



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1949 HD1 SD1  
RELATING TO THE GREEN FEE**

Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ke Ki‘ina Hana a me nā Kumuwaiwai  
(Senate Committee on Ways and Means)

Ke Kapitala ‘o Hawai‘i  
(Hawai‘i State Capitol)

Apelila 6, 2026

10:32AM

Lumi 211

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Aloha e Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Senate Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS HB1949 HD1 SD1** which establishes a green fee transparency and accountability program and green fee resiliency impact dashboard to ensure that the public and decisionmakers understand how the green fee tax is being deployed to support community-led cultural and ecological restoration and protection projects, and thereby ensure the most productive and meaningful allocation of this important funding source over time. **However, OHA raises concerns with language inserted into the SD1 which reallocates funding priorities established by the Green Fee Advisory Council and diminishes the role of community based organizations in meeting the state’s climate resiliency, adaptation, and mitigations goals.**

OHA supports transparent and data-informed decision making as hallmarks for good governance and good government. The dashboard proposed in the original version of this bill would provide clear and timely data for transparency of how funds are allocated. In the coming years, the green fee is projected to generate up to \$100 million of revenue to the state each year. A dashboard would be useful for both public decision makers and the larger community with a vested interest in the success of this program to understand how this significant source of funding is being distributed. Moreover, the dashboard would enable greater synergy and cross-collaboration among community groups leading funded projects.

OHA has long sought to promote the resiliency and health of our islands’ lands and natural and cultural resources. OHA is the constitutionally-established body responsible for protecting and promoting the rights of

Native Hawaiians.<sup>1</sup> Under the Hawai‘i State Constitution Article XII, section 7, the state has a specific duty to protect Native Hawaiian cultural practices, including practices that mālama ‘āina.

Further, Native Hawaiian communities are uniquely impacted by climate change due to loss of cultural and ecological resources foundational for cultural practices. OHA understands that the impacts of climate change – such as coastal flooding and erosion and impacts to terrestrial and marine ecosystems – are already altering our natural and cultural environment with dire consequences for cherished places, native species, food security, and livelihoods. Therefore, it is with urgency for the protection of our island home that OHA asks to ensure that this bill continue to move forward, with further discussion about the funding priorities that would best align with the recommendations of the Green Fee Advisory Council.

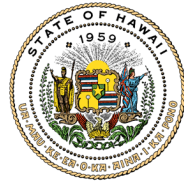
For the reasons stated above, OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** HB1949 HD1 SD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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<sup>1</sup> Haw. Const. Art. XII Sec. 5

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson  
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

**DEAN M. MATSUKAWA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & BIOSECURITY**  
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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

**MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2026  
10:32 AM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 211 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1949, HD1, SD1  
RELATING TO GREEN FEE**

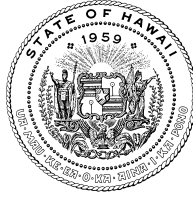
Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1949, HD1, SD1 that establishes the Green Fee Transparency and Accountability Program and Green Fee Resiliency Impact Dashboard, to be administered by the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. Appropriates funds.

The Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (Department) supports this measure that furthers transparency and accountability of the Green Fee through the establishment of the program and public-facing dashboard and agrees with the amendments that adding tracking and summarizing of allocations and expenditures, will increase accountability. The Department further agrees with the recommendation to assign monitoring and evaluation responsibilities to the Department of Budget and Finance, that currently oversees and manages the allocation of state funds.

This measure represents an important step toward protecting Hawaii's resources and environment for residents and visitors who rely on programs like the Green Fee to be administered effectively and efficiently, which this bill supports.

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



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

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

**Senate Committee on  
Ways and Means**

Monday April 6, 2026  
10:32 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 224 and Videoconference

**With Comments**

**House Bill No. 1949 HD1 SD1, Relating to the Green Fee**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

The Office of the Governor offers **comments** on H.B. No.1949 HD1 SD1, Relating to the Green Fee. The Office supports the intent of HB1949 HD1 SD1 and recognizes the importance of establishing a publicly accessible, regularly updated transparency platform that demonstrates the State's commitment to accountability and responsible resource management.

The Office of the Governor appreciates the amendment clarifying that the Green Fee Transparency and Accountability Program shall coordinate with the Department of Budget and Finance to track the finances of each project and agency receiving or expending Green Fee revenues. However, the Office prefers the original language of H.B. 1949 HD1, which focused solely on monitoring and evaluation. Additionally, the Office recommends that green fee projects and appropriations remain within the budget bill, H.B. 1800 HD1.

The Green Fee represents a transformative opportunity to ensure that those who enjoy Hawaii's natural resources also contribute to their care. To maximize the effectiveness of these funds and maintain public confidence, transparency, oversight, and accountability are essential.

We respectfully request the Committee's consideration of amending H.B. 1949 HD1 SD1 to align more closely with existing legislative language by keeping green fee projects solely within H.B. 1800 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

Testimony of the Office of the Governor  
H.B. No. HB1949 HD1 SD1  
April 6, 2026  
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To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

From: Carmela Resuma, Member  
Green Fee Advisory Council (GFAC)  
**HB1949 HD1, SD1 – Relating to Green Fee Appropriations – Comments**  
**[Monday, 04-06-26 / 10:32 AM / Conference Room 211]**

Aloha Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Sharon Moriwaki, and Members of the WAM Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify **with comments on** HB1949 HD1, SD1 and the establishment of a Green Fee Transparency and Accountability Program.

As the Legislature advances implementation of the Green Fee, we appreciate the intent of this measure to ensure that **transparency, accountability, and public trust remain central to the process.**

We recognize and support the importance of establishing a publicly accessible, regularly updated transparency platform that demonstrates the State's commitment to accountability and responsible resource management.

The Green Fee Advisory Council's work was grounded in a **community-informed, criteria-based approach**, drawing from more than 500 public ideas and over 100 agency proposals across the pae 'āina.

Importantly, the intent of this process was to identify **priority investments and project needs, and not to pre-select implementing organizations.**

Given the limited timeframe, the Council focused on developing a structured and equitable framework for prioritization, while recognizing that not all recommended projects were included in this measure and that additional priority projects remain under consideration through other legislative vehicles, including HB1800.

This ensures that organizations across islands and communities have the opportunity to participate through open, competitive, and transparent processes.

In this context, HB1949 plays a role.

While the budget process determines how funds are appropriated, and we emphasize the importance of preserving the full, balanced package of priority projects under HB1800, this measure helps ensure that **how those funds are used (and what outcomes they achieve) are visible to both the Legislature and the public.**

We also appreciate the amendment clarifying that the Green Fee Transparency and Accountability Program shall coordinate with the Department of Budget and Finance to track the finances of each project and agency receiving or expending green fee revenues.

At the same time, we note that a more focused approach centered on monitoring and evaluation, as reflected in earlier versions of this measure, may further strengthen clarity and implementation.

Building and maintaining public trust is essential to the long-term success of the Green Fee. Communities want to understand:

- Where funds are going
- How decisions are made
- What impact these investments are delivering

A public-facing dashboard directly addresses these needs by creating a **clear, accessible, and consistent system for tracking progress and performance over time.**

This reinforces a key principle of the Council's approach: **Equity is achieved through process, not preference.**

By not pre-selecting recipients and instead relying on agency-led procurement, the State preserves fairness and broad access. By pairing that approach with strong transparency tools, we ensure that the process remains accountable at every stage from appropriation to implementation to evaluation.

At the same time, we note that the specific projects included in Section 5 of this measure do not fully reflect the Council's recommended portfolio. As such, we encourage continued consideration of the full set of priority projects identified through the Council's process, particularly as reflected in HB1800.

