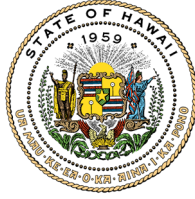


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

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

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

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

Before the Senate Committees on
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
and
WATER, LAND, CULTURE, AND THE ARTS

Tuesday, March 24, 2026
1:01 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2103, HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO THE LAND USE COMMISSION

House Bill 2103, House Draft 1, proposes to amend the composition of the Land Use Commission (LUC) to require at least one member to have substantial experience and expertise in water resource management and requires the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to submit a list of nominees to the Governor for the appointment of a commission member having substantial experience or expertise in traditional Hawaiian land usage and knowledge of cultural land practices. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources supports this measure.**

As freshwater availability declines and demands increase, careful consideration and more effective coordination between land use and water planning is needed. Historically, the LUC has not considered the water demands of a particular project when making decisions about land use district changes, boundary amendments, special use permits, and declaratory rulings for developments and construction projects. Requiring at least one member of the LUC to have substantial experience in water resource management will help ensure that questions about water availability are addressed early in the land use planning process.

In addition, this requirement would complement the make-up of the Commission on Water Resource Management's 7-member commission, which requires at least one member to have substantial experience or expertise in traditional Hawaiian water resource management techniques (Hawai'i Revised Statutes § 174C-7(b)).

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB2103 HD2
Relating to the Land Use Commission

Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ke Kuleana Hawai‘i
(Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs)

Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ka Wai, ‘Āina, a me ka Mo‘omeheu a me nā Hana No‘eau
(Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Culture and the Arts)

Malaki 24, 2026

1:01PM

Lumi 411

Aloha e Chairs Richards and Lee, Vice Chairs Lamosao and Inouye, and Members of the Senate Committees:

Mahalo for setting HB2103 HD2 for public hearing. This measure is part of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs' (OHA's) 2026 Legislative Package and OHA submits this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2103 HD2**. This bill strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC)'s ability to fulfill its vital kuleana to protect Hawai‘i's ‘āina, wai, and Native Hawaiian rights by: (1) requiring that at least one member have water management experience; and (2) designating OHA to recruit candidates to fill the existing traditional Hawaiian land usage seat.

OHA's Constitutional Mandate to Protect Native Hawaiian Rights

Established pursuant to the terms of Section 5 of the Admissions Act and the Hawai‘i State Constitution, Article XII, sections 4, 5, and 6, OHA serves as a semi-autonomous agency and trust vehicle for the betterment of the conditions Native Hawaiians. OHA's statutory duties include “[a]ssessing the policies and practices of other agencies impacting on native Hawaiians and Hawaiians, and conducting advocacy efforts for native Hawaiians and Hawaiians.” Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) § 10-3(4).

Consistent with these legal mandates, OHA actively advocates before state agencies and commissions, including the LUC, to ensure not only compliance with, but the meaningful advancement of, Native Hawaiian statutory and constitutional rights, often in the context of project-level land use reviews. In 2025 alone, OHA reviewed or provided agency comments on over three hundred projects, many involving land use and

development decisions with direct implications for water resources, cultural practices, and public trust obligations. In carrying out this advocacy, OHA has a strong interest in ensuring that state agencies are equipped with the expertise, cultural competency, and legal grounding necessary to make informed decisions that uphold these rights and protect the interests of Native Hawaiian beneficiaries.

The LUC Is a Critical Forum for Protecting Native Hawaiian Rights

Based on OHA's experience advocating for and enforcing Native Hawaiian rights at the agency level, the LUC is a uniquely vital forum for the protection of natural resources and the traditional and customary practices that depend on them.

The landmark decision in *Ka Pa'akai O Ka 'Āina v. Land Use Commission*, clarified that under the State Constitution state and county agencies must, prior to permitting decisions, identify: (1) the scope of valued cultural, historical or natural resources and traditional practices in the area; (2) the extent to which resources or practices will be negatively affected by the decision; and (3) feasible mitigation measures to protect resources and Native Hawaiian rights. See 94 Haw. 31, 47 (2000).¹ State and county agencies are also constitutionally required to prioritize public trust water uses over private commercial uses by, among other actions, requiring that commercial users justify their water needs with data and mitigate any impacts to public trust uses. See *In re Waiāhole*, 94 Haw. 97, 142 (2000).

