaii's Medicaid Program.

IV. Two (2) Grant-in-Aid Requests

The HPCA, in partnership with Collective Energy, a mission-driven social benefit company specializing in clean energy and resilience solutions for community health centers, seeks to establish and deploy solar and storage microgrids at nonprofit community health centers across the State. These systems will strengthen energy reliance, reduce operational disruptions, and ensure that essential health services remain available to the public during grid failures.

FQHCs serve as frontline hubs for health, safety, and recovery during emergencies. We are trusted, community-based sites that provide services, dispense medications, offer safe gathering points, and protect vulnerable populations when other infrastructure is compromised.

Hawaii's geographic isolation, heavy reliance on imported fossil fuels, and exposure to hurricanes, wildfires, tsunamis, and extreme weather events significantly heighten the risks of prolonged power disruptions. The implementation of public safety power shutoffs by Hawaiian Electric in July 2024

further underscores the urgent need for reliable, decentralized, and clean energy sources for public-serving facilities.

Traditional diesel generators -- used by many FQHCs today -- are expensive to operate, require frequent maintenance, rely on fragile fuel supply chains, and contribute to harmful emissions. The proposed project directly addresses these challenges by enabling resilient, sustainable, and cost-effective energy infrastructure that ensures that FQHCs can continue providing essential public services before, during, and after emergencies.

The project seeks a total of \$2.5 million in Capital Improvement Project (CIP) GIA, and \$196,000 in a separate Operational GIA. The CIP GIA funding, leveraged with federal and State solar and energy storage incentives, will enable the development of up to nine solar plus storage microgrid systems, totaling approximately \$6.2 million in capital improvement. The Operational GIA funding represents programmatic, project management, contract management, reporting and fiscal stewardship responsibilities, as well as developing future scalability plans.

If approved, this project will:

- Save participating FQHCs an estimated \$16 million in electricity costs over twenty-five years, allowing them to repurpose scarce funds into patient care, delivery, staffing, and essential community health services;
- Add battery energy storage to increase resiliency during outages and reduce service disruptions, materially improving project return on investment by avoiding an estimated \$11.9 million in power-outage losses across all sites over the system life;
- Ensure continuity of critical health center services during disasters and grid outages;
- Advance energy equity for medically underserved, low-income, and rural communities;
- Enable FQHCs to function as community resilience hubs;
- Support local workforce development and clean energy development by collaborating with Hawaii-based partners; and
- Establish a replicable and scalable model for future cohorts.

This project is vital for the financial stability of participating FQHCs. The enactment of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act has fundamentally changed our Medicaid system. We anticipate that in the worst-case scenario, Hawaii's uninsured population will at least double within the next three years. Most of the new uninsured will be former Medicaid enrollees who will lose their coverage.

FQHCs are required by law to provide services to all patients regardless of their ability to pay. For the uninsured, federal law prescribes a sliding fee schedule we can charge based on patient income. Most of the time, the amount received does not cover the cost of the services provided.

Testimony on House Bill No. 1800
Wednesday, March 11, 2026; 10:00 a.m.
Page 6

When there is no insurance reimbursement, the FQHC must rely on their operational funds to offset the losses. Under the worst-case scenario, if availability and level of services are kept at what we provide today, FQHCs will have less than three months of resources before we'd have to shut down.

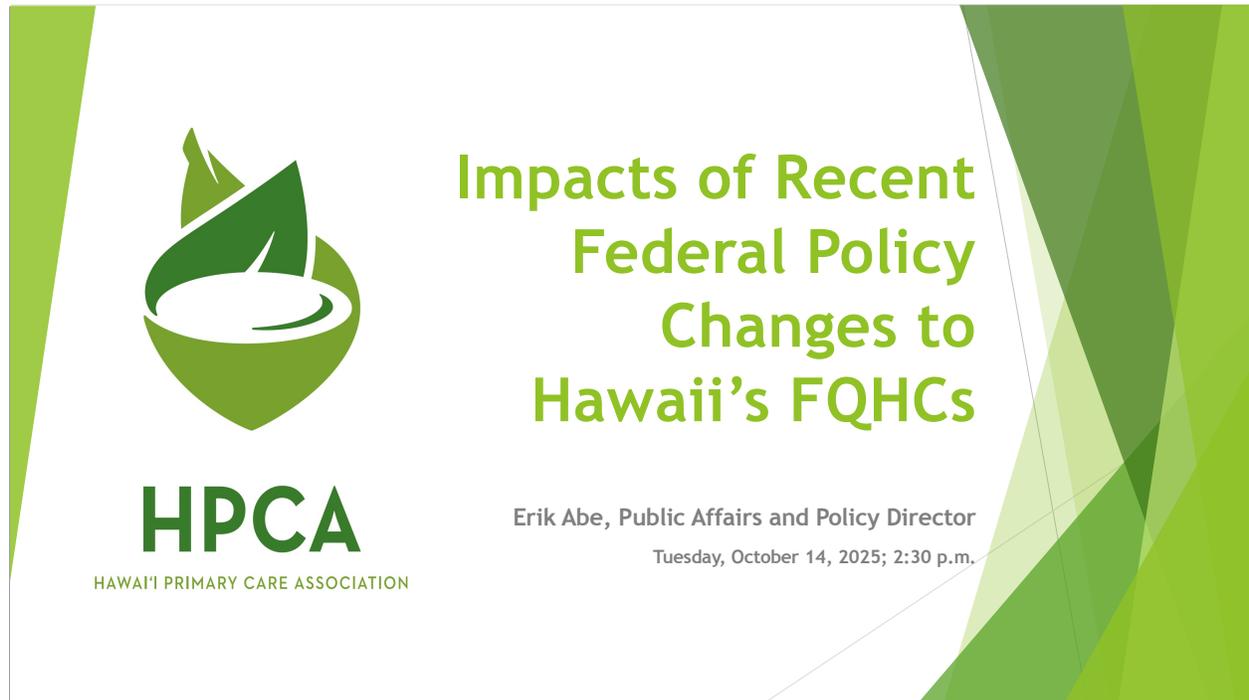
This project will allow funds that would pay for electricity to go to patient services. This will provide the participating FQHCs with greater flexibility to meet the demands of their patients. Since most of these patients are Medicaid enrollees situated in the most geographically isolated communities throughout the State, support for this bill directly boosts our social safety net.

For these reasons, we urge your favorable consideration of this measure.

For your information and files, attached please find the transmittal receipt confirming submission of HPCA's CIP and Operational GIA applications to the Legislature on January 23, 2026, in accordance with Chapter 42F, HRS, and slides from a presentation given to the Office of the Governor in October 2025.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiipca.net.

attachments



Thank you for this opportunity to present HPCA's analysis of recent federal policy changes to Hawaii's FQHCs and our Medicaid System.

If I do this right, I should be able to get through this presentation in 15 minutes.



I. CHANGES TO FEDERAL LAW AND POLICY

Part I is entitled changes to federal law and policy.

Overview

- ▶ On July 4, 2025, President Trump signed H.R. 1, the “Big Beautiful Act” (OBBBA) into law. This new law fundamentally changes health care policy and reverses the direction the federal government had taken over the previous decade.
- ▶ On July 10, 2025, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert Kennedy, Jr., published notice of the Department’s reversal of interpretation of the term “Federal public benefit” under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA).
- ▶ On July 17, 2025, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced it will be providing Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials access to the personal data of 79 million Medicaid enrollees to help them track down immigrants who may not be living legally in the country.
- ▶ In tandem, these three developments will have enormous impacts on Hawaii’s Medicaid Program and federally qualified health centers.

There were three events that took place that change things -- the enactment of the "Big Beautiful Act"; the reversal of interpretation of "federal public benefit" under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, or "PRWORA"; and the announcement that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services will share personal data of Medicaid enrollees to Immigration and Customs Enforcement Officials.

In tandem, these three developments have enormous impact on Hawaii's Medicaid Program and federally qualified health centers.

§71109 (OBBBA) and Medicaid Enrollment

- ▶ **Prohibition for Undocumented Immigrants:** §71109 [p. 590] - Prohibits federal match for services to immigrants not lawfully present under federal law.
- ▶ The FMAP for this cohort is currently 90%
- ▶ Of Hawaii's 405,742 Medicaid enrollees (as of March 4, 2025), approximately 100,000 are immigrants, of which 35,000 are undocumented (according to the Kaiser Family Foundation).
- ▶ When this provision takes effect on October 1, 2026, these 35,000 undocumented immigrants will be categorically disenrolled from Medicaid.
- ▶ Hawaii's uninsured population is estimated at 38,400 or 2.8% of the total population.
- ▶ On October 1, 2026, Hawaii's uninsured population will effectively DOUBLE overnight.

Prior to the enactment of the Big Beautiful Act, the federal government paid 90% of the costs incurred by immigrant Medicaid enrollees. However, Section 71109 of the Big Beautiful Act creates a categorical exclusion for service providers to receive federal reimbursement for undocumented immigrants.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, of the 400,000 Medicaid enrollees in Hawaii, one-fourth or 100,000 are believed to be immigrants, of which 35,000 are thought to be undocumented. When this provision takes effect on October 1, 2026, these 35,000 undocumented immigrants will be shifted from Medicaid enrollees to the uninsured.

Currently, the uninsured rate is 2.8 percent of the population or approximately 38,400. On October 1, 2026, this rate will effectively DOUBLE overnight.

PRWORA Baseline Clarification and OBBBA Enforcement

- ▶ According to MedQUEST, undocumented immigrants are already prohibited from receiving Medicaid benefits under PRWORA.
- ▶ Less than 3,000 current Medicaid enrollees are identified as undocumented enrollees.
- ▶ States may have enrolled individuals whose status was unresolved or whose documentation was incomplete, particularly in the context of continuous eligibility policies during the public health emergency and difficulties with redeterminations.
- ▶ PRWORA creates eligibility limitations, but OBBBA creates federal financial participation limitations.
- ▶ Even if someone is ineligible under PRWORA, enforcement of the reimbursement prohibition under OBBBA may still represent a material fiscal change for the State and FQHCs.
- ▶ Even if a state were to enroll undocumented immigrants using state-only funds, federal Medicaid matching is now barred for undocumented immigrants.

When we shared this information with our partner safety net organizations, MedQUEST responded that currently, less than 3,000 were logged in their system as "undocumented enrollees". We believe there are many more immigrants who are receiving benefits because while PRWORA establishes eligibility limitations at the time of application, these limitations do not preclude the states from paying for these benefits through general funds, as is the case with California, and Illinois, most notably. Because of this, we believe there are many more undocumented immigrants already enrolled in Medicaid.

The Big Beautiful Act changes things by establishing a federal reimbursement prohibition and enforcement mechanisms that will place greater responsibility on the States and providers to verify the eligibility of all Medicaid recipients.

§71107 (OBBBA) and 6-Month Redeterminations

- ▶ During the post-COVID unwind, states saw steep drops in the first 6-12 months, but then enrollment flattened as they reached stable caseload.
- ▶ Based on Hawaii's variance reports, after initial 5-6% drop, later cycles showed closer to 2-3% attrition, pointing toward equilibrium effect already starting.
- ▶ Nationally, pre-COVID Medicaid programs averaged annual churn of 10-12%.
- ▶ Initial 6-12 months (mid-2025 to mid 2026) steeper disenrollment, about 5-6% per cycle at first. This reflects clearing the backlog of people who lost eligibility during the PHE or didn't complete paperwork.
- ▶ Following 12-18 months (late 2026 through 2027) attrition slows to 2-3% per cycle as the remaining population stabilizes. This is the diminishing returns phase.
- ▶ Equilibrium by 24-30 months (late 2027 into early 2028), enrollment should level out. At this point, churn reflects only normal eligibility turnover rather than systemic procedural disenrollment.
- ▶ Over a three-year period, between 30,000 to 40,000 enrollees will be disenrolled.

The Big Beautiful Act also shortens the redetermination period for Medicaid enrollees from annually to every six months. Based on the Hawaii experience after the COVID flexibilities were removed prior to President Trump taking office, we believe that Hawaii will see a similar sharp decline in enrollment in the first twelve months and then a flattening over the following 24 months to an equilibrium point of 2-3% attrition every redetermination cycle.

Over the next three years, we believe between 30,000 and 40,000 Medicaid enrollees will be disenrolled.

§71119 (OBBBA) and Work Requirements

- ▶ Effective October 1, 2025, unless delayed by waiver (Hawaii may seek a 2-year delay to October 2027), Medicaid enrollees must document 80-hours/month of employment or volunteering.
- ▶ National research shows work requirements will cause 5-10% disenrollment, mostly from procedural burdens rather than actual non-compliance.
- ▶ If applied to Hawaii, that might translate to 20,000-30,000 enrollees at risk
- ▶ If Hawaii wins a delay, this effect won't hit until FY 2028, after the immigrant disenrollment.

The Big Beautiful Act also establishes a requirement that all enrollees must work or volunteer at least 80 hours per month to remain eligible for Medicaid. National research indicates that work requirements will cause between 5 to 10% disenrollment, mostly from procedural burdens rather than actual non-compliance.

If applied to Hawaii, that might translate to 20,000 to 30,000 enrollees at-risk.

Hawaii might be able to delay this by two years if MedQUEST is successful in obtaining a two-year waiver from HHS.

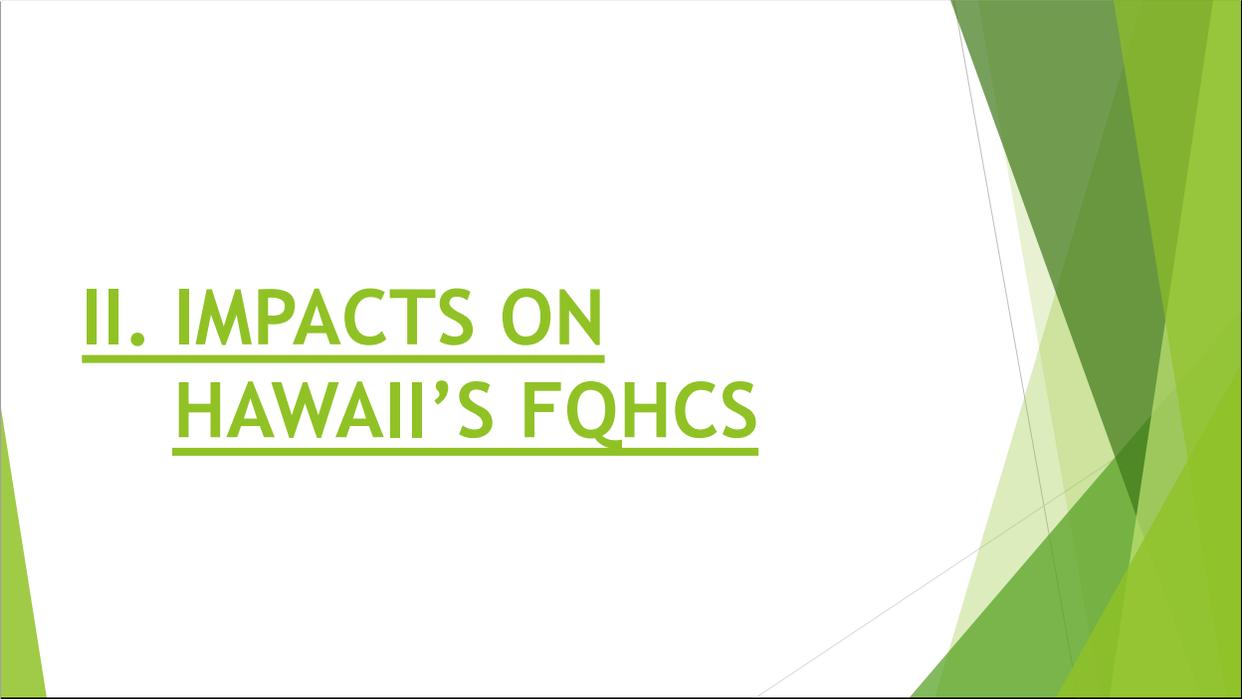
OBBBA Impact on Hawaii's Medicaid Population

- ▶ Starting with Baseline (405,000 enrollees, March 2025)
- ▶ Apply Redetermination Churn (minus 30,000 to 40,000 enrollees)
- ▶ Apply Undocumented Immigrant Disenrollment (but recognizing some may already fall off via churn) (minus 20,000 to 25,000 enrollees)
- ▶ Apply Work Requirements (but recognizing overlap with prior churn) (minus 15,000 to 20,000 enrollees)
- ▶ TOTAL DISENROLLMENT-- 65,000 to 85,000 enrollees over the next three years
- ▶ The Average Hawaii Medicaid expenditures per actual enrollee is \$6,762.47, based on a survey of variance reports published by the Hawaii State Department of Budget and Finance over the past decade.
- ▶ GENERAL FUND IMPACT -- \$439.5 to \$574.8 MILLION over the next three years

When you look at the entire picture taking into account duplication from persons who might be disenrolled for more than one reason, the HPCA used various models to get an idea of the scale of the impacts. A lot of assumptions were made in analyzing the worst-case scenario to get an idea of the fiscal impact.

We believe that between 65,000 to 85,000 enrollees will be disenrolled over the next three years if Hawaii is not able to obtain a two-year waiver for work requirements. If we get the waiver, this might be stretched over five years.

We looked at the total expenditures from HMS401, Hawaii's Medicaid Program, over the past 10 fiscal years as reported in the variance reports. Using the number of enrollees listed in those reports, we found the average expenditure per enrollee to be \$6,762.47. Applying that average to the projected number of persons disenrolled, we believe the fiscal impact to be between \$439.5 to \$574.8 million over the next three to five years.



II. IMPACTS ON HAWAII'S FQHCS

Keeping all of this in mind, I'd like to now share how we think this will impact FQHCs and the Social Safety Net.

Main Points

- ▶ Medicaid and most HHS funds can no longer be used for care to undocumented immigrants, except for emergency care, immunizations, and communicable disease services.
- ▶ FQHCs must still serve all patients regardless of immigration status, per Section 330.
- ▶ Federal funding (Medicaid, possibly 330) restricted for primary care to undocumented patients.
- ▶ Result - Cost shift to state/local governments, FQHC sliding fee programs, and private donations.
- ▶ Urgent need for state funding and policy action to preserve access and mitigate impact to safety net.

In a nutshell, Medicaid and most HHS funds cannot be used for undocumented immigrants. Yet, FQHCs must still serve all patients regardless of immigration status. This will result in a cost shift to state and local governments, our sliding fee program, and donations. Because of this, there is a need for new funding mechanisms and policy action to protect and preserve the safety net.

During our preliminary research, if FQHCs continue to provide the same level of services to undocumented immigrants without Medicaid reimbursement, FQHCs would have to rely on our 330 grant funds to cover this shortfall. Based on current grant funds available, those funds will be exhausted within two to three months.

Liability Exposure if FQHCs PROVIDE Services

- ▶ **Federal Liability** -- Providing services to undocumented immigrants in federally funded facilities could constitute unlawful provision of federal public benefits. This exposes FQHCs to potential loss of \$330 grant funding and possible False Claims Act (31 U.S.C. §§3729-3733) liability if reimbursement is sought.
- ▶ **State Liability** - Hawaii's Medicaid Program (Med-QUEST) could face FMAP penalties for violations of PRWORA or the Big Beautiful Act. FQHCs may also face state-level audits regarding misuse of blended funding streams.

FQHCs are in a no-win situation. If an FQHC PROVIDES service to an undocumented immigrant at their respective campuses, that FQHC could be subject to federal liability for the unlawful provision of federal public benefits, and be exposed to the potential loss of \$330 grant funding and possible False Claims Act liability if reimbursement is sought.

MedQUEST could face FMAP penalties for violations of PRWORA and the Big Beautiful Act, and the FQHC might also face state-level audits regarding misuse of blended funding streams.

Liability Exposure if FQHCs DENY Services

- ▶ **Federal Law** - The Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA -- 42 U.S.C. § 1395dd) obligates hospitals with emergency departments to provide emergency stabilization regardless of immigration status. While EMTALA does not apply directly to FQHCs, denial of emergency care may conflict with PRWORA's emergency exception. **[NOTE:** Both Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center and Hana Health operate 24-hour urgent/emergent care at their campuses.]
- ▶ **Civil Rights and Discrimination** -- Denying care based solely on immigration status may trigger claims under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d), which prohibits national origin discrimination in federally funded programs. Courts have recognized that immigration status may intersect with national origin. In addition, Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. § 18116) similarly prohibits discrimination in federally funded health programs. FQHCs risk HHS Office for Civil Rights enforcement and civil litigation.
- ▶ **Hawaii State Law** -- Hawaii Constitution, Article I, § 5, guarantees equal protection and due process. Courts in Hawaii have interpreted these protections broadly. Denial of care could be challenged as unconstitutional discrimination. Additionally, FQHCs may face state tort claims for negligence or medical malpractice if denial of care leads to harm, as well as violations of public accommodation statutes.

If FQHCs DENY services to undocumented immigrants, denial might violate the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act, or EMTALA, which requires emergency stabilization regardless of immigration status. While this law applies directly to hospitals with emergency departments, both Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center and Hana Health provide 24-hour urgent/emergent care at their campuses.

Denial of service based solely on immigration status may trigger claims under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits national origin discrimination in federally funded programs. Denial might also violate provisions of the Affordable Care Act, which prohibits discrimination in health programs.

Denial of service could trigger state action if the denial is construed as unconstitutional discrimination. Further, the FQHC could be in violation of Hawaii's public accommodations statutes.

Possible Best and Worst Case Scenarios

- ▶ BEST CASE - HHS allows Hawaii FQHCs to service undocumented immigrants at their facilities but without any Medicaid funds for reimbursement. This would allow FQHCs to continue to serve in the safety net in rural and underprivileged communities with reimbursements paid by non-federal funds.
- ▶ WORST CASE - HHS prohibits Hawaii FQHCs from servicing undocumented immigrants and further does not waive PRWORA requirements for FQHCs providing emergency services. Hawaii's FQHCs would either need to stop providing 24-hour urgent/emergent care or discontinue serving as an FQHC.
- ▶ Under the WORST CASE scenario, FQHCs will see an immediate and sharp decline in usage from immigrants (1/4 of Medicaid enrollment) due to lack of trust within each FQHCs' respective communities until such time as a final determination is made by HHS. . .
- ▶ . . . and at that point, the uninsured population would need to be addressed by the State solely through a general-funded program without participation from FQHCs.

Based on the information available, best-case and worst-case scenarios could be imagined. In the best-case scenario, HHS allows FQHCs to provide services to immigrants but not allow federal funds for reimbursement. Under this scenario, FQHCs would remain in the safety net, but would need to find non-federal funds to provide services to this cohort.

Under the worst-case scenario, HHS prohibits FQHCs from even using their facilities to provide services to undocumented immigrants. This scenario would effectively dislodge FQHCs from the safety net and leave it to the State to determine how the health care needs of this population will be served.

Additional Logistical Concerns

- ▶ FQHCs cannot operationalize the Medicaid prohibition on undocumented immigrants without real-time, legally-authorized method to determine a patient's arrest and court record status.
- ▶ FQHCs are not authorized under federal law to query DHS or DOJ databases to determine a patient's arrest history, court orders, or immigration status.
- ▶ If an FQHC bills Medicaid for a service later determined to be provided to an undocumented immigrant, it may be seen as a false claim under federal law (31 U.S.C. §3729 et seq).
- ▶ There is no federal system currently available to FQHCs to verify immigration status at the point of service, nor any integration with court or DHS arrest/release databases.
- ▶ Regarding work requirements, because Hawaii's unemployment rate for August 2025 is 2.7%, are there sufficient part-time job opportunities for 15,000 to 20,000 disenrolled Medicaid enrollees over the next three years?
- ▶ Are health care and social safety net organizations able to absorb those disenrolled citizens as volunteers?

Lastly, FQHCs will need to be able to determine a patient's Medicaid eligibility before services can be provided. Because a person's immigration status can change from the time documentation is verified at application, without the means of determining eligibility before service is provided, there would be no way for the FQHC to ensure that a subsequent request for reimbursement is legitimate. It should be noted that a person's immigrant status can change based on a person's arrest and court record status prior to conviction. Currently as a public accommodation, FQHCs are prohibited from denying medical services to a person based on their arrest and court record status under State Law.

Also, given Hawaii's low unemployment rate, are there sufficient job opportunities available in rural, isolated communities to keep Hawaii's unemployed Medicaid enrollees with coverage?

The HPCA has had preliminary discussions with various nonprofit organizations to determine their capacity to recruit and engage volunteers in rural communities. Because many of these organizations have focused their grassroots activities in urban areas, it will likely take time for nonprofits to establish sufficient volunteer opportunities for Medicaid enrollees unable to gain part-time employment.



HPCA
HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

Impacts of Recent Federal Policy Changes to Hawaii's FQHCs

Erik Abe, Public Affairs and Policy Director
Tuesday, October 14, 2025; 2:30 p.m.

This concludes the presentation. I'd be happy to answer any questions.



KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA
KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
KŌMIKINA MĀLAMA KAHO'OLAWE

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

Testimony of
MICHAEL K. NĀHO'OPĪ
Executive Director

Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

Wednesday, March 11, 2026
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

House Bill 1800 adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2025-2027 funding requirements for operations and capital improvements projects for Executive Branch agencies and programs. The Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) supports this measure.

The Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission respectfully request the addition of Capitol Improvement Project (CIP) funding for its Project A01A: Kaho'olawe Restoration and Resilience Center, Maui (Phase 2), LNR908 in the amount of \$4,250,00 (Planning: \$350,000; Design: \$3,000,000; Construction: \$900,000).

The KIRC has the unique opportunity to build the Kaho'olawe Restoration and Resilience Center at its base yard property located adjacent to the Kīhei Small Boat Harbor. This project will not only consolidate and provide a single KIRC office on Maui but will also tell the story of Kaho'olawe's cultural significance, its ecological devastation and the efforts to restore and demonstrate our communities' resiliency to heal the damages of the past. Additionally, this facility will also create a revenue generating venue in the South Kīhei corridor to assist in Maui's economic recovery, generate additional tax revenues and create income opportunities for the KIRC to fund restoration efforts on Kaho'olawe.

Phase 2 of the project is to develop the detailed drawings and plans necessary to build this project. This includes final construction drawings and specifications, planning and development of exhibits and archive storage, final planning, design for office layout, and final design of the building infrastructure (HVAC, network).

Additionally, this request includes construction efforts to expand the current boathouse to include a larger concrete pad and two additional covered wings for additional boat storage as well as creating a small educational pavilion and restroom facilities adjacent to the current boathouse.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/9/2026 3:24:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellie Tsuchiya	?Olelo Community Media	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Ellie Tsuchiya and I am the Development and Grants Manager with ‘Ōlelo Community Media. As a non-profit fundraising professional, I have personally witnessed the challenge of federal funding in the current political climate and the devastating impact it is having on community-based organizations who are providing essential services. It is important now more than ever for the state to increase funding to sustain critical services and ensure that the people who are working tirelessly to ensure this work gets done continue to be fairly compensated and supported.

Mahalo,

Ellie Tsuchiya

Resident of Ewa Beach

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/9/2026 3:24:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellie Tsuchiya	?Olelo Community Media	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Ellie Tsuchiya and I am the Development and Grants Manager with ‘Ōlelo Community Media. As a non-profit fundraising professional, I have personally witnessed the challenge of federal funding in the current political climate and the devastating impact it is having on community-based organizations who are providing essential services. It is important now more than ever for the state to increase funding to sustain critical services and ensure that the people who are working tirelessly to ensure this work gets done continue to be fairly compensated and supported.

Mahalo,

Ellie Tsuchiya

Resident of Ewa Beach

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

See attached

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: GLORIA L. REYNON
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: HONOLULU 96818

March 4, 2026

In March 2019, I lost my husband. Two months later, I lost my mother. In the span of eight weeks, the two people who anchored my life were gone.

I smiled for my grandchildren when I babysat them, but when they left, I was alone again. I struggled in my relationship with my sons. I withdrew from friends. I was quietly drowning in grief.

In 2023, a friend suggested I join the Lanakila Multi Purpose Senior Center. It changed my life!

Through Japanese and Mandarin classes, I challenged my mind again. Through Japanese Calligraphy, I found peace in brush strokes. I began writing for the Okinawa Renchoha Club newsletter - discovering a voice I thought I had lost.

I traveled through a Fouan Culture and Cuisine class and stood at the DMZ reflecting on division and resilience. I visited Shangri La and Lolani Palace - places I would never have gone alone. I moved my body again through hula, Tumba and line dance, regaining strength and confidence.

Most importantly, I found community. I found laughter. I found purpose.

I volunteer - helping create Genki Balls to restore the Ala Wai Canal and refurbishing the computers for students in need. The woman who once isolated herself now contributes again.

Lanakila Multi Purpose Senior Center is not simply a building with activities. It is prevention against loneliness. It is mental health support without stigma. It is physical wellness at a pace appropriate for aging bodies. It is dignity. It is hope.

I respectfully urge you to continue funding Lanakila so that no Kūpuna has to grieve alone, withdraw in silence, or feel forgotten. The center doesn't just enrich lives - it restores them.

Sincerely,
Glenn Reynon

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center

Please support GIA funding in the amount of \$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

Funding for LMPSC is important to me as it helps me mentally, physically, & socially. Lanakila provides me with a variety of activities to keep me active such as: the many cultural clubs, the numerous variety of classes offered and last, but not least the workshops & fun excursions and lunches.
Lanakila helps me ^{to continue to} be a contributing member of society by performing trials at various, hospitals, senior homes.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Amy Sakagawa
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu, 96814

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

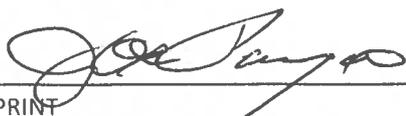
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Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

FOR THE IMPORTANTS FOR ALL SENIORS
HERE IN OUR ISLANDS TO COME AND
PARTICIPATE IN ALL PROGRAMS GUIDE
FROM CULTURES - ELECTRONIC LEVELS
EVERYTHING IN BEING PART OF LIFE AND
COMMUNITIES

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: JOE PACYAO 
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: P.O. BOX 17684 HONOLULU, HAWAII
96817

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

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Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

LMPSC provides numerous activities for seniors to help us keep active and stay healthy. They provide tours to various places where we would not be able to go to if it were not for them. It is a place where we can gather and meet new people, make many friends, have entertainment, and experience delicious food. I am so happy to be a part of this organization.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Annette Platt

PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu 96819

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to our community:

Lanakila Multi purpose senior center is an invaluable resource for our community, offering a wide range of social, educational, and health programs that help seniors stay active, connected, and independent. From engaging classes and cultural clubs to health screenings and meaningful volunteer opportunities, the center creates a welcoming environment where seniors can continue to learn, contribute, and thrive. Programs like these play a vital role in promoting wellness, dignity and quality of life.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that our *kupuna* can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Tad Iwata
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu, 96817

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

Like many others/members, I live alone, and depend on Lanakila Senior Center for learning about how to maintain my health and to meet and keep my friends there. The annual renewal of membership found me in early stages of cognitive decline. I was referred to a gerontologist who helped me to get the services of a neurologist.
I like to recycle and the craft classes they allow me to teach recycling calendars into envelopes.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

Please help me to remain active by funding LMPSC

My Name: Lynda Asato Lynda Asato
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu, 96817

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

AS THE COST FOR HEALTH & WELFARE (SHELTER, FOOD + MEDICAL CARE) CONTINUE TO RISE, I WOULD HATE TO BE FORCED w/ DROPPING OUT OF MY CLASS. SHOULD THEY BECOME UNAFFORDABLE. THE CLASSES OFFERED AT LMPSC ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN + OR IMPROVE OUR PHYSICAL, MENTAL + EMOTIONAL HEALTH. ^{THEY} ~~IT WILL~~ HELP US MAINTAIN INDEPENDENCE + SELF CONFIDENCE AS WE ALL AGE GRACEFULLY.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Arlene Dee Yamamoto
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu, 96813

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

I have been a member of LMPSC for a few years, and it has been a tremendous benefit to me as well as my family members and friend. There are so many activities to select from, benefiting us in every aspect of our lives.

Susie Chun Oakland has a beautiful heart for the community. She works tirelessly, and has a wonderful staff. Please support LMPSC!
Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Jan Ashlock

PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu, 96817

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

Classes at LMPSC have helped seniors sustain quality of life after 60. We learn the basics of living healthy by staying active, stimulating the brain, socializing, helping each other and more. Reliance on legislative support is a necessity. Please continue to support LMPSC.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: May Asato
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: aiwa, 96701

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

As a senior (84 yrs. old) it is a place that I can come to and feel safe. There are many activities to keep us active: pickleball, tai chi, exercise classes. Other activities to keep us engaged: singing, ukulele, guitar, etc.

There are trips that we can go places that I would never do to: Kapaeha, Waikiki. Entertaining and educational.

We socialize at the many classes and activities! There is even a travel club, sewing + craft.

There are many volunteer activities: making ti-leaf leis, cleaning the center, running the courses, helping to run the center!

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Yoi Endo

PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu, 96818

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

There are a lot of things that I would like to explore and Lanakila Multi Purpose Senior Center provides many opportunities for me to do this. It also provides me a place where I can have a wide social life with my peers who share the same interests and concerns with me.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Susan Hoega
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu 96822

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

As an 82 yr old, there are few places to spend time with my peers. Lanakila is a safe place to be which provides many activities appropriate to my age and abilities. We help in many ways to keep costs down.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Christy Kawabata CHRISTY KAWABATA
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: AIEA 96701

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is an essential community hub for seniors. It has a variety of activities. From educational programs on health and safety to worming (gardening), they help us to live healthier, active lives.

The members marvel at Susie's (director of the center) memory of each member's name and her skills at procuring new activities and excursions. I especially love the excursions. The center keeps us (seniors) active and connected.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Satsuki Higa
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu 96817

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

I am a beneficiary of from Lanakila Senior Center over two years. ~~For~~ LMPSC provides us a lot of program. I am taking classes line dance and stretch and tone exercise at the place we have activities the floor has cracked, ceiling had been leaked, and lights framed are rusted. It would be very helpful if LMPSC has more money to fix the place. Thanky

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Wei-Ling Landers

PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu, HI 96818

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

It enables me to participate in the various activities that the center offers.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: MARSHA T. TSUBURADA

PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: HONOLULU HI 96826

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

Because it ^{would} support and take care of seniors at Lanakila with all the activities for seniors.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: IRMA TOM

PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: HONOLULU 96817-2504

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

now that I'm a senior I realize how important a place like Lanakila Senior Ctr. is needed. For some, who live alone it's a place to go for human interaction. We all need each other. Besides new friendships or socialization there are classes, workshops & presentations to keep us informed. It's a wonderful place I'm really appreciative for its ~~hospitality~~. It has made me enjoy my senior years even more. Thank you

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Karen S Takeshita
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu 96819

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

(LMPSC)

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

The LMPSC provides a venue to meet new people, provides activities to be active, stay healthy and learn new things. I participate in pickle ball, to exercise and meet friends. I participate in a fit and flexible class to help with balance, and learn about exercises to improve circulation and reduce inflammation. ~~Also~~ LMPSC provides many educational sessions to learn about aging, the environment and cultural activities. It is an excellent facility/organization to keep seniors engaged & active. I fully support GIA funding for LMPSC.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Patsy Nanbu

PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Aiea, HI 96701

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

The classes I take from Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center keep me healthy, not just physically, but mentally, spiritually, and emotionally. I also benefit from the many speakers who teach and guide us, and bring our community members together.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Lenora Stone
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu, HI 96822

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

**RE: IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

Funding for LMPSC is important to me since it is where I can continue to socialize with other people & enjoy the many classes to help me live a healthy & happy life.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Marion Masuda
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu 96813

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

BECAUSE THE ACTIVITIES HERE ARE VERY ENJOYABLE AND FUN AND SOCIALIZING WITH BE PEOPLE HERE MAKING A LOT FRIENDS AND IT'S NEAR MY HOME THANK YOU.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: TISHA N. KALUA
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu 96817

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

takes me out of my Dull Life of watching
t.v. all day. I get to meet other people, learn
from them keep my mind active it's just
a second life

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: LARRY MIYASATO
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: HNL 96817

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

Lanakila Senior Center is an important part of my life. There, I learn new things from the many classes that are offered, but most of all, I enjoy the people there. My social life has been elevated since I joined. Please support the GIA funding for Catholic Charities. Thank you very much.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Marcia Miyasato
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu 96817

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center must remain ^{open} for seniors to socialize with people their own age. It is a place where I can learn new things like hula, line dancing, American Sign Language, and pickleball to keep my mind alert and functioning.

The center was a life saver for me. It kept me from being alone and isolated.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Carole S. Suzui

PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu 96813

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

**RE: IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

Funding is important to me because Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center has kept me active physically + socially for maintaining my mental health. Lanakila Sr. Ctr. has really helped me to get up in the morning + get out of the house + live a full life w/activities + meeting w/^{many} friends I have made here. I ^{at 40} take joy in helping other members when needed + giving joy to everyone.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Lynne Howells
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu, 96822

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

I look forward to coming to the LMPSC each week to see my newfound friends... they are a light in my sometimes ^{sad} unfulfilled life. And the exercise classes they provide are perfect for seniors like me

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Carol Pans
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu 96817

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

The Center helps a lot to cope w/^{loneliness via} social gathering, support by just being someplace where seniors can gather. We love the excursions provided so that we can explore and keep our mind strong.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Ann Oshiro

PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Pearl City 96782

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

Lanakila provides me and many seniors various sources of information and activities that make our lives more fruitful and enjoyable.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Cyndi Sugiki
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu 96822

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

LMCSC not only provide socializing and exercising activities.

They provide information and security measures for seniors.

AI and cyber security

Robotics for seniors

CPR and AED training

Senior ID Safety Card from HPD

Smart 911 enrollment from HFD

Property tax reduction

Income tax preparation

*Fall prevention and
how to fall*

Home care + family grievance

*Emotional support for
depression*

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Glenn J. Kodani

PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu 96814

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

I ATTEND SEVERAL CLASSES AT THE CENTER,
I AM SO THANKFUL THAT THEY PROVIDE VARIOUS
CLASSES, CULTURE, ARTS, EXCURSIONS, EXERCISE,
OTHER ACTIVITIES FOR US SENIORS. THE ACTIVITIES
KEEP US SENIORS ACTIVE MENTALLY, PHYSICALLY
& WE ALSO GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY IN MANY
WAYS.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: RUSSELL SUGAI

PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: HONOLULU 96826

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

It really helps all the kupunas including myself to better self-awareness, safety and exercising as well as educational classes and dancing (hula) my favorite -

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Darlene K. Ikegami

PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu 96817

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

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Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

FOR THE SENIORS NEED TO GETHER
ON ENJOY LIFE FULLY TO COMMUNICATE,
MOVE ABOUT SHARE LIFE - HELP IN
WHAT THEY CAN

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: JOE PACYAO
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu, 96819

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

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Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

*To enjoy life as a senior bondin'g with fellow seniors,
to be more active, enjoy life as the days go by.*

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Aurie Sonson Aurie Sonson

PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Hon HI 96818

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

*we seniors need a place to exercise, dance
and meet our friends + so for*

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Annelia Tiburcio
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu 96819

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

To come to meet all family
to dance + exercise

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: VIOLETA C. CALPITO

PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Ewa Beach 96706

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

Maalo, I love coming to Lanakila center every its a wonderful place for all us seniors to enjoy ourselves & to help keep us connected & to enjoy all the programs they have to offer for us seniors especially as most of us are widows & live alone. To meet and greet a most of all for relaxation & from time to time - just have fun.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Doris T. MAIKUA
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Hon. HI 96817

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

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Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

*Filipino cultural club
learn how to dance*

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Erinda A. DONGON
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: KANEHOE, 96744

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

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Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

*We ~~have~~ to come here to Dance
with the fellow seniors & have fun*

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Miriam Vargas
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu HI 96819

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

*This center important for seniors
I come here every Saturday joined
Filipino Club. I enjoyed our activities
Dancing and talking stories w/
the fellow seniors (seniors)*

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Ana Rarango
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: 96819

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

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Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

*we come here Daning when the
Senior in taking stories in fun*

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: *Paula Delacruz*
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: _____

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

*meet people, do exercise and dancing
fun and laughter*

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: JULIANA C IRIBA
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu HI 96819

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

I take 5 classes at Lanakila
multipurpose Senior Center. They
are all different so I feel it
helps with my memory, keeps me
healthy & happy!!

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila
Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to
maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Ellen Kishimoto
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu, 96818

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

Mahalo

This is a caring and helpful organization. I have received assistance for many years and the help is needed for others

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: *Paulette Helton* *Paulette Helton*

My City & Zip Code: *Honolulu* *96826*

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

*Funding is very essential for Lanakila Senior Center to continue supporting the many seniors who depend on it for socialization and the activities. It would be very sad if they didn't have any purpose to participate at Lanakila Center. There are, please see that we continue to have sufficient funds so that the center can remain open.
Thank you!*

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: _____

Amy Yano

PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: _____

Honolulu, 96817

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
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Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
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Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

It helps to keep me healthy. It also helps me venture to the many excursions they provide. It's like another ohana as making new friends and sharing ideas. I'm involved with various programs they offer + in doing so met new friends and we socialize even outside of Lanakila.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: LINDA CANINCIA
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: EWA BEACH 96706

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

A place to go to, to continue to be active in:
1) Volunteer work
2) classes
3) exercise
4) socializing
5) trying new things
6) to keep us stronger, healthy & looking forward to another day + living life to the fullest.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Moune E. Bernards

PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Kapolei, HI 96707

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

The center provides a great place to meet and make new friends. There are ~~so~~ many classes to learn new things. For example, since I've been a member, I have a new passion for Japanese Calligraphy.

This is where I get most of my exercising, namely, line dance and stretch & tone.

These occasions also add to the meeting of new friends & visiting places I would never visit on my own.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: _____

Joyce R. Nakamura

PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: _____

Honolulu 96818

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

I wholeheartedly support funding for the Lanakila Multi-purpose Senior Center. As a relatively "introverted" senior, the Center has allowed me to meet and be accepted by a wide variety of members. This is one of the most culturally balanced programs in my extensive experience as an Equal Employment Opportunity Officer (federal).

In addition, the programming is extensive. Music, arts, clubs, a wide variety of physical activities, and numerous service projects allow everyone to find one or more activities to enjoy.

Finally, I owe a debt at the center of pickleball (right after COVID, for finding my new passion. Not only has it helped keep me fit, it has been the source of a large social network. They do great work!

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo. (And kudos to the wonderful staff!!!)

My Name: Lorna J.G. Hu

PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu. 96818

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

Lanakila has provided me with a safe place to live and socialize. Classes make me healthier in mind and body. I love coming to Lanakila where I have many dear friends who enrich my life. Happiness and peace and safety are primary in my life today and this wonderful place provides that. **SUE CHUN-DAKLAND** plays a tremendous part of the positive life to us (and Lanakila). We appreciate that she is on top of all happenings and knows each of us by name. She is a key to the life and success of Lanakila. She is the best asset to Lanakila and her staff as well. Lanakila is my lifeline and I appreciate its existence.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Greta Morioka Greta Morioka
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu Hawaii 96822

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

**RE: IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

a lot of us are 80 + over who retired many years ago + their SS benefits are very little compare to today's economy. Lanakila provides exercise for mind + body to stay healthy which cuts down on expensive medical bills a lot of us catch city Buss.

Please help - Thank you

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: KAREN TAKASAKI

PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: HON 96822

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

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Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

*need a place to exercise
meet with friends and fellow senior citizens*

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: ROBERT HIGUCHI

PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: HONOLULU 96817

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

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Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

It gives seniors a place to meet, share stories,
keep active with exercise, learn ^{new} ~~you~~ skills and
to have fun. It adds joy to our lives.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: SoAnn Higuchi
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu 96817

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
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Committee on Finance (FIN)

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Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

So that we have a place for fun
dancing and enjoy talking to my
fellow seniors.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: EMELITA GUILLERMO
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu HI 96818

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

I like the center because I come here for exercise. ~~It~~ It's good for my health as a senior.
Thank you for funding,

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: ESTRELLA R. PABLO

PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu, HI 96818

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
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Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

*For our Filipino club, exercise and
mingle with friends, dancing and
have fun*

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Leonarda C. Ramirez
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu, Hi. 96817

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

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Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

*To do exercise, dancing and do our
Filipino club,*

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: EVELYN Ambrocio

PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu, HI. 96818

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

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Committee on Finance (FIN)

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Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

I love this place to bring us joy and meet some other seniors, and so we can do some activities like line dance, hula, folk dance to bring joy to committee

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: LILY-M-WEIDMANN
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: 1870-LUSITANA-ST. APT-108
HONOLULU, HI 96813

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

it helps me feel young bonding with co-seniors

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

Tina Lumabao

My Name: Tina Lumabao Tina Lumabao

PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Hawaii 96819

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

It's important to me coz it helps me retain my young memory by bonding with my co-seniors. I learn from seniors who are with different cultures. Dancing, exercising gives me ~~job~~ joy participating in the FCCH.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Beth Siquel
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Hawaii 96819

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

*For the senior, we need the place to do our activities
for exercise, dance, meet our friends.*

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Letty C. Dolor
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Hon. Hi 96815

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

*Seniors need a place to do our
activities, exercises, dancing
Zumba & so more.*

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Estrella Tongpala
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu HI. 96819

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

Why Lanakila Sr. Ctr. important to me?...
I participate in Hula class, Tai chi, and
Fit and Flex.

Made new friends, takes me out of
the house, and I have something to
look forward to. Great people here at

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Lanaki
Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to
maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Jan Pangelina
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Kalihi Valley 96819

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

LMPSC is a wonderful & safe haven for seniors to come together to socialize, learn, exercise, play? It is the main senior hub in Honolulu. Please support funding to continue supporting us seniors? Big Mahalo to the amazing staff and volunteers at LMPSC.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Leila Ishiki

PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu 96813

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

Provide free classes providing lots
of information on health, finances,
benefits, recreation,
Lots of classes on subjects never had
time for when working.
Provide social interaction that keeps
you active and interested.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: SHARILYN NITTA
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu 96816

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

*Lanakila does alot for the seniors.
Free programs where speakers inform^{US} of
how to keep healthly, going on excursions,
safety programs, learning crafts, having
the socialization. So much. So worthwhile
So valuable*

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: SHARON YAMAMOTO

PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: HON 96813

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

Its important to me coz I can meet new friends
socialize, mingle, and especially the line
dance and our polka dance that makes
me happy and exercise my body, mind and
spirit

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Carol A. Orinow
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Kaunoi, Hawaii 96734

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

*This facility is very useful for us senior
Physical fitness as well as mental.*

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Juanita Agustin
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu, Hi 96819

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

*Very important for us senior, join exercises,
socialize with co-senior, develop physical
and mental fitness.*

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Raquel J. Ganti
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu, HI 96819

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

It's important to me because to improve my mind to know all the people and friends I meet every Saturday to learn how to dance line dancing and Filipino folk dancing.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Felipa Baliba
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: 96819, Hon. Hawaii

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

LMPSC is a place where the seniors are able to go to enjoy the many activities offered. go on field trips, social. I learn how to use my phone, computer, etc. with the many educational programs they offer.

Lmpsc is a one stop place to learn, participate, make new friends & have fun.

Without a place like LMPSC, we the Kāwānāis would be only at home and our quality of life would go "down hill" & our life would be sad. Here at the center we feel important & our quality of life is beyond our expectations. Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Diana Kawaguchi
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Kaunā, 96734

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

I come to the center about 5 days a week.
I am so very grateful for the many many programs
and activities offered. Also the excursions give us
opportunities and experiences I wouldn't otherwise
have. I also take exercise classes that make it fun
and affordable. One of the best things is the
chance to socialize which is so important for us
I love Lanakila. ^{Seniors.}

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Julie Anne Tamayori
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu 96817

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

This, the Center, is the only place close to where I live. I come over to the Center every day of ^{the} work week. It is the only place where I can meet people, exercise, and attend classes.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

Carolyn Corrigan

My Name: CAROLYN CORRIGAN

PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu 96817

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

Funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is important to me because it provides a welcoming place for seniors to socialize with other senior citizens. Moreover, there are a variety of activities and classes that we can elect to engage in to keep us active physically and mentally.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Ruby Chan
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu 96817

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

It is very important to me (+ other seniors).
I am at Lanakila at least 3x a week,
where I do fun exercises, learn
many topics (keep my brain alive) & interact
with a lot of nice people. It is
vital to Kipuna's, like me!
end

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Elsie Maruno

PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu, HI 96818

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

Without these types of places the seniors would not get info, and to socialize w/ other seniors

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Patricia K. Obiro

PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu, 96819

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

*I like their program.
I got heather doing exerc like ZUMBA, YOGA,
and brain work with computer, dancing,
thank you for the volunter.*

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: SUMIKO NAKASONO
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu, 96818

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

Attending classes and workshops
is very important to one and all
of us "seniors" to keep us active -
mentally + physically - for our
health, Please keep funding us!

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Gayle Mizulani
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Hon, 96815

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

They provide many & a variety of activities to keep me & many seniors (kupunas) healthy through, socialization, & exercise.

Also, we learn & meet many community resources available for kupunas & also kupunas give back by performing at senior homes.

Also there's intergenerational ^{interaction} connection, when High School ^{students} volunteers at the center to share crafts etc. and future medical students also volunteers at the ctr.

The programs at the City & County of HNC Parks & Recreation are fine but nothing is compared with Lanakila MP Sr Ctr. Lanakila is very consistent with their programs and offer new ones when available.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: TERESA YAMAMOTO

PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: PEARL CITY 96782

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

- 1) provides support to Sr's like myself (friendship, new skills)
- 2) decreases isolation for Sr. who are often home alone
- 3) learn new skills (dancing, painting/drawing, exercises)

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: DEBORAH LEE

PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: HONOLULU 96817

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

Assists/Keeps seniors safe in the center,
spending time w/ fellow seniors, thus enhancing
their lifetime span, and assisting safe in
enriching their lives.