Consistent with this approach, we respectfully encourage that green fee projects and appropriations remain within the budget bill, HB1800, to ensure alignment with established legislative processes.

It is also important to recognize that accountability exists across multiple levels:

- Legislative oversight through the budget process
- Agency implementation through procurement and contract management
- Public transparency through reporting, monitoring, and the dashboard

HB1949 strengthens this system by ensuring that these layers are connected and visible.

This is ultimately about more than reporting. It is about ensuring that the Green Fee remains a **trusted, data-informed, and outcomes-driven program** that reflects the priorities and needs of communities across Hawai‘i.

The Green Fee represents a transformative opportunity to ensure that those who enjoy Hawai‘i’s natural resources also contribute to their care. To maximize the effectiveness of these funds and maintain public confidence, transparency, oversight, and accountability are essential.

For these reasons, we **offer these comments** and respectfully request the Committee’s consideration of aligning this measure more closely with existing legislative structure by keeping green fee projects within HB1800, while advancing strong transparency mechanisms through this measure.

Mahalo nui for your consideration.

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,  
Carmela Resuma  
Member, Green Fee Advisory Council (GFAC)

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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CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
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 PARKS

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

Before the Senate Committee on  
WAYS AND MEANS

Monday, April 6, 2026  
10:32 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1949, HOUSE DRAFT 1, SENATE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO GREEN FEE

House Bill 1949, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 would establish the Green Fee Transparency and Accountability Program and Green Fee Resiliency Impact Dashboard to be administered by the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) in coordination with the Department of Budget and Finance and deposit an unspecified appropriation into the Special Land and Development Fund to fund green fee project proposals. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget and offers the following comments.**

Act 96, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2025 established a climate impact fee, or "green fee," by increasing the transient accommodations tax to fund specific projects to: 1) protect, manage, and restore the State's natural resources; 2) increase climate resilience and hazard mitigation; and 3) support destination management and sustainable tourism. Pursuant to Act 96, green fee revenues are deposited into the State's General Fund, and the Governor is required to request those revenues in the executive budget or supplemental budget for projects aligned with the three abovementioned green fee purposes.

House Bill 1949, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 seeks to establish a statewide Green Fee Resiliency Impact Dashboard to consolidate data, standardize reporting, and provide clear narratives and metrics illustrating how green fee revenues are used, where projects are located, and what environmental benefits are being realized. On behalf of the Commission, the Department respectfully requests an initial appropriation of \$500,000 for the establishment, development, and implementation of the Green Fee Resiliency Impact Dashboard and notes that additional appropriations in future fiscal years would be necessary for continuing maintenance. The Department further recommends amending Chapter 225P, Hawai'i Revised

Statutes to grant the Commission contracting authority to ensure efficient implementation of the Green Fee Resiliency Impact Dashboard.

Additionally, House Bill 1949, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 sets forth a list of green fee project proposals with unspecified appropriations and assigns these proposals to various State agencies, including the Department. The Department previously submitted testimony to the Committee on House Bill 1800, House Draft 1 regarding operating and capital improvement program budget requests, including those relating to the green fee. Accordingly, the Department respectfully requests your consideration of the comments on and funding amounts for green fee project proposals in its testimony for House Bill 1800, House Draft 1, available here: [https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2026/Testimony/HB1800\\_HD1\\_TESTIMONY\\_WAM\\_04-01-26\\_.PDF](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2026/Testimony/HB1800_HD1_TESTIMONY_WAM_04-01-26_.PDF). 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.

The Department appreciates your consideration and respectfully requests your support. Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

From: Jack Kittinger, PhD  
Member, Green Fee Advisory Council (GFAC)  
**HB1949 HD1, SD1 – Relating to Green Fee Appropriations – Comments**  
**[Monday, 04-06-26 / 10:32 AM / Conference Room 211]**

Aloha Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Sharon Moriwaki, and Members of the WAM Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify **with comments on** HB1949 HD1, SD1, which establishes the Green Fee Transparency and Accountability Program, including the Green Fee Resiliency Impact Dashboard.

While the Council **supports the intent of this measure and recognizes the importance of establishing a publicly accessible, regularly updated transparency platform**, we would like to note that the **specific project selections included in Section 5 do not fully reflect the Council’s recommendations**. A number of projects included were not part of the Council’s evaluated list, and several priority recommendations developed through the Council’s process are not reflected in this measure and instead remain under consideration in HB1800.

The Council’s intent was for its recommendations to be considered as a **comprehensive and balanced package**, grounded in a standardized, criteria-based evaluation. The projects in our recommendations were carefully selected to ensure our climate resiliency, to help guard our communities, natural resources and economy from climate-driven shocks. **Consistent with this approach, we support maintaining green fee project appropriations within the broader budget framework under HB1800, rather than within this measure.**

This measure plays a critical role in strengthening the implementation of the Green Fee by ensuring that both **how decisions are made and how funds are used remain visible, consistent, and accountable to the public.**

The Green Fee Advisory Council was tasked with developing a **process-first framework**, not a pre-awarded funding list. As part of that responsibility, the Council evaluated more than 600 submissions using a standardized, criteria-based approach grounded in **results, readiness, relevance, relationships, and region.**

It is important to reiterate that the Council **intentionally did not designate specific implementing organizations**. This was a deliberate decision to preserve fairness, avoid limiting competition, and ensure alignment with Hawai‘i’s established procurement and budget systems.

Instead, the Council provided a **roadmap of priority investments** for the legislature to consider, and to inform its decision making over appropriations, and direction to state agencies to determine implementation through existing programs as well as grant, contract, and procurement mechanisms for partners.

In this context, HB1949 plays an important role in establishing transparency and accountability, regardless of final funding decisions.

As the Legislature considers how funds are appropriated through the budget process, this measure ensures there is a **clear, standardized, and publicly accessible system to track where funds go, how decisions are executed, and what outcomes are achieved over time**.

The proposed dashboard strengthens accountability in three key ways:

1. **Transparency:** Provides the public with visibility into funding allocations, project status, and outcomes
2. **Consistency:** Establishes a common reporting framework across agencies
3. **Oversight:** Enables the Legislature to track performance, identify gaps, and inform future funding decisions

This is especially important given the Council’s commitment to a process that avoids pre-selecting recipients. By pairing a fair and open procurement pathway with a robust transparency system, the State can ensure that equity is achieved through process, not preference, and that the most well equipped organizations working in a variety of places and on key climate resiliency have fair access to resources.

It is also important to clarify how this measure fits within the broader Green Fee framework:

- **Act 96** establishes the Green Fee
- **HB1800** appropriates funding through the state budget
- **HB1949** ensures transparency, accountability, and public visibility into implementation

These measures are complementary. HB1949 does not determine who receives funding, but it ensures that **once funds are deployed, every dollar can be tracked and evaluated**.

While we appreciate the amendment requiring coordination with the Department of Budget and Finance to track expenditures, we recommend maintaining a focus on monitoring and evaluation to ensure clarity of purpose and avoid duplication with existing fiscal oversight mechanisms.

The Green Fee represents a long-term, prevention-focused investment in Hawai'i's resilience from wildfire mitigation to watershed protection to coastal adaptation. Many of these benefits will accrue over time, making it essential to establish **strong accountability systems from the outset**.

A well-designed dashboard allows the State to:

- Track progress consistently across agencies
- Evaluate return on investment for resilience projects
- Build public trust through ongoing visibility
- Inform future funding cycles with real data

Ultimately, this is about ensuring that the integrity of the Council's process carries through implementation.