Unlike many other agencies, commissions, and boards that share these constitutional kuleana, the LUC is uniquely positioned **to enforce** these rights and effectuate these duties through its quasi-judicial process for hearing petitions for district boundary amendments. Under this process, parties with an interest in the property, which includes Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners, can intervene in proceedings (usually to upgrade lands to rural or urban for development). See HRS § 205-4. The result is a transparent forum supported by due process safeguards that create a complete evidentiary record and better ensure meaningful consideration of relevant facts, data, and cultural 'ike in decisions. Moreover, the LUC can condition approval of boundary amendments on actions to improve natural resources and cultural practices, fulfill affordable housing mandates, and provide other community benefits, ensuring the public interest is served. See *id.*

¹ Generally, the "subject area" is not restricted to the project area as areas adjacent to the project area could be indirectly or directly impacted by actions within the project area.

It is within this context that OHA strongly supports ensuring at least one LUC member possesses water expertise: to ensure project proponents consider water needs, sources, and challenges at the earliest possible stages of project review to inform subsequent project design and permitting decisions, and to ensure the LUC consistently upholds its important constitutional mandates to protect public trust resources and the rights of Native Hawaiian beneficiaries.

Integrating Water and Land Use Planning is Vital to Protect Public Trust Water Resources

Water's importance is captured in the 'ōlelo no'eau "Ola i ka Wai (Water is Life)." Since ancient times, intelligent management of this precious resource has been necessary to ensure sufficient water for food production, drinking, healthy estuaries, and productive nearshore fisheries. Kānāwai (or law) literally means "relating to water," reflecting the centrality of wai and its management to governance in Hawai'i.²

LUC decisions create development entitlements which greatly impact water resource availability, allocation, and long-term sustainability. Water runs with the land; therefore, land use decision-making must be grounded in a clear understanding of water systems and must not impair other public trust water uses. Despite the profound and direct impacts that land use decisions have on water resources, current law does not explicitly require water expertise on the LUC. This omission leaves a critical gap in the State's ability to protect its most vital public trust resource.

HB2103 HD2 seeks to strengthen the LUC by requiring that "at least one member have substantial experience in the area of water resource management." Ensuring a water expert is seated on the LUC will help advance responsible stewardship of wai resources, improve the quality of land use decision-making, and increase transparency and public accountability around land use entitlements that affect long-term water availability. Integrated land use and water planning is a recognized best practice to ensure that water sources, infrastructure capacity, and sustainability constraints are considered at the earliest stage in the decision-making process—before land use entitlements are granted and impacts become difficult or impossible to mitigate.

OHA is Uniquely Positioned to Support the LUC With Recruitment

² Sproat, D. Kapua'ala, Ola i Ka Wai: A Legal Primer for Water Use and Management in Hawai'i, Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law (Honolulu 2009).

HB2103 HD2 designates OHA to recruit candidates for the traditional Hawaiian land usage seat that already exists. OHA maintains extensive and trusted communication channels with beneficiaries statewide, many of whom may be well-qualified to fill this seat. OHA regularly communicates with beneficiaries through social media, email alerts, its award-winning online and print newspaper *Ka Wai Ola*, and other in-person outreach events and forums.

OHA also brings demonstrated expertise in recruitment, evaluation, and nomination of candidates to state board and commissions due to its existing kuleana to nominate candidates for the Island Burial Councils. See HRS § 6E-43.5. Because the OHA Board of Trustees (BOT) is governed by HRS chapter 92, Hawai‘i’s Sunshine Law, and all candidates are approved by the BOT, all candidates nominated by OHA must be confirmed for nomination at a publicly noticed meeting, ensuring transparency and early opportunities for meaningful community input.

Designating OHA to provide names to the governor for the already established traditional Hawaiian land usage seat will promote broad outreach, transparent vetting, and the selection of highly qualified candidates with lived experience and cultural insight. While recruitment, evaluation, and nomination of candidates is resource-intensive, OHA is committed to ensuring the long-term success and effectiveness of the LUC and strengthening its capacity to protect Native Hawaiian rights.

OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS HB2103 HD2** so the LUC may more fully carry out its vital kuleana with the advice and insight of members with expertise in areas directly relevant to the LUC’s original mission and purpose: “to preserve, protect and encourage the development of the lands in the State for those uses to which they are best suited for the public welfare.”³

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

³ Act 187, § 1 (1961).



LAND USE COMMISSION

Komikina Ho'ohana 'Āina

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM
Ka 'Oihana Ho'omōhala Pā'oihana, 'Imi Waiwai a Ho'omāka'ika'i

JOSH GREEN, MD
GOVERNOR

DANIEL E. ORODENKER
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

235 S. Beretania Street, RM 406, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96804
Email Address: dbedt.luc.web@hawaii.gov

Telephone: (808) 587-3822

Website: luc.hawaii.gov

Statement of
Daniel E. Orodenker
Executive Officer
State Land Use Commission

Before the
Senate Committees
on
Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
and
Hawaiian Affairs

LATE

Tuesday March 24, 2026
1:01 PM
State Capitol, Room 224 and Video Conference

In consideration of
HB2103 HD2

RELATING TO THE LAND USE COMMISSION

Chairs Lee and Richards; Vice Chairs Inouye and Lamosao; and members of the Senate Committees on Water, Land, Culture and Art; and Hawaiian Affairs:

This measure would require at least one member to have substantial experience in water resource management and for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (“OHA”) to submit a list of nominees to the Governor for the appointment of a commission member with substantial experience or expertise in traditional Hawaiian land usage and knowledge of cultural land practices.

The Land Use Commission (“LUC”) met on February 11, 2026, to discuss legislative proposals. At that time the LUC did not take a position on this measure.

The Land Use Commission (“LUC”) staff notes however, that additional expertise that would assist the Commission in rendering a decision and balancing its public trust responsibilities with economic development is helpful.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 11:59:45 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nakoolani Warrington	Testifying for Kupuna for the Moopuna	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2103 HD2

We, Kūpuna for the Mo‘opuna, a hui of Hawaiian Homes Commission Act kūpuna beneficiary farmers from Pana‘ewa, Hawai‘i, **testify in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2103 HD2.**

HB 2103 HD2 would ensure that at least one member of the Land Use Commission has experience and expertise in water resource management, so that the Commission’s decisions can better understand and account for water availability, protection, and use in large scale land use changes, which are absolutely critical considerations for any land use proposal.

This measure would also allow the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to submit a list of names to the Governor to fill the Commission’s Native Hawaiian cultural expert seat.

These are common-sense fixes that will ensure much more prudent land use planning and decision making, while better safeguarding the cultural practices and resources that are the foundation of our islands’ identity and future resilience.

SUPPORT and PASS HB 2103 HD2. Mahalo.



Testimony Before The
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts (WLA)
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs (HWN)
IN SUPPORT OF HB2103 HD2
March 24, 2026, 1:01 p.m., Room 224 & 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 HB2103 HD2 as a step toward ensuring 'āina momona.

Mōhala i ka wai ka maka o ka pua.

Unfolded by the water are the faces of the flowers.

Flowers thrive where there is water, as thriving people are found where living conditions are good.¹

This measure reaffirms the state's obligation to uphold the constitutional rights of its people by ensuring the expertise needed on our Land Use Commission regarding wai (water) resource management. The quality and sustainable management of our wai (freshwater) is essential for sustaining healthy environments and people. The communities we work with are intimately aware of the significance of wai to their traditional and customary practices, as a part of the public trust and most importantly to support all life itself. Particularly in this time of federal instability, our state must continue to exercise its inherent duty to mālama 'āina, preserve and protect its public trust lands and waters for future generations. Wai abundance and quality is

¹ Pukui, Mary Kawena, 'Ōlelo No'eau: Hawaiian Proverbs & Poetical Sayings, #2178 (1983).

essential for the health of us all, including both mauka and makai mālama ‘āina practitioners, loko i‘a, and likewise our nearshore life such as limu.

