



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1881 HD1
RELATING TO LAND USE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hawai'i Capitol

March 3, 2026

2:00PM

Room 308

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

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS 1881 HD1**, which seeks to prohibit the construction of gondolas and similar projects on Hawai'i's mountains, which are largely comprised of watersheds and other protected areas.

OHA is the constitutionally established body responsible for protecting and promoting the rights of Native Hawaiians. Haw. Const. Art. XII § 5. OHA advocates to uphold the state's affirmative constitutional duties with respect to the management of public trust resources including wai and 'āina, both for the intrinsic ecological value of healthy ecosystems, and because these resources are foundational for the exercise of traditional and customary Native Hawaiian practices.

Gondolas—such that as proposed by Kaukonahua Ranch LLC for construction on Mount Ka'ala—are largely for the purpose of providing visitors with a motorized, scenic viewing experience of Hawai'i's "undeveloped" areas, which are primarily agriculture and conservation lands. Large scale construction in this context is generally incompatible with the surrounding character of the land, and could cause severe degradation to sensitive ecosystems, including waterways and watersheds, both in the construction and operation phases. Such large scale construction that is visible from large distances also has negative impacts on neighboring communities.

Accordingly, OHA supports passage of this bill, and notes that proper enforcement of existing land use classifications should also be deployed to protect against incompatible uses that are patently not "accessory" to other permitted uses.

Mahalo for the opportunity to support passage of this measure.



March 2, 2026,

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

Dear Members of the Water and Land Committee,

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

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

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

Mahalo,
Margaret Primacio
President



March 4, 2026

TESTIMONY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS
To the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
In Support of

HB1881 HD1 - RELATING TO LAND USE

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the committee:

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

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

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

HB 1881 provides clear definitions and enforcement framework for a statutory kapu on Passenger Ropeways on Hawai‘i mauka lands. The bill broadly defines “passenger ropeway” to include aerial lifts, aerial tramways, and funiculars, while expressly excluding elevators, and ties “mountain” lands to formally recognized geographic classifications, including those identified by the United States Geological Survey. By applying notwithstanding other land use laws, the statutory kapu supersedes conflicting permits or approvals and establishes objective, durable standards that protect Ka‘ala and Hawai‘i’s broader mauka lands statewide.

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

We appreciate your favorable consideration of this measure.

ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

A RESOLUTION

NO. 2025 - 83

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

DreanaLee Kalili

DreanaLee Kalili, President

Keep the North Shore Country

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Rep. Della Au Belatti	Rep. Jackson D. Sayama
Rep. Elle Cochran	Rep. Gregg Takayama
Rep. Mark J. Hashem	Rep. Diamond Garcia
Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa	Rep. Garner M. Shimizu

DATE: Wednesday, March 4, 2026
TIME: 2:00 PM
PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

HB 1881 HD1 - RELATING TO LAND USE

Prohibits passenger ropeways on mountain lands within all land use districts.

Keep the North Shore Country **supports the prohibition of passenger ropeways** on mountain lands in Hawaii.

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

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

Thank you for moving forward HB1881 HD1.



Hawaii's Thousand Friends

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

March 4, 2026

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

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HB 1881 HD1 - RELATING TO LAND USE

Hawaii's Thousand Friends, is a statewide non-profit water and land use planning organization dedicated to protecting the environment, human health, and cultural and natural resources. **We support HB1881.**

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

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

Thank you for supporting this bill.

HB-1881-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 1:13:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shawn Marquardt	Doppelmayr	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Doppelmayr is the world leader for cable propelled transportation. For more than 130 years Doppelmayr has built more than 15,000 ropeways systems all around the world.

Doppelmayr is concerned about the proposal to ban ropeway systems in the state of Hawaii. Doppelmayr has offices in more that 50 countries worldwide and is not aware of any location where ropeway systems are banned or prohibited. HB1881 is targeting one specific project.

HB-1881-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 1:46:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Skip Taylor	Kaukonahua Ranch LLC	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 1881

TO: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2026, 2:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Mark "Skip" Taylor

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the Committee:

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

The Kamananui Agribusiness Project Will Deliver Real Public Benefits

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

- **Unprecedented community access to private lands for recreation and cultural practices:** For generations, these private lands have been off-limits to the public. The Kamananui public access and agribusiness project includes trails, educational programs, and guided access via the gondola, allowing Hawai‘i residents and visitors to safely access and experience the Kaukonahua Valley through hiking, cultural education, and direct connection to Ranch lands—opportunities not otherwise available from large private landowners in the area.
- **Creation of hundreds of local jobs:** The project is projected to create and sustain **more than 200 permanent jobs** for North Shore residents, along with support for related local businesses. In a region facing limited employment options, this project will provide meaningful economic opportunities without converting agricultural lands to urban or resort developments.

