

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:46:05 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimeona Kane	Waimanalo Neighborhood Board #32	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kākou,

The Waimānalo Neighborhood Board #32 supports this measure as it works to restrict developement related to gondolas.

Mahalo nui

Chair Kimeona Kane



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Keeping Hawai'i clean,
green and beautiful
since 1912

February 7, 2026

RE: The Outdoor Circle support of HB1881 Related to Land use -- prohibiting
passenger ropeways on mountain lands

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

The Outdoor Circle has worked for over a century to protect and preserve
Hawaii's natural and scenic beauty, including commercialization of our shared
public views and view planes.

HB1881 codifies that gondolas, funiculars, ropeways, aerial tramways and other
similar devices which, by definition, would despoil the natural view planes and
features of natural mountains in our state.

The Outdoor Circle fully supports HB1881.

Thank you for considering our testimony.

Winston Welch, Executive Director

Keep the North Shore Country

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Rep. Della Au Belatti Rep. Justin H. Woodson
Rep. Linda Ichiyama Rep. Garner M. Shimizu
Rep. Kim Coco Iwamoto Rep. Kanani Souza
Rep. Mahina Poepoe

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, February 10, 2026
TIME: 9:00AM
PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
 Conference Room 411
 State Capitol
 415 South Beretania Street

HB 1881 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.



Hawaii's Thousand Friends

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

February 10, 2026

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Rep. Della Au Belatti Rep. Justin H. Woodson
Rep. Linda Ichiyama Rep. Garner M. Shimizu
Rep. Kim Coco Iwamoto Rep. Kanani Souza
Rep. Mahina Poepoe

HB 1881 - 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

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 8:50:03 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Kamisugi	Plant A Tree Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aerial tramways in Hawaii should not be allowed, as they are very disruptive to the environment and pose a danger to our critically endangered plants and wildlife here in Hawaii.

Cables can interfere with flight patterns of our sea birds. Lighted towers cause confusion for them as well. Forests must be cleared for their path. The "access" they provide can likewise provide an avenue for the introduction of invasive weeds into otherwise untouched, or minimally untouched regions, which threatens our struggling native flora.

Hawaii has nothing to gain from this type of project and much to lose.



February 8, 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.

Mahalo,
Margaret Primacio
President

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 6:56:10 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
christina braddock	MANA WARRIOR COLLECTIVE	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB1881 and any effort that would enable further development or construction on Mt. Ka‘ala.

Mt. Ka‘ala is not an empty backdrop for tourism expansion or profit-driven use. It is a sacred ecological and cultural treasure — a living symbol of Hawai‘i’s natural integrity, spiritual identity, and the freedom of its lands.

This bill does not serve the people of Hawai‘i, nor does it serve the planet. It reflects a continued prioritization of outside interests, commercial greed, and cultural exploitation over stewardship, restraint, and respect.

We cannot continue to commodify what is sacred.

As a regenerative medicine provider, combat veteran, landowner, and woman-owned business leader serving medical sovereignty and healing in Hawai‘i, I believe deeply that true progress means protecting what sustains life — not profiting from its destruction.

To build on Mt. Ka‘ala is to insult the very mana and aloha spirit that make Hawai‘i what it is. It is an affront to the land, the community, and the future generations who deserve access to untouched nature, not infrastructure and extraction disguised as “development.”

Instead of pursuing expansion into sacred spaces, we should be investing in maintaining what is already strained — housing, health, local resilience, conservation, and the wellbeing of Hawai‘i’s citizens here and now.

This is an opportunity to do what is right. I urge you to oppose HB1881 and stand for integrity, stewardship, and respect for the sacred.

Mahalo for your time and your responsibility to protect Hawai‘i.

Respectfully,

Christina Braddock, APRN-Rx

Founder, Mana Warrior Collective

Regenerative Medicine Provider | Veteran | Hawai'i Resident & Landowner

Woman-Owned Business Serving Community Health & Sovereignty

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:50:34 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John & Rita Shockley	Free Access Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

The Free Access Coalition supports HB1881. Hawaii doesn't need more carnival rides. How about just keeping our wild areas clear of obstructions.