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 maintaining protections for mālama ‘āina, including through this bill, to ensure the best decisions are made regarding sustainable and informed management of our wai and all the life and practices that it sustains. 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** HB2103 HD2.

Aloha ‘Āina Momona no nā kau ā kau.

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 1:13:25 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha!

The Free Access Coalition supports HB2103. Water is our most precious commodity. We need public expertise handling the wai.

HB2103 HD2 would ensure that at least one member of the Land Use Commission has experience and expertise in water resource management, so that the Commission's decisions can better understand and account for water availability, protection, and use in large scale land use changes - absolutely critical considerations for any land use proposal. This measure would also allow the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to submit a list of names to the Governor to fill the Commission's Native Hawaiian cultural expert seat.

Mahalo for your time.



March 24, 2026

TESTIMONY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS
To the Senate Committees on Hawaiian Affairs and
Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
In Support of

HB2103 HD2 – RELATING TO THE LAND USE COMMISSION

Aloha Chair Richards, Chair Lee, Vice Chairs, and members of the committees:

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs **supports** HB2103 HD2 Relating to the Land Use Commission, which, in part seeks to revise the membership of the commission to include at least one member with substantial experience with traditional Hawaiian land usage and practices, and at least one member with substantial experience in water resource management; both to be appointed from a list submitted by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

The well-being of ʻāina is essential to the well-being of our people. The preservation, protection, and stewardship of land, watersheds, ocean resources, cultural sites, and other natural resources is critical to building a Hawaiʻi that can feed generations of Native Hawaiians. The proposed change to the membership of the Land Use Commission will provide important additional voices to advocate for responsible and sustainable development of Hawaiʻi lands, including appropriate protection of our wai, in decisions made by the commission.

Founded by Prince Kūhiō in 1918, the Hawaiian Civic Club movement is the oldest Native Hawaiian community-based advocacy movement. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs is a not-for-profit organization that is a confederation of 61 individual and autonomous Hawaiian Civic Clubs and 3,000 members located across Hawaiʻi and across the continental United States.

We appreciate your favorable consideration of this bill.



**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

March 24, 2026

1:01 PM

Conference Room 224

In SUPPORT of HB2103 HD2: RELATING TO THE LAND USE COMMISSION

Aloha Chair Lee, Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of our more than 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **strongly SUPPORTS** HB2103 HD2, which will provide the Land Use Commission (LUC) with much needed water management expertise, while also allowing the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to assist the Governor in selecting commissioners for the LUC's cultural expert seat.

Water is one of the most critical considerations in any land use proposal, and its availability and use is central to a variety of critical public interests the LUC is tasked with balancing and protecting when overseeing large-scale land use changes. However, the law does not provide for LUC commissioners to have any background in water management. As a result, the LUC must often rely on developers' assertions regarding water availability and use, and may render decisions without a full understanding of whether and how a land use proposal's impacts to water may affect the public interest in natural and cultural public trust resources, agricultural activities, Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights, and affordable housing opportunities, among others.

By requiring at least one LUC commissioner to have substantial experience in water management, this bill will fill the gap in the LUC's collective knowledge regarding water, and help to ensure that approvals of potentially vast land use changes are appropriately tailored to balance and safeguard the range of public interests associated with water.

In addition, the LUC provides one of the only opportunities for Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners to assert their traditional and customary rights, and to have their constitutionally recognized practices explicitly considered and reasonably protected in large-scale land use changes. While the law accordingly requires the LUC to include a commissioner with substantial experience or expertise in Native Hawaiian land usage and cultural practices, appointments to fill this requirement are made by the Governor, without an opportunity for input from the Native Hawaiian community. As a result, the Governor may appoint individuals who may not necessarily be the best qualified candidates for such a critical position.

By requiring the Governor to fill the cultural expert LUC seat from a list of nominees provided by OHA, this bill would assist the Governor in vetting and identifying individuals



who may best be able to help the LUC understand and reasonably protect the rights of Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners, pursuant to the state's statutory, constitutional, and moral obligations.

