

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

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

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STATE PARKS

**Testimony of  
LEAH LARAMEE  
Climate Change Coordinator on behalf of  
Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission  
Co-Chair Ryan K. P. Kanaka'ole**

**Before the House Committees on  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AND  
TOURISM**

**Thursday, February 12, 2026  
9:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1949  
RELATING TO THE GREEN FEE**

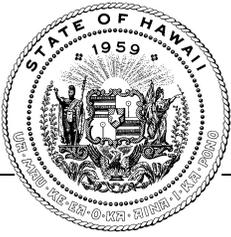
House Bill 1949 establishes the Green Fee Transparency and Accountability Program and Green Fee Resiliency Impact Dashboard, to be administered by the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission and appropriates funds. **The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) supports this measure.**

The Commission consists of a multi-jurisdictional effort between 20 departments, committees, and counties with the purpose of promoting ambitious, climate-neutral, culturally responsive strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

As the State's coordinating body on climate change, the Commission appreciates being identified as the entity to be entrusted to provide transparency and accountability in this historic funding for climate impacts. With over 600 applications and billions in funding requested for the first round of funding, it is vital that information on allocation of funds is accessible and transparent.

Beyond transparency, the dashboard can serve as an educational tool to increase awareness of how green fee revenues support environmental protection and climate resilience.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



# STATE OF HAWAII OFFICE OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Statement of  
**MARY ALICE EVANS, Director**

before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AND TOURISM**

Thursday, February 12, 2026, 9:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of  
**HB 1949**  
**RELATING TO THE GREEN FEE.**

Chairs Lowen and Tam, Vice Chairs Perruso and Templo, and Members of the Committees:

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **supports** HB 1949, which advances transparency and accountability in the administration of the Green Fee.

Providing a clear, publicly accessible dashboard to track revenues, allocations, and expenditures will strengthen public trust and demonstrate the State's commitment to responsible stewardship of these funds. Transparent reporting is essential to ensure that Green Fee investments deliver measurable environmental, climate, and community benefits.

OPSD also recognizes the strong foundation established by last year's passage of the Green Fee and the significant opportunity it presents to support sustainable tourism, environmental restoration, and climate and hazard mitigation statewide. The Green Fee represents a forward-looking investment in protecting Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources while strengthening long-term climate resilience and sustainable development for residents and visitors alike.

To ensure effective implementation, OPSD **recommends amending this measure to designate the Department of Budget and Finance as the administering agency** for the Green Fee Transparency and Accountability Program and the Green Fee Resiliency Impact Dashboard.

As the State's central fiscal agency, the Department of Budget and Finance is well positioned to manage the dashboard's fiscal tracking and reporting functions, given its established expertise in financial oversight and statewide reporting systems. Aligning administration within B&F, would promote operational efficiency and clear fiscal accountability, while allowing the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to continue fulfilling its advisory role.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on HB 1949.



**Care for 'Āina Now Coalition Letter  
 HB1949: Relating To The Green Fee  
 In support of Community Grant Program for Hawai'i Green Fee**

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and 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 65 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.

HB1949 is a timely and necessary step to strengthen public trust in the Green Fee established through Act 96 in 2025. The Green Fee was created with a clear promise that tourism related revenues would be reinvested in Hawai'i's natural, cultural, and community resources. HB1949 helps fulfill that promise by improving oversight and public visibility into how funds are used.

Green Fee revenues are intended to support key priorities, including environmental stewardship, climate and hazard resilience, and sustainable tourism. These priorities include protecting land and aquatic resources, preserving native species, reducing wildfire and flood risks, strengthening infrastructure, supporting destination management, and improving parks and beaches. CAN strongly supports these priorities and believes investments must remain focused on these core purposes.

Currently, it is unclear how Green Fee funds will be allocated, spent, and evaluated. HB1949 addresses this gap by establishing a Green Fee Transparency and Accountability Program and a publicly accessible Resiliency



Impact Dashboard. This dashboard will allow residents and policymakers to track revenues from allocation to expenditure and evaluate project outcomes in a clear and consistent manner.

Equally important, the bill reinforces appropriate use of funds by establishing uniform reporting standards across agencies. This improves coordination, reduces the risk of mission drift, and helps ensure limited resources are directed to the highest impact needs.

HB1949 does not expand the Green Fee or change how revenues are collected. It focuses on responsible stewardship of existing funds and aligns with Hawai'i's public trust obligation to protect natural resources for present and future generations.

For these reasons, the Care for 'Āina Now coalition respectfully urges the committee to pass HB1949 and move this measure forward.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**These community groups, organizations and businesses support funding for 'āina, resilience, restoration, protection, management, and stewardship solutions for the communities of Hawai'i.**

1. Agripelago
2. Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i
3. Blue Planet Foundation
4. Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory
5. Care About Climate
6. Citizens' Climate Lobby Hawai'i
7. Climate Future Forum
8. Conservation Council for Hawai'i
9. Conservation International
10. Conservation Council of Hawai'i
11. Coral Reef Alliance



12. Delphi Cinema
13. Excurinsure
14. Everblue
15. Fish Pono–Save Our Reefs
16. Friends of Hanauma Bay
17. Full Circle Farm
18. FutureSwell
19. Global Preservation Initiative
20. Good Food Movement
21. Hanalei Initiative
22. Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA)
23. Hawai'i Alliance for Community Based Economic Development (HACBED)
24. Hawaiian Council
25. Hawai'i Environmental Change Agents
26. Hawai'i Green Growth
27. Hawai'i Impact Collaborative
28. Hawai'i Land Trust
29. Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition
30. Hawai'i Wildlife Fund
31. Hawai'i Youth Climate Coalition
32. Ka'ala Farms
33. Kailua Beach Adventures
34. Kauai Climate Action Coalition
35. Kauai Farm Planning
36. Kanu Hawai'i
37. Kingdom Pathways
38. Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (KUA)
39. Kuleana Coral Restoration
40. Kupu
41. Limahuli Garden and Preserve



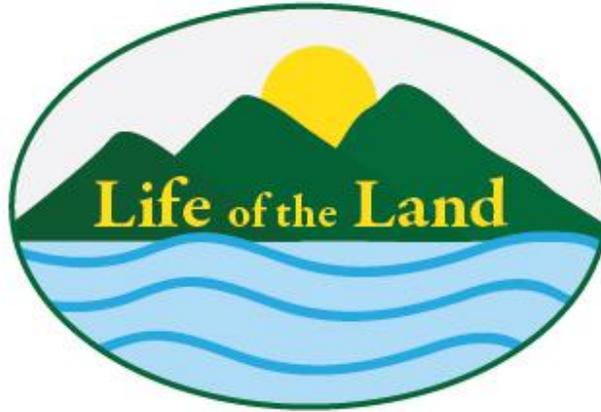
42. Leftover Love Co
43. Mālama Huleia
44. Mālama Learning Center
45. Mālama Maunaloa
46. Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea
47. Maui Bicycling League
48. Maui Ocean Center
49. Maui Ocean Center Marine Institute
50. National Tropical Botanical Garden
51. Native Ecosystem Services
52. The Nature Conservancy
53. North Shore Community Land Trust
54. Ocean Music Action
55. Palehua Conservation Initiative
56. Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project
57. Parley for the Oceans
58. Pono Hawai'i Initiative
59. Protea Zero Waste Store
60. Resources Legacy Fund
61. Reuse Hawai'i
62. Surfrider Foundation Hawai'i Chapters
63. Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i
64. Sustainable Moloka'i
65. Travel2Change
66. Trust for Public Land
67. Wai'oli Valley Taro Hui
68. Waipā Foundation
69. Wakeful State
70. Wastewater Alternatives & Innovations (WAI)
71. Wild Kids



72. Young Progressives Demanding Action

73. Zero Waste Hawai'i Island

Mahalo for your consideration to protect Hawai'i's natural resources.