We respectfully encourage continued alignment of dashboard metrics with existing state plans, clear expectations for agency reporting, and a phased implementation approach that prioritizes core transparency functions while allowing the system to evolve.

The Green Fee is a generational investment in Hawai'i's future. Establishing a strong, transparent accountability framework now ensures that this investment delivers measurable, equitable, and lasting impact for communities across the pae 'āina.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge **your consideration of these comments** for HB1949 HD1, SD1, and encourage alignment with the full set of Council recommendations reflected in HB1800.

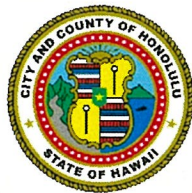
Mahalo nui for your consideration.

With aloha,  
Jack Kittinger, PhD  
Member, Green Fee Advisory Council (GFAC)

**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA PĀKA A ME NĀ HANA HO'ONANEĀ  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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RICK BLANGIARDI  
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LAURA H. THIELEN  
DIRECTOR  
PO'O

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
HOPE PO'O

April 2, 2026

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

Subject: HB 1949, HD1, SD1 – Relating to the Green Fee

The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), City and County of Honolulu (City) **SUPPORTS** House Bill (HB) 1949, HD1, SD1 Relating to the Green Fee.

DPR supports the allocation of \$6,750,000 of State Green Fee funds to conduct sand restoration at Ala Moana Regional Park (AMRP). The sand replenishment will take place on the area below the high-water mark, which is under the State's jurisdiction. This project is for sand restoration only; no hardscape will be built.

This beach fronts the most popular local beach park in the State – an area commonly known as “The People’s Park.” AMRP hosts a tremendous number of festivals and events enjoyed by visitors and residents alike, from the annual Lantern Floating Ceremony, to multiple swim and surf events, and millions of informal visits each year. Maintaining and restoring beach sand is critical to preserving AMRP’s recreational, cultural, environmental, and safety values for the people of Honolulu.

The beach at AMRP has been subject to coastal erosion over time due to natural wave action and the lack of a natural sand supply. The beach has eroded to the point where visitors and residents are largely walking and sitting on coral rubble, beach showers are in danger of being compromised, beach-side sand volleyball is only available during a limited season, and space for relaxing on the beach is extremely limited. As the State holds title to the beach areas below and at the high-water mark, the City cannot utilize bond funds to “construct” the sand replenishment, as that is where the sand will be placed.

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
April 2, 2026  
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Sand replenishment and beach nourishment will help to protect the area from further erosion and can reduce the threat of flooding. It will also provide protection for beach and inland infrastructure, and an improved buffer-zone for areas further inland during large storm events. The replenishment will widen the beach and provide a safer sandy area that enhances public enjoyment, supports swimming and other water activities, and reduces hazards such as exposed rocks that can injure barefoot beachgoers.

The City stands ready to work with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to assist with or take lead on the project, as the state desires. The City completed design and permitting for the beach nourishment and sand restoration project several years ago, as part of a larger project to refresh and revitalize the inland City park lands. All the beach nourishment permits remain active, save two, which expired and will be renewed.

The beach nourishment project is poised to start construction in early 2027, if funding is acquired in July 2026. Active permits completed for this project include:

- Department of Land and Natural Resources, Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands - Conservation District Use Permit #OA-3858, valid up to February 11, 2030;
- Department of Health, Clean Water Branch - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit #R10F988.FNL.24, valid up to January 29, 2029;
- State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) - SHPD 6E and Section 106; and
- City and County of Honolulu - Special Management Area Use Permit Resolution No. 20-21, CD1.

The two expired permits which will be acquired once funding is available, are:

- Department of Army - Section 10 and Section 404 Permit; and
- Department of Health, Environmental Management Division - Section 401 Water Quality Certification.

The City and its consultant have scheduled pre-consultation meetings with the federal and state permitting agencies, to prepare for the resubmission of the permit applications pending funding approval, so that the project can move forward expeditiously.

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
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One hundred percent of the State Green Fee allocation will be spent on the sand nourishment below the high-water mark.

The City recognizes the State may have concerns regarding funding a project in front of a City and County park, despite the fact that this Green Fee project is serving exclusively the State jurisdictional area below the high-water mark. The City respectfully assures the State that it has taken responsibility and has fully funded all land-based improvements to the park areas mauka of the beach itself.

City-funded improvements to land above AMRP high-water mark over past eight years:

- Canal wall and bridge replacement
- 'Āina Moana parking lot reconstruction
- Hawaiian Pond shoreline improvement
- Japanese Pond improvements including installation of hardscape on pond edges & island and installation of walkway to seating area at pond edge with lighting
- Lester McCoy Pavilion Improvements, including:
  - Perimeter: Install security gates and screens at outer perimeter of entry pavilion, reconstruct 'Ewa entry walkway to auditorium and electrical, mechanical replacement for code compliance
  - Auditorium: Reconstruct concrete floor, replace AV and lighting system, renovate dressing room and replace doors, air conditioner replacement
  - Dining Room: Provide mechanical ventilation
  - Kitchen: Remove non-compliant grease trap
  - Main Bathroom: Reconstruct bathrooms for ADA Compliance and replace sewer line
  - Landscape Planters: Remove and replace trees as necessary to address building improvements/maintenance
  - Portico Breezeways: Reset pavers and rehabilitate gates
  - Banyan Courtyard: Construct cut-off walls at four banyan trees and replace all uplifted pavers
- LED light conversion
- 'Ewa bathhouse renovation and variety of improvements
- Ala Moana Park Drive improvements
- Renovations to Diamondhead Comfort stations
- Painted Magic Island comfort stations
- Installation of 25 surveillance cameras
- Converting the practice tennis courts to dedicated pickleball
- Tree planting along Ala Moana Park Drive

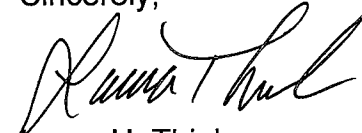
The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
April 2, 2026  
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We respectfully and wholeheartedly encourage the Legislature to support the allocation of \$6,750,000 for the beach nourishment project at Ala Moana Regional Park.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 1949, HD1, SD1.

If you have any questions regarding the project, please don't hesitate to contact me at (808) 768-3001.

Sincerely,



Laura H. Thielen  
Director

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

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DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR  
HOPE PO'O HO'OKELE

April 2, 2026

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means  
415 S. Beretania St., Room 211  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

The City and County of Honolulu submits testimony with comments on HB1949 and would like to highlight support for several initiatives that are critical to the resilience, cultural vitality, and environmental sustainability of our island communities.

The City appreciates the Legislature's continued commitment to funding projects that strengthen infrastructure, protect natural resources, and enhance community well-being. In particular, we respectfully highlight and support the following:

**Ala Wai Watershed Study**

Historically, the Ala Wai watershed is one of the most flood-prone regions on O'ahu, placing residents, businesses, and public infrastructure at risk. Continued investment in the the study of the Ala Wai Watershed as it relates to other regionally impacted infrastructure (i.e., Waikiki, Moilili, and Makiki storm drain systems) is essential to advancing achievable, comprehensive, watershed and storm drain-based flood mitigation solutions. The City stands ready to provide matching funds to facilitate a study that will present multi-solution actionable projects that can incrementally protect our constituents from heavy rainfall and sea-level rise flood events

**Chinatown Community Cultural Enhancement Project**

Honolulu's Chinatown is a historic and cultural hub that reflects the rich diversity and heritage of our downtown community. The City supports funding for the Chinatown Community Cultural Enhancement Project to preserve and revitalize this important district, the site of a future Skyline rail station. Improvements to public spaces, walkways, plazas, cultural resources, and infrastructure will enhance safety, stimulate economic activity, and reinforce Chinatown's role as a vibrant gathering place for

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means  
April 2, 2026  
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residents and visitors alike. The Blangiardi administration has made the revitalization of Chinatown one of its top priorities and have invested heavily in accomplishing this. We would gladly welcome the opportunity to partner with the State in this effort.