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Virginia S. Rollan L
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Kaneohe 96744

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

To support the Filipino Club & meet
some friends

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Tessie Tabios Tessie Tabios

PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu, HI 96819

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

exercising and learning filipino folk dances!

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: *R Cordero* *Renilda Cordero*
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: *Honolulu, 96819*

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

*Learning
Filipino folk dances*

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: *Carmen Bautista* *Carmen Bautista*
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: *Waiānae 96701*

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

*Bonding with 60 seniors learning by
exercising through the Filipino club*

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: Virgilio Francisco Virgilio Lucas
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: Honolulu, 96819

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance (FIN)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of GIA funding for Catholic Charities Hawaii/
Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Please support GIA funding in the amount of **\$301,272 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center**, a program of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Why is funding for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center important to me:

learning filipino folk dances

Please support the Grant-in-Aid request of Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, so that many seniors, like me, can continue to maintain good health and contribute to our community. Mahalo.

My Name: *Johanna Lucy Ledita Lucas*
PLEASE PRINT

My City & Zip Code: *Honolulu, 96819*



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

SUPPORT FOR HB 1800: RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

TO: House Committee on Finance
FROM: Shellie Niles, Vice President of Mission, Catholic Charities Hawai'i
Hearing: Wednesday, March 11 2026; 10:00 AM; CR 308 or Videoconference

Dear Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of HB 1800**, which adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2025-2027 for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i is a tax-exempt CBO serving more than 40,000 individuals statewide each year. For 78 years, we have provided essential services to children, families, older adults, immigrants, and individuals experiencing homelessness. We also proudly serve as a member of the Hawai'i True Cost Coalition (TCC), representing more than 70 nonprofit organizations serving over 500,000 people statewide.

We strongly support increased funding to the Department of Human Services and the Judiciary to increase contract rates for Community Based Organizations. These contracts have not kept pace with actual service delivery costs. According to the True Cost Coalition:

- Over 90% of nonprofits report contract budgets that fall short of actual operating costs.
- In 2025, 70% of nonprofit respondents reported needing more than \$100,000 annually to close the gap between contract funding and actual costs.
- Program costs have increased 40%, while nonprofit contract funding has only seen minimal or no increases.

When contract rates do not reflect true costs, nonprofit partners are forced to: reduce administrative and program capacity; cut positions or reduce salaries; limit the number of people served; restrict geographic coverage or—most concerning—consider declining or ending contracts for essential programs.

We strongly support funding for the Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (see page 42, line 31) for the Kauhale, Honu and Medical Respite programs. A top priority of the State is ending homelessness. These are critical programs that can rapidly create the housing and services needed to move homeless individuals and families off the streets.

We strongly support \$300,000 in GIA funding to the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center to provide education, recreation, and social services that enable seniors to remain independent in our community



Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of these items in HB 1800. **With rising costs and federal funding uncertainties, these programs are critical to maintain essential services to the most vulnerable populations across our state.**

If you have any questions, please contact our Vice President of Mission, Shellie Niles, at 808-527-4813.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

SUPPORT FOR HB 1800: RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

TO: House Committee on Finance
FROM: Shellie Niles, Vice President of Mission, Catholic Charities Hawai'i
Hearing: Wednesday, March 11 2026; 10:00 AM; CR 308 or Videoconference

Dear Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of HB 1800**, which adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2025-2027 for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i is a tax-exempt CBO serving more than 40,000 individuals statewide each year. For 78 years, we have provided essential services to children, families, older adults, immigrants, and individuals experiencing homelessness. We also proudly serve as a member of the Hawai'i True Cost Coalition (TCC), representing more than 70 nonprofit organizations serving over 500,000 people statewide.

We strongly support increased funding to the Department of Human Services and the Judiciary to increase contract rates for Community Based Organizations. These contracts have not kept pace with actual service delivery costs. According to the True Cost Coalition:

- Over 90% of nonprofits report contract budgets that fall short of actual operating costs.
- In 2025, 70% of nonprofit respondents reported needing more than \$100,000 annually to close the gap between contract funding and actual costs.
- Program costs have increased 40%, while nonprofit contract funding has only seen minimal or no increases.

When contract rates do not reflect true costs, nonprofit partners are forced to: reduce administrative and program capacity; cut positions or reduce salaries; limit the number of people served; restrict geographic coverage or—most concerning—consider declining or ending contracts for essential programs.

We strongly support funding for the Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (see page 42, line 31) for the Kauhale, Honu and Medical Respite programs. A top priority of the State is ending homelessness. These are critical programs that can rapidly create the housing and services needed to move homeless individuals and families off the streets.

We strongly support \$300,000 in GIA funding to the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center to provide education, recreation, and social services that enable seniors to remain independent in our community



Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of these items in HB 1800. **With rising costs and federal funding uncertainties, these programs are critical to maintain essential services to the most vulnerable populations across our state.**

If you have any questions, please contact our Vice President of Mission, Shellie Niles, at 808-527-4813.



Kamehameha Schools®

House Committee on Finance

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2026

Where: Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY

By Jack Wong, Chief Executive Officer
Kamehameha Schools

RE: **HB 1800, Relating to the State Budget**

Aloha e ka Luna Ho‘omalua Todd ka Hope Luna Ho‘omalua Takenouchi a me nā lālā o ke Kōmike.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide **comments on HB 1800**. Our testimony focuses on and supports the restoration and long-term recovery of Lahaina.

Lahaina holds deep cultural, historical, and community significance for the people of Hawai‘i.

As an educational institution committed to the success of Hawai‘i’s students and communities, we support thoughtful investments that contribute to the rebuilding of Lahaina in ways that strengthen both education and community resilience. Recovery efforts that restore educational spaces, cultural learning environments, and community infrastructure are essential to ensuring that students and families can continue to learn, grow, and thrive.

Equally important is the careful stewardship and restoration of the land and surrounding environment. Efforts that support the restoration of ‘āina and the protection of Lahaina’s cultural and historical legacy will help create opportunities for place-based learning and reinforce the strong connection between community, culture, and education.

Rebuilding Lahaina is not only about restoring structures, but about restoring the community foundations that support learning, cultural practice, and the well-being of future generations. We support the State’s continued commitment to recovery efforts that uplift residents and respect the significance of Lahaina.

Mahalo for your leadership and continued commitment to the recovery and future of Lahaina.

Founded in 1887 through the Will of Ke Ali‘i Bernice Pauahi Pākī Bishop, Ke Kula ‘o Kamehameha is a private, educational, charitable trust committed to empowering Native Hawaiians in perpetuity by improving the well-being of our people through education. We envision our haumāna, strong in E Ola!, grounded in Hawaiian and Christian values, succeeding in post-secondary education and contributing through ‘ōiwi leadership to a thriving and self-determined lāhui.



Hawai‘i Unites is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation and protection of our environment and natural resources. We are opposed to allocating funds through the State of Hawai‘i Executive Budget bill [HB1800](#) for *Wolbachia*-bacteria-infected mosquito release experiments on Maui and Kaua‘i and for expansion of statewide lab-altered mosquito releases for conservation narratives and public health narratives. [The DLNR’s FY 2027 Supplemental Budget Briefing Presentation](#)¹ includes this statement in reference to DOFAW LNR 102, LNR 172, LNR 402, LNR 407, and LNR 804:

“Innovative management strategies are essential to prevent the imminent extinction of several of Hawaii’s endangered forest birds, which face threats from climate change-driven mosquito range expansion and the subsequent transmission of avian malaria.”

Current “innovative management strategies” in use by the DLNR and their *Birds, Not Mosquitoes* agency partners include the release of millions of *Wolbachia*-bacteria-infected mosquitoes on our fragile ecosystems on Maui and Kaua‘i. No studies have been done on the potential significant impacts of these projects or on the serious risks to the health of our islands’ people, wildlife, and ‘āina. No environmental impact statement (EIS) has been completed for any island. Hawai‘i Unites’ [court case](#)² to stop the mosquito releases on Maui and require an EIS brought forth several significant concerns, including:

- Accidental release of female mosquitoes that bite, breed, and spread disease ([EPA guidelines](#)³ allow for the release of one female for every 250,000 males; just one female released can produce 160,000 more females through breeding of the generations in her lifespan; 3,103 females are allowed to be released weekly on [Maui](#)⁴ – up to 6,000 mosquitoes released twice weekly per acre in the 64,666-acre project area: $6,000 \times 2 \times 64,666 = 775,992,000$ mosquitoes divided by 250,000 equals 3,103 females weekly)
- Peer-reviewed studies showing *Wolbachia* bacteria can cause [increased pathogen infection](#)⁵ and [disease-spreading capability](#)^{5,6} in mosquitoes
- [Horizontal transmission](#)⁷ of *Wolbachia* bacteria to wild mosquitoes and other insect vectors of disease
- Population replacement of wild mosquitoes with lab-altered mosquitoes (as few as [three females released](#)⁸ can cause population replacement)
- Wind drift of released mosquitoes to unintended areas
- Lack of documented biosecurity protocols and pathogen screenings for the imported mosquitoes
- Risks to the health of people and animals, and the potential for the plan to cause the extinction of the native birds it is meant to protect

Tropical disease and vector expert Dr. Lorrin Pang [testified](#)⁹ as an expert witness in our [case](#)¹⁰ and affirmed that this mosquito experiment has not been studied enough for the State of Hawai‘i and its agency partners to move forward. Dr. Pang has decades of experience as a leader in mitigating mosquito-borne diseases. He has authored over 75 publications in peer-reviewed medical journals, over 40 of which are focused specifically on mosquito-borne illnesses.



The mosquitoes currently being released in the millions on Maui and Kaua‘i are experimental. Southern house mosquitoes lab-infected with *Wolbachia* bacteria have never been documented as used for stand-alone field release anywhere in the world. The 64,666-acre East Maui project area is the largest *Wolbachia* mosquito release of any kind globally to date, and Kaua‘i’s 59,204-acre project area is the second largest.

Alarming, the *Birds, Not Mosquitoes* (BNM) agency partners releasing these lab-altered mosquitoes have admitted in their [Kaua‘i EA](#)¹¹ that the plan does not even include monitoring the effects of the experimental mosquitoes on forest birds:

“Monitoring the response of forests bird to mosquito suppression via the Incompatible Insect Technique (IIT) mosquito control is outside the scope of the proposed action of this EA.”

Mass release of these mosquitoes began on Maui in November 2023. The DLNR and their partnering agencies have produced no data on the results of these mosquito releases. There has been no indication that the plan is even working for its intended purpose (reduction of wild southern house mosquito populations, reduction of avian malaria transmission, conservation of threatened and endangered honeycreeper forest bird populations). Deviations from the approved plan have also been occurring since the initial phase of this program. Mosquitoes are being released by helicopter rather than by drone, exacerbating concerns about noise disturbances, disruptions to wildlife habitat, and the potential for collisions, accidents, and wildland fires. The helicopter longline release system described in the environmental assessment is not the system being used, and helicopters appear to be flying closer to the tree canopy than the approved distance, increasing the potential for adverse impacts.

As of February 2025, mosquitoes are now also being mass released on Kaua‘i. Additionally, aerial spraying of Bti larvicide on Maui and Kaua‘i in combination with the aerial release of bacteria-infected mosquitoes is now occurring. This combination of products is not part of the approved plans, and no studies have been done on the impacts of these activities to our environment. The agencies involved have not addressed concerns about potential data falsification due to the use of two different mosquito suppression products within each project area.

The State of Hawai‘i Department of Health (HDOH) is a partner in the *Birds, Not Mosquitoes* (BNM) multi-agency partnership that has been releasing these mosquitoes on Maui and Kaua‘i. The BNM partnership [announced](#) in its most recent newsletter that an HDOH statewide environmental assessment (EA) will be published early this year. The BNM website confirms that the [statewide](#) phase of the avian malaria mosquito program is being planned and that the HDOH is preparing the statewide EA in cooperation with BNM partner the State of Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). The plan is to expand the programs to all



islands, releasing not only mosquitoes for the avian malaria narrative but also mosquitoes for a human disease narrative.

The DLNR's [final EA](#)⁴ for the Maui avian malaria mosquito releases states that ground release of mosquitoes using cars, trucks, or ATVs is being planned and that, similar to the proposed action for the avian malaria project, "the regulatory path to obtain approval is defined and approvals are in place to use the approach to control mosquitoes of public health concern."

On 6/28/22, the State of Hawai'i Board of Agriculture (HBOA, currently referred to as BAB) [approved](#)¹² the addition of three mosquito species to the List of Restricted Animals, Part A: for Research and Exhibition. These three mosquito species are:

- the Southern House Mosquito (*Culex quinquefasciatus*), which transmits avian malaria parasitic disease to birds and West Nile virus to both birds and humans; transmits elephantiasis, St. Louis encephalitis, and Western equine encephalitis to humans; is a potential vector of Zika virus; and transmits avian pox and heartworm;
- the Asian Tiger Mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*), which transmits dengue fever, chikungunya, and Zika virus to humans; and
- the Yellow Fever Mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*), which transmits dengue fever, chikungunya, Zika virus, and yellow fever to humans.

The [Hawai'i Department of Health's Senate Ways and Means Committee Budget Presentation](#)¹³ references "protocols that more aggressively respond to imported cases of arboviruses such as dengue or zika" under Environmental Health Administration. If the HDOH moves forward with publishing a statewide EA, the State of Hawai'i Department of Health will become the lead agency for all programs releasing lab-altered mosquitoes on all islands. The HDOH Director of Health has not yet responded to the following [questions from the community](#)¹⁴ sent by our organization on February 13, 2026:

- What islands are being targeted for release of mosquitoes for the avian malaria program?
- What specific mosquitoes would be released "to control mosquitoes of public health concern" (what is the biopesticide product name, and what species are the mosquitoes)?
- Where would mosquitoes be released "to control mosquitoes of public health concern" (what islands and what areas on each island)?
- How would mosquitoes be released "to control mosquitoes of public health concern" (what release mechanisms would be used, and would they be released from vehicles, drones, helicopters, and/or on foot)?
- What specific public health concerns would be used to justify mosquito releases (which diseases and what circumstances)?
- Who would fund the HDOH mosquito release program "to control mosquitoes of public health concern"?
- Who would be the HDOH's partners in the mosquito release program "to control mosquitoes of public health concern"?



- How would the HDOH mosquito releases (avian malaria and human disease) align with the “One Health” framework promoted by the World Economic Forum, World Health Organization, Gates Foundation, and your *Birds, Not Mosquitoes* multi-agency partnership?
- Will the HDOH take responsibility for all risks associated with the import of mosquitoes as invasive species?
- Will the HDOH take responsibility for all risks associated with the accidental or intentional release of female mosquitoes that bite, breed, and spread disease?
- Will the HDOH take responsibility for horizontal transmission of bacteria, increased pathogen infection and disease-transmitting capability in mosquitoes, and population replacement?
- How will the HDOH prevent wind drift of mosquitoes to unintended areas?
- What pathogens will the HDOH’s imported mosquitoes be screened for?
- How will the HDOH assure that imported mosquitoes don’t transmit bacteria and/or pathogens to wild mosquitoes?
- What are the biosecurity protocols for the HDOH’s imported lab-bred mosquitoes?
- What mitigation measures does the HDOH have in place for the imported mosquitoes if something goes wrong?
- Mosquitoes have a history of use in biological warfare programs. How will the HDOH assure that imported mosquitoes will not be used as bioweapons and/or in acts of bioterrorism?
- Does the HDOH statewide EA allow for the sale of lab-bred mosquitoes directly to consumers in Hawai‘i?
- HDOH’s BNM partners have stated their intention to [expand](#)^{15,16} the mosquito release programs to include “next-generation tools” such as mosquito gene drives and precision-guided Sterile Insect Technique (pgSIT) CRISPR gene-edited mosquitoes, along with the production of mosquitoes in the [DLNR’s Hawai‘i lab](#)¹⁶ and release of mosquitoes on the islands “into perpetuity” (forever). Does the HDOH support these goals, and will the statewide EA open the door for these specific objectives?

Over two years into the BNM mosquito release programs and with no data or safety studies produced publicly to date, HDOH cannot expect the people of Hawai‘i to trust the BNM partnership to drastically expand the mosquito releases – covering all islands and focused not only on avian malaria but now also on human disease.

No studies have been done to evaluate the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of these mosquito releases. Lab-altered mosquitoes, and the bacteria that *Wolbachia* lab-altered mosquitoes are infected with, are life forms, and there is no way for these experimental projects to be self-contained. Mass release of these foreign organisms could negatively impact human health, animal health, and the environment as a whole. These imported mosquitoes may even cause the extinction of endangered species these BNM agencies are responsible for protecting.



Hawai‘i Unites strongly opposes the exploitative use of sacred lands of the Hawaiian Islands as testing grounds for the profit-motivated biotech industry to execute these open-air lab-altered mosquito experiments. The people of Hawai‘i are overwhelmingly opposed to this reckless agenda, and we will continue speaking out to protect the health of these islands.

We ask that the legislature amend bill [HB1800](#) to remove any State of Hawai‘i Executive Budget funding allocations for programs and/or projects that include the release of *Wolbachia*-bacteria-infected mosquitoes and/or lab-altered mosquitoes of any kind on any island. All mosquito control efforts and funding must focus on more environmentally sound approaches like habitat and stream flow restoration for conservation and public health approaches that focus on community education and source reduction through elimination of standing water breeding sites.

Mahalo,
Tina Lia
Founder
Hawai‘i Unites
HawaiiUnites.org

References

1. State of Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources FY 2027 Supplemental Budget Briefing Presentation
https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2026/testimony/Info_Testimony_WAM_01-13-26_LNR.pdf
2. Hawaii Unites and Tina Lia v. Board of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawai‘i, and Department of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawai‘i (5/8/23)
https://hawaiiunites.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023_0508_Hawaii_Unites_and_Lia_v_BLNR_and_DLNR.pdf
3. EPA Emerging Mosquito Control Technologies
<https://www.epa.gov/regulation-biotechnology-under-tsca-and-fifra/emerging-mosquito-control-technologies>
DLNR HDOA Request to Import Southern House Mosquitoes for Immediate Field Release (6/9/22)
<https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/DLNR-Culex-quinquefasciatus-PA-All-Docs.pdf>
“There is an EPA reviewed value of 1 female release per 250,000 males with the MosquitoMate product. A similar value is likely to be estimated for *Culex quinquefasciatus* given that similar automation, engineering and machine learning technology is being applied to sex sorting.”



4. Final Environmental Assessment: Suppression of Invasive Mosquito Populations to Reduce Transmission of Avian Malaria to Threatened and Endangered Forest Birds on East Maui EA-FONSI (4/8/23)
https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/Doc_Library/2023-04-08-MA-FEA-Suppression-of-Mosquitoes-on-East-Maui.pdf
“The project area includes approximately 64,666 acres...”
“Based on current estimates, we expect to release between 50 and 6,000 incompatible mosquitoes per acre per treatment (which would occur up to twice per week) depending on elevation and local temperature and capture data gathered during monitoring.”
5. “*Wolbachia* Can Enhance *Plasmodium* Infection in Mosquitoes: Implications for Malaria Control?” – Grant L. Hughes, Ana Rivero, Jason L. Rasgon (PLOS Pathogens, 9/4/14)
<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4154766/>
6. “*Wolbachia* Enhances West Nile Virus (WNV) Infection in the Mosquito *Culex tarsalis*” – Brittany L. Dodson, Grant L. Hughes, Oluwatobi Paul, Amy C. Matarachiero, Laura D. Kramer, Jason L. Rasgon (PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases, 7/10/14)
<https://journals.plos.org/plosntds/article?id=10.1371/journal.pntd.0002965>
7. “*Wolbachia* infection in wild mosquitoes (Diptera: Culicidae): implications for transmission modes and host-endosymbiont associations in Singapore” – Huicong Ding, Huiqing Yeo, Nalini Puniamoorthy (BMC, 12/9/20)
<https://parasitesandvectors.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13071-020-04466-8>
“*Wolbachia* Horizontal Transmission Events in Ants: What Do We Know and What Can We Learn?” – Sarah J. A. Tolley, Peter Nonacs, Panagiotis Sapountzis (Frontiers in Microbiology, 03/06/19)
<https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/microbiology/articles/10.3389/fmicb.2019.00296/full>
“The Intracellular Bacterium *Wolbachia* Uses Parasitoid Wasps as Phoretic Vectors for Efficient Horizontal Transmission” – Muhammad Z. Ahmed, Shao-Jian Li, Xia Xue, Xiang-Jie Yin, Shun-Xiang Ren, Francis M. Jiggins, Jaco M. Greeff, Bao-Li Qiu (National Center for Biotechnology Information, National Library of Medicine, 02/12/15)
<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4347858/>
8. “*Wolbachia*-mediated sterility suppresses *Aedes aegypti* populations in the urban tropics” – The Project Wolbachia – Singapore Consortium, Ng Lee Ching (medRxiv, 6/17/21)
<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.06.16.21257922v1.full>
9. Transcript of Hearing 7/21/23: Plaintiffs’ Motion for Temporary Restraining Order and Preliminary Injunction
<https://hawaiiunites.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/HIUnitesvBLNR072123Audio.pdf>



10. Plaintiffs' Motion for Temporary Restraining Order and Preliminary Injunction (6/20/23)
https://hawaiiunites.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/2023_0620_Hawaii_Unites_and_Lia_v_BLNR_and_DLNR_Plaintiffs_Motion_for_TRO_Preliminary_Injunction_Filed_All_Documents.pdf
11. Final Environmental Assessment for Use of *Wolbachia*-based Incompatible Insect Technique for the Suppression of Non-native Southern House Mosquito Populations on Kaua'i EA-FONSI (10/13/23)
https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/Doc_Library/2023-10-23-KA-FEA-Wolbachia-based-Suppression-of-Mosquitoes-on-Kauai.pdf
"Monitoring of birds is beyond the scope of this EA."
12. Minutes of the Board of Agriculture (6/28/22): Approval of the Board of Agriculture's Proposed Order Amending Chapter 4-71, Hawaii Administrative Rules, "Non-Domestic Animal Import Rules," to add the Asian Tiger Mosquito, *Aedes albopictus*, Yellow Fever Mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*, and the Southern House Mosquito, *Culex quinquefasciatus*, to the List of Restricted Animals, Part A, Pursuant to HAR §4-71-4.2 for the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources and Hawaii Department of Health
<https://dab.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/2022-06-28-BOA-Minutes-Final.pdf>
13. State of Hawai'i Department of Health Senate Ways and Means Committee Budget Presentation
https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2026/testimony/Info_Testimony_WAM_01-15-26_HTH.pdf
14. Letter Sent by Hawai'i Unites to Dr. Kenneth Fink, Director of Health, State of Hawai'i Department of Health: Regarding HDOH Planned Statewide Release of Lab-Altered Mosquitoes (2/13/26)
https://hawaiiunites.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/2026_0213_Hawaii_Unites_HDOH_Dr._Kenneth_Fink.pdf
15. U.S. Department of the Interior Strategy for Preventing the Extinction of Hawaiian Forest Birds (12/15/22)
<https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/DOI%20Strategy%20for%20Preventing%20the%20Extinction%20of%20Hawaiian%20Forest%20Birds%20%28508%29.pdf>
"Although IIT is considered the technique most likely to control mosquitoes using available technology, more effective tools are on the horizon that may be developed to help in the conservation of Hawaiian species. Examples of these new tools could include gene drives, precision-guided Sterile Insect Technique, and improving malaria resistance in birds."
16. "Hawaiian Forest Bird Conservation Strategies for Minimizing the Risk of Extinction: Biological and Biocultural Considerations" – Eben H. Paxton, Megan Laut, Stanton



Enomoto, Michelle Bogardus (USGS, UH Hilo, April 2022)
(Technical Report HCSU-103: Appendix VI. Wolbachia IIT Implementation Outline, pages 80-85)

<https://dspace.lib.hawaii.edu/server/api/core/bitstreams/8b60e14e-0935-4b61-8339-4107fce3ce91/content>

“While this genetic Sterile Insect Technique is being developed currently in Hawai‘i’s *Culex*, it may be some time before regulatory and public sentiment shift in this direction. This timeline also depicts a long-term buildout of the DLNR insectary.”

“The state has been funded to develop a small-scale insectary that will be equipped with a containment biobubble to maintain tool efficacy and meet both federal and state permitting requirements regarding an Arthropod Safety Level 2 (ASL-2) facility.”

“Option 5: University of California San Diego (UCSD) precision-guided sterile insect technique (pgSIT) developed, Production by Hawaii DLNR”

“It’s important to note that additional sterile insect technique tools (i.e., Genetic pgSIT) are simultaneously being developed. A *Culex* pgSIT Hawai‘i line is in development at UCSD and is projected to be completed in 2023. The probability of developing a usable Hawai‘i pgSIT line is high; however, genetically engineered mosquito field trials have not been initiated in the United States to date, although some are under review for public health.”