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#### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair

Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

#### COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Chair

Rep. Shirley Ann Templo, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, February 12, 2026

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 325

HB 1949 Green Fee

#### COMMENTS

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Tam, and Members of the Committees

Life of the Land is Hawai`i's own energy, environmental and community action group advocating for the people and `aina for 56 years. Our mission is to preserve and protect the life of the land through sound energy and land use policies and to promote open government through research, education, advocacy and, when necessary, litigation.

**The dashboard should be housed at DBEDT or the State Energy Office**

The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission is an unelected advisory body whose statutory role under HRS §225P-3 is to provide policy direction, coordination, and recommendations, not to exercise regulatory authority.

*“There is established within the commission the green fee transparency and accountability program. The program shall be administered by a green fee transparency and accountability coordinator. ... The program shall: Establish uniform reporting requirements and data-submission standards for all agencies ... Provide an annual public summary ... including assessments of effectiveness, gaps, and opportunities for improvement.”*

**The bill would move the commission into effectively regulatory terrain, setting standards for others, reviewing their work, and informing the legislature about the shortcomings of other entities.**

These functions resemble those traditionally handled by agencies with explicit regulatory mandates and procedural safeguards including HRS 91 Administrative Procedure and HRS 92 Public Agency Meetings and Records.

The bill would also move the commission into an advocacy role to sell the success of the fee: “Conduct statewide public outreach and education to increase awareness of how green fee revenues support environmental protection and climate resilience.”

Henry Curtis  
Executive Director

**HB-1949**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 2:59:30 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
laurel brier	Kauai climate action coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kauai Climate Action Coalition was a strong advocate for the Green fee. We want to see that it is used how it was intended, that is to build climate resilience, sustainable, tourism, and environmental stewardship. There is much to be done and we don't want funds diverted to meet other needs of the state, no matter their urgency. We want transparency and accountability and data driven evaluation every step of the way. Kaua'i and the other Neighbor islands need to receive their fair share. As Kaua'i's primary climate action org we strongly support HB1949



Testimony Before The  
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection (EEP)  
House Committee on Tourism (TOU)

**IN SUPPORT OF HB1949**

February 12 , 2026, 9:30 a.m. Room 325 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 strongly supports HB1949 as an incremental step towards 'āina momona.**

This bill would establish a public transparency dashboard to track the allocation and use of revenues generated by the Hawai'i green fee.

KUA supported the passage of Act 96 (2025), and is grateful for the opportunity that this new funding source will provide to mālama 'āina efforts across Hawai'i. The new 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. This dashboard would also allow for easier reporting, evaluation, and justified improvements as the fee structure matures.

We also acknowledge and hope to amplify the many supporters calling for a portion of these funds to support the various existing and forthcoming community mālama 'āina groups through a community stewardship grant program in partnership with DLNR. The state cannot carry the kuleana of its public trust responsibilities, collaborative mālama 'āina is the future of conservation and is growing both in Hawai'i and worldwide.

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, including through this bill. Our decisions today will continue to shape the future that our keiki’s keiki’s keiki will one day inherit – we hope for a future of shared and harmonious abundance, and hope you do, too.

Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to submit testimony. Please **PASS** HB1949.

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



## HAWAII

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Pūlama Lāna'i

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Pūlama Lāna'i

**Jan Sullivan**  
Oceanit

## TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND'S TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1949 House Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection and Tourism Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 9:30 a.m., Conf. Rm. 325

Aloha e Chairs Lowen and Tam and Members of the Committees,

Trust for Public Land (TPL) strongly supports HB1949 which proposes to establish a dashboard to provide greater transparency regarding "green fee" expenditures and progress. I was asked to serve on the Governor's Green Fee Advisory Council.

Over 600 departmental and public proposals totaling over \$2 billion were submitted for consideration to the Governor's Green Fee Advisory Council ("the Council") in 2025. The volunteer and unpaid Council met through September 2025-December 2025, devoting by some estimates well over 100 hours per member in all-day meetings and in the review and ranking of proposals. The Council researched and adopted robust ranking rubric based on the best practices of similar funding programs. At least three members of the Council reviewed and ranked each project. The projects were then divided into three statutory funding buckets: Environmental Stewardship, Climate and Hazard Resilience, and Sustainable Tourism. Those projects receiving the highest rankings were recommended for funding. The process and recommendations are described in detail at <https://greenfeehawaii.org/funding-recommendations>.

The Council recommended that funds be set aside for transparent monitoring and evaluation of all Green Fee funded projects. In addition, TPL recommends that this portal or any tracking method include a standardized method of collecting project proposals to increase the efficiency of the review and ranking process.

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



House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection  
House Committee on Tourism

Date: February 12, 2026  
Time: 9:30 a.m.  
Place: CR 325 and via Videoconference

**Re: SUPPORT – HB 1949 Relating to the Green Fee**

Aloha e Luna Ho‘omalua Lowen, Luna Ho‘omalua Tam, a me nā Lālā o nā Kōmike:

Hawai'i Land Trust (HILT) **SUPPORTS** HB 1949, establishing the Green Fee Transparency and Accountability Program and a Green Fee Resiliency Impact Dashboard administered by the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission.

While the Green Fee on transient accommodations reflects a significant step forward in advancing environmental stewardship, climate resilience, and sustainable tourism, HB 1949 provides the transparency and accountability necessary to ensure those funds are used effectively and maintain public trust. The bill's public dashboard, oversight, and reporting mechanisms ensure funds remain aligned with their intended purpose and enable tracking, evaluation, and course correction over time.

By pairing the Green Fee with clear transparency and accountability, the Legislature can ensure this landmark investment delivers measurable, lasting benefits. For these reasons, HILT respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS HB 1949**.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify,

**‘Olu Campbell**

President and Chief Executive Officer



## **In Support of HB1949 With Clarification for Climate-Resilient Active Transportation Infrastructure**

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

I am writing in strong support of HB1949, which advances transparency and accountability in the implementation of Hawai'i's Green Fee revenues. Establishing a public resiliency impact dashboard is an important step toward ensuring these funds are invested effectively, equitably, and in alignment with statewide climate priorities.

In the spirit of strengthening this transparency framework, I respectfully request a clarifying amendment to ensure that **climate-resilient active transportation infrastructure — including multi-use trails and evacuation-oriented bicycle and pedestrian corridors — is explicitly recognized and tracked within the Green Fee reporting structure.**

Multi-use trails represent critical statewide infrastructure that advances all three Green Fee funding pillars:

### **Environmental Stewardship**

Multi-use trails reduce vehicle miles traveled, lower greenhouse gas emissions, protect sensitive shorelines and ecosystems through managed access, and often repurpose existing corridors such as former cane haul roads.