- **Preservation of large, contiguous agricultural lands:** With more than 51% of the Ranch being dedicated to active agriculture and native plant restoration (as required by the project permit), the Kamananui Agribusiness project will ensure low-impact access. Indeed, the structures for this project, including the gondola itself, will ultimately occupy less than 1/1,000th of the Ranch’s total acreage. Keeping the rest in active agriculture and preservation will serve to prevent future subdivision of large open parcels of agricultural lands into smaller “gentleman farms” or estate lots, which is already existing the trend in the North Shore area, including the lower portions of the Kaukonahua valley, which would fragment the land, reduce agricultural productivity, and further erode the rural and open character of the area—outcomes contrary to Hawai‘i’s land-use goals and the goals of the North Shore Sustainable Communities Plan.

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

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

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

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

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

Representative Quinlan's own words in the neighborhood board meetings, and his quotes cited HONOLULU Magazine article, demonstrate that the bill is not neutral policy but a targeted intervention. The legislature should not allow the legislative process to be improperly subverted in such a manner. Particularly when many residents support and welcome the project, as opposed to the vocal project opponents that Representative Quinlan is assisting and speaking to via HB 1881.

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

Mahalo for considering this testimony.

We remain available for any questions.

Mark "Skip" Taylor

HB-1881-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 2:33:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members

I Support HB 1881HD1 and ask that you do as well.

Cheryl Burghardt

Nuuanu Oahu

HB-1881-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 8:56:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha JHA Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members,

I strongly support HB1881.

Unless this kind of exploitative "adventure" development of our iconic mountains is stopped by the State Legislature now, it will proliferate across the islands and become a huge problem statewide.

However, I do NOT support HD1, which limits the ban on "funiculars" to "commercial" only. The Committee report does not explain why this limitation makes sense.

The intent of the bill is to protect mountain landscapes - for cultural, social, environmental reasons. Exemption of private "funiculars" creates a huge loophole and undermines the clear intent of the bill.

Mahalo for moving this forward and reversing the HD1 amendment,

Denise Antolini

Pūpūkea resident, O‘ahu

HB-1881-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 9:52:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jayden Curry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Jayden Curry

Farmer

Ahupua'a 'o Waipi'o

I proudly support and stand with HB1881, this bill protects Hawai'i's beautiful and unique ecosystem. As some may know Hawai'i is the extinction capital of the world, we have lost so many of our native species due too developers, it has been long over due to say enough is enough and start fighting for our natural resources. With how isolated Hawai'i is, it is important to protect our natural resources, we cannot depend on ships to bring us water and food, we must strive to provide for ourselves and take care one another, this bill will be one step closer in completing that goal.

HB-1881-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 9:56:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Racquel Achiu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and committee members,

My name is Racquel Achiu of the Waialua Moku (North Shore Oahu) in support of HB1881. However, if I am understanding HD1 correctly, I do have concerns and cannot support HD1. I think it would nearly impossible to isolate the restriction to commercial activities projects. How would that condition be forcefully or successfully enforced ? What's to keep commercial operator from operating at a minimal capacity that would allow for the operation to be considered personal recreation with ease. We see it happen all the time. No one, NO ONE entertains this type of venture & investment without pursuing a return on their investment. These types of uses on our mountains come with significant environmental and cultural impacts, considerations that would be avoided if "claimed" or pursued under the guise of being a non commercial activity or use.

The concerns are endless and significant.

Protecting our Mountain landscapes is critical to ensure the integrity of our spaces, especially those that carry significance, such as Mount Ka'ala for example, the tallest peak on O`ahu. Our mauna throughout our pae'āina are spaces that deserve for the line to be drawn and protected.

There are still spaces in our paw 'āina that deserve to remain untouched and protected. Not all spaces are meant to be accessed or touched.

WHEN DO WE DRAW THE LINE & STAND FOR OUR IRREPLACEABLE SPACES & SAY NO This is off limits!

Considerations to allow potential access or development, builds, activities, access etc. are made yet no consideration to how these allowances impact our communities, our history, culture or resources.

Further, these considerations for use of spaces such as our mountains, result in projects that don't benefit Hawai'i as a whole or our communities. Not to mention, more often than not, these allowances lead to builds and or activities, especially on our mountains that require resources such as water, infrastructure, services etc that are already strained within our communities, the communities that this decision would impact.

mahalo for your consideration in passing HB1881 BUT please eliminate HD1 .