Mahalo for your time.

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 5:29:54 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, and Members of the Committee,

I submit this testimony in strong support of **H.B. 1881**, which would prohibit the construction and operation of passenger ropeways on mountain lands within all land use districts in Hawai‘i

Hawai‘i’s mountains are among our most important natural, cultural, and ecological resources. They are not only defining features of our landscape, but also places of deep cultural significance, vital watersheds, and sensitive ecosystems that require careful and deliberate stewardship. Once altered by large-scale infrastructure, these areas cannot easily be restored.

H.B. 1881 provides much-needed clarity and consistency in land use policy by explicitly prohibiting passenger ropeways—including aerial lifts, tramways, chairlifts, and funiculars—on mountain lands statewide.

This clarity is essential to prevent piecemeal decision-making and to ensure that short-term development pressures do not override long-term public interests.

The bill is thoughtfully drafted. It includes clear technical definitions of what constitutes a passenger ropeway and establishes objective criteria for defining “mountains,” relying on measurable topography and recognized U.S. Geological Survey classifications.

This precision reduces ambiguity, limits future conflicts, and provides certainty to communities, landowners, and regulatory agencies alike.

Allowing passenger ropeways on mountain lands would fundamentally change the character of these places by increasing access, visitation, and development pressure in areas that are often ecologically fragile and culturally revered. Such infrastructure can fragment habitat, affect water resources, and introduce long-term maintenance and safety concerns, particularly in Hawai‘i’s unique volcanic and climatic conditions.

H.B. 1881 reflects a prudent, precautionary approach to land use—one that aligns with Hawai‘i’s values of mālama ‘āina, environmental protection, and respect for place. By setting a clear statewide standard, the bill helps ensure that future generations inherit mountains that remain intact, respected, and protected.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to **pass H.B. 1881**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your consideration of this important measure.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Philips

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 10:40:42 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Constance Dela Cruz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill.HB1881 which will not allow any airial moving gondolas etc.

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 12:04:44 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
posy dixon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am the daughter of Mike Dixon who has lived at Sunset Point for the past 50 years. I do not live on the Islands but I spend a substantial amount of time there caring for my elderly father. In the past two years I have been spending time volunteering at Ka'ala Community Farm and have learnt about the significance and value of the 'aina at Ka'ala for the Island of Oahu - to the Ha'waiian community and to the ecosystem of Oahu.

The threat of a gondola project building a huge infrastucture onto one of the Islands few undisturbed peaks would be a threat to that valuable land, and a signal to encourage more infrastucture heavy, aimed-at-the-elite, foriegn investment tourism projects.

I support a bill to ban all heavy industry projects of this ilk across the Islands.

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 6:50:04 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kolja Rotzoll	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Kolja Rotzoll, and I am a 22-year North Shore resident. I strongly support HB1881 because it provides the safeguards our rural communities urgently need when large “agritourism” projects seek permits or modifications in agricultural districts.

Recent cases on O‘ahu — including the gondola/zipline proposal in Waialua — show why clearer standards and stronger oversight are essential.

1. HB1881 ensures agencies can act on new safety and environmental evidence.

After initial CUP approval, state and federal agencies identified munitions hazards, aerial training conflicts, and impacts to endangered species. HB1881 gives counties the tools to respond when conditions change.

2. HB1881 strengthens public safety protections.

Kaukonahua Road is already one of the island’s most dangerous rural corridors. The bill helps counties evaluate whether high-volume visitor uses are compatible with existing infrastructure.

3. HB1881 improves review of aviation and federal compliance issues.

Projects with structures exceeding 500 feet above grade can trigger FAA requirements. HB1881 helps prevent these critical oversights.