### **Climate and Hazard Resilience**

Redundant, off-highway multi-use corridors can serve as emergency evacuation routes during wildfire, flood, tsunami, and hurricane events. The Lahaina wildfire tragically demonstrated the consequences of limited evacuation options. Climate adaptation must include mobility resilience.

### **Sustainable Tourism**

Active transportation infrastructure supports destination management by reducing congestion, improving access to high-use areas, enhancing visitor experiences, and protecting community well-being while sustaining local economies.

Statewide, Hawai'i has numerous multi-use trail and active transportation projects that align directly with Green Fee goals. The West Maui Greenway is one example of a 25-mile corridor

identified in state and county plans for decades and designated as an alternative evacuation route. Similar opportunities exist across all islands.

Despite clearly aligning with the Green Fee's stated priorities, multi-use trails are not currently identified as a distinct reporting category within Green Fee allocations. Without explicit recognition, this form of climate-resilient infrastructure may be unintentionally overlooked in future funding cycles.

HB1949 provides an opportunity to strengthen transparency by ensuring that the Green Fee dashboard and annual report:

- Include a reporting category for climate-resilient active transportation infrastructure
- Track performance metrics such as evacuation-route redundancy, emission reduction potential, and destination management benefits
- Identify funding gaps in this category for future legislative consideration

The Green Fee represents a transformative investment in Hawai'i's future. Comprehensive climate resilience must include resilient mobility infrastructure.

Mahalo for your leadership and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Saman Dias', written in a cursive style.

Saman Dias

Chair [Maui Bicycling League](#) | [West Maui Greenway](#)

**808-276-2068** | [maui@hbl.org](mailto:maui@hbl.org) |

### **Proposed Clarifying Amendment Language (For Consideration)**

Amend HB1949 to require that the Green Fee resiliency impact dashboard and annual report include a distinct reporting category for:

“Climate-Resilient Active Transportation Infrastructure,” including multi-use trails and evacuation-oriented bicycle and pedestrian corridors.

Within this category, the dashboard and annual summary shall report measurable outcomes and performance indicators, including but not limited to:

- Evacuation-route redundancy and emergency access benefits
- Greenhouse gas emission reduction potential
- Destination management and congestion mitigation impacts
- Environmental protection and resource stewardship outcomes

The annual report shall also identify funding gaps and opportunities for improvement in this category to ensure comprehensive alignment with the Green Fee’s goals of environmental stewardship, climate and hazard resilience, and sustainable tourism.

**TO:** HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair  
The Honorable Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the Committee

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM  
The Honorable Adrian K. Tam, Chair  
The Honorable Shirley Ann Templo, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the Committee

**FROM:** Terry George, Chief Executive Officer & President

**RE:** Testimony in Support for HB 1949, Relating to the Green Fee

**DATE:** Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 9:30 am

**LOCATION:** Hearing Room 325

The Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) **supports** HB 1949 relating to the creation of a green fee transparency and accountability program and green fee resiliency impact dashboard.

Protecting natural resources is a priority area within HCF's CHANGE Framework under the Natural Environment sector. HB 1949 will help ensure transparency and accountability relating to Green Fee spending, with a designated entity to track and fund, as well as create a publicly accessible dashboard so that constituents and community members can see how Green Fee funds are being spent. Transparency preserves and increases public confidence.

Protecting the 'āina, preserving the ocean and its marine life, and ensuring fresh water is critical to the future of our people. The Green Fee will provide important investments in land stewardship, conservation, and biocultural revitalization efforts, and transparency relating to these investments is equally crucial. We urge the legislature to advance HB 1949.



**Hawai'i State Senate**

**Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection and Tourism**

HB1949 – Relating to the Green Fee

**RE: Strong support of HB1949**

February 12, 2026

Hawaiian Council writes in **strong support of HB1949** to establish the Green Fee Transparency and Accountability Program and Green Fee Resiliency Impact Dashboard (GRID). The Green Fee was created with a clear promise that visitor revenues would be reinvested in Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources. This bill fulfills that promise by improving transparency, standardizing reporting, and giving the public a clear view of how these dollars are allocated and what outcomes they deliver.

As an organization dedicated to advancing the interests of Native Hawaiians and their connection to the 'āina, Hawaiian Council recognizes the transformative potential of the Green Fee in supporting community-based sustainability projects. From ahupua'a stewardship to visitor education, the Green Fee has potential to revitalize Hawai'i's environment and infrastructure from mauka to makai.

The establishment of a transparency program and impact dashboard are essential to promote informed decision-making and accountability for all stakeholders of Green Fee projects. HB1949 ensures that Green Fee investments remain aligned with their intended purpose and are evaluated consistently across agencies. With a large portion of proposed Green Fee projects turning to 'ike kupuna (ancestral knowledge) and the historic work of aloha 'āina activists for guidance, it is crucial that Native Hawaiian communities have an accessible means to track the progress of projects and work collaboratively with state agencies.

He ali'i ka 'āina; he kauā ke kanaka—the land is chief; the people are its servant. The task of protecting and stewarding the 'āina is the collective responsibility of all of us, including legislators, state agencies, and community advocates. For these reasons, Hawaiian Council respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS HB1949**. Mahalo for your commitment to accountability towards sustainability projects protecting Hawai'i nei.

Me ke aloha 'āina,

**Madelyn McKeague**

Director of Advocacy

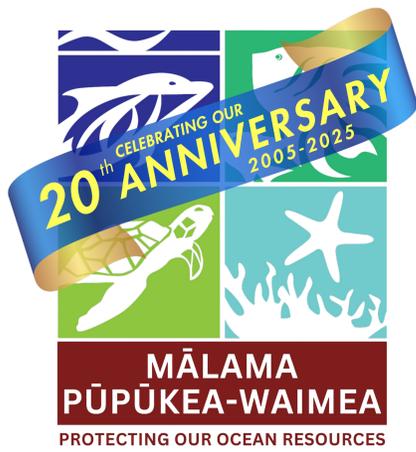
Hawaiian Council

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February 12, 2026  
EEP/TOU, FIN Hearing, 9:30 am  
**HB 1949 Relating to the Green Fee - In Support**

Aloha Chair Lowen and Vice Chair Perruso, Chair Tam and Vice Chair Templo, and Members,

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

As an organization that carries out stewardship and resource protection work on the ground, MPW understands the importance of sustained, coordinated investment in Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources. The green fee is a practical mechanism for supporting this work across the state, enabling efforts such as reef protection, invasive species management, watershed restoration, climate adaptation, and resilient infrastructure. While modest at the individual level, its combined impact is significant.

For this investment to be effective, transparency and public understanding are essential. There is currently no single, accessible way to see how green fee revenues are allocated across agencies, where projects are occurring, or what outcomes they are achieving statewide. This limits public confidence and obscures the full value of the work being done.