“It is also important to note that current research and development proposals for tool development do not include funding for the application and continued monitoring that would be needed to ensure success of an IIT program into perpetuity.”



**Care for 'Āina Now Coalition Letter
 HB1949: Relating To The Green Fee
 In support of Community Grant Program for Hawai'i Green Fee**

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, Members of the Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB1800 on behalf of the Care for 'Āina Now (CAN) coalition.

Care for 'Āina Now is a diverse coalition of more than 70 organizations, businesses, and community leaders from across Hawai'i dedicated to protecting, restoring, and responsibly managing Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources. CAN advocates for dedicated funding to support 'āina stewardship, climate change resilience, and natural disaster mitigation, with a strong focus on ensuring Green Fee revenues are used appropriately, transparently, and in alignment with community and environmental priorities.

The proposed green fee projects in HB1800 are informed by the recommendations of the Green Fee Advisory Council, which integrates over 600+ proposals from community groups across the pae 'āina. These priorities include coral restoration, protecting land and aquatic resources, preserving native species, reducing wildfire and flood risks, strengthening infrastructure, supporting destination management, and improving parks and beaches. These projects represent a strong, diverse, and effective portfolio of work to meet our climate, sustainability, and stewardship goals intended by Act 96.

We urge the Legislature to support the Project Recommendations, and work with state agencies to encourage strong community leadership and comanagement to fulfill these ambitious and important priorities. This funding is transformational for what we can accomplish as a climate leader setting precedent across the nation, and we hope that collaboration between community-based organizations and state agencies is an instrumental piece of how this process operates in practice.



Care for 'Āina Now coalition respectfully urges the committee to pass HB1800 and move this measure forward. We are grateful to the House for their leadership in this process, and welcome ways to support as a long-standing coalition of conservation community leaders.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

These community groups, organizations and businesses support funding for 'āina, resilience, restoration, protection, management, and stewardship solutions for the communities of Hawai'i.

1. Agripelago
2. Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i
3. Blue Planet Foundation
4. Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory
5. Care About Climate
6. Citizens' Climate Lobby Hawai'i
7. Climate Future Forum
8. Conservation Council for Hawai'i
9. Conservation International
10. Conservation Council of Hawai'i
11. Coral Reef Alliance
12. Delphi Cinema
13. Excurinsure
14. Everblue
15. Fish Pono–Save Our Reefs
16. Friends of Hanauma Bay
17. Full Circle Farm
18. FutureSwell
19. Global Preservation Initiative
20. Good Food Movement



21. Hanalei Initiative
22. Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA)
23. Hawai'i Alliance for Community Based Economic Development (HACBED)
24. Hawaiian Council
25. Hawai'i Environmental Change Agents
26. Hawai'i Green Growth
27. Hawai'i Impact Collaborative
28. Hawai'i Land Trust
29. Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition
30. Hawai'i Wildlife Fund
31. Hawai'i Youth Climate Coalition
32. Ka'ala Farms
33. Kailua Beach Adventures
34. Kauai Climate Action Coalition
35. Kauai Farm Planning
36. Kanu Hawai'i
37. Kingdom Pathways
38. Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (KUA)
39. Kuleana Coral Restoration
40. Kupu
41. Limahuli Garden and Preserve
42. Leftover Love Co
43. Mālama Huleia
44. Mālama Learning Center
45. Mālama Maunaloa
46. Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea
47. Maui Bicycling League
48. Maui Ocean Center
49. Maui Ocean Center Marine Institute
50. National Tropical Botanical Garden



51. Native Ecosystem Services
52. The Nature Conservancy
53. North Shore Community Land Trust
54. Ocean Music Action
55. Palehua Conservation Initiative
56. Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project
57. Parley for the Oceans
58. Pono Hawai'i Initiative
59. Protea Zero Waste Store
60. Resources Legacy Fund
61. Reuse Hawai'i
62. Surfrider Foundation Hawai'i Chapters
63. Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i
64. Sustainable Moloka'i
65. Travel2Change
66. Trust for Public Land
67. Wai'oli Valley Taro Hui
68. Waipā Foundation
69. Wakeful State
70. Wastewater Alternatives & Innovations (WAI)
71. Wild Kids
72. Young Progressives Demanding Action
73. Zero Waste Hawai'i Island

Mahalo for your consideration to protect Hawai'i's natural resources.



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March 11, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate, and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau respectfully submits testimony in support of HB 1800, with a request for funding allocations that will support Hawai'i's agricultural industry.

Hawaii's agricultural industry faces increasing challenges, including high operational costs, labor shortages, and climate-related disruptions. Strategic investments in infrastructure, research, and economic support programs are essential to ensure the viability of local agriculture production, reduce import dependency, and enhance the state's overall food security.

HFB respectfully requests the inclusion of the following HFB funding priorities in the state budget:

AGR 192: \$100,000 to establish a Grant Specialist Position within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to assist farmers and ranchers in applying for, obtaining, and fulfilling the requirements of grants offered by the United States Department of Agriculture, State, counties, or private entities.

BED 170: \$5 million for the Waiahole Water System: The Waiahole Water System serves over 5,600 acres of agricultural land on O'ahu, providing critical irrigation for diversified farming operations. This funding request seeks to pay off the bond debt service on the system. Continued operation and maintenance of this system are necessary for long-term agricultural viability in Central and Leeward O'ahu.

UH 100: \$5 million for the CTAHR Agricultural Research and Extension Station (CARES) in Kaua'i: As part of a statewide network of agricultural experimental stations, the Kaua'i facility plays a key role in agricultural research and farmer education. It supports research-based solutions to pest, disease, and climate adaptation challenges in the production of coffee, cacao, orchids, vegetables, forages, and goats. Unfortunately, many of the station's facilities are deteriorating and need repair. Without modernization, the station's ability to support Hawai'i's agricultural community will be severely limited. Upgrading critical infrastructure will enhance research opportunities, attract external funding, and improve outreach to local farmers and ranchers.

UH 100: \$1.5 million for planning and design of a new Center on Biosecurity Research, Education, and Extension (CoBREE) at CTAHR that will develop and implement innovative solutions for detecting, monitoring, eradicating, and managing invasive species.

AGR 192: \$2 million for the Farm to Families Program: Hawai'i faces persistent food security challenges, with many families experiencing limited access to fresh, locally grown food. At the same time, local farmers and ranchers struggle with unpredictable markets and barriers to expanding food distribution. The Farm to Families program presents a win-win solution by linking local food production with communities in need, ensuring that Hawai'i's agricultural products are used to feed Hawai'i's people.

We appreciate the committee's consideration of these critical funding requests.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



Maui Hotel & Lodging
ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Chris Todd, Chair

Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

March 10, 2026

Testimony in Support of HB1800

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Finance Committee,

The Maui Hotel and Lodging Association respectfully submits testimony in **strong support** of HB1800 and the inclusion of the full Green Fee project portfolio in the State Budget. These investments are essential to protecting Hawai'i's natural resources, strengthening climate resilience, and ensuring that the places that sustain our communities and visitors are properly cared for.

The Green Fee portfolio represents a responsible approach to funding conservation, watershed protection, and environmental stewardship across the islands. Supporting these projects will help preserve Hawai'i's unique ecosystems, safeguard water resources, and sustain the natural beauty that is vital to our communities and economy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your continued commitment to protecting Hawai'i's environment.

Sincerely,

John Pele

Executive Director- Maui Hotel and Lodging Association



Maui Hotel & Lodging
ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Chris Todd, Chair

Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

March 10, 2026

Testimony in Support of HB1800

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Sincerely,

John Pele

Executive Director- Maui Hotel and Lodging Association

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Commenting on HB1800, Relating to the State Budget
Committee on Finance
March 11, 2026 at 10:00 am
Conference Room 308 and via Videoconference**

Dear Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify today. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Hawai'i and Palmyra respectfully provides the following comments on HB1800, which adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2025-2027 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

The environmental appropriations in HB1800 move Hawai'i toward a more resilient future by supporting work that reduces wildfire risk, protects coastal communities, strengthens fisheries and reefs, and maintains the long-term health of our forests and watersheds. These investments are ecological and economic in equal measure. Declining reefs weaken fisheries, degraded forests increase the cost of securing water, and worsening wildfires drive up the extraordinary costs of emergency response and recovery.

The Governor's green fee-related budget requests include major investments that align with urgent statewide needs and directly overlap with the on-the-ground conservation work that others, like TNC and our partners are focused on every day. These include:

- *Native Species and Terrestrial Ecosystems:*
This subcategory of requests would fund a number of critical actions to restore the forests, grasslands and support communities across Hawai'i. By investing in watershed protection and partnerships, this funding would ensure that we can act now to remove the ungulates that decimate our landscape, control dangerous invasive species, and continue the everyday work we need to restore our native forest and fight against forest-bird extinction. TNC and our partners are already leading work like this across the main Hawaiian Islands, including at the 84,000 acres TNC manages on Kaua'i (Wainiha Valley and Kanaele Bog), Moloka'i (Kamakou, Pelekunu and Mo'omomi), Lāna'i (Kānepu'u), Maui (Waikamoi and Kapunakea) and Hawai'i Island (Kona Hema and Ka'ū). However, additional, sustained investment is direly needed to protect the functions of our forests and watersheds.
- *Aquatic Resources and Coastal Ecosystems:*
This subcategory of request would help steward the long-term sustainability and health of our aquatic resources, including reefs, fisheries, wetlands, and nearshore ecosystems. Investments in coral nurseries, reef restoration, hybrid reef structures, marine debris removal, and comprehensive monitoring of coral reefs, water quality, and fisheries align with work that TNC and partners carry out across the islands. Strengthening loko i'a resilience, restoring nearshore habitats, and supporting the

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revival of traditional aquaculture systems are crucial for reinforcing mauka-to-makai connections and community-based stewardship. Together, these efforts improve ecosystems health and protect the coastal communities, cultural practices, and food systems that depend on them.

- *Wildfire Mitigation:*

This subcategory of request would support critical work to reduce wildfire risk and build community resilience statewide. By investing in vegetation management, climate-hazard modeling, and Firewise community preparedness, the State can directly address the conditions that fuel extreme fire behavior in Hawai'i. TNC has worked to restore native vegetation, remove ungulates, and pilot innovative post-fire recovery.

- *Coastal and Flood Mitigation*

This subcategory of request would strengthen the nature-based systems that protect our coastlines and waterways. Wetlands that absorb floodwaters, reefs that reduce wave energy, and ahupua'a restoration that improves interconnectedness all provide powerful defenses for communities of Hawai'i. With sea level rise, king-tide events, and shoreline erosion, these defenses need consistent funding to remain effective.

Additionally, we are concerned about the exclusion of Watershed Protection and Initiatives within the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Native forests supply the vast majority of our fresh water, yet only 22% of priority watershed acres are currently protected. The State's Watershed Initiative is committed to protecting 30% priority watersheds by 2030, and FY27 CIP funding is necessary to stay on track. This initiative has a proven track record of delivering large returns; past State watershed CIPs have leveraged more than \$80 million in non-State funding since FY13. Without restoring this CIP line, Hawai'i risks falling behind in water-security commitments, losing federal matching funds, and allowing invasive species and ungulates to accelerate forest decline.

HB1800 represents meaningful progress toward funding the environmental systems that make life in Hawai'i possible. Supporting green fee-related funding and restoring the Watershed CIP request would further strengthen this budget, ensuring that we continue to protect the forests that feed our aquifers, the reefs that protect our shorelines, and the ecosystems that sustain communities across the pae 'āina.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on HB1800.

Guided by science, TNC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 84,000 acres in 13 nature preserves and 18 managed areas and have supported over 50 coastal communities to help protect and restore the nearshore reefs and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands.



Parents And Children Together

BUILDING THE RELATIONSHIPS
THAT MATTER MOST

ParentsAndChildrenTogether.org

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1800 RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

TO: Chair Todd, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, & Members,
House Committee on Finance
FROM: Trisha Kajimura, Vice-President of Strategy and External Affairs
DATE: March 11, 2026 at 10:00 AM

Parents and Children Together (PACT) supports HB 1800 Relating to the State Budget as a member of the Hawai'i True Cost Coalition – over 80 community-based non-profit organizations fighting to sustain essential social services for our communities and as an organization concerned about our community, especially those struggling with systemic inequities.

Founded in 1968, PACT is a statewide community-based organization providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 18,000 people across the state annually, we help identify, address, and successfully resolve challenges through our 20 programs. Among our services are early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, childhood sexual abuse supportive group services, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, poverty prevention and community building programs.

Service providers work under the most challenging circumstances and must have specific skills to both engage individuals and navigate complex systems. They must be supported by high-quality organizations that are adequately resourced and sustainable. Unfortunately, as non-profit providers contracted by the state to provide social services, we find ourselves caught in contracts that do not cover operating costs. Contract terms that were manageable 10 years ago are now putting our organization at risk. The growing gap and fundraising burden have become untenable, and we need your assistance with making change.

Increasing funding for essential programs that support and empower children, individuals and families as they navigate challenges in their lives is necessary to help meet their increasingly complex needs for safety and security. Now is the time to invest in services that help people in vulnerable situations attain safety, economic security and good health. The social safety net needs your robust support.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or tkajimura@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 9:00:57 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawaii strongly support using green fee funds to resource community-based organizations leading stewardship efforts across Hawai‘i. State agencies should partner with organizations through contracts, grants, and other financial mechanisms to promote a collaborative and comanagement model for project success. It is critical to use green fee funds to eliminate the cesspools that endanger public health and harm the coral reefs that support our economy, fisheries, and shoreline. Also critical to use green fees to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and sequester carbon .

We urge the Legislature to support the Project Recommendations, and work with state agencies to encourage strong community leadership and comanagement to fulfill these ambitious and important priorities.

Please pass HB1800!



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice-Chair
Members, House Committee on Finance

From: Jason C. Chang, President & Chief Executive Officer, The Queen's Health Systems
Jace S. Mikulanec, Director, Government Relations, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: March 11, 2026

Re: Support of HB1800 – Relating to the State Budget (Outpatient Care Center – HHSC)

The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's) is a nonprofit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, and more than 10,000 affiliated physicians, caregivers, and dedicated medical staff statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to testify in **support** of HB1800, and humbly asks for your favorable consideration to support the \$50 million dollar appropriation to the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation for planning, design, and construction of a new outpatient care center in North Kona on the Island of Hawai'i. We are honored to be working alongside our colleagues on Hawai'i Island to bring to fruition a new, state-of-the-art medical campus to provide needed medical services to the Kona, and surrounding, communities.

In December of 2025, Queen's and HHSC signed an agreement to jointly develop an Outpatient Care Center in Kona that will house clinical services and office space, as well as ensure continuity of care for patients throughout the community. Under this collaboration, Queen's will donate approximately five acres of land to HHSC's West Hawaii Region as the future site of a 50,000-square-foot medical facility adjacent to the new hospital that Queen's plans to construct.

This effort represents a unique opportunity to expand health care access for a growing community through a shared investment between the state and Queen's. The new Center will provide a seamless transition between inpatient and outpatient care, while creating a one-stop hub for primary and specialty care services that will reduce wait and travel times for patients. The construction of the facility is expected to create jobs and, once completed, will enhance West Hawaii Region's ability to attract and retain providers at a time when the community is facing a critical physician shortage. Hawai'i Island patients have already begun seeing the benefit of our collaboration with HHSC, as Queen's surgeons are currently rotating at Kona Community Hospital.

The mission of The Queen's Health System is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.

We are grateful to the Legislature and Governor Josh Green for your support of this project. We look forward to deepening our relationship with the Kona community and Hawai'i Island through this project.

Mahalo for allowing Queen's to provide testimony in support of HB1800.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 9:21:43 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Seikai Darcy	Share Your Mana	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

As a member of HI True Cost Coalition, it is with pleasure to offer support of HB 1800 to increase the funding for nonprofits and agencies which are experiencing operational cost increases necessary to continue the same level of support to our already overburdened structures. This Coalition is dedicated to a wide range of supports in the state and remains focused on maintaining health and safety for countless residents.

Please continue to support those who do so much selfless and underappreciated work, who value consistency. Some financial adjustments are more flexible than others, and supporting smaller and agencies which do frontline work is critical to the health of all of our communities.

Mahalo,

Lisa Darcy, Maui, HI



TITLE GUARANTY
HAWAII

March 11, 2026

Testimony in support of HB 1800, Relating to the State Budget

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

We write in strong support of HB 1800, Relating to the State Budget, and the budget item to fully fund and staff the State Building Code Council which will improve the timeliness of code adoption and updates.

Title Guaranty of Hawai'i is the oldest and largest title company in the state. We have been owned and operated by a kama'aina family since 1896, and we are proud to employ over 250 residents across our branches statewide. As an organization that has worked for over a century to connect local families with housing, we see firsthand how regulatory uncertainty and inefficiency add time, cost, and complexity to housing projects, ultimately borne by residents.

In our work, we see how the lack of coordination in code adoption creates friction in the housing market. The SBCC's duties are technical and voluminous; expecting uncompensated volunteers to manage this workload without an Executive Director or Assistant has historically led to delays. These delays are not just paperwork issues—they are cost drivers that are ultimately borne by Hawai'i's residents. Strengthening the SBCC's capacity will lead to more timely reviews and a more predictable housing market for the families we serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike B. Pietsch', written in a cursive style.

Mike B. Pietsch
President and Chief Operating Officer
Title Guaranty of Hawai'i



Title and Escrow is our business. Hawaii is our home.





Statement of
Meli James and Brittany Heyd
Cofounders
Mana Up

HB 1800, Relating to the State Budget

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

As owners of a small business, we write in support of funding staff positions for the State Building Code Council (SBCC) through a line item in HB 1800, Relating to the State Budget.

Mana Up is a statewide initiative that supports Hawai'i-based entrepreneurs with the resources and tools they need to grow locally and scale globally. The founders and small business owners we work with are deeply invested in Hawai'i. They create local jobs, reinvest in their communities, and contribute to a diversified and resilient local economy. For these entrepreneurs to stay and thrive in Hawai'i, however, they need stable, attainable housing, particularly in the early stages of building their businesses.

Many of the entrepreneurs we work with are in the early stages of building their businesses and struggle to find stable housing. The current building code process is complex, and when implemented entirely by volunteers, the production of new housing units slows. By staffing the SBCC, the State can move toward a professionalized system that values efficiency while maintaining safety. Reducing construction costs is a practical way to help our local entrepreneurs stay and thrive in the islands. Mana Up is happy to support this appropriation.

Sincerely,

Meli James | Cofounder, Mana Up
Brittany Heyd | Cofounder, Mana Up



March 11, 2026

Committee: House Committee on Finance
Bill Number: HB1800, Relating to the State Budget
Hearing Date and Time: March 11, 2026, 10:00am
Re: Testimony of HPM Building Supply in Support

Dear Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members:

I would like to submit this testimony in support of HB1800, Relating to the State Budget, specifically regarding program appropriation item no. K-39.1, which provides \$326,882 for 2.0 FTE positions for the State Building Code Council (SBCC). This funding would support the Council's timely adoption and updates of building codes, helping provide greater predictability and coordination across Hawai'i's construction industry.

HPM Building Supply is a 100% employee-owned company that has served Hawai'i's construction and home improvement industry for more than 100 years. With locations statewide, we support homeowners, contractors, and design professionals through building supplies, design services, and local manufacturing, and we are committed to strengthening homes and communities across Hawai'i.

From our vantage point in the construction supply chain, we see how "moving targets" in building codes create waste and inefficiency. When code interpretations vary or adoptions are delayed, it impacts everyone from the architect to the homeowner. By finally funding the Executive Director and Assistant roles—which have been unfilled for nearly two decades—the State can provide the construction industry with the predictability it needs to operate efficiently. Consistent statewide standards help us keep costs down for the contractors and families we serve every day.

Sincerely,

Jason Fujimoto
Chairman & CEO





March 10, 2026

The House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, March 11, 2026
10:00 a.m. via Videoconference State Capitol

**Testimony in Support of HB 1800
Green Fee Funding**

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

The Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC) is testifying in support of funding for the Green Fee initiative. Specifically, MISC requests the Legislature fully fund the recommendation under Environmental Stewardship related to Invasive species control and capacity.

The recommendation acknowledges the importance of statewide community partnerships that work to control the spread of invasive plant and animal species, including miconia, coqui frogs, noxious weeds and other invasive species, and refers specifically to the invasive species committees (ISCs).

The ISCs are especially well-suited to implement on-the-ground actions during this first year of funding, which would help establish the potential to translate this funding mandate into demonstrable results. The Invasive Species Committees and the Hawai'i Ant Lab (HAL) are projects of the University of Hawai'i - Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit. The island-based Invasive Species Committees and HAL provide essential capacity and expertise in containment and eradication. They serve as a critical line of defense when species are detected outside the ports and harbors, where they impact residents, farmers, natural areas, and businesses.

The ISCs were created to address gaps in jurisdiction and capacity. Unlike many state or federal agencies limited by land type, industry, or function, the ISCs are species-led and go where the threat is. This flexibility allows for rapid response to new threats and long-term suppression where needed. Examples abound of an ISC mobilizing quickly to meet a new threat, such as little fire ants, coconut rhinoceros beetles, or devil weed: trained crews sprang into action, delimiting infestations, initiating control, and launching public awareness campaigns.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Green Fee funding under HB 1800.

Teya M. Penniman
MISC – PCSU Special Projects & Development Manager

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO 1800 RELATING TO
THE STATE BUDGET**

Position: **Support**

To Representative Chris Todd, Chair; Representative Jenna Takenouchi Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee on Finance:

Please accept this testimony in **support** of this state budget bill, and we ask that you consider the Green Fee project portfolio submitted to help determine how funds should be appropriated.

Simonpietri Enterprises LLC (SEL) is an O'ahu-based small business developing innovative ways to recycle waste generated in Hawai'i into sustainable products using a circular economy model. Our company mission is effective management of waste and environmental stewardship. Our goal is to do something productive with waste rather than let it sit and take up precious limited space on our islands. In our work to address some of Hawai'i's most challenging wastes, we have been able to simultaneously address energy, climate risk mitigation, landscape restoration and agricultural resiliency goals for the state.

The reality is that Hawai'i needs to start preparing more aggressively to reduce environmental and climate risks so that we can support and strengthen our economy by continuing to host visitors to our islands. The projects in the Green Fee portfolio have provided diverse recommendations that will have a powerful impact on strengthening Hawai'i's economy while providing resources to aid in climate and disaster resiliency. SEL feels this bill and the provided recommendations are steps in the right direction to preserve the beauty and integrity of Hawai'i for all.

As a company whose technical expertise and innovation are focused in the areas of waste management, energy and nutrient recovery, and the circular economy, we would like to see this budget bill passed with the proposed funding recommendations. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure, and urge your support for this bill.

Sincerely,



Marie-Joelle Simonpietri
President

[About Simonpietri Enterprises LLC](#)

Simonpietri Enterprises is a Kailua, Hawaii-based woman- and veteran-owned small business with ten employees, focused on technical innovation and first-of-kind project development of emerging clean and renewable technologies. Since founding in 2006, we have helped dozens of small and large industrial companies in Hawaii, the continental U.S., Australia, and Canada improve the environmental and economic sustainability of their operations through technical and business advice in renewable energy conversion, waste reduction and re-use, and greenhouse gas lifecycle impact reduction. Simonpietri Enterprises' founder and employees have participated in the strategy, planning, design, financing, development, construction, and energy efficiency/greenhouse gas reduction/sustainability

renovation for over \$400 million in new renewable and first-of-kind sustainable fuel projects over the past 15 years. Since launching the Aloha Carbon waste-to-fuel technical development process in August 2020, Simonpietri Enterprises is now developing renewable fuel production facilities in its own right, starting with the Aloha Sustainable Materials Recycling and Fertilizer Facility (SMRFF) in Kapolei, Hawaii to divert wastes generated in Honolulu from landfilling and transform it to renewable fuel, organic fertilizer, and recycled-material building products.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 10:53:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erica von Allmen	Auwahi Forest Restoration Project	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representatives Chris Todd and Jenna Takenouchi and Members of the FIN Committee,

My name is Erica von Allmen, as the Project Coordinator for the Auwahi Forest Restoration Project, I respectfully submit testimony in strong support of HB 1800 and the Green Fee project portfolio.

Over its 29-year long duration, the Auwahi Forest Restoration Project on Maui has demonstrated how science-based ecological restoration can successfully recover one of Hawai‘i’s most endangered ecosystems. Auwahi protects one of the last remaining fragments of Hawaiian dryland forest, a habitat that has largely disappeared across the islands.

Through long-term management—including fencing to exclude ungulates, invasive species control, and the planting of native species—Auwahi has restored large portions of degraded land into recovering native forest. Tens of thousands of native trees and shrubs representing dozens of species have been planted, many of which are rare or found nowhere else on Earth.

Native ecosystems like those at Auwahi provide essential ecological services. They stabilize soils, support biodiversity, reduce erosion, and create landscapes that are far less prone to catastrophic wildfire than areas dominated by invasive grasses.