Mahalo & Aloha

Racquel Achiu

HB-1881-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 6:27:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni Shizuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I stand in support of this bill to prohibit passenger ropeways on mountain lands within all land use districts.

The definitions for mountain lands in this bill result in qualifying some of the most pristine lands in Hawai‘i, with the most native species (plants, animals, insects, other), as mountains. These lands are also consider some of the most scared or revered lands to the indigenous people, including lands that their akua (gods) first stepped foot on, lived in, or continue to live in today. These are areas that need to be protected and treated with utmost respect and reverence.

This bill prevents exploiting these lands for financial benefit, as some have tried to create tourist attractions in these areas. Utilizing methods like ropeways into these areas puts these ecosystems and sacred sites in jeopardy. There has to be better ways to respectfully “experience” these sites without damaging them, including virtually, through visual displays at lower altitudes, and with videos and social media.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Keoni Shizuma

HB-1881-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 11:07:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Liz Tatola	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill which will prevent gondolas from operating and will help revoke the permit of the one that is trying to go up on the North Shore of Oahu.

We don't need gondolas in Hawaii and it sets a dangerous precedent for permits for commercial projects like this to be issued. We need to preserve the natural landscapes which make Hawaii the special unique place it is. If projects like this Gondola are allowed to happen, it sets the precedent for other development that will harm the landscapes and natural beauty of the land.

Keep The Country, Country!

Thank you to the introducers of this bill. Please pass this bil into law.

Warm Regards,

Liz Tatola

HB-1881-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 11:27:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kitty Cavan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Within Hawai'i, a good portion of our state income comes from tourism. However, also due to tourism, there has been times where local land has been used. Along with that, land has been developed on to build more homes.

I believe that though, it seems like a nice idea to have a gondola to enjoy nature, it's not a need. Our mountains are beautiful: full of trees and plants. If we were to build a gondola, we'd destroy more. Also with the fact that there'd be a need for people to park cars. Not only does this take more room, but for places like Waialua, the Ka'ala gondola would be by neighborhoods. This would cause issues with families having to deal with floods of people coming by their houses and road.

I believe that we shouldn't touch our beautiful mountains even more. We should try to preserve that beautiful life.

HB-1881-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 2:18:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sunshine Eckstrom	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please strongly support HB1881. Passenger ropeways should be prohibited on all mountain lands. Protect our land, ecosystems and communities from ridiculous, disrespectful exploitation.

HB-1881-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 2:44:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jill Paulin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for considering this important measure. We cannot sell Hawai'i to the highest bidder. Our lands and skies will never be the same. I urge you to approve HB1881.

HB-1881-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 5:37:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Huntemer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

thank you for listening to the community and passing this bill which protects iconic landscape and cultural sites from destruction.

Mahalo,

Angela Huntemer

HB-1881-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 7:48:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cardenas Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill. Keep the country country.

Mahalo nui,

Cardenas Pintor

HB-1881-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 7:31:49 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
shimizu1	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill with caution- the caution is the overbreadth and lack of exception- this bill bans all passenger ropeways regardless of purpose- community access and emergency access included

HB-1881-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 8:28:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ati Jeffers-Fabro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Mai Kakou,

Our precious Mauna throughout our Pae‘Āina are sacred and it's is sacrilegious to desecrate them with intrusive construction projects. The so called gondola project that wants to creep up Mauna Ka‘ala on Oahu is a prime example. Please pass this bill so we can protect our mauna landscapes.

Mahalo nui,

Ati Jeffers-Fabro

HB-1881-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 11:16:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Abe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stornly support a ban on gondolas on Hawaii mountains.

Our mountains, scenic views, and natural beauty is not a profit center for greedy landowners who want to pave paradise to build a parking lot, just so lazy tourists can get an aerial view of the island they can get from any rooftop bar in Waikiki, or take photos they'll never look at after their vaction of the same view they can already download from a thousand sources on the internet.

as for alleged "agri-tourism" business and difficult to access areas for farm tours, I think roads and trucks will suffice. You don't need to build an expensive invasive gondola and charge high ticket prices to move tourists around on a working agri-tourism "farm". It's not like tourists are being asked to blaze a new trail through mountains with a machete.

If you allow one to be permitted and built and set the legal precedent, you will open the floodgates for landowners to cover our mountains across the state.

HB-1881-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 11:25:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Larry McElheny	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB 1881.