4. HB1881 protects agricultural lands from being converted into de facto tourist attractions.

The bill reinforces agricultural primacy in AG-1 and AG-2 districts and ensures that agritourism remains secondary to bona fide agriculture.

5. HB1881 supports appropriate environmental review and community participation.

Large, complex projects can trigger HRS 343 review. HB1881 ensures agencies require environmental analysis when impacts are likely and that community plans and input are respected.

For these reasons, I respectfully **urge you to pass HB1881**. It strengthens accountability, protects public safety, and upholds the rural and agricultural character of communities across Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 7:30:12 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rexann Dubiel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support HB1881.

Desecration of Hawaiian land to benefit a developer and the tourists it would be expected to draw is not pono.

Please, support this bill and preserve our Aina forever.

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 8:22:34 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joy Silver	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB 1881. We do not need any passenger rope ways on mountains in Hawai'i. Please support this bill and keep our mountains as they were meant to be. Mahalo

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 8:41:59 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
devon dailey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This legislation is extremely important to protect what remains of the natural beauty on Oahu. Please pass this measure and help preserve what we have left.

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 8:45:41 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha WAL Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members,

I write in STONG SUPPORT of HB1881, to prohibit passenger ropeways on mountain lands within all land use districts.

The huge opposition to the misguided Mt. Ka'ala gondola project on the North Shore of O'ahu, which has ignited strenous objections from residents of the North Shore, West Side, and across the islands, as well as united opposition from area elected officials, demonstrates the urgent need for this bill.

The iconic and culturally and ecologically significant mountains of the Hawaiian Islands should be protected from further development. Their beauty, value, and integrity are irreplaceable.

Our state policy and efforts should aim to restore native ecosystems and to protect cultural sites on our mountains for many reasons - including basic values of watershed protection.

We should absolutely prevent our mountains from being desecrated by the obscenity of "ropeways" and similar tourism schemes by developers who have no connection to the 'āina, who endlessly scheme with their teams of well-paid consultants on how to get around the intent of our land use laws in any way they can (e.g, no "major" permit, no EIS!), and who simply want to make a buck off Hawai'i and turn it into their personal playground. 'A'ole!

Please pass HB1881.

Mahalo,

Denise Antolini

Pūpūkea, O'ahu

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:03:06 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Van Horn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of this bill. I have supported my community's efforts to stop the gondola project on Ka'ala from advancing, so this bill seems appropriate as a continuation of those efforts. Most notably, from the last DPP meeting I attended in regard to the Ka'ala project, there were countless multi generational Waialua residents who strongly opposed the project, and I think it's really important that we listen to the recommendations of these people for what they want for their community and the lands within it, rather than caving to foreign interests looking to make money off the land and not listening to what the actual descendants of the land want for their community. Thank you.

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:06:45 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee members,

I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of HB 1881 which prohibits passenger ropeways on mountain lands within all land use districts.

Our mountains are culturally, spiritually, and ecologically significant places throughout our islands. They are not merely a scenic backdrop, but sacred mountains deeply connected to Native Hawaiian identity, history, and traditional practices. For generations, these landscapes remained largely untouched, serving as a place of reverence, refuge, and balance between people and the natural world. The introduction of a large-scale gondola/ropeway systems—with towers, cables, foundations, and visitor facilities—would permanently alter this sacred landscape in ways that cannot be reversed.

From a cultural perspective, construction activity poses serious risks to known and unknown cultural sites, including iwi kūpuna and historic features. Once disturbed, these resources are lost forever. Industrial-scale infrastructure is incompatible with places that hold such profound spiritual meaning and cultural value.

The environmental impacts are equally concerning. The lands surrounding our mountains support fragile native ecosystems, endangered plant and animal species, and an important watershed that contributes to the health of the island as a whole. State and federal agencies have already identified risks to native birds, bats, and sensitive habitats. Increased construction, noise, foot traffic, and long-term tourism pressure would place additional stress on ecosystems that are already threatened and irreplaceable.