HB 1800 would support a portfolio of climate resilience projects that apply these proven restoration strategies across Hawai‘i. The Green Fee approach allows the state to invest proactively in ecosystems that protect communities and reduce long-term disaster risk.

The success of the Auwahi Forest Restoration Project shows that restoration works when supported by sustained investment and stewardship. Expanding these efforts is one of the most effective ways to strengthen Hawai‘i’s ecological resilience.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to support HB 1800.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Erica von Allmen
Auwahi Forest Restoration Project
Makawao, Hawai'i



To: The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

From: Paula Arcena, External Affairs Vice President
Mike Nguyen, Director of Public Policy
Maria Rallojey, Public Policy Specialist

Hearing: Wednesday, March 11, 2026, 10:00am, Conference Room 308

RE: **HB1800 Relating to the State Budget**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB1800, specifically the Governor’s Department of Human Services budget request.** This measure adjusts and requests appropriation for fiscal biennium 2025-2027 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of the Executive Branch agencies and programs.

AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan founded by Hawai’i’s Community Health Centers and the Queen Emma Clinics. We serve over 66,000 Medicaid and Medicaid-Medicare dual-eligible residents on all islands. Since 1994, AlohaCare has partnered with providers, government entities, and community-based organizations to meet the evolving needs of our safety net community as Hawai’i’s only health plan focused solely on Medicaid-eligible individuals. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for equitable access to quality, whole-person care for all.

AlohaCare’s commitment to whole-person care includes ensuring that eligible Hawai’i residents can obtain, keep, and use health coverage without unnecessary administrative barriers. We support the Department of Human Services’ budget request for resources to implement Congressional H.R.1, including funding for system requirements, staff augmentation, and related operational support. H.R. 1 makes significant changes to Medicaid, including complex eligibility changes, work requirements, community engagement requirements, and major system upgrades and contracts needed for compliance.

To avoid unnecessary administrative barriers for our residents, efficient and well-resourced implementation matters as administrative complexity can itself become a source of coverage loss. During the Medicaid unwinding, KFF (formerly known as Kaiser Family Foundation) reported that 87% of disenrollments in Hawai’i were procedural, meaning coverage was lost for paperwork or process reasons rather



than a confirmed finding of ineligibility¹. When eligibility systems are strained, notices are confusing, timelines are tight, or staffing is insufficient, eligible people can lose coverage simply because they are unable to navigate the process successfully. That kind of avoidable churn disrupts care, medication access, behavioral health treatment, and care coordination, and it can be especially harmful for people with chronic conditions, disabilities, limited English proficiency, unstable housing, or other barriers to timely paperwork completion.

AlohaCare has begun the work to reduce avoidable coverage losses by investing in member outreach, education, and navigation support to help individuals navigate the changing requirements. This will include proactive communication with members, care coordination support for higher-need members, and partnerships intended to reach people before they lose coverage and experience disruption in care. These efforts reflect our broader commitment to helping residents stay connected to coverage and care. We cannot do it alone, and we need effective implementation of H.R. 1 requirements. For these reasons, AlohaCare supports this budget bill to provide DHS Med-QUEST Division the staffing, systems, and implementation resources necessary to reduce avoidable procedural disenrollments and help QUEST enrollees maintain the coverage they need.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support** of **HB1800**.

Commented [MN1]: We should also comment on what AC is doing (not mention Act 310) to support state residents.

¹ Tolbert, J., Rudowitz, R., & Drake, P. (2023, September 7). Understanding Medicaid procedural disenrollment rates. KFF.



Hawai'i Audubon Society

850 Richards St., Suite 505, Honolulu, HI 96813-4709
office@hiaudubon.org <https://hiaudubon.org>

Written Testimony in Support of Full Funding for the Green Fee Project Portfolio HB 1800—Relating To the State Budget

To: Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Hawai'i Audubon Society

Date: March 10, 2026

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi and Members of the FIN Committee,

On behalf of the Hawai'i Audubon Society (HAS), a statewide bird conservation organization founded in 1939, I express our strong support for the full Green Fee project portfolio as recommended by the Green Fee Advisory Council, and I urge the Legislature to appropriate these funds in their entirety through HB 1800.

Hawai'i Audubon Society supports the complete portfolio as presented by the Council. While our specific review focused on the environmental stewardship components of the recommendations, we believe the portfolio functions best as a whole, and that its complementary projects collectively deliver the greatest benefit to Hawai'i's communities, ecosystems, and economy.

The Council's environmental recommendations represent a critical investment in protecting the natural systems upon which Hawai'i depends. Our islands are home to an extraordinary and disproportionate share of the nation's endangered species — most found nowhere else on Earth. The health of Hawai'i's native ecosystems is inseparable from the resilience of its communities, the vitality of its visitor economy, and the cultural well-being of its people. Projects that restore native habitats, reduce invasive species pressure, and protect critical wildlife areas are not simply conservation priorities — they are foundational infrastructure for a sustainable Hawai'i.

We recognize that the Council carefully evaluated and selected a portfolio of high-impact, ready-to-deliver projects that address environmental, climate resilience, and sustainable tourism needs in an integrated and cost-effective way. Funding only portions of this portfolio risks undermining the whole,

and we strongly encourage the Legislature to advance the Council's recommendations without reduction.

Hawai'i Audubon Society respectfully urges the members of the House Committee on Finance to support full appropriation of the Green Fee project portfolio. The birds, watersheds, reefs, and forests of Hawai'i — and the communities that depend on them — are counting on action this session.

Mahalo for your service and your consideration of this important request.

Me ke aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Swindle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Keith Swindle

Executive Director

Hawai'i Audubon Society

808-756-2980

exdir@hiaudubon.org

The Hawai'i True Cost Coalition

March 11, 2026

Hawai'i State Legislature
House Committee on Finance

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1800, Relating to the State Budget

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and esteemed members of the committee,

On behalf of the Hawai'i True Cost Coalition (TCC), we are writing in support of HB 1800, Relating to the State Budget.

The Hawai'i True Cost Coalition is an alliance of more than 80 community-based nonprofit organizations serving over 500,000 residents statewide. Our members provide essential services that form the backbone of Hawai'i's safety net, including shelter for at-risk youth, meals for seniors, behavioral health care, housing assistance, legal aid, and crisis response for families in need. These are services that state agencies cannot deliver alone and rely on strong partnerships with community-based providers.

HB 1800 is critical to maintaining these services for Hawai'i's most vulnerable residents, including kupuna, children, individuals experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities, and survivors of domestic violence. Recent federal funding uncertainties have only increased the importance of stable state investment to ensure these programs remain available to the communities that depend on them.

For many nonprofit providers, state contracts have remained largely unchanged for more than a decade despite rising costs for wages, facilities, insurance, and regulatory compliance. As a result, organizations have increasingly relied on private fundraising and internal reserves simply to sustain state-contracted services. This model is no longer sustainable and risks eroding the programs that support thousands of residents across the state.

Achieve Zero | Adult Friends for Youth | Aloha Care | Aloha Harvest | Arc of Kona | Aloha United Way | Big Brothers Big Sisters | Blueprint for Change | Boys and Girls Clubs of Hawaii | Catholic Charities | Child and Family Service | Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii | Community Alliance on Prisons | Community First Hawaii | Connecting Community LLC | DVAC | Easter Seals | Epic Ohana | Family Programs Hawaii | Full Life | Going Home Hawaii | Goodwill Hawaii | Hale Kipa | Hale Na'au Pono | Hale Opio Kauai, Inc. | HANO | Hawaii Afterschool Alliance | Hawaii Children's Action Network | Hawaii Community Benefit Consultants | Hawaii Community Foundation | Hawaii Data Collaborative | Hawaii Foodbank | Hawaii Housing Affordability Coalition | Hawaii Appleseed | Hawaii Public Health Institute | Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies | Helping Hands Hawaii | Hawaii State Coalition for Domestic Violence | Ho'ola Na Pua | Honolulu Habitat for Humanity | Honolulu International Film Festival | IHS | Imua Family Services | Cameron Center | Ka Po'e o Kaka'ako | Kamehameha Schools | Kinai 'Eha | Kui'kahi Mediation Center | Kumukahi Health and Wellness | Lanakila Pacific | Maui Economic Opportunity | Maui Family Support Services, Inc. | Maui United Way | Mediation Center of the Pacific | Mental Health Kokua | Metro YMCA | Mindful Living Group | Na Hale O Maui | Na Maka Haloa O Waipio | Nurturing Wahine | Olelo Community Media | PACT | Care | People Attentive to Children | PIC | PID Foundation | Responsive Caregivers of Hawaii | RYSE | Samaritan Counseling Center | Starting Over in Recovery | Susannah Wesley | The Spirit Horse Ranch Inc. | Transform Hawaii Government | U.S. Vets | Volunteer Legal Services of Hawaii | Women Helping Women | YMCA Honolulu | YWCA of Kauai | YWCA of Oahu

By increasing funding for essential programs administered through the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services. HB 1800 strengthens Hawai'i's commitment to a stable and effective safety net. Investments in behavioral health services, food security programs, housing support, legal aid, and other critical services will help ensure that community-based organizations can continue meeting the growing needs of our communities.

Strengthening contract funding also allows nonprofit providers to better manage rising operational costs while maintaining services for individuals and families in crisis. These investments support stability across the nonprofit sector and help preserve the community-based infrastructure that underpins many of Hawai'i's most effective social services.

HB 1800 represents an important investment in Hawai'i's people, communities, and long-term resilience.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

¹ **Hawai'i Human Services Nonprofits - Ten Year Comparison of Operating Expenses**

Category	Years compared	Absolute Change	Average Annual Change
Electricity (cents/kWh)	2015-2024	41.8%	4.5%
Insurance (annual total of relevant premiums)	2014-2023	46.3%	4.5%
Payroll (annual average/employee)	2013-2022	44.1%	4.2%
Inflation (CPI All Items)	2015-2024	30.8%	3.0%

**Estimated office rent increased 7.8 percent over ten years, variable based on island/location.*

Source: Hawaii Data Collaborative in cooperation with the True Cost Coalition January, 2026

Achieve Zero | Adult Friends for Youth | Aloha Care | Aloha Harvest | Arc of Kona | Aloha United Way | Big Brothers Big Sisters | Blueprint for Change | Boys and Girls Clubs of Hawaii | Catholic Charities | Child and Family Service | Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii | Community Alliance on Prisons | Community First Hawaii | Connecting Community LLC | DVAC | Easter Seals | Epic Ohana | Family Programs Hawaii | Full Life | Going Home Hawaii | Goodwill Hawaii | Hale Kipa | Hale Na'au Pono | Hale Opio Kauai, Inc. | HANO | Hawaii Afterschool Alliance | Hawaii Children's Action Network | Hawaii Community Benefit Consultants | Hawaii Community Foundation | Hawaii Data Collaborative | Hawaii Foodbank | Hawaii Housing Affordability Coalition | Hawaii Applesseed | Hawaii Public Health Institute | Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies | Helping Hands Hawaii | Hawaii State Coalition for Domestic Violence | Ho'ola Na Pua | Honolulu Habitat for Humanity | Honolulu International Film Festival | IHS | Imua Family Services | Cameron Center | Ka Po'e o Kaka'ako | Kamehameha Schools | Kinai 'Eha | Kui'kahi Mediation Center | Kumukahi Health and Wellness | Lanakila Pacific | Maui Economic Opportunity | Maui Family Support Services, Inc. | Maui United Way | Mediation Center of the Pacific | Mental Health Kokua | Metro YMCA | Mindful Living Group | Na Hale O Maui | Na Maka Haloa O Waipio | Nurturing Wahine | Olelo Community Media | PACT | Care | People Attentive to Children | PIC | PID Foundation | Responsive Caregivers of Hawaii | RYSE | Samaritan Counseling Center | Starting Over in Recovery | Susannah Wesley | The Spirit Horse Ranch Inc. | Transform Hawaii Government | U.S. Vets | Volunteer Legal Services of Hawaii | Women Helping Women | YMCA Honolulu | YWCA of Kauai | YWCA of Oahu



KAUAI SEARCH & RESCUE
PO Box. Box 212 Hanamaulu, 96715
www.kauaisar.com

3/10/2026

Testimony in Support of HB 1800

Relating to the State Budget

To: Representative Chris Todd, Chair;
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair;
and Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Kaua'i Search and Rescue

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

My name is [Your Name], and I am submitting testimony on behalf of Kaua'i Search and Rescue (KSAR) in support of HB 1800.

Kaua'i Search and Rescue works closely and regularly with county, state, and federal public safety agencies on Kaua'i to conduct search and rescue operations, including wilderness, urban, and coastal searches, missing person cases, extended multi-day incidents, and disaster readiness efforts. As a volunteer organization that meets recognized training and operational standards, we understand firsthand the importance of coordination, communication, and clear authority during emergency response.

In prolonged or complex search operations, local resources can quickly become stretched. In these situations, the ability for public safety agencies to formally request mutual aid from qualified volunteer search and rescue organizations across the state can be critical to saving lives.

Am in support with an appropriation for the: "Hawai'i State Search and Rescue Coordinator temporarily placed within the Office of the Governor for special purposes — to evaluate SAR training and

capabilities, develop a state SAR framework, mutual aid system, and provide incident related data and information.”

Establishing this temporary position will help strengthen Hawai'i's search and rescue coordination statewide and allow for a thoughtful evaluation of training standards, mutual aid capabilities, and operational data. A statewide framework will improve coordination among counties, state agencies, and qualified volunteer organizations that are frequently called upon to assist in search and rescue operations.

Improved coordination and planning will enhance responder safety, increase operational efficiency, and ultimately lead to faster response times and better outcomes for missing or injured individuals.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your continued support of public safety across our state.

Respectfully submitted,

Kaua'i Search and Rescue



TESTIMONY RE: HB1800/Relating to the State Budget IN OPPOSITION

TO: Representative Chris Todd, Chair, Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair and Members of the FIN Committee

As a nonprofit organization with a 33-year legacy of serving Hawaii residents and visitors through waste reduction initiatives we respectfully ask members of the committee to refrain from accepting *in toto* the Green Fee Advisory Council project portfolio included in the governor's budget and submitted to the legislature as mandated by Act 96.

We take no pleasure testifying in opposition to the supportive testimony you have received from numerous environmental groups, some of them relatively new and others with legacies equally impressive as our own. We also want to make clear that we are not opposed to the majority of the recommendations made by the GFAC. Our lack of experience when it comes to natural resource conservation leaves us unqualified to judge whether the projects listed are worthy of inclusion in the portfolio. At the same time, our unparalleled experience when it comes to waste management leaves us utterly qualified to speak against the egregious omission of any projects that would address the burdens placed on Hawaii's people and its environment due to the voluminous amounts of solid waste generated by the tourism industry. There is simply no excuse for this omission which, at this point, can only be remedied through an intervention by this committee.

Below you will find an in-depth analysis of the process through which this omission occurred. We ask each member to review it carefully as the justification used to include unacceptable projects in the Sustainability Tourism bucket represents a fundamental flaw in the process that must be dealt with in order to prevent future transgressions and create unity moving forward.

Our findings and position can be summarized as follows.

- 1) The GFAC relied on a misinterpretation of Act 96 language to misdirect 50% of the Sustainable Tourism bucket to projects that do not qualify as sustainable tourism initiatives. These unqualified projects include a total of \$19.75M for sandy beach restorations and related improvements.
- 2) We whole heartedly support the \$7.62M line item for Community-Led Visitor Education and Stewardship Programs. At the same time we are compelled to point out that while this project aims to address impacts at what the GFAC

calls “high-use sites,” the highest use sites in the state are the toilets and trash cans used by every single tourist, every single day they are here.

- 3) At a time when communities across Hawaii face very real dangers due to the decrepit condition of wastewater treatment facilities, at a time when communities bear the environmental injustices associated with overflowing landfills, the GFAC’s failure to allocate funding to initiatives that would reduce waste generated by the tourism industry is utterly unacceptable.
- 4) We raise no objections to the recommendations made by the GFAC for the Environmental Stewardship or Climate Resilience and Hazard Mitigation buckets. We again emphasize our support for the Community Led Visitor Education and Stewardship Programs listed in the Sustainable Tourism category. We object to the decision that was made to prioritize the need for off-shore corporations to profit from adjacency to white sand beaches over the need to effectively reduce the greatest negative impacts tourism brings.

We foresee a time when Green Fees could justifiably be used to replenish sand, but that time is not now. Such projects are not a priority. Reducing the impacts caused by every single visitor who comes to Hawaii must be the priority. Using Green Fees to upgrade waste management infrastructure and transition to a sustainable materials management approach must take precedence.

We call on members of this committee to redirect the entirety of funds recommended for “beach nourishment” included in the governor’s budget to community based, waste reduction initiatives instead. We are happy to meet with legislators to share guidelines for identifying worthy initiatives.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

ANALYSIS OF THE GFAC’S SUSTAINABLE TOURISM MISAPPROPRIATION

ACT 96

Act 96 requires the legislature to appropriate Green Fee funds in ways that address these three key categories—Environmental Stewardship, Climate and Hazard Resilience and Sustainable Tourism—with each category required to receive the same level of funding as a means to ensure equitable prioritization. In the act’s preamble, references to sustainability align with the customary definition, which fundamentally identifies it as a form of environmental protection. The Global Sustainable Tourism Council, which establishes and manages global standards for sustainable travel and tourism, known as the GSTC Standards, defines Sustainable Tourism (ST) as “**sustainable practices** in and by the tourism industry.” (*My emphasis added.*)

This section from Act 96 aligns with the GSTC definition and provides a relevant example: “*The legislature additionally finds that a strong commitment to environmental sustainability enhances Hawaii’s reputation as a world-class destination for ecotourism. Travelers are increasingly seeking destinations that prioritize sustainability, and by*

*investing in conservation efforts, **renewable energy, and sustainable tourism practices**, Hawaii can maintain its competitive edge in the global tourism market while ensuring the long-term viability of its natural resources.” (My emphasis added.)*

How is it then, that there are no expenditures in the GFAC recommendations that directly fund renewable energy usage or sustainable tourism practices? The tactic used by the GFAC to justify nearly 50% of GF funding in the ST bucket to provide direct benefits to the industry is the focus of this analysis and laid out below.

Explicitly stated in the act on page 7, this definition of permissible Sustainable Tourism priority expenditures is found:

(3) Improve the visitor experience, mitigate the impacts of tourism on the natural environment, ensure that the State's natural resources are maintained for future residents and visitors, and support destination management, such as park improvements and beach improvement, nourishment, and maintenance projects.”

The first step the GFAC took to accomplish this misdirect was to interpret the “such as” part of the above passage to mean that “park improvements, beach improvement, nourishment and maintenance projects” exclusively qualify as examples of ST practices, when in fact they only stand as qualifying examples of destination management. Improving park facilities is NOT a sustainable practice. Reducing the volume of waste generated by visitors, reducing the amount of pollution produced by their transportation needs, increasing their consumption of locally produced foods and toiletries are all examples of sustainable practices, yet none of these practices are recommended for funding by the GFAC. Conversely, a full \$19.75M, nearly 50% of what the GFC is recommending for the entire ST bucket, is allotted to white sand beach improvements that directly benefit the industry.

B&F TESTIMONY

Below are relevant comments made by Acting B&F Director Colby during a Ways and Means hearing last month. It provides a relevant example of how the GFAC’s misinterpretation has already become the standard narrative, thus serving the desired outcome of diverting funds to projects that benefit the industry first and foremost while removing projects that support true sustainable practices from consideration.

TESTIMONY BY SETH S. COLBY, Ph.D.
ACTING DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

January 7, 2026

“The GFAC, composed of representatives from a broad range of stakeholders, collaborates to provide strategic guidance and recommendations to direct Green Fee resources toward initiatives that reflect **community priorities and the intent of Act 96**. Its approach emphasizes equitable distribution of funds across the Legislature’s three priority areas: *(My emphasis added.)*”

- Environmental Stewardship – Projects that protect and restore Hawai‘i’s natural resources, including coverage of native flora and fauna.
- Climate and Hazard Resilience – Projects that harden infrastructure, such as those that mitigate wildfire and flood risks.
- Sustainable Tourism – Projects that support destination management, beach nourishment, and park improvements.”

Here we see that ST has been defined solely as “destination management, beach nourishment, and park improvements.”

GREEN FEE ADVISORY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIONS

The GFAC defines the Sustainable Tourism priority in a variety of ways on their website. See examples below:

Sustainable Tourism



Projects that support destination management, reduce visitor impacts on the natural environment and improve and protect heavily visited areas upon which Hawai‘i’s visitor industry relies.

“Sustainable Tourism – Projects that support destination management, beach nourishment, and park improvements.”



Sustainable Tourism

These projects help manage visitor impacts while protecting the natural and cultural resources that support Hawai‘i’s communities and economy. Key focus areas include:

- **Beach and Park Improvements:** Improving safety, erosion control and facilities at high-use sites.
- **Visitor and Resident Education and Stewardship:** Promoting responsible recreation and shared care of places.
- **Infrastructure and Capacity Building:** Strengthening staffing, systems and tools to sustainably manage visitor use in high-volume areas.

What is important to note is how the choice of select focus areas is used to justify massive destination management expenditures that provide direct benefit to the tourism industry while doing little to reduce impacts and nothing to promote sustainability.

How these focus areas were chosen needs to be questioned. We cannot allow GFAC's misinterpretation, that ST is selectively defined as projects that "support destination management, beach nourishment, and park improvements," stand. There is no evidence that the GFAC actually relied on a bona fide assessment of tourism industry impacts to drive its process and establish meaningful focus areas. Once that limiting "focus area" decision was made, GFAC used the following criteria to evaluate projects. At this point, projects legitimately qualifying as sustainable practices were already eliminated from consideration.

- Results: Tangible outcomes and measurable public benefit
- Readiness: Ability to move forward within required timelines
- Relevance: Alignment with the statutory purpose of the Green Fee
- Relationships: Strength of partnerships and collaboration
- Region: Geographic equity and areas facing heightened need

Below are the destination management projects recommended by the GFAC that compromise the bill's legislative intent in order to benefit the tourism industry.

Waikīkī Beach Restoration Project, O'ahu= \$7M

Ala Moana Regional Park Beach Restoration= \$6.75M

Kā'anapali Beach Restoration= \$4M

Beach Restoration West Maui= \$2M

This totals \$19.75M for sandy beach restorations and related improvements. White sandy beaches do not equal sustainable tourism. It would be more appropriate for businesses operating in beach environments where "nourishment" is needed (like Waikiki) to pay a Beach Nourishment Fee, calculated as some percentage of their profits to be used for this purpose, rather than allowing them to commandeer massive amounts of Green Fee funding.

Also, there is legislation being introduced this year that would specifically dedicate cruise industry Green Fee contributions to projects that protect ocean resources through conservation and capital improvements. Until that bill is heard and until the cruise industry issue is settled, such projects should be considered ineligible for FY 26/27 funding. This is not because such projects are unworthy of funding; it is because they may very well secure a significant pot of funding,

exclusively for them, for as long as the fee structure is in place. Diverting any FY 26-27 funding to these projects when there is a chance that cruise industry donations will become a source of funding exclusive to them as soon as next year violates the equitable distribution mandate that is clearly part of the legislative intent. In the ST bucket alone, the following projects worth approximately \$3.5M should be eliminated for this reason. There may very well be projects in the other buckets that should be similarly eliminated.

Day-use Mooring Buoy Maintenance = \$2M

Protecting Communities from Wave Energy and Storm Surge by Maintaining Natural Coral Reef Breakwaters = \$980k

New Day-use Mooring Buoy Installations = \$500k

A bona fide assessment of tourism industry impacts would reveal that 100% of all visitors to Hawaii generate solid waste in the form of discarded packaging and human waste. Similarly, significant amounts of micro and nanoplastic pollution is generated through the abrasion of aircraft and vehicle tires, that every single tourist and tour operator relies on to get them here and move them about. These same vehicles put an extraordinary burden on our society and environment due to their need for fossil fuels. We must also add the climate footprint and waste management burdens that come with importing goods to feed tourists, and consider the potential for Green Fees to support farmers seeking to increase our resiliency by providing home grown food when assessing the validity the GFAC's ST recommendations.

Not a single dime of the funding recommended by the GFAC went for projects that would address these impacts. That is not acceptable. A proper assessment and reconsideration would free up as much as \$23.25M for waste reduction, renewable energy and local food production initiatives.



Mālama Learning Center is a non-profit organization based in West O'ahu. Our mission is to inspire communities to care for Hawai'i by perpetuating conservation, culture, and sustainability through education.

P.O. Box 1662
Honolulu, HI 96806

Honorable Representative Todd, Chair
Honorable Representative Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2026, 10:00 am Conference Room 308
House Committee on Finance

Aloha Chairperson Todd, Vice Chairperson Takenouchi and Committee Members:

Aloha Kākou. My name is Pauline Sato and I serve as the Executive Director of the Mālama Learning Center, a private, non-profit environmental education organization serving schools and communities in West O'ahu. I am testifying in strong support of HB 1800. This bill considers the Green Fee project portfolio submitted by the Governor and determines how Green Fee funds are appropriated.