#### **MPW strongly supports HB 1949.**

The bill creates a centralized, statewide dashboard presenting revenues, funded projects, locations, and measurable outcomes. **This visibility strengthens accountability, supports coordination among state agencies and community partners, and aligns with Hawai'i's constitutional responsibility to protect natural resources.**

HB 1949 provides a clear, accessible framework for transparency and shared learning that amplifies our collective ability to steward 'āina effectively for present and future generations.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 1949.

Jacqueline Leinau  
Executive Director, MPW

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

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# 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

February 10, 2026

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

#### Testimony in Support of HB1949

House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection  
House Committee on Tourism

**Position: Support**

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

Aloha Chairs Lowen & Tam, Vice Chairs Perruso & Templo, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Kalani Ka'anā'anā, CEO of Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG), and I am submitting written testimony **in strong support of HB1949**, which would establish a public transparency dashboard to track the allocation and use of revenues generated by the Hawai'i Green Fee.

AJ Halagao  
*Hawai'i Leadership*  
*Forum*

HGG 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. We support cross-sector collaboration and measurable progress toward the Aloha+ Challenge, Hawai'i's statewide sustainability initiative.

Athline Clark  
*Chaminade University*

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.

Jason Jeremiah  
*Kamehameha Schools*

Juliette (Lia) Sheehan  
*Atherton Family Foundation*

Kazumi Ogawa  
*United Nations*

A publicly accessible dashboard is a practical and necessary tool to ensure:

- Accountability in how public funds are distributed
- Public trust in the Green Fee program
- Equitable investment across communities and ecosystems
- Data-driven evaluation of program outcomes over time

Ulalia Woodside-Lee  
*The Nature Conservancy*

HGG has direct experience supporting this kind of public transparency through our work with the **Aloha+ Dashboard**, which helps track statewide progress toward Hawai'i's sustainability goals through measurable indicators. The Aloha+ Dashboard demonstrates how a publicly accessible data platform can strengthen accountability, improve coordination across agencies and sectors, and ensure that investments lead to meaningful outcomes.

In addition to the fund's necessary tracking component, HGG strongly supports using the Green Fee to resource **community-based organizations** that already lead

stewardship and resilience efforts across Hawai'i. State agencies should partner with community organizations through contracts, grants, and other financial mechanisms to promote a collaborative and co-management model for project success.

HGG has seen the power of this approach through initiatives such as the Maui Resilience Partnership, a cross-sector collaboration advancing community-led resilience, watershed protection, wildfire risk reduction, and long-term stewardship. Learn more here: <https://www.hawaiigreengrowth.org/mrp>.

During the first year of Green Fee implementation, we have a kuleana to ensure the fund is set up with integrity and strength. A transparent and community-driven fund will also empower community members, practitioners, and policymakers to learn from what works and continuously improve how funds are deployed.

HGG respectfully urges the Legislature to pass HB1949 and 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.

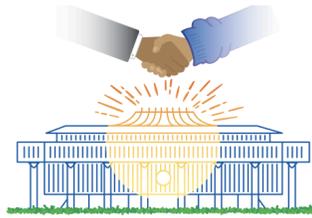
Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Mahalo,



Kalani L. Ka'anā'anā  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hawai'i Green Growth

1601 East-West Road  
Honolulu, HI 96848



## CLIMATE FUTURE FORUM

**Testimony in Support of HB1949 - Green Fee Transparency and Accountability**  
**Hearing with the House Committee on Tourism and the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection**  
Tuesday February 10, 2026

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Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, Chair Tam, Vice Chair Templo, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Climate Future Forum we are writing in strong support of **HB1949**, which establishes the Green Fee Transparency and Accountability Program and Green Fee Resiliency Impact Dashboard.

The Climate Future Forum empowers youth (ages 14–26) to actively engage in shaping and advocating for climate policy and legislation. By bringing together youth, educators, policymakers, and nonprofits, the forum fosters meaningful dialogue on climate action priorities and provides actionable steps to address climate change in Hawai'i. Through discussions involving over 100 youth, the forum has identified key high-priority areas, including regenerative food systems, climate and the economy, clean energy and transportation, climate justice and equity, and sustainable infrastructure.

From a youth perspective, transparency is essential to accountability. The green fee represents a significant investment intended to protect Hawai'i's natural resources, strengthen climate resilience, and support a sustainable economy. HB1949 ensures that young people and the broader public can clearly understand how these funds are being allocated and whether they are achieving their intended outcomes.

The Climate and the Economy working group has consistently emphasized that climate solutions must be fiscally responsible, community-aligned, and deliver measurable public benefit. Transparent tracking of green fee revenues helps build public trust, supports better decision-making, and ensures that climate investments strengthen local communities, protect 'āina, and contribute to long-term economic resilience rather than short-term gains.

As youth who will live with the long-term impacts of climate change and economic decisions made today, we believe that open, accessible information is critical to maintaining public confidence and ensuring that climate funding truly serves present and future generations.

Mahalo nui,

Julie Tam  
Climate and the Economy Working Group Leader, Hawai'i Climate Future Forum.



To: The Honorable Representatives Nicole Lowen and Adrian Tam, Chairs, the Honorable Representatives Amy Perruso and Shirley Ann Templo, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Energy and Environmental Protection and Tourism Committees.

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

Re: **Hearing HB1949 RELATING TO THE GREEN FEE.**

Hearing: Thursday February 12, 2026 9:30 a.m.

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Tam, Vice Chairs Perruso and Templo, and Members of the Energy and Environmental Protection and Tourism Committees!

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 SUPPORT HB1949!**

Last year, the State established a "green fee," an increase in the transient accommodations tax and a new imposition of taxes on cruise fares, to mitigate the impacts of tourism and climate change and to support

environmental protection, ecosystem restoration, natural resource management, and destination management 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.

Now that the green fee has been passed, Immediate action is necessary 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.

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 would consolidate data, standardize reporting, and provide clear narratives and metrics illustrating how revenues are used, where projects are located, and what environmental benefits are being realized.

Please **pass this bill to help implement the green fee with transparency!**

Mahalo!

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

**HB-1949**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:53:20 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Magee	Global Preservation Initiative	Support	In Person

Comments:

**Aloha,**

**My name is Aaron Magee and I'm speaking in support of HB1949.**

**With last year's historic establishment of the Green Fee, it's critical that we build a public dashboard to clearly track how these funds are used.**

**I'm the Executive Director of Global Preservation Initiative, a local nonprofit that already utilizes a public-facing dashboard to stay accountable to the communities we serve. Our Lifetime Impact Report openly shows our revenue, expenses, and the environmental impact we've created since our founding in 2022.**

**I strongly believe that when people contribute their money, they deserve to easily understand how it's being used and the results it creates.**

**I hope we can hold ourselves to that same standard when it comes to the residents and visitors who are funding these Green Fee projects.**

**I also believe State agencies should leverage the proven solutions of community organizations through contracts and grants because collaboration is what creates lasting impact.**

**Global Preservation Initiative leads restoration efforts at Mauiola, also known as Sand Island State Recreation Area, as well as Makapu'u Beach Park. These public lands benefit from consistent community stewardship and show how Government and community partnerships can succeed.**

**I hope you will commit to building transparency and public trust by passing HB1949.**

**Thank you.**



## [COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION](#)

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair

Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

## [COMMITTEE ON TOURISM](#)

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Chair

Rep. Shirley Ann Templo, Vice Chair

**Date: Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup> @9:30 am**  
**Supports HB1949**

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Tam, Vice Chairs Perruso and Templo, and committee members,

My name is Antoinette Davis, and I have had the honor of serving as Executive Director of the Activities and Attractions Association of Hawai'i (A3H), a nonprofit 501(c)(6) trade organization, since 1997.