There are also significant infrastructure and safety concerns, adding increased traffic, service vehicles, and emergency response needs creates unacceptable risks for residents, visitors, and first responders alike.

In practice, these developments require far more land and infrastructure. Ropeways inevitably bring restaurants, gift shops, restrooms, parking areas, maintenance buildings, utilities, and access roads. Each of these adds a cumulative burden to the land, water systems, waste management, and surrounding communities. Once built, these supporting facilities expand over time, permanently changing the character and capacity of any site. None of our mountains on any island should ever have a ropeway built

Our mountains are irreplaceable. What is at stake includes sacred cultural lands, native forests and endangered species, agricultural lands meant to support local food systems, burial sites, and one of Hawai'i's last largely untouched mountain landscapes. Protecting these places is not about opposing progress—it is about honoring culture, safeguarding natural resources, and preserving the essence of Hawai'i for future generations.

I respectfully urge you to pass HB 1881.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Burghardt

Nuuanu Oahu

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:14:26 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kori Oros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am a long time north shore resident and I strongly oppose the construction of gondolas on Mt. Ka‘ala and on any mountain in Hawai‘i due to the serious and irreversible impacts such projects would have on our island’s natural, cultural, and public resources.

Mt. Ka‘ala is not just the highest point on O‘ahu—it is one of the most ecologically sensitive and culturally significant areas in the Hawaiian Islands. Like all mountains in Hawai‘i, it functions as a critical watershed, a refuge for native species, and a sacred space. The construction of gondola towers, access roads, and supporting infrastructure would fragment fragile habitats, accelerate erosion, and increase the spread of invasive species in areas that have taken decades to restore.

More broadly, gondola development does not belong on any mountain. Mountains are not suitable locations for mass-access tourism infrastructure. They are vital natural systems that protect water resources, regulate climate impacts, and sustain biodiversity. Installing gondolas on mountains would normalize the commercialization of places that should instead be managed with the highest level of care and restraint.

In addition, mountains across Hawai‘i hold deep cultural and spiritual significance. Developing gondolas on these landscapes diminishes their sacredness and prioritizes profit over stewardship. Our mountains are not commodities; they are ancestral places and living systems deserving of protection and respect.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony .

Kori Oros

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:12:52 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
SharLyn Foo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I think allowing anything's like this on any place in our state sets a bad precedent,

mahalo SharLyn Foo

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:44:18 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Gallagher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am firmly in support of HB1881. The State of Hawai‘i should not continue on its current path of becoming an amusement park for the world. Stopping these gondolas/tramways, etc. from decerating all of our sacred mauna is a good start. Please support this bill.

Mahalo, Karen Gallagher

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:44:24 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lawrence Sagaysay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Representative Mark J. Hashem and Vice Chair Representative Dee Morikawa.

Aloha.

My name is Lawrence Sagaysay and I am a long-time resident of the North Shore and I am in STRONG SUPPORT of House Bill 1881 Relating to Land use. This measure focuses mainly on a gondola being built on Mount Kaala but above all focuses on the entire state of Hawaii.

A project being considered on Mount Kaala is a harmful commercial intrusion, concerns about the lack of an Environmental Impact Statement if any, a complete disregard to the beliefs and opinions of our community and the project's potential to mar the landscape align with recent testimony from other residents and community groups.

While tourism-related infrastructure like a gondola can generate significant state-level tax revenue and gross domestic products, it often creates specific "leakages" and burdens that can adversely affect a local community's economy.

This initiative represents the **commodification of sacred landscapes**, prioritizing high-volume tourism over the preservation of fragile ecosystems and culturally significant sites.

This project has a complete disregard for the environment and the feelings of the residents of the North Shore while prioritizing corporate profit over the safety and needs of the community.

Much Mahalo for giving me a chance to testify.

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 11:27:01 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bianca Isaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

Please support HB1881. We don't need gondolas and trams on Hawaii's mountains. As one uncle put it, you go up into the mountains to gather, not to f__ around. Many in Hawai'i share the sentiment mountains, especially from the kuahiwi to the peaks, are solemn, sacred places. Higher elevations also often harbor rare, native species that are protected by their distance from regular human traffic. Thank you.