**Ala Moana Beach Restoration**

Ala Moana Beach Park is one of the most heavily used recreational areas in the State, serving both residents and visitors. However, coastal erosion threatens shoreline access, public safety, and environmental health. The City's Department of Parks and Recreation stands ready to undertake this effort, and has already secured many of the required permits, with the remainder to be acquired if funding is made available. The City is prepared to begin this beach nourishment project in early 2027 should the legislature choose to fund this project.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB1949. Should there be any questions, please contact Anthony Miranda, Legislative Liaison at 808-768-6608 or via email at [anthony.miranda@honolulu.gov](mailto:anthony.miranda@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,

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

Michael Formby  
Managing Director



**Care for 'Āina Now Coalition Letter  
 HB1949: Relating To The Green Fee  
 In support of Tracking and Community Projects in Hawai'i Green Fee**

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, Members of the Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB1949 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 Green Fee represents 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. For this policy to succeed long-term, the public must be able to clearly see where funds are going, how decisions are made, and what outcomes are being achieved - in their communities and through the dashboard.

**We urge the Legislature to support HB1949, marking a strong commitment to transparency and accountability to track the green fee fund, and move this measure forward. We also would like to share key support for the newly added projects in HB1949, with particular support on retaining projects that uplift environmental stewardship, climate disaster preparedness, and have demonstrated partnerships with communities.**

This includes items such as **coral restoration, pilot cesspool conversions, Na Manu 'Elele, flood mitigation and resilience measures, climate resilience crews, conservation corps, and educational signage.** We are grateful  
*careforainanow.org*



for your 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'aina 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.

# HAWAI'I GREEN GROWTH

## UN LOCAL2030 HUB

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Mission: Hawai'i Green Growth is a trust-based network organization that drives collective impact through measurable concrete action, inspiring local and global communities to advance regenerative economic, social, and environmental goals.

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### Advisory Board

March 23, 2026

AJ Halagao  
*Chair*  
*Hawai'i Leadership*  
*Forum*

### Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1949 HD1 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

Athline Clark  
*Vice Chair*  
*Chaminade University*

My name is Kalani L. Ka'anā'anā, CEO of Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG), and I am submitting written testimony in **strong support** of **HB 1949 HD1 SD1**, which would establish the Green Fee Transparency and Accountability Program and the Green Fee Resiliency Impact Dashboard (GRID).

Randy Moore  
*Hawai'i Department of*  
*Education (retired)*

We know firsthand what it takes to build public transparency infrastructure that works — our Aloha+ Dashboard tracks measurable progress toward statewide sustainability goals across agencies and sectors, and demonstrates how accessible data platforms strengthen accountability, improve coordination, and connect investment to outcomes. The GRID is designed to do exactly this for the Green Fee.

Pauline Sheldon  
*UH School of Travel*  
*Industry Management*  
*(retired)*

As a member of the Care for 'Āina Now Coalition, HGG has advocated for the Green Fee to be implemented as a strong, transparent, equitable, and community-guided program. HB 1949 HD1SD1 directly advances each of these pillars.

Jason Jeremiah  
*Kamehameha Schools*

In its first year, this is the moment to build the accountability and transparency mechanism to ensure that the legislature, kama'āina, and visitors can see where revenues flow, which projects they support, and what results are being achieved.

Juliette (Lia) Sheehan  
*Atherton Family Foundation*

Kazumi Ogawa  
*United Nations*

HGG respectfully urges passage of HB 1949 HD1. We stand ready to support the Legislature and relevant agencies in designing a dashboard that reflects best practices in public data transparency and community accountability, and welcome any opportunity to advise on implementation.

Ulalia Woodside-Lee  
*The Nature Conservancy*

Hawai'i Green Growth  
1601 East-West Road  
Honolulu, HI 96848

Mahalo,



Kalani L. Ka'anā'anā  
Chief Executive Officer

# HAWAI'I OCEAN LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE



April 6, 2026

Hawai'i State Legislature  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** for HB 1949 HD1 SD1, Relating to the Green Fee

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and esteemed members of the committee,

The Ocean Legislative Task Force—a coalition of more than 150 individuals across over 20 organizations statewide—**strongly supports** HB 1949 HD1 SD1, relating to the Green Fee. This measure would establish a public Green Fee Transparency and Accountability Program and a Resiliency Impact Dashboard.

HB1949 HD1 SD1 will ensure that the public can see how Green Fee revenues are allocated and what impacts those investments are producing for Hawai'i's environment, communities, and ocean resources. A transparent dashboard is essential to building trust and empowering Hawai'i's residents, policymakers, and ocean stakeholders with real-time data on where funds are going and how priorities are being met.

The Ocean Legislative Task Force also supports HB1949 HD1 SD1 because transparency will help the public and lawmakers understand how funding recommendations from the Green Fee Advisory Council align with our state's critical environmental needs. The Advisory Council—a diverse group of local experts convened to guide the use of Green Fee resources—has identified an initial slate of projects that will directly benefit Hawai'i's marine and coastal ecosystems, including:

- **Community-driven Coral Reef Resilience and Restoration**  
Funding to support coral and coastal restoration initiatives that enhance coral health, increase coastal resilience to storm impacts, and strengthen collaboration between community partners and state agencies.
- **Monitoring and Assessment of Reef and Nearshore Ecosystems**  
Investment in ocean monitoring programs to track water quality, reef conditions, and nearshore fisheries resources, which are essential for adaptive management and protecting ecologically significant areas statewide.
- **Marine Resource Co-management and Enforcement Partnerships**  
Funding for community co-management efforts and expanded marine resource enforcement

*The Hawai'i Ocean Legislative Task Force advocates for measures that advance cesspool conversion and wastewater management, protect Hawai'i's coral reefs and reef fish, ensure transparent and sustainable implementation of the Green Fee program and long-term environmental staffing, and support other measures that strengthen Hawai'i's coastal and marine ecosystems.*

collaborations, which support volunteer Makai Watch groups and bolster protection of coastal and marine areas.

- **Pilot Cesspool Conversions in Priority Coral Hotspots**

Targeted support for cesspool conversion efforts in critical coral reef landscapes (such as Hōnaunau), addressing ocean water quality at its source and reducing sewage discharge that harms reefs and nearshore waters.

These recommended investments highlight how Green Fee revenues will be put to work protecting Hawai'i's ocean ecosystems, improving water quality, and supporting community-based stewardship—outcomes that are consistent with the mission of the Ocean Legislative Task Force. A public dashboard, as proposed in HB1949 HD1 SD1, will allow all stakeholders to track these kinds of strategic environmental investments over time, ensuring that funds intended for ocean and watershed health are visible, evaluated, and continuously improved.

For these reasons, the Ocean Legislative Task Force strongly urges the Legislature to pass HB1949 HD1 SD1 to affirm Hawai'i's commitment to transparency, accountability, and long-term, data-driven stewardship of our marine environment.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this critical measure.