The Green Fee project portfolio consists of 75 high-impact, ready-to-deliver projects that were carefully selected by the Green Fee Advisory Council. Together, these projects address climate hazards and risks holistically with a broad range of complementary approaches. I strongly support the Green Fee as a vital investment to close Hawai'i's \$560 million conservation funding gap and build statewide climate resilience. To ensure this initiative's success, the state must embrace a collaborative co-management model by resourcing the community-based organizations and practitioners who already lead stewardship efforts across our islands.

As a long-time conservation education practitioner in Hawai'i, I have been encouraged to witness the process that proponents of the Green Fee bill have withstood over many years to get it passed, and am emphatic that now it is time to implement. I urge the Legislature to approve the current Project Recommendations and commit to a transparent, community-driven framework that empowers local leadership to fulfill these ambitious environmental priorities. Together, we as a community can make real impacts on the 'āina this year, but we need to clear hurdles so that there is no more delay. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please contact me at pauline@malamalearningcenter.org with any questions.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pauline M. Sato". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Pauline M. Sato
Executive Director



PO Box 4, Kunia, Hawaii, 96759 || 808-622-9026 || www.agstewardshiphawaii.org

March 10, 2026

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

On behalf of Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i, we offer our **support for including the Green Fee projects and food and agriculture bills within HB1800**. This legislation represents a historic opportunity to strengthen Hawai'i's stewardship programs through transparency, accountability, and community-informed governance in the allocation of Green Fee revenues and in support to our local food system.

Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the viability and sustainability of Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers through technical assistance, resource coordination, business education, and policy support. We have **25 years of experience** supporting conservation agriculture and stewardship on Hawai'i's working lands and also lead the [Statewide Food Systems Coordination Initiative](#) (HSFSC) initiative, launched in 2024 with philanthropic and gubernatorial support to strengthen coordination within Hawai'i's food system.

The Green Fee portfolio consists of **75 high-impact, ready-to-deliver projects** carefully selected by the Council. Together, these projects address climate hazards and risks holistically through a broad range of complementary approaches. By proactively investing in these initiatives, Hawai'i can mitigate the otherwise unmanageable costs and potential devastation of future disasters. We also recognize that **several other bills under consideration have budgetary implications that intersect with the Green Fee portfolio and broader stewardship efforts**, including:

- **HB1953 – Ag & Conservation Stewardship Fund:** Creates a cost-share fund for conservation agriculture to help producers manage natural resources.
- **HB2208 – Farm to Families:** Purchases fresh, local, culturally relevant food for families facing food insecurity while supporting local farmers.
- **HB2155 Agricultural Statistics**
- **HB1602 DAB Grant writer**
- **HB2548 Climate-Resilient Food Systems Grant Program** and more.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Dr. Amanda Shaw, PhD, Statewide Food Systems Coordinator
Email: amanda@agstewardshiphawaii.org, Tel: 808 429 5310

*Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i is a DBA of:
O'ahu Resource Conservation and Development Council, a 501c3 Nonprofit Corporation*

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 4:24:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Craig Gorsuch	Ko'olau Mountains Watershed Partnership (KMWP)	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representative Chris Todd, Representative Jenna Takenouchi, and Members of the FIN Committee.

The Ko'olau Mountains Watershed Partnership (KMWP) strongly supports HB 1800 RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

My name is Craig Gorsuch and I am the Program Manager for the KMWP. KMWP addresses island-wide conservation issues by working with public and private conservation groups, state, municipal and federal agencies, and private landowners. KMWP's mission is to protect and enhance native forest resources and water recharge in the Ko'olau Mountain Range, O'ahu. Since the formation of the partnership in 1999, KMWP has played an active role in preserving native ecosystems and managing key forested watersheds in the region.

The preservation of the remaining native forests on O'ahu is critical to the protection of watersheds on O'ahu, as their multi-layered canopies efficiently capture moisture from clouds and reduce the force of rain falling on the soil surface, allowing the water to gently infiltrate into the soil and ultimately reach underground aquifers. However, the native forests of the Ko'olau Mountains are severely imperiled. Close to 50% of the primarily native forests have been lost, and those that remain are threatened by invasive species and climate change. The loss of native forests in Hawai'i can lead to significant reductions in freshwater availability, specifically estimating that roughly 50% of potential groundwater recharge is lost when native forests are converted to non-native grasslands or invaded by high-water-use alien species (Bremer et al 2019). Invasive species alter the water capture and infiltration rates of native forests by reducing canopy complexity and destroying understory native plant communities. This leads to erosion and sedimentation of both freshwater and near-shore marine environments.

KMWP Supports:

- Restore native-dominated vegetation to increase biodiversity and ecosystem resilience.
- Sequester carbon and mitigate climate impacts through native plant growth.
- Reduce fire hazards associated with invasive grasses.
- Foster community engagement by promoting public connection with the land.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1800.

Craig Gorsuch

Committee on Finance
Committee Chair Representative Chris Todd
Committee Vice Chair Representative Jenna Takenouchi



March 11, 2026

RE: **IN SUPPORT** of HB1800 Relating to State Budget

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony. On behalf of the Hawai'i SAR Alliance, I am writing in **strong support** of HB1800, with an **appropriation for the Hawai'i State Search and Rescue Coordinator temporarily placed within the Office of the Governor for special purposes** — *to evaluate SAR training and capabilities, develop a state SAR framework, mutual aid system, and provide incident related data and information.*

Hawai'i SAR Alliance is a collaborative effort of multiple agencies, teams, and organizations that conduct Search and Rescue (SAR) operations across the State of Hawai'i. This internal representation ensures that our recommendations are grounded in the specific operational realities of Hawai'i's unique topography and agency structures. Our Alliance consists of subject matter experts—including local experts representing all relevant state agencies as well as national partners—who meet to determine best practices and support SAR system development.

There is a foundational systemic failure in the infrastructure of Hawai'i SAR; the State lacks a unified system, which consists of a:

- State SAR Coordinator (SSARC)
- State Mutual Aid Coordinator
- State Emergency Support Function Search and Rescue Plan (ESF #9) - FEMA requirement
- State SAR fund
- State SAR board to distribute any funds

The lack of a unified SAR system is the "missing link" that puts Hawai'i's residents, the \$20 billion annual visitor economy, and the natural resources that make the islands so exceptional at extreme risk.

Our current SAR efforts are **fragmented across over a dozen different agencies and jurisdictions** in a reactive state without the essential single point of contact to provide the **daily centralized oversight** and **administrative accountability** required to streamline **inter-agency, mission-critical emergency communications** and coordination efforts for urban, maritime, and wilderness SAR, as well as missing person investigations—to unify county, state, and federal life-saving efforts—ranging from a single person to a catastrophic event.

A State SAR Coordinator is a necessary safeguard—a vital insurance policy—to protect the lives of our residents and visitors, the health of our ‘āina, and the stability of Hawai‘i’s economy.

Each year, legislation related to SAR is introduced, with significant energy and resources invested in both the development of and opposition to these measures. One of the reasons for the repetitive opposition is the **lack of a foundational framework to support effective administrative implementation and enforcement**. A State SAR Coordinator will create the foundation for future SAR bills to stand on and to create a safer Hawaii.

Therefore, on behalf of the Hawai‘i SAR Alliance, I **request appropriations for such a State SAR Coordinator**—who possesses the specific depth of knowledge, background, and systems experience—to initially serve as the architect to design the framework which will ensure SAR in Hawai‘i can respond rapidly to everything from a single missing person to a catastrophic, large-scale incident.

I will be available for questions.

Mahalo

Rosemarie Johnson
BSE, MBA, MBB, TICC, Strategist
Director, Hawai‘i SAR Alliance
Director@Hawai‘iSARalliance.org

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 9:47:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrécia Washington	Na Manu 'Elele Steward Program	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the FIN Committee,

My name is Andrécia Washington, and I am a Nā Manu ‘Elele Trail Steward on O‘ahu. I am writing to strongly support the inclusion of funding for this program through Green Fee Project within HB 1800.

I was raised here on O‘ahu, and some of my most cherished memories involve exploring these trails with my family. Now, as a steward, I work daily to protect these exact spaces. My goal is to ensure that the trails I frequented as a child remain healthy, safe, and accessible for my own family and for generations of local families to come.

With Hawai‘i welcoming over 9.6 million visitors in 2025, our resources are under immense pressure. The Nā Manu ‘Elele program currently supports 20 stewards across Hawai‘i Island, Maui, and O‘ahu who manage this overuse through:

Public Engagement: Educating 500,000+ annual trail users on proper etiquette.

Safety: Reducing hiking incidents and providing first-aid and emergency response.

Resource Protection: Preventing trespassing and cultural desecration at sensitive sites.

Funding for this program expires at the end of 2026. By implementing continued funding through Green Fee project, we create a sustainable way for visitors to contribute to the protection of the environment they come to enjoy. This revenue is essential to keep stewards on the ground, protecting the "aina that raised us.

I urge the committee to support the Nā Manu ‘Elele Steward Program through the Green Fee in the state budget.

Mahalo for your time and for protecting our home.

Sincerely,

Andrécia Washington

Nā Manu ʻElele Trail Steward, Oʻahu



March 10, 2026

In Support of HB1800 With Clarification for Climate-Resilient Multi-Modal Evacuation Infrastructure

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

My name is Saman Dias, Chair of the Maui Bicycling League and Lead Advocate for the West Maui Greenway (WVG), a planned 24-mile multi-use corridor connecting communities from Ukumehame to Līpoa Point in West Maui.

I strongly support the intent of SB2500 to advance climate resilience, disaster preparedness, and hazard mitigation investments. I respectfully request clarification within this measure to ensure that climate-resilient multi-use trails and multi-modal evacuation corridors are explicitly recognized as eligible resilience infrastructure.

The tragic Lahaina wildfire demonstrated that resilience is not only about hardened structures and warning systems — it is also about safe mobility and redundant evacuation capacity. When primary highways are blocked, compromised, or gridlocked, communities require alternative routes.

Multi-use corridors such as the West Maui Greenway provide:

- Redundant evacuation pathways
- Low-carbon transportation that reduces vehicle miles traveled
- Safe mobility for keiki, kūpuna, residents, workers, and visitors
- Emergency access options when fuel, roadways, or infrastructure are compromised
- Alignment with Hawai‘i’s Complete Streets law and transportation decarbonization mandates

The West Maui Greenway is a legacy project included in multiple county and state plans and is now incorporated into Lahaina recovery planning. Maui County has secured \$15.4 million in federal RAISE funding for approximately 4.5 miles of initial construction — demonstrating federal recognition of its multi-benefit value.

However, the absence of explicit recognition of multi-modal evacuation corridors within resilience funding frameworks creates uncertainty for long-term implementation.

As Hawai'i continues implementing climate adaptation and hazard mitigation strategies, it is critical that protected multi-use trails designed for evacuation redundancy be clearly eligible for funding under resilience and disaster mitigation provisions.

This clarification would:

- Strengthen alignment with the Navahine v. HDOT settlement goals
- Support post-disaster community recovery and long-term adaptation
- Ensure that climate funding reflects lessons learned from Lahaina
- Advance shovel-ready, multi-benefit infrastructure in vulnerable communities

I respectfully offer the following clarifying amendment language for consideration:

“For purposes of capital improvement projects relating to natural disasters, hazard mitigation, and climate resilience, eligible infrastructure shall include multi-modal evacuation corridors, including protected multi-use trails and active transportation facilities designed to provide redundant emergency access, reduce vehicle miles traveled, and increase community resilience to natural and climate-related disasters.”

Mahalo for your leadership and commitment to building a safer, more resilient Hawai'i.

Respectfully submitted,
Saman Dias
Chair, Maui Bicycling League
Lead Advocate, West Maui Greenway

Mahalo for your leadership and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Saman Dias', written in a cursive style.

Saman Dias
Chair [Maui Bicycling League](#) | [West Maui Greenway](#)
808-276-2068 | maui@hbl.org |

Proposed Clarifying Amendment

Suggested language:

For purposes of capital improvement projects relating to natural disasters, hazard mitigation, and climate resilience, **eligible infrastructure shall include multi-modal evacuation corridors, including protected multi-use trails and active transportation facilities designed to provide redundant emergency access, reduce vehicle miles traveled, and increase community resilience to natural and climate-related disasters.**



SIERRA CLUB

HAWAII ISLAND GROUP

March 11, 2026

House Committee on Finance
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Strong Support of HB1800

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice-chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

The Hawai'i Island Group of the Sierra Club of Hawai'i is in strong support of funding for the Nā Manu 'Elele Steward Program of the Department of Land and Natural Resources Nā Ala Hele program as proposed in HB1800.

One of the primary missions of the Sierra Club is "To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth...". The Nā Manu 'Elele Steward Program compliments this mission.

We know that nature improves our mental, physical, and social health. The Nā Manu 'Elele Steward Program is a critical to creating opportunities for everyone to experience the transformative power of the outdoors—from trekking and restoring trails, such as the Ala Loa Trails of each island, to reforestation in Hakalau and the Waikōloa Dry Forest on the island of Hawai'i.

The Nā Manu 'Elele Steward Program currently supports 20 stewards across Hawai'i Island, Maui, and O'ahu. This program addresses the growing impacts of overuse in outdoor spaces by placing trained stewards at highly visited sites. Stewards provide on-site interpretation of cultural, historic, and ecological resources while promoting responsible recreation. Their daily responsibilities include public engagement, data collection, first-aid care, incident response, cultural resource protection, and environmental education.

Since the program's launch in 2021, stewards have demonstrated that they are an invaluable resource and will continue to do so as long as funding allows. Funding for this program will expire at the end of 2026.

The resources, information, and support provided by the Nā Manu 'Elele Steward Program to HIG members, Hawai'i Island resident and visitors alike have been and are essential to their health and well-being. It has contributed immeasurably to the fact the Hawai'i is continually ranked as the healthiest in the nation and so we ask the Committee to vote to fund the Nā Manu 'Elele Steward Program in HB1800.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



Rep. Chris Todd, Chair
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Wednesday, March 11, 2026
10:00AM Conference Room 308

RE: HB1800 - Relating to State Budget - Green Fee - Oppose

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

On behalf of the Chamber of Sustainable Commerce, we offer the following comments in opposition regarding the Green Fee project portfolio included in the Governor's budget.

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents more than 580 small businesses, entrepreneurs, creatives, and sole proprietors across Hawai'i committed to a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity.

We support the concept of the Green Fee and recognize its potential to fund meaningful investments in environmental stewardship, climate resilience, and sustainable tourism. However, we have concerns that the current project portfolio does not fully reflect the legislative intent of Act 96 or the real environmental impacts associated with Hawai'i's visitor industry.

According to the analysis presented in the submitted testimony, nearly \$19.75 million—almost half of the Sustainable Tourism allocation—has been directed toward beach restoration projects, including improvements at Waikiki Beach, Ala Moana Regional Park, and Kā'anapali. While beach maintenance can be important in certain contexts, allocating such a large share of sustainable tourism funding toward shoreline enhancement raises questions about whether these expenditures *meaningfully reduce the environmental footprint of tourism*.

A sustainable tourism strategy should address systemic impacts generated by visitors—including solid waste generation, wastewater infrastructure burdens, transportation emissions, and the environmental costs of imported goods consumed by visitors. These impacts affect communities statewide and place significant strain on local infrastructure and ecosystems.

Hawaii Legislative Council Members

Joell Edwards
Wainiha Country Market
Hanalei

Russell Ruderman
Island Naturals
Hilo/Kona

Dr. Andrew Johnson
Niko Niko Family Dentistry
Honolulu

Robert H. Pahia
Hawaii Taro Farm
Wailuku

Maile Meyer
Honolulu

Tina Wildberger
Kihei Ice
Kihei

L. Malu Shizue Miki
Abundant Life Natural Foods
Hilo

Chamber of
Sustainable Commerce
808.445.7606
P.O. Box 22394
Honolulu, HI 96823

We note that the testimony strongly supports the Community-Led Visitor Education and Stewardship Programs, which align closely with the intent of sustainable tourism by empowering communities to manage visitor impacts responsibly.

We respectfully encourage the Legislature to revisit the current allocation framework to ensure Green Fee funding supports projects that directly address the environmental impacts of tourism and build a more regenerative visitor economy for Hawai'i. Investments that reduce waste, energy demand, and resource consumption will benefit both our environment and the businesses and communities that depend on it.

Mahalo for consideration of these comments.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 8:13:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Punohu Keahi	Na Manu 'Elele Steward Program	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chris Todd, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and Members of the FIN Committee,

‘O wau ‘o Pūnohu Keahi. No Kalāwahine mai au. My name is Pūnohu Keahi, and I am from Kalāwahine Hawaiian Homestead. I currently serve as a trail steward with the Nā Manu ‘Elele Steward Program on O‘ahu.

I am writing in strong support of continued funding for the Nā Manu ‘Elele Steward Program as a Green Fee project under HB 1800 relating to the State Budget.

Aloha ‘āina jobs like this are incredibly important for our communities. As a steward on O‘ahu, I interact daily with hundreds of visitors and community members on the trail. Our role is to mālama these places by helping keep trails safe, educating hikers about conditions and safety, and sharing the cultural and environmental significance of the places they are visiting. We also help prevent dangerous situations by informing hikers about flash floods, landslides, and unsafe trail behavior.

The Nā Manu ‘Elele Steward Program currently supports 20 stewards across Hawai‘i Island, Maui, and O‘ahu, placing trained stewards at highly visited outdoor areas. Since the program began in 2021, stewards have demonstrated the importance of having a presence on the trail to promote responsible recreation, protect cultural resources, and help improve visitor safety and awareness.

In 2025 alone, Hawai‘i welcomed over 9.6 million visitors, many of whom came to experience our natural landscapes. At several Nā Ala Hele trails where stewards are present, nearly 500,000 users were recorded in one year. With this level of visitation, stewardship and education on the ground are essential to helping reduce hiking incidents, trespassing, illegal activity, and damage to cultural sites.

As a Kānaka ‘Ōiwi, caring for the ‘āina is part of my kuleana. Through this program, I have the privilege and responsibility of helping care for places within my own wahi pana in Makiki and Mānoa. Serving as a steward allows me to be a bridge between the ‘āina, our community, and the many visitors who come to experience these places. Programs like this ensure that our trails are not only maintained but cared for with respect, education, and an understanding of the cultural importance of these landscapes.

Funding for this program is currently set to expire at the end of 2026. Continued support through this Green Fee project is critical to ensure that stewards can remain present in these highly visited areas and continue protecting Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources.

Mahalo for your time and consideration, and for supporting programs that help protect Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources and the people of this 'āina.

Aloha 'āina,

**Pūnohu Keahi
Trail Steward, Nā Manu 'Elele Steward Program**

HAWAI'I GREEN GROWTH UN LOCAL2030 HUB

Testimony in Support of HB1800
House Committee on Finance
Position: Support

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

My name is Samantha Happ, Network Director of Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG), and today I am submitting written testimony in strong support of HB1800, which includes the initial year of Green Fee projects and priorities. Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) stewards the Aloha+ Challenge, the statewide sustainability commitment for 2030 that oversees 6 ambitious goals that partners across the state collectively set in 2014 and continue to measure progress towards today. The signatories of the Challenge - the Office of the Governor, the four County mayors, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs - continue to champion these goals, and in 2025, the Legislature reaffirmed Hawai'i's commitment to the Aloha+ Challenge with Senate Concurrent Resolution 183. This continuity between and across political cycles matters because the success of our long term goals cannot be tied to ownership, credit, or innovation behind them; rather, they require the passing of the paddle. To achieve such ambitious and long-term goals, we must set up and support systems that work for our 'āina, for our people, and for our shared prosperity, and that requires decoupling policies and plans from individuals, administrations, and single "wins". We must set up scaffolding that enables adaptability, agility, innovation, and learning, while also ensuring transparency and accountability.

The Green Fee represents one such long-term opportunity for innovation and accountability – it is a significant and promising investment in Hawai'i's future. It provides needed revenue to support climate resilience, sustainable tourism, and environmental stewardship, helping us close the \$560 million annual conservation funding gap and build resilience across our State. During the first year of green fee implementation, we have a kuleana to ensure the fund is set up to inform future years. A transparent and community-driven fund will also empower community members, practitioners, and policymakers to learn from what works and continuously improve how funds are deployed. We also have a responsibility to learn from and share with others that have embarked on similar journeys and seek to learn from Hawai'i. How we embark upon the implementation of this innovative effort in the months and year ahead will inevitably set the stage for the trust that our communities - both host and visitor - will have in it for years to come.

Hawai'i Green Growth has long been learning from community, government, private, and philanthropic partners to steward a statewide ambition via collective efforts, generating opportunities for enhanced collaboration, data-sharing, and accountability for action. HGG operates a state hosted Dashboard measuring progress on these Goals for transparency and accountability on the state's progress, a tool intended to inform decision-making efforts and identify gaps and future needs, including funding, policy, and action. These sorts of tools are essential to trust-building from community and in government for the project and its stewardship, and critical to accelerating progress, as tools such as Dashboards streamline collaboration and reduce duplication in project implementation.

Beyond measuring progress on a Dashboard, we must ensure the funds are being directed in the right place. A Dashboard helps make better decisions over time, and helps like-minded organizations find each other. But a well designed procurement and communications process that is accessible to the community from the start is essential. As a network-based public-private partnership of nearly 600 statewide organizations, Hawai'i Green Growth strongly supports the direction of green fee funding to resource community-based organizations who already lead stewardship efforts across Hawai'i – we can affirm that much of this work is already well underway and the Hawai'i holds the solutions that we need for some of our most complex and pressing challenges. The value of community-based organizations cannot be overstated in the trust they hold within their own communities and the knowledge they inherently possess; people and communities of place are our greatest resource and asset when it comes to caring for our natural environment. We must ensure that the funding allocated by the Green Fee reaches their work directly.

HGG affirms the recommendations of the Council and recommendations of the Care for 'Āina Now Coalition, offering the following additional inputs from community partners from across the state working in natural resource management, sustainable tourism, and climate and hazard risk mitigation:

- Agencies should partner with organizations through contracts, grants, and other financial mechanisms to promote a collaborative and comanagement model for project success, reducing procurement “barriers to entry” from the onset;
- Ensure the appropriations to bucketed categories are supplemental to base conservation funding rather than supplanting existing resources.

We urge the Legislature to support the Project Recommendations, and work with state agencies to encourage strong community leadership and comanagement to fulfill these ambitious and important priorities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your leadership on this important issue.

Samantha Happ
Network Director, Hawai'i Green Growth
O'ahu | 96816



TO:

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

DATE: March 10, 2026

**RE: HB 1800 – RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET:
Support for the “Green Fee” Project Portfolio**

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The **Hawai'i Hotel Alliance (HHA)** and the **American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA)** appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support** of the provisions within **HB 1800** relating to the Green Fee project portfolio and the strategic appropriation of these funds to bolster Hawai'i's climate resilience.

This testimony is submitted on behalf of **Jerry Gibson**, President of the Hawai'i Hotel Alliance, and **Kekoa McClellan**, HHA Chief Advocate and AHLA Hawai'i Spokesperson.

About HHA and AHLA

The Hawai'i Hotel Alliance and the American Hotel & Lodging Association represent the heartbeat of Hawai'i's hospitality industry. Our membership includes a diverse range of lodging properties, from independent boutiques to global brands, as well as the thousands of dedicated local employees who sustain our visitor economy. Our mission is to ensure a vibrant and sustainable future for our industry, which is inextricably linked to the health of our natural environment and the safety of our communities.

Support for the Green Fee Project Portfolio

We wish to express our firm support for the **Green Fee project portfolio** submitted by the Governor. This portfolio of 75 high-impact, ready-to-deliver projects represents a holistic and proactive approach to the climate-driven challenges that threaten our economic stability and our very way of life.

The hospitality industry recognizes that we must accelerate our preparedness now. For our resort districts, the risks of environmental degradation and natural hazards are not theoretical;

they are immediate threats to the infrastructure and natural beauty that draw millions of visitors to our shores and provide livelihoods for our residents.

Investment in Beach Renourishment and Restoration

Specifically, HHA and AHLA wish to highlight our support for the projects outlined by the Green Fee Advisory Committee related to **beach renourishment and beach restoration**. These projects, which dedicate one third of green fee allocations to projects relating to our resort districts and visitor industry, are critical for several reasons:

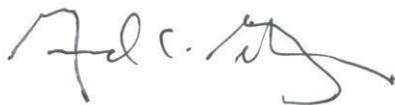
- **Public Use and Lateral Access:** Our beaches are a public trust. Restoration ensures that residents and visitors alike can continue to enjoy lateral access to our shorelines, which is a fundamental right and a cornerstone of our local culture.
- **Safety and Risk Mitigation:** Restored beach ecosystems serve as a primary line of defense against storm surges and sea-level rise, protecting public infrastructure and enhancing community safety.
- **Economic Ecosystem:** The "Island Economy" relies on the health of our coastal ecosystems. Without proactive investment in our beaches, we risk the degradation of the primary asset that sustains our visitor industry and the broader state economy.