Bianca

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 12:45:59 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Evelyn Kaneshige	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello, I was born and raised in waialua, 4th generation. I would like to see, going forward that no one else can come into our beautiful islands, pretend to farm and instead focus on building structures and other devices on ag land for the sole purpose of tourism and personal gain. I am sick and tired of seeing these structures, including large houses, popping up all over pristine land that is meant for agriculture or in areas that should stay as natural forests sites. I don't like people coming from outside Hawaii, trying to change the landscape, shoving businesses down our throats, thinking they know better than the people in this community. Thank you!

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 2:43:04 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alicia hill	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This will set a precedent throughout our beautiful land...The effects of environmental and the destruction of land is beyond measure. The impact cannot be measured even today. This is a stewardship we should be passing down to our children. Its all take take take when does it stop. Please please protect the land. Thank you

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 3:22:59 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

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 Hawaii, 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

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 3:53:17 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support HB1881 and prohibit ropeway transportation on all our mauna. No gondolas on Mount Kaala or any others. No exploitation of our resources for profit. Respect our land, our communities and our precious mountain ecosystems.

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:06:55 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha

I'm submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 1881.

Mahalo

Larry McElheny

(808) 237-9354

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 6:26:49 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gary Gunder	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of HB1881

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 6:42:45 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Luke-Boe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to ban passenger ropeways/ gondolas within all land use districts. Please help preserve our natural beauty the way it is.

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 7:20:36 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bill Quinlan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1881 is very important

it ensures respect for our native Hawaiian culture.

For example spirits leave from Kaena point.

We must NEVER allow any construction of lines on Kaena point.

1881 will protect Kaena point.

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 8:35:40 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Neil Teves	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I submit this testimony in strong opposition to any proposal to construct gondolas or similar tourist infrastructure on Hawai‘i’s mountains.

Hawai‘i’s mountain lands are not merely recreational spaces. They are culturally sacred sites, ecologically sensitive environments, and integral to Native Hawaiian identity, history, and customary practice. Development of gondolas on these lands risks irreversible harm to cultural resources, traditional access, native ecosystems, and public trust lands.

State and county agencies have a legal obligation under the Hawai‘i State Constitution, including Article XII, Section 7, to protect Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights. Any development on or near sacred mountain lands must meet the highest standards of scrutiny, meaningful consultation, and demonstrated public necessity. Tourism convenience and private economic benefit do not meet this standard.

Additionally, gondola construction poses significant environmental concerns, including habitat disruption, increased erosion, visual degradation of culturally significant landscapes, and long-term infrastructure impacts that cannot be fully mitigated. These impacts conflict with conservation goals and with the State’s duty to preserve natural and cultural resources for future generations.

Past and ongoing land-use conflicts in Hawai‘i demonstrate the consequences of prioritizing development without genuine community consent. Proceeding with gondola projects risks repeating these harms and further eroding public trust.

For these reasons, I urge the responsible authorities to deny permits, approvals, or funding for gondola construction on Hawai‘i’s mountains and to prioritize land stewardship, cultural preservation, and meaningful engagement with Native Hawaiian communities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Respectfully,
Neil Teves

Resident
Waiialua, Oahu, Ahapuaa Kamananui

2/8/2026

Carl Higgins
67-106 Kila Way
Waialua, HI 96791

To those in charge of keeping our beloved Island nice for all future generations, I support bill HB bill 1881 for many good reasons I feel. #1 for the future generations, we need our sacred mountains saved from developers who are here for one reason, to profit off our natural resources. There are enough tourist attractions already. We don't need any more tourists. The sacred mountains are there for the viewing and hiking and hunting.

#2. This proposed Gondola on Mount Ka'ala received a conditional permit from the Department of Planning and Permitting false pretenses. This is not going to be an educational development on AG-1 land, it is going to be a for profit, tourist and commercial development that should have never received a permit before all things were on the table.