A3H strongly supports the Green Fee Transparency and Accountability Program, the Green Fee Resiliency Impact Dashboard, the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, and the associated appropriation.

Last year, we opposed the GreenFee's creation bill ***because our industry is not experiencing the increased visitor spending reported by the State***. We also do not support imposing fees on visitors unless the revenues are clearly dedicated to addressing the specific resources and impacts tied to those visitors. Because the intended use of these funds was not clearly identified, the proposal appeared to place an additional burden on visitors without a defined or measurable outcome. Our hope is these measure will provide transparency & accountability of where these funds are spend.

Mahalo for your time, consideration, and the opportunity to testify.

Toni

Toni Marie Davis  
Executive Director  
Activities & Attractions Association of Hawaii, Inc.  
*Statewide 501 (c) (6) not-for-profit Trade Association*  
PO Box 598, Makawao, Hawaii 96768  
(808)871-7947

# HAWAI'I OCEAN LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE



February 12, 2026

Hawai'i State Legislature  
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection  
House Committee on Tourism

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

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Tam, Vice Chairs Perruso and Templo, and esteemed members of the committees,

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

HB1949 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 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.

*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.*

- **Marine Resource Co-management and Enforcement Partnerships**  
Funding for community co-management efforts and expanded marine resource enforcement 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—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 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.*

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy  
Supporting HB1949, Relating to the Green Fee  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection  
Committee on Tourism  
February 12, 2026 at 9:30 am  
Conference Room 325 and via Videoconference**

Dear Chairs Lowen and Tam, Vice Chairs Perruso and Templo, and Members of the Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify today. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Hawai'i and Palmyra strongly supports HB1949, 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 like wildfires, disappearing coastlines, bleached coral reefs, and an underinvestment in the management of these 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.

HB1949 advances Act 96 by ensuring that the public can clearly see how green fee revenues are allocated and used. By creating a statewide transparency dashboard, the bill 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.

The Governor's proposed green fee budget includes major investments in natural resource restoration, wildfire mitigation, coastal resilience, watershed health, fishpond revitalization, and climate-resilience planning. These are the types of projects essential to safeguarding Hawai'i's future, and HB1949 ensures that every dollar is visible to the public. A statewide dashboard gives residents, cultural practitioners, nonprofits, and community stewards the ability to track progress, see outcomes, and understand how these investments are addressing real needs.

HB1949 is an important step toward ensuring that the State's green fee revenues are used transparently and effectively, giving the community a clear, accessible way to understand how funds are allocated, spent, and distributed across islands and agencies. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of HB1949.

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

Aloha Chair Tam, Chair Lowen, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Keone Nakoa, and I am the Vice President of External Affairs at Kupu. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Kupu in **strong support of HB1949**.

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.

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. HB1949 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. This bill 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.

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. Green Fee revenues will support key projects across multiple state agencies in partnership with community organizations, including establishing a statewide climate disaster resilience workforce, developing green jobs and training opportunities in natural resource management, and supporting land stewards and education and engagement for visitors at popular trails. Yet today, there is no simple way for the public to understand where the money goes or what it is accomplishing.

HB 1949 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 'aina. HB 1949 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 HB 1949 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



**Hawai'i Conservation Alliance**  
— FOUNDATION —

**Testimony in Support of [HB1949](#)**

House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection  
House Committee on Tourism  
Thursday February 12, 2026  
9:30 AM

**Position: Support**

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

The Hawai'i Conservation Alliance Foundation was founded in 2006 to support and advance the native ecosystem and biocultural conservation work of the Hawai'i Conservation Alliance (HCA) through fundraising, advocacy, and strategic outreach and communications. The HCA is a cooperative collaboration of conservation leaders representing twenty-eight government, education, and non-profit organizations working together to provide unified leadership for Hawai'i's most critical conservation issues. Together, the HCA and the HCAF strive to protect native ecosystems and ensure the unique biodiversity of our islands endures.

HB1949 would establish a public transparency dashboard to track the allocation and use of revenues generated by the Hawai'i Green Fee. This is critical as it will help to ensure investments are aligned with their intended purposes and are evaluated consistently across agencies and partners. The HCAF strongly supports policies and partnerships to achieve conservation goals that stabilize and restore native ecosystems and the biocultural resources we all depend on. New finance mechanisms such as the Green Fee provide much needed resources to support well-established programs and initiatives with proven conservation successes. The Green Fee Advisory Council's Year 1 recommendations include investments in many existing efforts that will move the conservation needle and accelerate scalable actions across Hawai'i nei.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the joint committees to pass HB1949 and ensure Green Fee investments support established and innovative stewardship efforts across Hawai'i.

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

Moana P.K. "Ulu" Ching  
Executive Director



**ADDRESS**  
3442 Wai'ālae Ave., Suite 1  
Honolulu, HI 96816

**PHONE**  
808-735-5756

**EMAIL**  
bicycle@hbl.org

Joint Committees of the House  
Energy & Environmental Protection - Tourism  
Thursday - February 12, 2026 - 2:00pm

**Hawai'i Bicycling SUPPORTS HB 1949, Relating to the Green Fee, with remarks**

Aloha Chairs Lowen, Tam, Vice Chairs Perruso, Templo, and members of this Joint Committee,

My name is Eduardo Hernandez and I am the Advocacy Director of the Hawai'i Bicycling League (HBL). We are a non-profit organization founded in 1975 with the mission of enabling more people to ride bicycles for health, recreation, and transportation. We strive to create communities across our islands that have safe, accessible, and inclusive environments for people to bike, walk, and roll.

HBL supports HB1949, which establishes a public resiliency impact dashboard to improve transparency and accountability in the implementation of Hawai'i's Green Fee revenues. The Green Fee represents an historic investment in environmental stewardship, climate and hazard resilience, and sustainable tourism. Ensuring that its impacts are clearly tracked and publicly reported is essential to maintaining public trust and maximizing long-term effectiveness.

In the spirit of strengthening this transparency framework, we respectfully request a clarifying amendment to ensure that climate-resilient active transportation infrastructure — including multi-use trails and evacuation-oriented bicycle and pedestrian corridors — are explicitly recognized and tracked within the Green Fee reporting structure.

Multi-use trails and active transportation corridors advance all three Green Fee pillars:

**Environmental Stewardship**

They reduce vehicle miles traveled and associated greenhouse gas emissions, protect sensitive natural and coastal resources through managed access, and often repurpose existing infrastructure such as former plantation or cane haul corridors.

**Climate and Hazard Resilience**

Redundant, off-highway corridors can serve as alternative evacuation routes during wildfire, flood, tsunami, and hurricane events. The Lahaina wildfire demonstrated the critical importance of mobility resilience and multiple evacuation pathways.