*The Hawai'i Ocean Legislative Task Force advocates for measures that advance cesspool conversion and wastewater management, protect Hawai'i's coral reefs and reef fish, ensure transparent and sustainable implementation of the Green Fee program and long-term environmental staffing, and support other measures that strengthen Hawai'i's coastal and marine ecosystems.*



## Care for 'Āina Now Coalition

April 6, 2026

Hawai'i State Legislature  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1949 HD1 SD1, Relating to the Green Fee

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and esteemed members of the committee,

On behalf of the Care for 'Āina Now Coalition leadership committee, we write in **strong support** of HB 1949 HD1 SD1, relating to the Green Fee. This measure would establish a public-facing dashboard to track the distribution and use of revenues generated by Hawai'i's Green Fee.

The Green Fee represents one of the most important recent investments in Hawai'i's environmental future. These funds are intended to strengthen climate resilience, protect natural resources, and support responsible visitor management—while helping address the estimated \$560 million annual shortfall in conservation funding statewide. For this ambitious policy to succeed over time, it is essential that residents have confidence that resources are being allocated fairly, strategically, and in ways that deliver meaningful benefits for local communities and ecosystems.

HB 1949 HD1 SD1 advances that goal by creating a transparent and accessible system that allows the public to understand where Green Fee revenues are being invested, how funding decisions are made, which communities and ecosystems are benefiting, and what outcomes are being achieved over time. This level of visibility is critical to building public trust, promoting accountability, and ensuring that the program is guided by data and continuous improvement.

The Care for 'Āina Now Coalition also supports the initial spending recommendations developed by the Green Fee Advisory Council. These recommendations reflect a thoughtful, community-informed approach to investing Green Fee revenues in projects that strengthen ecosystem resilience, improve water quality, support stewardship of public lands and waters, and advance climate adaptation priorities statewide. We particularly support investments that fund community-based organizations to carry out critical environmental restoration, stewardship, and resilience work in coordination with state

agencies. Across Hawai'i, nonprofit and grassroots organizations already serve as frontline stewards of our lands and waters, bringing deep place-based knowledge and strong community relationships that are essential to successful project implementation.

As the Green Fee enters its first year of implementation, Hawai'i has both an opportunity and a responsibility to establish this program with strong transparency and accountability from the outset. A well-designed public dashboard will empower communities, practitioners, and policymakers alike to track investments, understand outcomes, and ensure that Green Fee revenues deliver long-term benefits for the people and places of our islands.

For these reasons, the Care for 'Āina Now Coalition respectfully urges the Committee to pass HB 1949 HD1 SD1 and continue advancing transparency, accountability, and community-centered stewardship of Hawai'i's natural resources.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.

Care for 'Āina Now Coalition Leadership Committee

# The Reforestation Investment Hui of Hawai‘i



April 6, 2026

Hawai‘i State Legislature  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Testimony in **Support** of HB 1949 HD1 SD1, Relating to the Green Fee

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and esteemed members of the committee,

On behalf of The Reforestation Investment Hui of Hawai‘i—a coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to forest stewardship across the state—we strongly support HB 1949 HD1 SD1, relating to the Green Fee.

Healthy forests are the foundation of Hawai‘i’s environmental, cultural, and economic well-being. They safeguard our watersheds, reduce wildfire risk, stabilize soils, and shelter endangered species. They are also vital carbon sinks that help the state meet its climate goals. Beyond their ecological role, forests are woven deeply into Native Hawaiian culture and provide long-term economic opportunities through the restoration and sustainable harvesting of high-value native species such as koa, ‘iliahi, maile, and māmaki. Yet, after decades of degradation, Hawai‘i’s forests face significant ecological, cultural, and economic challenges that demand renewed, coordinated investment.

The Reforestation Investment Hui was formed to help address these challenges through a coordinated, systems-based approach that aligns conservation with economic outcomes. Our work focuses on Hawai‘i’s “middle lands” (wao kānaka and wao lā‘au)—areas that are often overlooked in traditional conservation and agricultural efforts, yet represent a critical opportunity for climate resilience, watershed protection, and ‘āina-based economic development.

HB1949 HD1 SD1 is critical to ensuring that investments into these landscapes—and across all Green Fee priority areas—are transparent, trackable, and accountable. A public dashboard will allow stakeholders to clearly see how funds are allocated, what projects are being supported, and what outcomes are being achieved over time. This level of transparency is essential to building public trust and ensuring that investments are aligned with long-term environmental and community priorities.

From our perspective, transparency is especially important as Hawai'i begins to scale innovative approaches that combine reforestation, sustainable land use, and private investment. The Hui's model emphasizes leveraging financial tools, supporting demonstration projects, advancing data and research, and strengthening coordination across sectors to unlock larger, system-wide impacts. A transparent Green Fee dashboard will help illuminate where these types of integrated, high-impact projects are occurring and how they contribute to statewide goals.

Additionally, the Green Fee Advisory Council identified a broad portfolio of projects that reflect community-driven priorities across environmental stewardship, climate resilience, and sustainable tourism. Ensuring that these investments are publicly visible—and that their outcomes are measured—will help the Legislature and the public evaluate effectiveness, identify gaps, and continuously improve implementation.

For Hawai'i's forests, this means greater visibility into investments that support:

- Watershed restoration and protection
- Reforestation of degraded lands, particularly in the middle lands
- Wildfire risk reduction through landscape management
- Expansion of native forestry and agroforestry systems

HB1949 HD1 SD1 strengthens the integrity of the Green Fee program by ensuring that funding decisions are not only well-informed, but also clearly communicated and accountable to the people of Hawai'i.

For these reasons, The Reforestation Investment Hui of Hawai'i strongly urges the Legislature to pass HB 1949 HD1 SD1 to advance transparency, accountability, and strategic investment in the systems that sustain our forests, communities, and future.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



## HAWAII

1164 Bishop St., Ste. 1512  
Honolulu, HI 96813

[tpl.org](http://tpl.org)

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## TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND'S TESTIMONY REGARDING HB1949 Senate Ways & Means Committee Wednesday, April 6, 2026, 10:32 a.m., Conf. Rm. 211

Aloha e Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

Trust for Public Land (TPL) offers **comments** on HB.1949 HD1 SD1, Relating to the Green Fee. TPL's State Director, Lea Hong, served on the Governor's unpaid, volunteer Green Fee Advisory Council ("the Council"). The Council recognized the importance of establishing a publicly accessible, regularly updated transparency platform that demonstrates the State's commitment to accountability and responsible resource management and recommended funding such efforts to the Governor. The Governor included this element in his recommendations and message to the Legislature.

TPL suggests returning to the original language of HB 1949 HD 1 which focused solely on monitoring and evaluation, and that green fee projects and appropriations remain within the budget bill, H.B. 1800 HD1, The current version of the bill introduces new projects not submitted through a departmental request or through the public portals (the Council reviewed and ranked over 600 of these projects). The current version of the bill also deletes important projects from the Governor's and Council's recommendations. The most notable deletions are grants to community to do the long-term stewardship and hard work needed to protect us from extreme floods, wildfire, and other natural disasters resulting from our changing climate. Recent tragic events have shown that communities are able to come together and do what needs to be done. The Council's recommendations were intended to support community organizations in these efforts.

The Green Fee represents a transformative opportunity to ensure that those who enjoy Hawaii's natural resources also contribute to their care. To maximize the effectiveness of these funds and maintain public confidence, transparency, oversight, and accountability are essential.

We respectfully request the Committee's consideration of amending H.B. 1949 HD1 SD1 to align more closely with existing legislative language by keeping green fee projects solely within H.B. 1800 HD1.

I apologize that I will not be able to attend this hearing in person or by Zoom as I have a pre-existing conflict that cannot be moved.

Respectfully,

Lea Hong  
Associate Vice President & Hawai'i State Director  
Edmund C. Olson Trust Fellow



To: The Honorable Senator Donovan DelaCruz, Chair, the Honorable Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee.