Conclusion

The Green Fee project portfolio offers a path to sustain the natural and cultural resources that our communities and the visitor economy depend on. By strengthening resilience immediately, we can mitigate the unmanageable costs of future disasters and ensure that Hawai'i remains a safe, beautiful, and thriving home for generations to come.

We respectfully urge the Committee to support the Green Fee recommendations within HB 1800.

Mahalo for your leadership and for the opportunity to testify on this vital matter.



Jerry Gibson
President, Hawaii Hotel Alliance



Kekoa McClellan
Chief Advocate, Hawaii Hotel Alliance,
& AHLA Hawaii Spokesperson

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 9:00:17 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Etta Lynch	Auwahi Forest Restoration Project	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representative Chris Todd, Representative Jenna Takenouchi, and Members of the FIN Committee,

My name is Etta Lynch, and I respectfully support HB 1800 and the Green Fee project portfolio.

For generations, Native Hawaiians have understood the deep *pilina*- relationship- between healthy land, healthy water, and healthy communities. Stewardship of the land is not simply environmental management—it is a responsibility rooted in culture and identity.

The Auwahi Forest Restoration Project reflects this tradition of stewardship. The restoration of native forest ecosystems helps protect landscapes that are culturally significant while restoring plants and ecosystems that have long been part of Hawai‘i’s natural and cultural heritage.

Projects like Auwahi help reconnect people to traditional values of *mālama ‘āina* and *kuleana*—our responsibility to care for the land that sustains us.

Supporting restoration efforts is also an act of cultural respect. Protecting native ecosystems preserves the natural heritage that has shaped Hawaiian culture for centuries. As a non-Hawaiian, protecting and respecting cultural practices and mindsets is deeply important to me.

The Green Fee project portfolio offers an opportunity to support stewardship efforts that align with these long-standing values while addressing modern environmental challenges.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to support HB 1800.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Etta Lynch
Auwahi Forest Restoration Project
Makawao, Hawai‘i

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 9:15:03 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Stine	Friends of Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Friends of Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge is a 501(c) 3 organization based in Hilo. Our mission is to support native Hawaiian forest habitats such as Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge in terms of restoring, protecting, and conserving biological diversity at both the Hakalau and Kona Forest Units. Particular emphasis is focused on saving endangered bird and plant species, while simultaneously providing wildlife-dependent recreation such as wildlife observation and photography, environmental education and interpretation, cultural experiences, and scientific research.

Hawaii originally had 84 species of endemic forest birds throughout the islands. Roughly 59 of these species are now extinct, principally because of the lethal effects of avian malaria and other avian diseases. Of the remaining 25 species, 23 are considered threatened or endangered. All of the endangered birds on Kauai and Maui are currently on the brink of extinction. Hawaii Island, at the upper elevations where mosquitoes are not present, is the only place left where there are still healthy populations of the rare native birds. Conditions continue to decline and the risk of extinction of the remaining threatened and endangered forest birds increases each year.

Assertive actions to mitigate the threats of avian diseases are imperative and needed immediately. The Friends of Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge is specifically supporting the following part of HB1800:

- Native Resources and Fire Protection Program - Forestry Division (LNR 402/DA)
- Add \$1,600,000 in general funds in FY 27 for the Endangered Forest Bird Mosquito Abatement Project to protect the native bird populations from mosquitoes.
- Add \$1,600,000 in general funds in FY 27 to support the protection and recovery of Hawai'i's native birds from mosquito-born avian malaria and other existential threats.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this proposed legislation. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if we can provide more information or if you have any questions for us:

friendsofhakalauforest@gmail.com

Mahalo,

Peter Stine

President

Friends of Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 8:40:26 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elena Arinaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill to ensure better protections for our native Hawaiian forest birds.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 8:40:26 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elena Arinaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill to ensure better protections for our native Hawaiian forest birds.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 8:49:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Gabrielson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of HB1800

House Committee on Finance

Position: Support

Aloha Representative Chris Todd, Chair, Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair, and Members of the FIN Committee

My name is Sara Gabrielson, I live in Waialua Oahu and I am submitting written testimony in strong support of HB1800, which includes the initial year of Green Fee projects and priorities.

The Green Fee represents a significant and promising investment in Hawai'i's future, and comes with great responsibility. It provides needed revenue to support climate resilience, sustainable tourism, and environmental stewardship, helping us close the enormous annual conservation funding gap and build resilience across our State. During the first year of green fee implementation, we have a kuleana to ensure the fund is set up to inform future years. A transparent and community-driven fund will also empower community members, practitioners, and policymakers to learn from what works and continuously improve how funds are deployed.

I strongly support green fee funds should be used to resource community-based organizations who already lead stewardship efforts across Hawai'i. State agencies should partner with organizations through contracts, grants, and other financial mechanisms to promote a collaborative and co-management model for project success. This Green Fee funding recommendation crafted by the Green Fee Council did not simply compile a wish list of projects, they carefully reviewed publicly submitted and formally proposed projects representing over \$2 billion. They balanced priorities covered in the three sectors (Environmental Stewardship,

Climate and Hazard Resilience, and Sustainable Tourism) and the recommendation reflects the needs of the organizations and individuals doing this work. I work and live in an area of the island threatened by wildfire, sea level rise and flooding, and dependent on healthy mauka watersheds. I see my value of protecting the aina and supporting infrastructure to allow us to live here sustainably reflected in the recommendations provided and I urge the legislator to fund the whole package, not bits and pieces! The whole package will be strongest when implemented together. Many of Hawai'i's stewardship efforts are led by small, community-based groups. Stable Green Fee funding can empower these groups with multi-year support, workforce training and project continuity, especially if implemented with transparency and documentation to track the spending.

We urge the Legislature to support the Project Recommendations, and work with state agencies to encourage strong community leadership and co-management to fulfill these ambitious and important priorities.

I respectfully urge the Legislature to pass HB1800.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your leadership on this important issue.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Sara Gabrielson

Oahu

96791

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 5:30:57 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bret Mossman	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, and members of the committee.

I am writing to express strong support for the following items included in the governor's green fee request:

Native Resources and Fire Protection Program - Forestry Division (LNR 402/DA)

Add \$1,600,000 in general funds in FY 27 for the Endangered Forest Bird Mosquito Abatement Project to protect the native bird populations from mosquitoes.

Add \$1,600,000 in general funds in FY 27 to support the protection and recovery of Hawai'i's native birds from mosquito-born avian malaria and other existential threats.

Native forest birds particularly those on Kaua'i are experiencing a catastrophic population loss and are in desperate need of expanded management. Federal cuts in aid are also poised to make conserving these birds even harder, and these state resources cannot come at a better time for these key projects. Please keep these two projects and consider increasing funding to forest birds moving forward.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 5:30:57 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bret Mossman	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, and members of the committee.

I am writing to express strong support for the following items included in the governor's green fee request:

Native Resources and Fire Protection Program - Forestry Division (LNR 402/DA)

Add \$1,600,000 in general funds in FY 27 for the Endangered Forest Bird Mosquito Abatement Project to protect the native bird populations from mosquitoes.

Add \$1,600,000 in general funds in FY 27 to support the protection and recovery of Hawai'i's native birds from mosquito-born avian malaria and other existential threats.

Native forest birds particularly those on Kaua'i are experiencing a catastrophic population loss and are in desperate need of expanded management. Federal cuts in aid are also poised to make conserving these birds even harder, and these state resources cannot come at a better time for these key projects. Please keep these two projects and consider increasing funding to forest birds moving forward.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 6:35:10 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pippa Swannell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is testimony in favour of;

Native Resources and Fire Protection Program - Forestry Division (LNR 402/DA)

Add \$1,600,000 in general funds in FY 27 for the Endangered Forest Bird Mosquito Abatement Project to protect the native bird populations from mosquitoes.

Add \$1,600,000 in general funds in FY 27 to support the protection and recovery of Hawai'i's native birds from mosquito-born avian malaria and other existential threats.

These projects will help protect birds like 'Ākohekohe, 'Akeke'e, and more. In order to truly secure the future of these birds, we need a large amount of funding support from the state, and this is a good start for replacing federal funding that will no longer be available.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 6:35:10 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pippa Swannell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is testimony in favour of;

Native Resources and Fire Protection Program - Forestry Division (LNR 402/DA)

Add \$1,600,000 in general funds in FY 27 for the Endangered Forest Bird Mosquito Abatement Project to protect the native bird populations from mosquitoes.

Add \$1,600,000 in general funds in FY 27 to support the protection and recovery of Hawai'i's native birds from mosquito-born avian malaria and other existential threats.

These projects will help protect birds like 'Ākohekohe, 'Akeke'e, and more. In order to truly secure the future of these birds, we need a large amount of funding support from the state, and this is a good start for replacing federal funding that will no longer be available.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 7:29:01 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noah Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I want to voice my support for this bill. Continued, sustained funding of projects to protect our native forest birds from mosquito borne disease is integral to saving them. Foreign disease continues to be the most important factor in the decline of our native forest birds.

Thank you for your consideration,

Noah Gomes

Bill Number: HB 1800

Bill Title: RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

FUNDING FOR THE GREEN FEE ADVISORY COUNCIL PROJECT PORTFOLIO

Dear Representative Chris Todd, Chair; Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair; and Members of the FIN Committee

My name is Catherine Courtney. I am a windward Oahu resident. I have worked and volunteered to preserve our coastal environment for over 35 years. I am in full support of the entire Green Fee project portfolio. As a state, we do not invest enough in our natural environment. I have reviewed the Green Fee Advisory Council Recommendations Report and listened to webinars from the Green Fee Advisory Council, including the last one which went through all the proposed projects. These are all sound recommendations worthy of funding. As a windward resident, I am particularly interested in funding for dune restoration for Kailua and Lanikai beaches. This is a must if we are to preserve these critical beaches for our residents and visitors and to protect our shoreline from erosion.

THANK YOU.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/9/2026 3:28:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of. Thank you.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/9/2026 4:51:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan DiVietro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I'm Jonathan DiVietro and I strongly support HB1800 based on the Green Fee Advisory Council's Recommendations Report. I actively participate in environmental stewardship, especially in the restoration of Ulupō and the greater Ulupō Nui. Caring for these areas is paramount for revitalizing the ahupua‘a of Kailua and its once abundant loko i‘a of Kawainui.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/9/2026 2:21:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Fairchild	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's important to increase state funding to sustain critical services provided by community-based nonprofits, ensuring vulnerable populations across Hawai'i continue to receive essential support amid rising costs and uncertainties about federal funding.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/9/2026 11:04:01 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carrie Ostroski	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee on Finance,

I submit my testimony in support of HB1800. I am urging you to advance the full Green Fee Project portfolio as recommended by the Green Fee Advisory Council. These projects and the people, places, and species need your kokua.

The portfolio is vetted by a council of field experts, many of whom I know personally and have worked together with for community.

The projects are ready to go. They're viable and tangible, many of which are leveraged by private philanthropy and other public and community investment and engagement.

You will propel and fuel incredibly vital projects with your support. The recommended portfolio will immediately strengthen disaster resilience, protect critical ecosystems, and sustain natural and cultural resources we all rely on.

I am closely and personally engaged with coral restoration, cesspool conversion planning, coastal and nearshore protection and regeneration, and dedicated communities that all deserve and need this boost and your support.

Please pass the complete Green Fee Project portfolio.

Mahalo Nui,

Carrie Ostroski

Waikoloa, HI, carrieo@gmail.com

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/9/2026 4:01:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Garrison Glazner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Jessica Glazner and I am the owner of Liquid Cosmos Divers, a scuba tour operation on Hawai`i island. I support HB1800 and urge the committee to fund the entire portfolio suggested by the Green Fee Council. Hawai`i is facing significant risks from climate impacts that are directly threatening public safety, economic stability, food security, and cultural resources. We need as many local projects as possible funded to help mitigate these risks, particularly community-led initiatives. I support the funding recommendations that the Council has prepared because they have prioritized projects addressing the most urgent threats to our State providing a well-rounded portfolio. As a local business owner who works directly with tourists every day, I would also like to communicate that our visitors are in support of their Green Fee going towards local conservation projects.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 9:04:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Audrey Tamashiro-Kamii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and House Members of the Committee on Finance:

My name is Audrey Tamashiro-Kamii. I am a resident of Makawao, Maui. I am writing in strong support of **HB1800**, which will provide much-needed funding for projects that advance environmental stewardship, climate adaptation, and sustainable tourism initiatives across Hawai‘i. These challenges are deeply interconnected and addressing them effectively will require a holistic approach and equitable funding to ensure meaningful and lasting benefits for our ‘āina and our communities.

I respectfully urge the committee to ensure that the **Hawai‘i Green Fee project portfolio** is prioritized, consistent with the recommendations put forward by the Governor and the Green Fee Advisory Council. Investing in these initiatives will help safeguard Hawai‘i’s natural resources while supporting responsible tourism and strengthening community resilience for generations to come.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify,

Audrey Tamashiro-Kamii

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 9:34:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hillary Foster	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in support on HB1800, especially in regards to the \$1.6 million for mosquito abatement and the \$1.6 million for forest bird recovery in FY27.

It's heartbreaking to think that species found nowhere else on Earth could disappear just because we didn't act fast enough. Between climate change and avian malaria, our native birds are being pushed into smaller and smaller areas of the forest. This bill will help fund science-based, proactive solutions that aid in the protection and recovery of Hawai'i's native birds.

Our forests and our culture are tied to these birds. Protecting them is protecting Hawai'i. Please move HB1800 forward and ensure this funding stays in the budget. Thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 10:01:17 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr Marion Ceruti	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please, kokua, vote YES on HB 1800. I support the Green Fee Advisory Council’s Funding Recommendations and I ask the House Committee on Finance (FIN) do the same. The Green Fee project portfolio consists of 75 high-impact, ready-to-deliver projects that were carefully selected by the Green Fee Council. Hawai’i must mitigate the otherwise unmanageable costs and potential devastation of future disasters, by strengthening the shoreline’s resistance to erosion and its resilience to deflect the next flooding disaster. We also must sustain our natural and cultural resources that together support our communities and visitor economy. Let us all now prepare for natural disasters with a view toward prevention, which is much more economical than providing disaster relief after the disaster occurs.

Mahalo for voting YES on HB 1800.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 10:52:12 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arthur Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support for HB 1800 – Scientific and Ecological Value of Forest Restoration

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Art Medeiros and I respectfully submit testimony in strong support of HB 1800 and the Green Fee project portfolio. I have worked for over 40 years in ecosystem management in Hawai‘i, especially on Maui, 34 years with the Federal government at Haleakala National Park and the US Geological Survey.

The Green Fee project portfolio represents an opportunity to expand these types of proven restoration strategies across Hawai‘i. By investing in projects that are already designed and ready to implement, HB 1800 allows the state to act proactively rather than reactively.

Native forests are also essential ecological infrastructure. They stabilize soils, support watershed function, and provide natural resistance to wildfire compared to landscapes dominated by invasive grasses. All on Maui are worried that the sad situation at Lahaina could be repeated. In this case, the cost of prevention is orders of magnitude lower than the cost of disaster recovery.

Breaking the grass ceiling. Turning pastures into forests. The Auwahi Forest Restoration Project on Maui provides one of the most scientifically compelling examples in Hawai‘i of how degraded ecosystems can be successfully restored. Auwahi protects one of the last remaining fragments of Hawai‘i’s native dry forest ecosystem, an ecosystem that has been reduced to only small remnants statewide.

Through careful ecological management—including fencing, invasive species control, and the propagation and planting of native species—the project has demonstrated that native forest ecosystems can recover when given sustained protection and stewardship. Decades of work at Auwahi have resulted in increased native plant diversity, improved habitat for native species, and a landscape that is increasingly resilient to climate stress.

The Green Fee project portfolio represents an opportunity to expand these types of proven restoration strategies across Hawai‘i. By investing in projects that are already designed and ready to implement, HB 1800 allows the state to act proactively rather than reactively.

The long-term ecological success of the Auwahi Forest Restoration Project demonstrates that restoration works—and that strategic investments in native ecosystems yield measurable environmental benefits.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the committee to support HB 1800.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. Mahalo for all the effort you make to help the land and people in Hawai'i

Sincerely,
Dr, Art Medeiros

1050 'Aina Manu Place

Makawao, HI 96768

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 10:59:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erica Allmen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representatives Chris Todd and Jenna Takenouchi and Members of the FIN Committee,

My name is Erica von Allmen, and as an individual citizen and a certified restoration ecologist, I submit testimony in support of HB 1800 and the Green Fee project portfolio.

Healthy forests play a critical role in protecting Hawai‘i’s freshwater resources. Watersheds capture rainfall, stabilize soils, and support the recharge of groundwater aquifers that supply drinking water for communities across the islands.

Ecological restoration of forests, such as those at Auwahi on Maui demonstrates how restoring native forest vegetation contributes directly to watershed health with scientific evidence of recovered hydraulic properties following forest recovery. When compared to non-native vegetation, native vegetation improves soil structure, reduces erosion, and enhances the ability of landscapes to absorb and retain water.

In areas where native ecosystems have been replaced by invasive grasses or degraded vegetation, rainfall is more likely to run off quickly, increasing erosion while reducing aquifer recharge. Well planned and implemented ecological restoration projects like Auwahi help reverse this process by rebuilding functioning forest ecosystems.

Given the growing pressures of climate change and increasing drought conditions in many parts of Hawai‘i, protecting and restoring watersheds must be a priority.

The Green Fee project portfolio includes projects that directly strengthen these natural water systems. Supporting HB 1800 will help ensure that future generations continue to have reliable and clean freshwater resources.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to pass HB 1800.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Erica von Allmen
Haiku, Hawai'i

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 11:16:07 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Landau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Green Fee spending recommendations that have been submitted for consideration. Hawai‘i’s natural environment is the foundation of our quality of life and the primary reason visitors travel from around the world to experience our islands. It is both appropriate and necessary that the revenue generated from visitor-related fees be invested directly into protecting and sustaining these resources.

The recommendations that prioritize environmental stewardship, climate and disaster resilience, and sustainable tourism infrastructure represent a thoughtful and balanced approach. Investments in watershed protection, invasive species control, wildfire prevention, coastal resilience, and the stewardship of parks and trails will help ensure that Hawai‘i’s unique ecosystems remain healthy for future generations.

Equally important is the recognition that managing visitor impacts requires ongoing care for the places people come to see. Supporting community stewardship programs, maintaining public lands, and improving visitor education will help protect fragile environments while preserving the visitor experience that supports our economy.

I respectfully encourage you to support and fully fund the full set of recommendations that have been submitted. Doing so will demonstrate Hawai‘i’s commitment to responsible stewardship and long-term sustainability.

Mahalo for your consideration and for your work on behalf of the people and natural resources of Hawai‘i.

Sincerely,

Paul Landau

Honokaa, HI.

RE: Support for HB 1800 – Ecological Stewardship and Cultural Connection

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Laura Arnold, and I submit testimony in strong support of HB 1800 and the Green Fee project portfolio.

Many strong initiatives and projects across the islands make valuable contributions to respect and care for our natural environment, which benefit residents and visitors alike. These projects can be more effective over the long term with a steady basis of support.

The Auwahi Forest Restoration Project on Maui illustrates how ecological restoration can also strengthen community connection and cultural values. Over the years, Auwahi and many conservation projects across the islands have engaged volunteers, students, educators, and community members in hands-on restoration work, helping people build deeper relationships with the land.

This work reflects the Hawaiian value of mālama ‘āina—caring for the land so that it may continue to sustain us. Through planting native species, protecting forest habitat, and learning about the cultural and ecological history of areas, participants gain a deeper understanding of Hawai‘i’s unique natural heritage.

Community-driven stewardship projects also serve as important educational spaces where younger generations learn about native ecosystems and their responsibility to care for them.

The Green Fee project portfolio would provide the stable support needed for projects to continue engaging communities while improving and expanding restoration work across the state.

Investing in these projects strengthens both the land and the future generations of communities that depend on the land and waters.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to support HB 1800.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Laura Arnold
Resident, Hawai‘i

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 11:44:34 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Romero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I would like to submit testimony in favor of HB1800 in particular to allocate funding to support Hawaii's natural ecosystems. I would also like to advocate for all appropriations that lower cost of living for residents, and to support education and childcare accessibility to Kamaaina.

As a conservation biologist I would like to bring attention to the necessity of funds to protect Hawaii's natural ecosystems such as the endangered Forest Bird Mosquito Abatement Project to protect the native bird populations from mosquitoes and the funds to support the protection and recovery of Hawai'i's native birds from mosquito-born avian malaria and other existential threats.

We are constantly seeing the loss of Hawaii's natural resources and urgency is of the utmost importance. The best time to protect these resources like our beautiful forest birds was in the past, but the next best time is today. If we act now we can possibly prevent another extinction and another loss of the culture and ecosystem services these birds carry with them.

Hawaii is also experiencing a mass exodus of its indigenous and local populations. As an illegally occupied state what has been done to Hawaii in terms of gentrification and cost of living is incredibly unjust. The "affordable" housing that is being created is anything but that and this coupled with the high cost of living is making Hawaii only a place for the most privileged of us all. Hawaii is not Hawaii without Hawaiians and the local communities that made it so. I urge you to keep working towards a more equitable future for Hawaii because all many of us see is a rapidly increasing rise in inequality.

Thank you for your time.

Ashley Romero

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 12:16:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rugmini Shah	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Position : Support HB 1800

I have been watching Hawai'i for almost 50 years, and the main attraction for visitors and residents like me is our beaches. I have been witnessing the shrinking of islands over 50 years of my life as a result of coastal erosion, from climate change..

I was happy to support the state's efforts of finding a funding source to mitigate beach erosion such as the Green Fees.

One of the projects to mitigate impact of climate changes, submitted by advisory council , is mitigation of shoreline erosion in Kahana Bay, in West Maui..Currently visitors are unable to enjoy the beach as a result of sandbags placed , on shoreline, to stop the ocean waves.

Kahana Bay faces 10 condominium resorts, and loss of beaches is limiting visitor arrivals, among other things.

If nothing is done, these resorts eventually will fall into the ocean losing lives as well as an embarrassment to the State of Hawai'i.

While the funding of \$2million is limited in the first year it is a starting point to address the immediate needs of at least two of the 10 buildings, while the beach restoration is done..

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 12:30:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacy Haruguchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Todd, Takenouchi, and Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Stacy Haruguchi and I have been a member of the Civil Air Patrol for 10 years and have prior search and rescue experience via the US Air Force. I support for HB1800 and an appropriation for the Hawai‘i State Search and Rescue Coordinator temporarily placed within the Office of the Governor for special purposes — to evaluate SAR training and capabilities, develop a state SAR framework, mutual aid system, and provide incident related data and information. Although the counties and US Coast Guard have MOUs in place to provide federal support for air and maritime SAR, there is no coordinator at the state level to request and coordinate national guard, or private, commercial or volunteer SAR organizations. This creates confusion about who is authorized to request the additional help and reduces SAR efficiencies due to concerns about costs that often don't exist or liabilities that are already addressed. Over the years, there have been multiple county and state bills proposed to fine victims of search and rescue due to the cost involved with fire, police and other government rescue organizations. In theory, the State SAR coordinator would be able to augment existing county rescue assets by including the use of vetted SAR volunteer groups and/or national guard or federal military assets that do not require payment for services. This would maximize victim survival rates while minimizing costs, and also facilitate routine coordination and training between non-governmental SAR organizations and county, state, and federal SAR units.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 1:11:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaiewa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I'm Kaiewa Leota and I strongly support HB1800 based on the Green Fee Advisory Council's Recommendations Report. I actively participate in environmental stewardship, especially in the restoration of Ulupō and the greater Ulupō Nui. Caring for these areas is paramount for revitalizing the ahupua‘a of Kailua and its once abundant loko i‘a of Kawainui.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 1:12:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalikoonaupūna Kalahiki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a kupa o Koolāupoko and aloha aina who helps to steward aina in this moku, I strongly support this bill. Ulupō Heiau is in the piko of Kailua, and the poe aloha aina who steward these aina are actively repairing the pilina between kanaka and aina through growing food, practicing culture, and safeguarding native species.

It is for these reasons that I support this bill.

Mahalo

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 1:33:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ron Terry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In Support of HB1800 With Clarification for Climate-Resilient Multi-Modal Evacuation Infrastructure

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

My name is Ron Terry. I am writing as an individual, but for reference I am a career environmental scientist and the President of the Board of Directors of the non-profit Hilo Bayfront Trails, Inc., which assists the County of Hawai‘i and State in building multi-use paths for our community.

We strongly support SB2500’s investments in climate resilience, disaster preparedness, and hazard mitigation. We respectfully request clarification to ensure that multi-use trails and multi-modal evacuation corridors are explicitly recognized as eligible resilience infrastructure under this measure.

Recent disasters across Hawai‘i have demonstrated that resilience is not only about hardened buildings and warning systems — it is also about safe, redundant mobility. When primary highways are compromised by wildfire, flooding, landslides, or sea level rise, communities require alternative evacuation routes and non-vehicular access corridors.