Mahalo

Larry McElheny

HB-1881-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 1:06:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair and Members,

I support HB 1881. Gondolas on Mount Kaala -- wrong activity, wrong place.

March 3, 2026

Testimony in Support of HB1881

Relating to Land Use

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the Committee,

My name is Calliah-Lei Bolosan and I am an 11th grader at Waialua High and Intermediate School. I am writing in strong support of HB1881, which would prohibit passenger ropeways on mountain lands within all land use districts. I have spent almost all my life on the North Shore, specifically in Waialua and Haleiwa. Growing up here, I have come to realize how significant our 'āina is; it is not just land or a scenic view, but our history, our environment, and our identity.

I am particularly concerned about the recently proposed gondola project on the slopes of Mount Ka'ala. As the highest peak on O'ahu, Ka'ala is a sacred place. It is a place celebrated in our mele and mo'olelo that deserves our deepest respect, not commercialization. Building industrial towers and running constant passenger cables across these slopes is a physical and spiritual violation of the mountain's sanctity. Turning a site of such cultural reverence into a high-impact tourist attraction prioritizes a temporary thrill over our eternal heritage.

Furthermore, we must protect the integrity of our agricultural and conservation lands. Our community has seen how developers attempt to use "agribusiness" as a loophole to build "Disneyland-style" attractions on protected land. Our mountains should be reserved for farming, native habitat restoration, and traditional practices. Construction on these steep slopes leads to erosion and threatens the native species that call Ka'ala home. As a young person in Hawai'i, I believe true stewardship means knowing when to leave a place alone. We do not need to develop every peak to appreciate its beauty.

The decisions you make today will determine the Hawai'i that my generation inherits. I want to live in a Hawai'i where our most sacred mountains remain untouched and respected for years to come. I strongly urge the committee to pass HB1881 to ensure these lands are protected from unnecessary and harmful development. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and for considering the voice of the youth.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

Calliah-Lei Bolosan

HB-1881-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 1:53:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isabella Kapali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Isabella Kapali

Regarding your Committee on Water & Land, to which was referred H.B. No. 1881 entitled

03/03/2026

Aloha kākou, my name is Isabella Kapali and I was born and raised in Waialua. I am Native Hawaiian and have been raised invested in the culture. I am testifying on the imbalanced support of tourism over the wellbeing of Native Hawaiian residence and culture and how this has made it difficult for me to support myself financially and connect to the only place I call home.

Increasing tourism and profit are the main reasons behind building a gondola on Ka‘ala. Even without this attraction, visitors outnumber locals, like myself. For one, the traffic created by the masses of people wastes both my time and gas. I can expect to move at less than 15mph when traveling through Haleiwa or headed north on Kamehameha Hwy. The cost of living is also raised by the level of tourism in the area making it extremely difficult for low-income college students like myself to be self sufficient.

Passing this bill in prohibiting the construction of a tourist attraction on a sacred mountain is the simple solution. No gondola = Respect of local residence and Hawaiian culture.

Thank you Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura for reading my testimony. Your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated.

HB-1881-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 2:28:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexander McNicoll	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of **HB1881 HD1**. Please consider this bill to help protect the ‘āina. Mahalo.

HB-1881-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 3:10:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen M Pahinui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha –

I strongly support HB 1881, HD 1 and recommend the following amendments:

- P 3 Add definition of “mountain lands” as follows: “Mountain lands” means the area surrounding a mountain from the peak down to surrounding lands with elevation of 100 feet or more above sea level.
- **§205-4.5 Permissible uses within the agricultural districts.** (a) Within the agricultural district, all lands with soil classified by the land study bureau's detailed land classification as overall (master) productivity rating class A or B and for solar energy facilities, class B or C, shall be restricted to the following permitted uses: . . .
 - (6) Public and private open area types of recreational uses, including day camps, picnic grounds, parks, and riding stables, but not including passenger ropeways, dragstrips, airports, drive-in theaters, golf courses, golf driving ranges, country clubs, and overnight camps; provided that overnight camps in operation before January 1, 1961, may be approved by special permit;
- Add the following for clarity:
 - The prohibition shall apply to any proposed passenger ropeway that has not received final approval of all permits required by all state and county agencies as of January 1, 2026.

It is critical that we protect our natural resources and not allow unfettered commercial use. Our islands should be open to rampant commercial activity that only really benefits the owner and desecrates our ‘āina.

Mālama ‘āina,

Kathleen M. Pahinui

Waialua, O‘ahu