From: Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: **Hearing HB1949 HD1 SD1 RELATING TO THE GREEN FEE**

Hearing: Monday April 6, 2026 10:32 a.m. CR211

Aloha Chair DelaCruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee!

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (HIROC) is a group of scientists, educators, filmmakers and environmental advocates who have been working since 2017 to protect Hawaii's coral reefs and ocean.

The mission of the Climate Protectors Hawai'i is to educate and engage the local community in climate change action.

**The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawaii STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1949 HD1 SD1 and the entire Green Fee Project Portfolio!**

Last year, the State established a "green fee," an increase in the transient accommodations tax to mitigate the impacts of tourism and climate change. The green fee supports environmental protection, climate resilience, ecosystem restoration, natural resource management, sustainable tourism, destination management, and environmental stewardship throughout Hawaii, Act 96, Session Laws of Hawaii 2025. The green fee represents a transformative opportunity to ensure that those who enjoy Hawaii's natural resources also contribute to their care. It supplies some of the revenue needed to reduce the \$560 million yearly conservation funding shortfall.

Now that the green fee has been passed, immediate **action is needed to establish a publicly accessible, regularly updated transparency platform** that reflects the State's commitment to accountability, responsible resource management, and the long-term health of Hawaii's environment. For this policy to succeed long-term, the public must be able to clearly see where funds are going, how decisions are made, and what outcomes are being achieved in their communities and through the dashboard.

**This bill establishes the Green Fee Transparency and Accountability Program and Green Fee Resiliency Impact Dashboard**, to be administered by the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. This program and dashboard would support informed decision-making, promote fiscal responsibility, enhance collaboration across agencies, enable real-time public insight into project performance, and strengthen trust in the stewardship of Hawaii's natural and cultural resources. The dashboard consolidates data, standardizes reporting, and provides clear narratives and metrics illustrating how revenues are used, where projects are located, and what environmental benefits are being realized.

In addition to the necessary tracking component of the fund, Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawai'i **strongly support using green fee funds to support community-based resource 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.

Please pass this bill to affirm Hawai'i's commitment to transparency, accountability, and community-centered investment.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your leadership on this important issue!

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)



April 3, 2026  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Hawai'i State Legislature  
Via Electronic Transmission

Re: Testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB1949 HD1 SD1, Relating to the Green Fee  
Hearing: Monday, April 6th at 10:32am via Videoconferencing

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

Wastewater Alternatives & Innovations (WAI) **strongly supports** HB1949 and **the full Green Fee project portfolio**. This bill would ensure effective use of green fee funds for projects that will help address current and emerging environmental challenges faced by Hawai'i's communities.

This measure creates a Green Fee Transparency and Accountability Program, along with a public-facing Green Fee Resiliency Impact Dashboard, to be administered by the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. Together, these tools will improve coordination across agencies, support informed decision-making, and ensure responsible use of public funds through the creation of a dashboard of accessible project data.

Through standardized reporting HB1949 would bring together information in one place and create a clear reference for how funds are being spent, where projects are taking place, and what environmental and community benefits are being achieved. At present, green fee revenues are allocated across multiple agencies. Without a single, transparent system to track spending and outcomes it can be extremely difficult for the public to understand where these funds go.

In addition to the necessary tracking component of the fund, WAI strongly supports using green fee funds to support resource community-based organizations who already lead stewardship efforts across Hawai'i. Many of Hawai'i's most effective stewardship efforts are led by community-based organizations, and these projects selected have local and statewide support. Passing of HB1949 would affirm Hawai'i's commitment to transparency, accountability, and community-centered investment towards these organizations, and further support non-profit organizations responding to crises like the recent floods.

WAI is an environmental non-profit dedicated to protecting our water resources. We support innovative, affordable, and environmentally-friendly solutions and projects. For these reasons, WAI respectfully urges the Legislature to support HB1949 and commends its continued leadership in advancing solutions to Hawai'i's most pressing environmental challenges.





Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea  
Post Office Box 188  
Hale'iwa, HI 96712

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April 6, 2026

WAM Hearing, 10:32 am, Conference Room 211

**HB 1949 HD1 SD1, Relating to the Green Fee – In Support**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea (MPW) is a Hawai'i non-profit organization founded on the North Shore of O'ahu in 2005, working to replenish and sustain the natural and cultural resources of the Pūpūkea and Waimea ahupua'a through community stewardship, education, and partnerships.

**MPW strongly supports HB 1949 HD1 SD1.**

This measure establishes the Green Fee Transparency and Accountability Program and Resiliency Impact Dashboard to improve oversight and visibility into how green fee revenues are allocated and what outcomes they achieve statewide, including real-time, island-specific project tracking and greater transparency in the criteria and metrics used to award funds.

**As an organization implementing stewardship projects in partnership with state agencies, MPW values sustained investment paired with clear accountability. Transparent reporting supports informed decision-making, strengthens coordination, and builds public confidence in the use of funds.**

HB 1949 HD1 SD1 is a prudent investment in fiscal transparency that strengthens our collective ability to steward 'āina effectively.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony. We respectfully urge the Committee to pass this measure.

Jacqueline Leinau

Executive Director, MPW



## **TESTIMONY from Kupu on HB1949 HD1 SD1: Relating To The Green Fee**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Keone Nakoā, and I am the Vice President of External Affairs at Kupu. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Kupu in **support of HB1949 HD1 SD1 with comments to emphasize the importance of the Governor's requests for the Green Fee funding.**

Kupu is a statewide nonprofit organization based here in Hawai'i that focuses on creating programs that empower youth and young adults with opportunities to learn, serve, and work in ways that restore environments and communities. Our programs seek to build a local workforce that is prepared to address Hawai'i's unique challenges, and create community-specific solutions. As an organization that helps people transform their love for the environment into a professional career, the state legislature's bold action in bills like Act 96 last year and HB1949 stand as a testament to the strong leadership role our islands can fill around the world.

First, we are immensely grateful to the many people and groups that were instrumental in helping to pass the Green Fee, including members of these committees. The historic legislation passed last year, Act 96, bears a clear promise to reinvest tourism generated revenue back in our 'āina to address stewardship, resilience, and sustainable tourism. HB1949's proposed dashboard is a timely and necessary step to help fulfill this promise by improving visibility in how the funds are being used and what the tangible impacts are—to Hawai'i residents and tourists, alike. The dashboard will strengthen public trust in the Green Fee and create long term buy in and community support of the funds, which are crucial to the ultimate success of Act 96.

These Green Fee funds are incredibly timely, as we witness the impacts of climate change on our communities first hand. Floods like those that affected families and businesses across the pae 'āina last month make our environment even more vulnerable by eliminating both underbrush and canopy via downed trees, which allows invasive species to take root more easily. This increases our wildfire risk greatly and paves the way for even more devastating disasters in the future.

We know that investing in prevention is fiscally responsible. National data shows that every dollar invested in disaster preparedness saves significantly more in avoided damages and recovery costs. Relying on reactive spending after disasters will only increase long-term costs for the State. There are already proven examples across Hawai'i where long-term stewardship

has improved resilience. Communities that invest in caring for their lands and waters, especially in alignment with traditional knowledge and practices, are seeing reduced impacts from major weather events and are better able to recover afterward. Expanding these efforts statewide requires sustained funding.