#3. The access road to this development, this is one of the most dangerous roads on Oahu for the unaware drivers. I have driven this road for 36 years now, several times a week. To add more cars to this road, possibly 400-600 a day is not only dangerous but takes away the rural lifestyle we all enjoy here in Waialua. This road is curvy, only one lane in each direction can add up to many cars. I have seen 200 plus cars in a row on this road. We residents cannot leave or get home in a reasonable amount of time. The beauty of the country ruined by sheer car numbers on insufficient roads.

Let's keep this Island nice for the future. This bill will help do this.

Sincerely,
Carl Higgins

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:16:22 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim Blatta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in favor of prohibiting gondolas as defined in HB1881. Gondolas are typically tied to unwanted tourist-oriented business ventures that destroy our communities, create more traffic and offer low-level employment, while chnging the feel of our community forever.

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:21:29 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmine Ikeda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 1881. Mount Ka‘ala is a sacred Mauna, and should remain undisturbed. Infrastructure would further contaminate O‘ahu's already damaged water systems. Ahapua‘a systems are the priority and more funding should go towards creating healthy ‘āina mokus. Anything short of this is short-sighted. Military also needs to clean up and then leave.

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:23:39 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa Yamanoha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 1881 to ban passenger ropeways on mountain lands within all land use districts.

Please vote YES on HB 1881.

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:28:08 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cyrus yamanoha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concerns

I register my support of the to ban rope ways suspended above ground gondola type projects, including ziplines . I see see it as defacing the natural enviroment of our island home.

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:51:42 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clyde Hayashi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Morikawa,

I strongly support HB 1881 which will prevent inappropriate activities on agriculture or preservation land like the proposed Kamananui Agribusiness gondola project in Waialua.

HB 1881 will hopefully help to discourage wealthy outsiders from purchasing our agricultural lands when their intent is to establish commercial activities like a gondola.

I believe HB 1881 will help to preserve our agricultural lands for agricultural uses.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1881.

Clyde Hayashi

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:28:13 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
luann casey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1881

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:52:12 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie McKinney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill!

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:52:51 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dominic Souza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and mahalo for hearing my testimony

As a long time resident of the north shore and '92 graduate of Waialua high and intermediate school. I strongly feel we need this legislation to protect our natural areas from being exploited for gain. I spent many years working along side DLNR while I was working with the Oahu army natural resources program to protect our native species many of which were endangered in those areas. These are very special natural areas and in my humble opinion they should stay that way.

By passing this bill it would ensure the natural areas surrounding Mount Ka'ala and areas like it throughout our beautiful state to be protected for generations to come. Not to be destroyed due to greed and commercialization of the area with a gondola and an influx of tourists etc to the area. And building/developing the infrastructure to support the added influx of people.

I Strongly Support this bill

Mahalo nui for your time

Dominic Souza

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:56:21 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JANA CRAWFORD O'BRIEN	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB 1881

- For the Protection of Mountain Lands: The primary intent is to protect Hawaii's mountainous, rural, and conservation areas from development that could negatively alter the landscape.
- For Land Use Control: Stop the introduction of tourist-focused or transportation-based ropeway systems in sensitive high-altitude or steep areas.
- For Environmental Preservation: Prohibiting these structures limits potential disruption to natural, cultural, and scenic resources in the islands' interior.

None of the islands are in need of this type of conveyance. These are sacred mountains & should be treated as such. The negative impacts to our communities & the environment should be reason enough to support this measure.

Mahalo,

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 12:56:27 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharryl Matsumoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mt. Ka'ala is a sacred mountain with deep cultural, historical, and spiritual significance, and it warrants the highest level of protection. For this reason, I support HB1881 which will prohibit passenger ropeways on Mt. Ka'ala and any mountain lands within all land use districts. No construction of a mechanized gondola or passenger ropeway should be allowed on our sacred mountains.