Multi-use trails and protected active transportation facilities:

- Provide redundant evacuation capacity
- Reduce vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions
- Support emergency access when fuel or roadways are limited
- Improve public health and safety
- Advance Hawai‘i’s Complete Streets mandate
- Align with transportation decarbonization goals under the Navahine settlement

As Hawai‘i continues implementing climate adaptation strategies, it is critical that evacuation-ready, multi-modal corridors be clearly eligible under resilience and disaster mitigation funding frameworks.

We respectfully offer the following clarifying amendment language for consideration:

“For purposes of capital improvement projects relating to natural disasters, hazard mitigation, and climate resilience, eligible infrastructure shall include multi-modal evacuation corridors, including protected multi-use trails and active transportation facilities designed to provide redundant emergency access, reduce vehicle miles traveled, and increase community resilience to natural and climate-related disasters.”

Recognizing multi-use corridors as resilience infrastructure ensures that Hawai‘i’s funding mechanisms reflect lessons learned from recent disasters and support comprehensive, future-ready solutions.

Mahalo for your leadership and commitment to building a safer, more resilient Hawai‘i.

Ron Terry hiloronterry@gmail.com

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 1:35:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Eden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kākou,

I am in full support of \$1,600,000 being added to the FY 27 general fund to support the protection and recovery of Hawai‘i’s native birds from mosquito-borne avian malaria and other threats.

Hawai‘i’s native forest birds are integral to the health and heritage of Hawai‘i. We must honor our native island ecosystems. Protecting these native birds helps to protect our native forests and our human communities rely on healthy forests and watersheds.

I’m in full support of monies, \$1,600,000, being added to the FY 27 general fund for the Endangered Forest Birds Mosquito Abatement Project to protect the native bird populations from mosquitoes.

Mahalo piha,

Jessica Eden

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 2:40:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lilli Patton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of the \$1,600,000 being added to the FY 27 general fund for the Endangered Forest Birds Mosquito Abatement Project. This will help protect hawaiiis native forest birds as their last line of defence against the invasive mosquitos. We are running out of options. There is already so much inventment into this program, we need funds to help continue this initiative and see it through.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 2:52:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB1800 because it allocates funds for Green Fee projects that will create resources for community-based organizations who already lead stewardship efforts across Hawai'i. Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 2:58:06 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brittany Penaroza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Brittany Penaroza, and I was born and raised here in Hawai‘i. I am writing in strong support of funding in HB1800 for the protection and recovery of our native forest birds, including support for mosquito control and avian malaria response. Growing up here, these birds were never just background wildlife. They are part of what makes Hawai‘i Hawai‘i. They belong to these islands in a way nothing else does, and losing them would mean losing something deeply tied to this place, our ecosystems, and our identity. The threat is real: state and federal agencies have identified avian malaria, spread by invasive mosquitoes, as one of the main drivers of decline for Hawai‘i’s native honeycreepers, and DLNR has warned that critically endangered species like the ‘ākohekohe and kiwikiu are on a trajectory toward extinction without urgent intervention.

This is why this funding matters. Hawai‘i is already using a science-based mosquito suppression approach called the Incompatible Insect Technique, and DLNR has explained that this work comes after years of planning, permitting, and community outreach. Officials have said the goal is to reduce mosquito populations and slow the spread of avian malaria that is pushing native forest birds closer to extinction. On Kaua‘i alone, the situation is already heartbreaking: DLNR notes that of 16 native honeycreepers once found there, 10 have gone extinct, and some of the few that remain are in extreme danger.

Please support this funding in full. If Hawai‘i is serious about protecting what is unique and irreplaceable about these islands, then our native birds have to be part of that commitment. The Green Fee, signed into law as Act 96, was created to provide a stable source of funding for environmental stewardship and long-term resilience, and protecting native forest birds clearly fits within that purpose. We cannot wait until these species are gone to decide they mattered. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Brittany Penaroza

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 3:21:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sadie Courson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in full support of \$1,600,000 being added to the FY 27 general fund for the Endangered Forest Birds Mosquito Abatement Project to protect the native bird populations from mosquitoes.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 3:46:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Baldwin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RE: Support for HB 1800 – Practical and Cost-Effective Climate Resilience

Dear Representatives Chris Todd and Jenna Takenouchi and members of the FIN Committee,

My name is Kathleen Baldwin, and I strongly support HB 1800 and the Green Fee project portfolio.

Invasive grasslands that dominate many leeward landscapes are highly flammable and contribute to growing wildfire risk across the islands. Native forest restoration, as practiced at Auwahi, reduces this risk by replacing fire-prone vegetation with more resilient native ecosystems. Beyond wildfire prevention, restored forests stabilize soils, reduce erosion, and help maintain healthy landscapes that support agriculture, communities, and infrastructure. Preventative investments in ecosystem restoration are far less costly than responding to large-scale disasters after they occur.

By supporting projects that are ready to deliver benefits now, HB 1800 represents a smart and responsible use of public resources.

I respectfully urge the committee to support HB 1800.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Baldwin

Kula, Maui, Hawaii

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 4:01:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eva Rueter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i's native forest birds are found nowhere else on earth and they are integral to the health and heritage of Hawai'i. Protecting these native birds helps to protect our native forests, and our human communities rely on healthy forests and watersheds. We must honor and protect our native species and island ecosystems. That is why I am in full support of \$1,600,000 being added to the FY 27 general fund for the Endangered Forest Birds Mosquito Abatement Project to protect the native bird populations from mosquitoes.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 4:20:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Barber-Meyer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support money allocated to protect Hawai‘i's rare forest birds.

** Hawai‘i's native forest birds are found nowhere else on earth and they are integral to the health and heritage of Hawai‘i.

** Protecting these native birds helps to protect our native forests -- they are vital to forest health -- and our human communities rely on healthy forests and watersheds

I am in favor of these projects to help protect ‘i‘iwi, ‘ākohekohe and Hawai‘i's other rare native birds:

I fully support the governer’s green fee request to

* Add \$1,600,000 in general funds in FY 27 to support the protection and recovery of Hawai‘i's native birds from mosquito-born avian malaria and other existential threats.

* Add \$1,600,000 in general funds in FY 27 for the Endangered Forest Bird Mosquito Abatement Project to protect the native bird populations from mosquitoes.

Let's ensure Hawai‘i's native birds are here for generations to come.

Thank you,

Dr. Shannon Barber-Meyer

Kihei, HI

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 5:15:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christa Seidl	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Maui citizen in full support of \$1,600,000 being added to the FY 27 general fund for the Endangered Forest Birds Mosquito Abatement Project to protect the native bird populations from mosquitoes.

I support \$1,600,000 being added to the FY 27 general fund to support the protection and recovery of Hawai'i's native birds from mosquito-borne avian malaria and other existential threats.

Hawai'i's native forest birds are found nowhere else on earth and they are integral to the health and heritage of Hawai'i. Protecting these native birds helps to protect our native forests, and our human communities rely on healthy forests and watersheds. We must honor and protect our native species and island ecosystems.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 5:50:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronie Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in full support of \$1,600,000 being added to the FY 27 general fund for the Endangered Forest Birds Mosquito Abatement Project to protect the native bird populations from mosquitoes.

I support \$1,600,000 being added to the FY 27 general fund to support the protection and recovery of Hawai'i's native birds from mosquito-borne avian malaria and other existential threats.

Hawai'i's native forest birds are found nowhere else on earth and they are integral to the health and heritage of Hawai'i. Protecting these native birds helps to protect our native forests, and our human communities rely on healthy forests and watersheds. We must honor and protect our native species and island ecosystems. We have to continue this fight

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 6:03:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keely Rooker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Protecting our native forest birds is so incredibly important because of their intrinsic, ecological, and cultural importance. I strongly support funds being directed to projects that work to protect these treasured species.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 6:10:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gracie McMullen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support funding projects that protect native forest birds in Hawai'i

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 6:42:13 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Corrina Carnes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Rep. Chris Todd, Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, and members of the FIN Committee,

I urge you to pass this investment in the Green Fee Project Portfolio in support of public safety and protection of critical ecosystems and cultural resources in Hawai'i.

In particular, I support the two line items under the Native Resources and Fire Protection Program - Forestry Division which add general funds for the Endangered Forest Bird Mosquito Abatement project and for protection and recovery of native birds from mosquito-borne disease and other threats. Native forest birds in Hawai'i are highly imperiled, and increased state support is crucial to mitigate loss of federal funds toward recovery efforts.

Mahalo,

Corrina

'Ōma'o, Hawai'i

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 9:15:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emma B	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1800.

I support adding \$1,600,000 to the FY 27 general fund for the Endangered Forest Birds Mosquito Abatement Project to protect the native bird populations from mosquitoes.

I support adding \$1,600,000 to the FY 27 general fund to support the protection and recovery of Hawai'i's native birds from mosquito-borne avian malaria and other existential threats.

Introduced mosquitoes transmit avian malaria, which continues to devastate native forest bird populations and is now one of the primary reasons several species are approaching extinction. Without meaningful mosquito control, many of Hawai'i's remaining honeycreepers and other native birds may disappear very soon.

Mosquito monitoring and suppression offers one of the few realistic tools available to prevent this. Protecting native birds protects Hawai'i's unique ecosystems and biodiversity.

Mosquito control can also benefit public health by reducing the risk of mosquito-borne diseases that affect people. Investment in understanding mosquito ecology and reducing their numbers now will be less costly than dealing with ecological damage or future disease outbreaks later.

I encourage the state can continue and expand funding for mosquito control efforts.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 9:19:06 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Chair Todd and Committee Members,

I strongly support this bill to protect and educate visitors alike to steward our environment and mitigate increased number of visitors to our island special places. I especially appreciate The Nā Manu ‘Elele Steward Program which currently supports 20 stewards across Hawai‘i Island, Maui, and O‘ahu. This program addresses the growing impacts of overuse in outdoor spaces by placing trained stewards at highly visited sites. Stewards provide on-site interpretation of cultural, historic, and ecological resources while promoting responsible recreation. Their daily responsibilities include public engagement, data collection, first-aid care, incident response, cultural resource protection, and environmental education.

Another deserving state program Na Ala Hele deserves more funding to maintain its trail system.

Malama 'aina,

Diane Ware Volcano 96785

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 9:39:08 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diana B. Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do whatever we can to help the survival of Hawaii's unique native bird species. Many are on the brink of extinction. Many have already gone extinct. We can make a difference.

Mahalo.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 9:43:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Robert Pitts, and I respectfully submit testimony in support of HB 1800 and the Green Fee project portfolio.

We are lucky to be able to call Hawai`i home, despite many of our communities facing adversity. Something I would like to see change is the lack of dedicated funding to take care of our watersheds on the Leeward and Windward sides of Hawai`i. Please consider using some of the Green Fee funding to help support projects that are doing work to preserve our natural resources.

Today only a small fraction of the once vast forest system on the leeward side of Maui still exists. Maui's lucky to have a sanctuary dryforest restoration project. The Auwahi Forest Restoration Project established in 1997 has been active in converting pasture land back into Hawaiian dryforest.

Through the public's interest, thousands of saplings have been grown from the remnant dryforest of Auwahi and planted back at Auwahi. What makes Auwahi so unique is its tree diversity. About 30 different species of trees grow at Auwahi. Reconnecting the people of Hawai`i to the importance of dryforests like Auwahi is something that needs to happen if we are going to save what's left of these areas.

The Green Fee project portfolio has the potential to change our trajectory of irreversible loss. Having dedicated funding for things like restoration work, watershed protection, and climate

resilience projects today will help continue the work to save what's left of the disappearing Hawaiian ecosystem.

HB 1800 recognizes that protecting Hawai'i's environment is not just about the present—it is about leaving a strong and vibrant foundation for the future.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to support HB 1800.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Robert Pitts

Auwahi Forest Restoration Project

Kihei, Hawai'i

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/10/2026 10:04:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jannah	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please allocate funds for conservation efforts for native species. Our birds are in danger of going extinct and the amazing humans that are trying their hardest to prevent extinction need funds.

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

My name is Ashton (Ash) Aiona-Aka Klare, and I serve as a Nā Manu 'Elele Steward with the Department of Land and Natural Resources on Hawai'i Island. I respectfully ask for your continued support and funding of the Nā Manu 'Elele Steward Program.

Being a steward is more than a job to me—it is a responsibility and a privilege. My family and I call this island home, and I feel a deep kuleana to care for the land, wildlife, and cultural places that make Hawai'i so special.

One moment from my work will stay with me for the rest of my life. The first sea turtle I ever had hands-on experience helping was stranded and struggling after becoming trapped on the lava rocks. In that moment, I realized how important it is that someone is there—someone who understands the land, the wildlife, and how to protect them.

That is what stewards do every day. We help educate visitors, prevent harm to fragile ecosystems, and protect culturally significant places. Often, simply having a steward present helps people understand how to respectfully experience these places and why they must be cared for.

With millions of visitors coming to Hawai'i each year, the pressure on our natural and cultural resources continues to grow. Without stewards on the ground, many of these places would be left without guidance, education, or protection.

For many of us, this work is deeply personal. We are caring for the same lands where we live, where we raise our families, and where our traditions continue. In Hawai'i, we understand that caring for the land today is how we honor those who came before us and protect what will be here for those who come after.

When you fund stewards, you are ensuring that the people who care most about this land are there to protect it.

I am not only speaking as a steward, but as a parent who wants my children—and all of Hawai'i's children—to grow up knowing the same beautiful places, wildlife, and cultural lands that we are fortunate to experience today.

Before I close, I just want to say that I care deeply about these places—not only as a steward, but as a parent. I hope my children will grow up knowing the same land, wildlife, and beauty that we are fortunate to experience today. Mahalo for helping protect that future.

Mahalo for your time and for your commitment to protecting Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources.

Respectfully,

Ashton Aiona-Aka Klare

Nā Manu 'Elele Steward

Department of Land and Natural Resources

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 1:02:03 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Claire v	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1800, because it includes funding for the Endangered Forest Birds Mosquito Abatement Project. Monitoring and lessening Mosquitos are needed to protect Hawai'i's native forest birds as they are not able to survive bites and contract diseases from monsquitos; as well as human health risks from the diseases they carry. I am asked that the State to continues to expand and support HB1800.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 4:27:21 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rhythm Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of the green fee funds going to the na manu elele program

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 5:28:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melody Cosma-Gonsalves	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in favor of supporting these projects to help protect ‘i‘iwi, ‘ākohekohe and Hawai‘i’s other rare native birds. I support funding for the protection and recovery of Hawai‘i’s native birds from mosquito borne avian malaria and other existential threats. I also support funding for the Endangered Forest Bird Mosquito Abatement Project to protect the native bird populations from mosquitoes. I want to do my part to ensure that Hawai‘i’s next generations are able to witness these beautiful native birds in their natural habitat. If they are alive and healthy, the ecosystem is alive and healthy! E ola!

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 6:35:06 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Marrack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of HB1800, specifically LNR 402/DA Native Resources and Fire Protection Program-forestry division. We are just starting to see the results of what can happen when we work to protect native bird populations. This funding is essential to continue that work. With mosquitos being one of the major killers of native birds in Hawai'i, we need to work quickly so that we don't lose any more species to extinction.

Mahalo nui loa,

Julia Marrack

Waimea 96743

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 7:43:50 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth McLaughlin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Elizabeth, and I am a trail steward for the Nā Manu 'Elele program. As trail stewards, we are responsible for engaging with the public on our state maintained trails, informing them of existing hazards on the trails, as well as assisting with any first aid or emergencies of various kinds. We spend a lot of our time at Mānoa Falls and Ka'iwa Ridge AKA Lanikai Pillbox, as these are some of our most high-use trails. Without this green fee allotment, our program will not have the funding to continue and will come to a halt. The behavior on the trails will literally regress, and the amount of trash will slowly rise again. The amount of helicopter rescues and first aid emergencies have been steadily decreasing since the beginning of Nā Manu 'Elele. We can literally see the impact we are making before our eyes. Hawai'i has many difficult decisions to make when it comes to priorities when dealing with a limited island, limited space and resources. Please use this chance to make a good decision that prioritizes these special outdoor spaces that get the most use and abuse from tourists year after year.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 7:55:14 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Stevens	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of \$1,600,000 being added to the FY 27 general fund to support the protection and recovery of Hawai'i's native birds. Protecting native forest birds is important in maintaining our native ecosystems and watersheds. Left unprotected, our local communities, agriculture, recreation and even tourism could be impacted by drought and lack of natural resources. Not to mention that native forest birds are culturally significant and that their lost can negatively affect native Hawaiians and their heritage.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 7:57:51 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Kline	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1800, which includes funding for the Endangered Forest Birds Mosquito Abatement Project.

Mosquito monitoring and suppression are critical to protecting Hawai'i's native forest birds from avian malaria

and other threats. Funding this project also helps reduce risks to human health from disease-carrying

mosquitoes. I encourage the State to continue and expand support for these efforts

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 8:08:12 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aoloa Patao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Chris Todd, Chair; Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair; and Members of the FIN Committee

Aloha,

My name is Aoloa Patao and I am in support of HB 1800 and the Nā Manu ‘Elele Steward Program as a Green Fee project because programs like this help protect the land, protect our cultural sites, and keep visitors safe. I am a part of the ‘ohana Protect Pololū and we work closely with the stewards who support visitors in keeping them safe and educated about the Pololū trail. Currently, the stewards are to lose their funding at the end of this year and this would greatly support them to ensure they're financially taken care of into the future.

We need to support the stewards as they are THE reason why parking has been better there and there have been less injuries and emergency calls.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Aoloa Patao

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 8:20:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaime Cunnane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting testimony in support of this but noting specifically to keep these sections as they aim to help our native Hawaiian forest birds, who are vanishing rapidly:

Native Resources and Fire Protection Program - Forestry

Division (LNR 402/DA)

Add \$1,600,000 in general funds in FY 27 for the Endangered Forest Bird Mosquito Abatement Project to protect the native bird populations from mosquitoes.

Add \$1,600,000 in general funds in FY 27 to support the protection and recovery of Hawaii's native birds from mosquito-borne avian malaria and other existential threats.

I am in strong in favor of these projects to help protect birds like 'Akohekohe, 'Akeke'e, and more. In order to truly secure the future of these birds, we need a large amount of funding support from the state, and this is a good start for replacing federal funding that will no longer be available.

If you spend any time in our forests where they are still around, you absolutely know how incredible these birds are but also how threatened their species are. So many of these birds are extremely susceptible to mosquito-borne diseases and other threats, and their numbers keep falling every year.

mahalo for your consideration

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 8:28:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Veno	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is urgent to save our native forest birds on the brink of extinction due to avian malaria. We need the "Incompatible Insect Technique" to reduce mosquito populations especially in Maui. This might the last chance to do the right thing. Malama 'aina. Aloha, Susan Veno

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 8:39:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christian Cooper	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As the host of National Geographic's TV series EXTRAORDINARY BIRDER, I led our team to Hawaii for one of our best episodes. There I had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the amazing, joyful work Hawaiians are doing to try to save what remains of the state's native birds, 3/4 of which are already extinct. This ecological and cultural heritage of Hawaii must be preserved for future generations, which is why I strongly encourage you to support the two forest bird line items in the budget bill:

Native Resources and Fire Protection Program - Forestry Division (LNR 402/DA)

Add \$1,600,000 in general funds in FY 27 for the Endangered Forest Bird Mosquito Abatement Project to protect the native bird populations from mosquitoes.

Add \$1,600,000 in general funds in FY 27 to support the protection and recovery of Hawaii's native birds from mosquito-born avian malaria and other existential threats.

These birds, which can be found nowhere else, can only add to the tourism that boosts Hawaii's economy, if their habitat is properly managed. Let's make this a win-win for the birds AND the people of Hawaii. Thank you!

--Christian Cooper

RE: Representative Chris Todd, Chair;
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair;
and Members of the FIN Committee
Bill Number: HB 1800
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.
March 11, 2026, 10:00am
308 via video conference

To Whom It May Concern,

Aloha kākou. My name is 'Auli'i Mahuna. I am a Nā Manu 'Elele Steward through KUPU Hawai'i in partnership with the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I am writing in support of HB 1800. I was recently employed by the Nā Manu 'Elele program and have already witnessed the benefits and positive impact it has on the wahipana (sacred sites) that are being stewarded, the local community and visitors. This program has encouraged respect for culturally significant sites and has lessened the amount of trespassing, injuries/rescues and basic disrespect of the land. Furthermore, visitors are able to engage with some of the kupa'āina (lineal descendants) of these special places and learn of the history and significance of these areas from firsthand accounts. Visitors have relayed to me that they are appreciative of the stewards for their genuine care for the 'āina, as well as encourage visitors who want to experience our home to do so consciously, safely and respectfully. Providing funding for this program will help to cultivate and sustain a safe, culturally sensitive and respectful, and fun environment for locals and visitors alike. Stewardship of high traffic natural areas is crucial to the preservation of wahipana, natural resources and all that makes Hawai'i, Hawai'i.

Mahalo piha,
'Auli'i Mahuna
Nā Manu 'Elele Steward Program
KUPU and Department of Land and Natural Resources

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Auli'i Mahuna. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'A' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 9:08:04 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brittney Hedlund	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Chris Todd, Chair; Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair; and Members of the FIN Committee

My name is Brittney Kehaulani Boshard Hedlund. I am a lineal descendant of Pololū Valley and currently reside in Niuli‘i, Kohala, Hawai‘i. For the past six years it has been our ‘ohana kuleana to ensure that this valley is properly stewarded in perpetuity by educating visitors about which conditions are best for visiting, hiking, and enjoying this wahi pana.

With that being said, we are beyond fortunate to have our current stewards placed at the lookout to assist in the inundation of visitors each day. I wholeheartedly support the Nā Manu ‘Elele Steward program as a Green Fee project in hopes of continuing this education at Pololū and other impacted wahi.

Please vote yes on this bill to ensure that our places are protected for future generations.

Me ka mahalo nui.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 9:20:02 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Klayton Kubo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

Klayton Kubo

Waimea, Kaua'i

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 9:55:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashlyn R	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support \$1,600,000 being added to the FY 27 general fund to support the protection and recovery of native Hawaiian birds. This is their home too. We have to protect them and our forests. I support funds being used to suppress mosquito populations to support native forest birds.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 9:57:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Puanani Faleofa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of the Nā Manu ‘Elele Steward Program as a Green Fee project.

I am a lineal descendant of Pololū and a member of Protect Pololū Hui. In 2022, I presented the Pololū Stewardship Resolution at the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs Convention in Seattle. The resolution passed unanimously. During that same presentation we received the sad news that a dear kupuna and lineal descendant of Pololū, Aunty Patti Ann Solomon, had passed away. Today that resolution has gone on to be used as a model for stewardship efforts throughout the State.

Every year we also hold our E Lei O Pololū event, where lei from our moku and community are gathered and strung around the iwi kūpuna—ancient Hawaiian burial grounds in the valley—helping to protect and honor this wahi pana and storied place.

Since the implementation of the Pololū Stewards through the Nā Manu ‘Elele Steward Program, there have been fewer rescues in the valley. The stewards help warn visitors about safety hazards and remind them to be respectful of this place. These stewards are lineal descendants and lifelong residents of Pololū. They carry intimate, lived knowledge of this valley and its people.

Programs like this are important and we need more of them throughout the State.

Mahalo.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 9:59:21 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Pule-Fujii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Sarah Pule-Fuji'i and I am a lineal descendant and a steward at Pololū Valley.

I am there to educate visitors because there has been too much disrespect of the land and too many people getting hurt. Right at the trailhead is where people trip and fall. Many people have gotten broken legs and broken ankles there, so the first thing we do is tell them to watch their step.

We remind visitors how steep and rough the trail is. There are no railings and nothing to hold on to. When they reach the valley they will see a beautiful black sand beach, but there is no swimming because the current is too strong and people have died there.

We also explain that if they cross the pond area and head toward the forest they will see a rope across the valley blocking off the sand dunes. That is an ancient Hawaiian burial site. My ancestors are buried there because they lived in that valley. Before, this was all a village. In the old Hawaiian days we buried our loved ones in the front yard. We ask visitors to stay on the ocean side of the rope at all times and respect that place.

We also tell people to bring water and save some for the last stretch coming back up. That part is the longest and hardest, and that is where many people collapse from dehydration and heat exhaustion.

There is no cell phone service in the valley. If something happens, we have to use satellite phones at the lookout to call for help. There are also no restrooms in the valley, so we direct visitors to the portable toilet at the mule station before they start.

Since the Pololū Steward program began, the number of rescues in the valley has gone way down. Emergency services have thanked this program and the Pololū stewards for helping prevent accidents and keeping people informed before they go down the trail.

This valley is a very special and sacred place. Our King Kamehameha I was hidden and raised in these valleys. It is important that people understand where they are visiting and show respect.

I am sending this in support of HB1800 and the Nā Manu ‘Elele Steward Program as a Green Fee project because programs like this help protect the land, protect our cultural sites, and keep visitors safe.

Mahalo nui.

HB-1800

Submitted on: 3/11/2026 10:00:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lea Hibbitt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support \$1,600,000 being added to the FY 27 general fund to support the protection and recovery of hawai'i's native birds