For example, one of the programs supported by the Green Fee and currently in HB1949 HD1 SD1 would create climate resilience crews, which would create more direct pathways for experienced workers to come in and support recovery and clean up following a disaster, as well as work on priority state lands to mitigate risks between disaster responses. Other key programs included in both this bill and the Governor's requests support expanding the impacts of youth conservation corps at sites throughout the State and growing on the success of the Nā Manu 'Elele partnership with DLNR and Kupu to educate tourists to be more thoughtful and conscientious guests as they experience our beautiful trails and coastal areas around the state.

Second, for Act 96 to achieve its visionary goal, Green Fee revenues must support Act 96's three express priorities: environmental stewardship, climate and hazard resilience, and sustainable tourism. Passing the fee was an important act of leadership, but it is only the beginning. What will ultimately determine success is whether residents and visitors can see the positive outcomes these funds make possible. That means using Green Fee revenues to support key projects across multiple state agencies in partnership with community organizations, as the Governor proposed in his list of Green Fee projects vetted by the Green Fee Advisory Council. Yet today, there is no simple way for the public to see clearly how much revenues are being collected, where the money goes, or what the projects will be accomplishing.

HB1949 fills this gap by establishing a publicly accessible Green fee Resiliency Impact Dashboard (GRID). This dashboard would allow residents and policymakers to track revenues from allocation to expenditure and evaluate project outcomes in a clear and consistent manner. This is critically important as the data on the GRID will help us to tell a story of Hawai'i as a leader in climate resilience, and to demonstrate what is possible when initiative is taken to address these issues head on. For example, over the last 5 years Kupu has produced an estimated \$115 million of economic benefit; and for every dollar in funding it receives, Kupu generates ~\$6.25 in operating capacity. Impact results like these are easily understood and will help build trust and confidence in the new Green Fee mechanism.

The Green Fee represents a real opportunity to invest in resilience, restoration and the long-term care of 'āina. HB1949 helps ensure that opportunity is realized by making results visible, building trust and doing so in a way that is practical for those carrying out the work. Kupu strongly urges the committee to pass HB1949 and move this measure forward to help ensure the best stewardship of these funds possible.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Keone Nakoa  
Vice President of External Affairs, Kupu



Testimony Before The  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)  
**COMMENTS ON HB1949 HD1 SD1**  
April 6, 2026, 10:32 a.m., Room 211 & 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 provides comments of concern for the recent SD1 changes to HB1949 HD1.**

This bill was originally intended to establish a public transparency dashboard to track the allocation and use of revenues generated by the Hawai'i green fee. The green fee represents a significant and promising investment in Hawai'i's future, helping us close the estimated \$560 million annual conservation funding gap. However, to ensure success, it is essential that this new funding maintain accountability and transparency from the very start, and we understood HB1949 to allow for easier reporting, evaluation, and justified improvements as the fee structure matures. We supported the passage of the green fee through Act 96 last year, and were excited and grateful for the opportunity that this new funding source was touted to provide to community-based mālama 'āina efforts across Hawai'i. Most importantly, we originally supported passage of the green fee for its potential to uplift the many mālama'āina community-based organizations that have worked to the benefit of our environment, our state, and our economy for decades with little to no state support or funding.

**KUA supported HB1949 in its original form and intent, which unfortunately was significantly modified with the SD1's intentional and confusing exclusion of any green fee funds going directly to community-based nonprofit organizations.** This modification

cuts directly against the recommendations of the experts appointed by Governor Green on the Green Fee Advisory Council, and we are disappointed to not be able to support HB1949 HD1 SD1 in its last public hearing due to what appears to be a move by the legislature to control and monopolize funding to nonprofits through its Grants-in-Aid program. Denying the much-needed *direct* support that these green fee funds could bring to community-based mālama‘āina nonprofits statewide is *extremely misguided* and unsupported by any public testimony submitted for HB1949 so far.

It is accepted that the state alone is unable to carry the heavy kuleana of its public trust responsibilities, and collaborative mālama‘āina efforts with communities on-the-ground is the logical and most-promising solution to sustaining our community health and ‘āina both in Hawai‘i and worldwide. It also does not follow from the SD1 committee report why any of the recent flooding damages should be used as a reason to redirect green funding to *only* state-led programs. Indeed, many of the first responders to the massive flooding events were the kinds of community organizations that would have been directly supported by these funds. The many climate driven natural disasters Hawai‘i has been experiencing as of late show that our resilience is grounded in our communities’ capacity and flexibility in times of crisis. **If anything, our climate crisis and disasters should emphasize the need to get more funds directly in the hands of community organizations working on-the-ground.**

The communities we work with are committed to ensuring the long-term health of our biocultural resources that they have cared for and depended on for generations since time immemorial. **We believe protecting 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 continued accountability, transparency, and genuine investments in collaborative mālama ‘āina efforts, which this bill no longer supports by intentionally excluding any direct green fee funding going to community-based nonprofits in Hawai‘i. 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 **AMEND** HB1949 HD1 SD1 by removing the harmful new Sections 4 and 5, or otherwise please HOLD this measure.

**Aloha ‘Āina Momona no nā kau ā kau.**

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy  
Commenting On HB1949 HD1 SD1, Relating to the Green Fee  
Committee on Ways and Means  
April 6, 2026 at 10:32 am  
Conference Room 211 and via Videoconference**

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify today. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Hawai'i and Palmyra respectfully comments on HB1949 HD1 SD1, which establishes the Green Fee Transparency and Accountability Program and Green Fee Resiliency Impact Dashboard, to be administered by the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission.

Hawai'i faces surmounting environmental challenges including wildfires, disappearing coastlines, bleached coral reefs, and an underinvestment in the management of our natural and cultural resources. As an island region, our community safety faces growing risk the longer we go without significant funding toward environmental protection and restoration. Hawai'i is in immediate need of additional resources to conserve and protect our ecosystems, native species, coastlines, and the community livelihoods that depend on these resources. Act 96, which increased the TAT by 0.75% and extended its collection to the cruise ship industry, is a generational investment in natural resources and will build climate resiliency and allow us to better manage our state as a visitor destination.

TNC supports the creation of a statewide transparency dashboard that provides communities with a central, accessible place to track green fee spending, project outcomes, geographic distribution, and environmental benefits. This level of visibility is essential for building and maintaining public trust, especially as green fee investments expand across the islands.

We respectfully urge the Committee to reinstate the totality of the green fee line items included in the Governor's recommendations. The Governor's green fee-related budget requests were developed through a robust, community-engaged process led by the Green Fee Advisory Council and reflect a balanced portfolio of investments addressing environmental priorities across Hawai'i. Several of these priority areas are represented in the bill and warrant strong support, while others would benefit from further inclusion to fully align the green fee portfolio with the intent of Act 96. 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

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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.

Several elements of this category are reflected in this bill, including investments in forest bird mosquito abatement, invasive plant control, predator control, and endangered plant protection. At the same time, some watershed-scale and partnership-based restoration investments are not currently included and would strengthen long-term forest and water security if restored. Watershed Partnerships are proven public-private partnerships which have helped organize management actions across Hawai'i for 35 years. These existing, well-established tools provide a clear line of sight for potential additional investment that will directly impact over 2 million acres of shared watershed that provided billions of gallons of fresh water to our communities.

- *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 conditions align with work that TNC and partners carry out across the islands. Strengthening loko i'a resilience, restoring nearshore habitats, and supporting the 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.

While this bill includes some coral restoration, monitoring, and marine planning investments, several community stewardship components, particularly nearshore marine stewardship, fishpond support, wetland restoration, and coral emergency response readiness, are not currently reflected and would enhance the effectiveness of marine investments.

- *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.

This bill includes several wildfire-related planning, preparedness, and resilience investments that move this work forward. Continued and coordinated investment across land management and community stewardship efforts will remain essential as wildfire risk increases.