Infrastructures for mechanized passenger ropeways require land disturbance, construction, ongoing maintenance, and increased visitation pressure—all of which pose risks to fragile ecosystems and a culturally sacred landscape. A passenger ropeway fundamentally alters the character of our mountains and sets a troubling precedent for development on sacred lands.

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:13:19 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monique Mironesco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives and members of the WAL committee,

As a long time resident of the North Shore, I strongly support HB1881 to ban any aerial gondolas or cable cars etc, especially if they are masquerading as agribusiness activity on Mt. Ka'ala or any mauna for that matter. Not only is it an egregious violation of the original spirit of the law to preserve important agricultural lands, but it would be culturally inappropriate to build any kind of structures on Mt. Ka'ala. The proposed gondola completely disregards sacred Kanaka Maoli land in order to monetize lands that should be left alone or at the very least be engaged in actual sustainable agricultural endeavors, rather than this pseudo-agritourism gondola proposal. The North Shore community has been overwhelming in its opposition to the gondola, and has shown up time and again to submit testimony to that effect. The North Shore does NOT want the proposed gondola on sacred land that should be left undeveloped in perpetuity. Enough with the overtourism and overconsumption on the backs of North Shore residents already. Mahalo for doing the right thing and supporting this measure.

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:34:27 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aimee Armata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our entire community is opposed to gondola and ziplines on MT. KA'ALA. It is a grotesque abuse of power to permit continued development of our natural resources. Our infrastructure cannot support the development already in place/underway. Especially not on the north shore. We are 2 road in and out. It is unsafe, unwelcome, unnecessary and does not benefit our community in any way. The State must start protecting our land, water and sacred mountains and not continue to sell them to developers from mainland with no place , stake or connection to our communities. Please pass this bill so we don't have to fight every new proposal to create a Disneyland of our homes for visitors benefit. The traffic alone would destroy residents quality of life.

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1881: Relating to Land Use

I am writing this testimony in support of HB1881 which prohibits passenger ropeways on mountain lands within all land use districts across the state.

It is vital that we continue to work on and pass legislation that supports and protects the wishes of the general public. It has been clear for years, and more so within the past year, there is a demand to protect our mountains from unnecessary development. From native flora and fauna to iwi kupuna, our mountains and the lands surrounding them hold so much. Unwelcome development can not only harm these resources but create a precedent that they are to be disregarded for the sake of profit.

HB1881 is a reflection of the connection the community has to their mountains. These lands are ancestors, they are not to be developed in ways that treat them as site attractions. Passenger ropeways are commonly used as tourist attractions, ways that folks can take in the scenery of a place. These attractions do not give back to the community, and they will attract more tourists into what will most likely be rural areas of the islands, leading to potential pollution in and exploitation of local communities. This is not for the benefit of the people. Even if all funds from these attractions were funneled back into the community, what would environmental damage look like from the building of and traffic from a development like this? There is no want for these kinds of developments on our mountains by the local community and we find it vital that our voices are heard over the wallets of developers.

I am in support of HB1881.

Mahalo.

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 4:48:15 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha -

We need to protect our cultural resources from commercial and inappropriate activities and structures. Not everything in Hawaii should be for sale.

Mahalo,

Kathleen M. Pahinui

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:16:59 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimeona Kane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Kimeona Kane of Waimānalo in support of this item. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Ke Aloha Nui

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:13:33 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Warech	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure for the protection of 'āina. No gondolas on Mt Ka'ala or any Mauna

HB-1881

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:19:24 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle Rose Gregorio Magee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Dani and I have been volunteering at Ka'ala Farms for a year. I have learned and experienced the sacredness of Mount Ka'ala and will do whatever it takes to protect her. This is why I strongly support this measure. Mount Ka'ala provides wai to our lo'i, healing to our community, and a home to Hawai'i's native fauna. Please vote in favor of this bill so Mount Ka'ala remains untouched.

Mahalo,

Dani