**Sustainable Tourism**

Active transportation infrastructure supports destination management by reducing congestion, enhancing visitor mobility, improving access to parks and cultural sites, and protecting community quality of life.

Across Hawai'i, there are numerous multi-use trail and active transportation projects that align directly with these goals. The West Maui Greenway is one example of a corridor identified in state and county plans for decades and designated as an alternative evacuation route. Similar opportunities exist on every island.

Currently, multi-use trails are not identified as a distinct reporting category within Green Fee allocations. Without explicit recognition in the dashboard framework, this form of climate-resilient infrastructure may be unintentionally overlooked in future funding cycles.

HB1949 provides an appropriate opportunity to strengthen transparency by ensuring that the dashboard and annual report:

- Include a reporting category for climate-resilient active transportation infrastructure
- Track metrics such as evacuation-route redundancy, emission reduction potential, and destination management benefits
- Identify funding gaps in this category for future legislative consideration

Comprehensive climate resilience must include resilient mobility infrastructure. Mahalo for your leadership and consideration

S/Eduardo Hernandez

**Eduardo Hernandez**  
Advocacy Director  
Hawai'i Bicycling League

**HB-1949**

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 3:31:38 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2026 9:30:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Angela Young	CARES	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Support.

**HB-1949**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 5:12:05 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1949 will help to assure the public that green fee revenues are being used for their intended purpose. This is clearly beneficial.

**HB-1949**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 12:21:50 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeanne Herbert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of HB1949. Now that revenues are being generated by the Hawaii Green Fee, it is a crucial moment to make information regarding the collection and uses of these funds both clear and accessible to the public. A Green Fee Resiliency Impact Dashboard will not only inform the residents of Hawaii and visitors on the important work under the aegis of the Green Fee revenues, it will also provide a benchmark for future legislative decisions around project funding, help create evaluation of program outcomes, and make sure there is equal investment in our communities and ecosystems.

I am a resident of Hawaii based in Honolulu strongly support HB1949.

Mahalo,

Jeanne Herbert

**HB-1949**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 1:06:22 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2026 9:30:00 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 HB1949 and ask for your favorable passage of this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-1949**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 12:07:37 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
An Vo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is An and I am a public health college student on O'ahu. I support HB1949.

Anthropocene is becoming reality. The green fee will allow people to be educated on how climate change is caused by individual actions like littering, plastic pollution, and car emissions. We have a responsibility as society to make sure climate change is stopped, or at least slowed. This green fee will allow accountability in how public funds are distributed to find opportunities where human behavior can be controlled so that plastic pollution and anthropocene can have the potential to become fiction.

Please support HB1949.

Mahalo,  
An  
Honolulu

**HB-1949**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 5:56:06 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgette Stevens	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of HB1949  
Relating to Transparency of the Hawai‘i Green Fee**

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

My name is **Georgette Nohea Stevens**, and I submit this written testimony in strong support of **HB1949**, which would establish a public transparency dashboard to track the allocation and use of revenues generated by the Hawai‘i Green Fee. I am a Native Hawaiian–serving nonprofit organization located in Wai‘anae Valley on O‘ahu. I am a resident within the Wai‘anae moku and transparency and accountability in public funding are critically important to me, both personally and professionally.

As a staff member of an organization that has served our community for over 50 years through ‘āina-based education, food production, and land stewardship rooted in mālama ‘āina and ‘ike kūpuna. As a community-based organization that works directly on the ground, we understand the importance of trust, accountability, and clear communication—especially when public funds are intended to support environmental protection and community resilience.

The Green Fee represents a significant and promising investment in Hawai‘i’s future. It provides much-needed revenue to support climate resilience, sustainable tourism, and environmental stewardship, and helps address Hawai‘i’s estimated **\$560 million annual conservation funding gap**. For this policy to succeed in the 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 communities across the state.

A publicly accessible transparency dashboard is a practical and necessary tool to ensure accountability in how public funds are distributed, build public trust in the Green Fee program, promote equitable investment across communities and ecosystems, and allow for data-driven evaluation of outcomes over time.

In addition to transparency, I strongly support the use of Green Fee revenues to resource community-based organizations that already lead stewardship efforts throughout Hawai‘i. Organizations like Ka‘ala Farm bring deep place-based knowledge, long-standing community relationships, and the capacity to implement effective projects on the ground. State agencies should partner with these organizations through grants, contracts, and other funding mechanisms

to promote collaboration and co-management models that strengthen project success and community ownership.

During the first year of Green Fee implementation, we have a kuleana to ensure the fund is established with integrity and strength. A transparent, community-driven approach will empower residents, practitioners, and policymakers to learn from what works and continuously improve how these resources are deployed for the benefit of our 'āina and people.

I respectfully urge the Legislature to pass **HB1949** and 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.

Mahalo,  
**Georgette Nohea Stevens, Wai'anae Moku Resident**

**HB-1949**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:02:36 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mark Hixon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. One complaint I hear constantly from the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) is that they are underfunded and lack the capacity to do what is needed to save our ever-degrading coral reefs. The Green Fee will help DAR in its mission to restore and protect our marine ecosystems, as well as fund a broad variety of organizations dedicated to improving the quality of our precious natural environment in general. I urge you to pass this bill. Mahalo.

Statement of  
**Doreen Wong**  
before the  
**Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection**  
and the  
**Committee on Tourism**

**Thursday, February 12, 2026**  
**9:30 AM**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference**

In consideration of  
**HB1949 RELATING TO THE GREEN FEE**

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection; and Chair Tam, Vice Chair Templo, and Members of the Committee on Tourism,

My name is Doreen Wong, and I am a professional focused on developing and implementing climate and ocean solutions through funding, policy, and innovation. I strongly **support HB1949**, which aims to enhance transparency and accountability in the allocation of green fee revenues through the establishment of a statewide dashboard.

Hawaii's natural and cultural resources are central to our quality of life and economic vitality. As we face increasing pressures from tourism, climate change, and severe weather events, it is important that stewardship efforts are supported by clear and accessible reporting.

**HB1949** offers a promising framework to track the impact of Green Fee investments. To further strengthen the bill's objectives, I respectfully recommend the following amendments:

- **Integrate with Existing State Climate Resiliency Projects:** Ensure the dashboard aligns with the state's ongoing resiliency initiatives, providing a comprehensive view of their value and supporting coordination across agencies, so it is not another standalone reporting tool.
- **Incorporate Economic Impact Data:** Collaborate with UHERO, the Chamber of Commerce, and other relevant organizations to include economic impact data, enabling analysis and forecasting of both short-term and long-term cost savings and benefits. The dashboard should offer meaningful insights into future impacts to help the public understand the value of these efforts over time.

These recommendations will enhance the bill's intent and promote greater public understanding. By consolidating environmental, socio-economic, and economic data, the dashboard will become a valuable resource for both policymakers and the community.

I appreciate your commitment to stewarding Hawai'i's natural resources. I urge you to support **HB1949**.