- *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.

Although this bill includes select coastal and infrastructure-focused projects, broader community stewardship investments for coastal ecosystems and nature-based flood mitigation recommended by the Governor are not currently included and would provide important complementary protection for communities facing increasing flood and erosion risk.

Taken together, these investments illustrate a strong foundation for the green fee portfolio while also highlighting opportunities to more fully reflect the community-driven priorities that informed the Governor's recommendations. The green fee was designed to address both the cumulative impacts of visitation and the accelerating effects of climate change on natural and cultural resources across Hawai'i. Fully funding the Governor's recommended green fee portfolio better aligns expenditures with that intent, ensuring that transparency and accountability are paired with a complete, balanced, and effective investment strategy. We respectfully encourage the Committee to consider restoring the remaining recommended investments so that green fee revenues can fully support the resilience of ecosystems, communities, and future generations.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on HB1949 HD1 SD1.

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*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.*

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PO Box 4, Kunia, Hawaii, 96759 || 808-622-9026 || [www.agstewardshiphawaii.org](http://www.agstewardshiphawaii.org)

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March 3, 2026

Aloha e Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

On behalf of **Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i**, we support HB1949 HD1 SD1 which integrates greater transparency through the Green Fee Transparency and Accountability Program and Impact Dashboard.

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. We 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 represents a historic step forward, and embedding strong transparency and accountability measures — including clear tracking of how revenues are allocated and spent — will significantly strengthen its long-term success. As the Green Fee is implemented in its first year, we **have a responsibility to establish the fund with integrity, transparency, and strong governance**. A clear, community-informed framework will not only build confidence in the program, but also enable community members, practitioners, and policymakers to learn from outcomes and continuously improve how resources are invested for Hawai'i's future.

In addition, **Green Fee revenues should also strengthen the work of community-based organizations** that are already leading stewardship efforts across Hawai'i. State agencies should actively partner with these organizations through contracts, grants, and other funding mechanisms to advance collaborative and co-management approaches that improve project effectiveness and long-term impact.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Shaw".

Dr. Amanda Shaw, PhD, Statewide Food Systems Coordinator  
Email: [amanda@agstewardshiphawaii.org](mailto: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*



**Chairs Dela Cruz  
Vice Chair Moriwaki  
WAM Committee**

**Monday, April 6, 2026  
10:32 AM**

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1949 HD1 SD1 RELATING TO THE  
GREEN FEE**

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

The Hawai'i State Youth Commission was first created through Act 106 in 2018, "to advise the governor and legislature on the effects of legislative policies, needs, assessments, priorities, programs, and budgets concerning the youth of the State." The Hawai'i State Youth Commission's Education legislative committee is in strong support of **HB1949 HD1 SD1**.

Today's youth are faced with the unique challenges of climate anxieties, as they grow closer to inheriting a polluted Earth faced by unpredictable weather conditions. All measures that support a cleaner Hawai'i are measures that support Hawai'i's youth. We believe that the contents of this bill will result in positive changes.

We believe that the tasks of monitoring and reporting allocated to the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Committee are pertinent to securing further approval and support of the Green Fee by Hawai'i residents. If we establish security around this particular climate solution, perhaps we can look forward to enough trust to take on further issues. Additionally, as

Hawai'i continues to face challenges from changes caused by global warming, the commission further supports the various projects slated to be funded in Section 5. We must be quick to act on this issue. Therefore, the Hawai'i State Youth Commission strongly urges the committee to **PASS HB1949 HD1 SD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

The Hawai'i State Youth Commission  
hawaiiistateyc@gmail.com

**HB-1949-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 8:43:25 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2026 10:32:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

I am testifying in **strong support** of HB1949, which would establish a crucial public transparency dashboard to track the allocation and use of revenues from the Hawai‘i Green Fee. As we move to implement this landmark program, transparency is not an optional feature—it is the essential foundation for public trust, accountability, and long-term success.

The Green Fee represents a historic opportunity to generate dedicated revenue to close our state’s staggering \$560 million annual conservation funding gap. For this promise to be realized, the public must have unwavering confidence in how these funds are managed.

A publicly accessible, user-friendly dashboard is the most effective tool to provide that confidence. It will allow every resident, practitioner, and policymaker to see in real-time where funds are being allocated, which projects are being funded, and what measurable outcomes are being achieved in their own communities.

Specifically, this dashboard will ensure:

- **Public Accountability:** Taxpayers and visitors contributing to the fund have a right to see exactly how their money is being spent, ensuring it is used efficiently and for its intended purposes.
- **Equitable Investment:** Transparency allows us to track whether investments are being made equitably across all islands and communities, preventing any region or need from being overlooked.
- **Data-Driven Improvement:** By making project data and outcomes visible, the dashboard will create a learning ecosystem, allowing us to identify and replicate successful strategies and continuously improve the fund’s impact over time.

Furthermore, I urge you to ensure that the dashboard’s data reflects a commitment to resourcing community-based organizations. The most effective and equitable use of Green Fee funds is to partner with the groups who are already on the ground doing the vital work of stewardship, restoration, and climate resilience. The state should act as a strategic funder, deploying resources through grants and contracts to empower this existing network of practitioners in a true co-management model.

In this first year of implementation, we have a profound kuleana to build the Green Fee program with integrity from the start. A robust transparency dashboard is not just about tracking dollars; it is about building a lasting covenant with the people of Hawai‘i that these precious resources will be managed wisely, openly, and for the benefit of our ‘āina and future generations.

I strongly support HB 1949 and ask for your favorable passage of this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

April 06, 2026  
Hawaii State Legislature  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT for HB1949 HD1 SB1, Relating to The Green Fee

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and esteemed members of the committee,

My name is Calista Ancog, and I am submitting testimony in support of HB1949 HD1 SD1. I am an Environmental Science student at Chaminade University, with the intention of entering into conservation work.

I've previously worked with Bishop Museum as an intern, where we participated in multiple environmental educational outreach events, such as Kāhuli Festival. Through these experiences, I learned that the public cares about conservation efforts but often lacks readily available resources to educate themselves. The environmental field is supported by citizen science, which requires resources such as the dashboard.

The dashboard would not only strengthen public accessibility, but also allow policymakers to effectively track revenues from allocation to expenditure and evaluate project outcomes. The Green Fee moves us closer to our environmental goals by closing the \$560 million annual conservation funding gap, but it requires the support of the public which only occurs through understanding.

With around 600 proposed projects from the public and state departments and agencies, the Green Fee stands to make huge impacts in various aspects of conservation. I would love to see projects such as community-based ahupua'a restoration and community partnerships for invasive species control and capacity move forward, but without continued support from stakeholders they might not see the light of day. The initial year of the fee is essential for establishing clear and consistent communication with the public to build trust and strengthen accountability.

I hope to see measures similar to the Green Fee succeed in the future, which will only happen if the public is able to access the tangible success of it. Therefore, I humbly ask that you pass this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

Respectfully,  
Calista Ancog

**HB-1949-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 8:28:55 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2026 10:32:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Ball	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this legislation

David Ball

Waiialae-Kahala

**HB-1949-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 12:00:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2026 10:32:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB1949. It sounds like a good methodology for transparency and ease of navigation.

I'm so glad to hear about the projects in the bill, and have always enjoyed our beaches and our forests. I'm glad to see monies going into invasive species as well given the CRB infestation on Hawai'i Island. Our natural ecosystem needs to be protected in this time of climate change.

We are going to need as much help as possible with green projects for reforestation and ocean conservation. Mahalo for your consideration.