Mahalo,



Doreen Wong

Ocean & Climate Professional, U.S. Citizen Resident in Hawai'i

**HB-1949**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:23:53 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frederick Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

**My name is**

**My name is Frederick Smith, and I live in the Kealakekua ahupua‘a in South Kona. I am also a graduate student in marine science and policy at UH Hilo. I am submitting written testimony in strong support of HB1949, which would 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. 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.**

**A publicly accessible dashboard is a practical and necessary tool to ensure:**

- Accountability in how public funds are distributed**
- Public trust in the Green Fee program**
- Equitable investment across communities and ecosystems**
- Data-driven evaluation of program outcomes over time**

**In addition to the fund's necessary tracking component, I strongly support using green fee funds to resource community-based organizations that 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. [Insert any personal connections to nonprofit and community groups and why their work is important for Hawai‘i.]**

**During the first year of green fee implementation, we have a kuleana to ensure the fund is set up with integrity and strength. A transparent and community-driven fund will also empower community members, practitioners, and policymakers to learn from what works and continuously improve how funds are deployed.**

**I respectfully urge the Legislature to pass HB1949 and 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.**

**Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,**

**Frederick Smith**

**Ka'awaloa, HI**

**Hawaii County**

**96704**

**HB-1949**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 5:26:31 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keili McEvelly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kākou,

My name is Ke‘ili, I live in Waimanalo on the island of O‘ahu and I support HB1949 which would ensure transparency and accountability for the Green Fee funds in Hawai‘i. Our community worked hard for these resources, and we all want to ensure that every penny goes back to our ‘āina and our people.

Mahalo for your time,

Ke‘ili

**HB-1949**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:02:28 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Connie M	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

Specifically, this bill should also support multi-use trails and in terms of transportation projects. Bike trails align directly with this bill's goals. The West Maui Greenway is a great example of a corridor identified in state and county plans and is specifically designated as an alternative evacuation route.

Multi-use trails (for example bike trails and the West Maui Greenway) should be identified as a distinct reporting category within Green Fee allocations. Without explicit recognition in the framework, this form of climate-resilient infrastructure may be unintentionally overlooked in future funding cycles.

Please include multi-use trails such as the West Maui Greenway in the passage of this bill.

Mahalo

**HB-1949**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:35:06 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ron Terry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In Support of HB1949 With Clarification for Climate-Resilient Active Transportation Infrastructure

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members:

As a planner, environmental scientists and multi-use trail advocate from the Big Island, I write to support HB1949, the goal of which is advance transparency and accountability in the implementation of Hawai‘i’s Green Fee revenues. Based on my involvement in the process to date, I think that establishing a public resiliency impact dashboard can help ensure that funds are invested effectively, equitably, and in alignment with statewide climate priorities.

I would join those in Maui and Kauai in also requesting a clarifying amendment to ensure that climate-resilient active transportation infrastructure — including multi-use trails and evacuation-oriented bicycle and pedestrian corridors — is explicitly recognized and tracked within the Green Fee reporting structure. Very few other pieces of infrastructure so directly track and advance the three basic tenets of Green Fee funding. To reiterate my colleague Saman Dias :

**Environmental Stewardship** Multi-use trails reduce vehicle miles traveled, lower greenhouse gas emissions, protect sensitive shorelines and ecosystems through managed access, and often repurpose existing corridors such as former cane haul roads.

**Climate and Hazard Resilience** Redundant, off-highway multi-use corridors can serve as emergency evacuation routes during wildfire, flood, tsunami, and hurricane events. The Lahaina wildfire tragically demonstrated the consequences of limited evacuation options. Climate adaptation must include mobility resilience.

**Sustainable Tourism** Active transportation infrastructure supports destination management by reducing congestion, improving access to high-use areas, enhancing visitor experiences, and protecting community well-being while sustaining local economies.

Please consider adding language that would require that the Green Fee resiliency impact dashboard and annual report include a distinct reporting category for “Climate-Resilient Active Transportation Infrastructure,” including multi-use trails and evacuation-oriented bicycle and pedestrian corridors.

This category has clear and measurable outcomes and performance indicators, including evacuation-route redundancy, and emergency access benefits, greenhouse gas emission reductions, destination management congestion mitigation impacts, and environmental protection and resource stewardship outcomes.

There are many ways the amendment could be phrased to better support the purpose of the Green Fee funding, but I support the language recommended in Saman Dias in her testimony.

Thank you.

Ron Terry

**Testimony in Support of [HB1949](#)**  
**House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection**  
**House Committee on Tourism**  
**Position: Support**

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

My name is Carrie Ostroski, and I live in Waikoloa on Hawai'i Island. I strongly support HB1949, which will establish a public transparency dashboard to track the allocation and use of revenues generated by the Green Fee. This fund is deeply important to me and to the many people, communities, and projects I personally support and am engaged with, such as but not limited to Ako'ako'a, WAI, the American Bird Conservancy, Hōnaunau, local community and cultural leaders, and many others, dedicated to their communities and restoring, protecting, and stewarding the 'āina , mauka-to-makai. Their work, and the ways the Green Fee can elevate their efforts and boost progress, is extremely important.

**With the Green Fee secured, the critical next step is to ensure that the Legislature follows the expertise and recommendations of the Green Fee Advisory Council and the Governor.**

- These recommendations reflect a transparent, expert-driven process to direct resources to the most impactful projects.
- Grounding decisions in the advisement of a highly skilled Advisory Council ensures that investments reflect community priorities, empower local practitioners, and maximize conservation outcomes for Hawai'i's future.

**Transparency is key.**

- A publicly accessible dashboard will allow the public to clearly see where funds are going, how decisions are made, and the outcomes achieved.
- This tool is essential for accountability, public trust, equitable investment across communities and ecosystems, and data-driven evaluation of program outcomes over time.

In addition to the dashboard, I strongly support using Green Fee funds to resource community-based organizations that already lead and steward efforts across Hawai'i, as reflected in the Advisory Council's recommendations. These groups have the expertise, trust, and proven track record to move critical projects forward. The Green Fee funding is a great way to leverage private philanthropy, build on what's working, and sustain momentum. State agencies should partner with them through contracts, grants, and other financial mechanisms to promote a collaborative, co-management model that ensures project success.

Particularly in this first year of Green Fee implementation, stewardship is our collective kuleana – ensuring the community-driven fund is set up with integrity, strength, and transparency. This empowers community members, practitioners, and policymakers to learn from what works and continuously improve how funds are deployed.

HB1949 honors the purpose of the Green Fee by directing resources responsibly, strengthening public trust, and ensuring that every dollar delivers lasting benefits for Hawai'i's environment and future. I respectfully urge the Legislature to pass HB1949 and affirm Hawai'i's commitment to transparency, accountability, and community-centered investment.

Mahalo for your leadership and for the opportunity to testify.

Carrie Ostroski, Waikoloa, HI, 480-290-1961

**HB-1949**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 1:58:11 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2026 9:30:00 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. Mahalo for your consideration.

**HB-1949**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 4:49:20 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mark McGuffie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT HB1949 Accountability, Transparency for the Green Fee Program and Dashboard

**HB-1949**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 6:33:13 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sara Gabrielson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of [HB1949](#)**

**House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection**

**House Committee on Tourism**

**Position: Support**

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

My name is Sara Gabrielson and I am submitting written testimony in strong support of HB1949, which would establish a public transparency dashboard to track the allocation and use of revenues generated by the Hawai'i Green Fee. I live in Waialua on Oahu and am thrilled that Hawaii is leading the way with this historic green fee legislation. However, to continue leading the way, we need to show our locals (most importantly) and our visitors and the world how this money is being put to good use. Hawaii has a history of challenges with corruption and the last thing we want is to look at the Green Fee funds and see misuse. The only way to prevent this is through transparency and this bill is one step to ensure that and the long term success and local support for the Green Fee.

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.

A publicly accessible dashboard is a practical and necessary tool to ensure:

- Accountability in how public funds are distributed
- Public trust in the Green Fee program
- Equitable investment across communities and ecosystems
- Data-driven evaluation of program outcomes over time

In addition to the necessary tracking component of the fund, I strongly support green fee funds should be used to resource community-based organizations who already lead stewardship efforts across Hawai'i. State agencies should partner with organizations through contracts, grants, and other financial mechanisms to promote a collaborative and comanagement model for project success.

During the first year of green fee implementation, we have a kuleana to ensure the fund is set up with integrity and strength. A transparent and community-driven fund will also empower community members, practitioners, and policymakers to learn from what works and continuously improve how funds are deployed.

I respectfully urge the Legislature to pass HB1949 and 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Sara Gabrielson

Oahu, 96791

**Testimony in Support of [HB1949](#)**  
**House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection**  
**House Committee on Tourism**  
**Position: Support**

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

**My name is Mia Nishiguchi, a senior at Kalani High School,** and I am submitting written testimony in **strong support of HB1949**, which would establish a public transparency dashboard to track the allocation and use of revenues generated by the Hawai'i Green Fee.

As a high school student who has worked in climate advocacy, environmental education, and community-based policy efforts across our state, transparency and accountability are deeply important to me. The Green Fee represents a significant and promising investment in Hawai'i's future.

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.

A publicly accessible dashboard is a practical and necessary tool to ensure:

- Accountability in how public funds are distributed
- Public trust in the Green Fee program
- Equitable investment across communities and ecosystems
- Data-driven evaluation of program outcomes over time

In addition to the fund's necessary tracking component, I strongly support using green fee funds to resource community-based organizations that 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.

Through my work with nonprofit organizations and youth-led initiatives focused on conservation, environmental justice, and education, I have seen firsthand how deeply rooted community groups deliver effective, culturally grounded solutions. These organizations maintain our coastlines, restore native ecosystems, educate keiki, and strengthen resilience at the neighborhood level. State agencies should partner with them through contracts, grants, and other financial mechanisms to promote collaborative and co-management models that ensure projects are both impactful and locally informed.

During the first year of green fee implementation, we have a kuleana to ensure the fund is set up with integrity and strength. A transparent and community-driven fund will also empower community members, practitioners, and policymakers to learn from what works and continuously improve how funds are deployed.

I respectfully urge the Legislature to pass HB1949 and 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.

**Mia Nishiguchi**  
**Kalani High School**



**HB-1949**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 8:15:59 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joseph Puhiale	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of HB1949 and urge its passage.

When the Green Fee was established through Act 96, the commitment to the public was clear. Visitor-generated revenues would be reinvested into protecting Hawai‘i’s natural and cultural resources. HB1949 helps keep that promise.

This bill does not raise or expand the Green Fee. It focuses on something just as important: accountability. HB1949 creates clear, consistent reporting standards and a publicly accessible resiliency dashboard so residents can see where Green Fee dollars are going and what they are actually accomplishing. That transparency is essential to maintaining long-term public trust.

As Hawai‘i faces increasing climate pressures, we cannot afford fragmented or opaque investments. We need coordination. We need measurable outcomes. And we need to know that limited resources are going to projects that are ready and capable of delivering results.

The Green Fee Advisory Council’s Year 1 recommendations highlight the urgency and opportunity before us. These include community-based ahupua‘a restoration, invasive species removal, and watershed partnerships that strengthen ecosystems while empowering local stewardship. They include wildfire risk reduction, vegetation management, and Firewise programs that address the growing threat intensified by drought and invasive grasses. They prioritize ridge-to-reef strategies such as coral reef restoration, fishpond and wetland recovery, shoreline protection, and nearshore water quality monitoring. They invest in hurricane shelter upgrades, hospital resilience, emergency preparedness, and multi-hazard mitigation planning. And they support beach restoration, trail stewardship, park improvements, and visitor management infrastructure that reduce impacts and sustain our visitor economy.

These are not isolated projects. They are interconnected investments that protect homes, safeguard water resources, strengthen food systems, preserve cultural sites, and build long-term resilience.

HB1949 ensures that these investments are visible, coordinated, and measurable. It allows lawmakers and the public to see what is working, where adjustments are needed, and how Green Fee revenues are delivering real protection for our communities.

Accountability is not a burden. It is how we sustain confidence in this policy over time.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the joint committees to pass HB1949 and ensure that Green Fee revenues continue to be invested transparently, strategically, and in ways that genuinely protect Hawai'i's people and places.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**HB-1949**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 3:03:08 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brianna Simon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of [HB1949](#)**

**House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection**

**House Committee on Tourism**

**Position: Support**

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

**My name is Brianna Simon and I am submitting written testimony in strong support of HB1949, which would establish a public transparency dashboard to track the allocation and use of revenues generated by the Hawai‘i Green Fee. I was born and raised in Hawai‘i and currently reside on Maui. Transparency and accountability for this new fund is important for the community to build trust with the state, transparency is critical to the long-term success of the fund.**

**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.**

**A publicly accessible dashboard is a practical and necessary tool to ensure:**

- Accountability in how public funds are distributed**
- Public trust in the Green Fee program**

- **Equitable investment across communities and ecosystems**
- **Data-driven evaluation of program outcomes over time**

**In addition to the necessary tracking component of the fund, I strongly support green fee funds should be used to resource community-based organizations who already lead stewardship efforts across Hawai‘i. State agencies should partner with organizations through contracts, grants, and other financial mechanisms to promote a collaborative and comanagement model for project success. I am the conservation and outreach manager at a nonprofit, Pacific Whale Foundation. While I am submitting testimony as an individual, the work I do, alongside hundreds of other NGO's and community groups needs to be supported. The work is important for Hawai‘i and is lead by passionate people.**

**During the first year of green fee implementation, we have a kuleana to ensure the fund is set up with integrity and strength. A transparent and community-driven fund will also empower community members, practitioners, and policymakers to learn from what works and continuously improve how funds are deployed.**

**I respectfully urge the Legislature to pass HB1949 and 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.**

**Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,**

**Brianna Simon**

**Maui**

**96768**

**HB-1949**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 11:23:21 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2026 9:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 1949 because tourism places a significant strain on our natural resources. We need the income generated by green fees to imaintain and protect and restore our precious natural resources and mitigate the impacts of tourism on our environment.

If we don't, ecosystems will deteriorate our quality of life will deteriorate and the health and beauty of the natural features in our islands that residents and tourists cherish so much will diminish and die in some cases..