For the reasons described above, the Sierra Club respectfully but strongly urges the Committees to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 11:07:22 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoeuluwehianuhea Case	Testifying for Na Wai Hoola nui Laau Lapaau Foundation	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Senator Chris Lee and Vice Chair Lorraine Inouye, members of the Committee on WLA/EDU,

My name is Kanoeuluwehianuhea Case, Co-founder of (Emerging) Na Wai Ho'ola Nui La'au Lapa'au Foundation standing in protection of Aloha 'Aina to protect our "Natural resources" otherwise known to Kanaka as our Na Akua, elemental beings. O Mauna A Wakea no ku'u Mauna, 'O Waimea Moku 'O Keawe mai au.

I support BillHB2103 HD2 with the recommendation that it includes amended language to add Lineal Descendant representation amongst a clear definition of Hawaiian expert on land and water or at least the opportunity in the future for this language to be input into this Bill or adopted by the commission. It is known that Lineal Descendants hold knowledge and wisdom as well as foresight related to proper land stewardship. Their expertise lays within generational knowledge that can compliment the commission in their decision making for Land use. I hope that we can start to value their contribution and encourage healthy pro-active participation for our Hawai'i as well as within our Policies to start reflecting their integral role in our communities by inputting "lineal Descendant" language into bills where it can be applicable. I feel it could be applied here while still keeping the current language.

Mahalo for considering these requests,

Kanoeuluwehianuhea Case

Co-Founder of Na Wai Ho'ola Nui La'au Lapa'au

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 11:18:22 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice K T Shiira	Testifying for Shimanchu Mamuyaa	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

.



Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Chair
Senator Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Committee on Water, Land, Culture and The Arts

Tuesday, March 24, 2026
1:01PM Conference Room 224

RE: HB2103 HD2 - Composition of Land Use Commission - Strong Support

Aloha Chairs Richards and Lee, Vice Chairs Lamosao and Inouye, and Members of the Committees,

On behalf of the Chamber of Sustainable Commerce (CSC), we write in strong support of HB2103 HD2. The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents more than 580 small businesses, sole proprietors and entrepreneurs across Hawai'i committed to a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity.

This measure strengthens the composition of the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring critical expertise is present in its decision-making. HB2103 HD2 requires that at least one commissioner have substantial experience in water resource management and clarifies that one or more members may have expertise in traditional Hawaiian land usage and cultural land practices. It also formalizes a clear process for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to submit nominee lists for those cultural expertise seats, strengthening transparency and consistency in appointments.

Land use decisions that lack water expertise or cultural grounding create uncertainty, delay, and conflict—raising costs for local businesses, slowing responsible development, and undermining community trust. By strengthening both technical and cultural competency at the commission level, this measure supports more informed, place-based decision-making.

Importantly, HB2103 HD2 does not expand the authority of the LUC or add

Hawaii Legislative Council Members

Joell Edwards
Wainiha Country Market
Hanalei

Russell Ruderman
Island Naturals
Hilo/Kona

Dr. Andrew Johnson
Niko Niko Family Dentistry
Honolulu

Robert H. Pahia
Hawaii Taro Farm
Wailuku

Maile Meyer
Honolulu

Tina Wildberger
Kihei Ice
Kihei

L. Malu Shizue Miki
Abundant Life Natural Foods
Hilo

Chamber of
Sustainable Commerce
808.445.7606
P.O. Box 22394
Honolulu, HI 96823

new regulatory burdens. Instead, it improves governance quality and reinforces the Commission's ability to operate with independence while being administratively supported.

In Hawai'i, land, water, and culture are inseparable from economic stability. Aligning expertise at this level helps ensure that development decisions are not only legally sound, but also socially grounded and environmentally responsible.

Thank you.

www.ChamberOfSustainableCommerce.org



March 23, 2026

Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S Beretania St
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Lee, Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committees,

My name is Jonnetta Peters, Executive Director of Conservation Council for Hawai'i (CCH), a non-profit environmental and conservation organization who serves to protect and save native species and their habitats. CCH is also the Hawai'i affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation. **CCH STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2103 HD2.**

Water is one of the most critical considerations in any decision regarding land use, yet the lack of any required water management expertise on the Land Use Commission (LUC) means that the LUC must often make land use decisions without the ability to properly assess developer's assertions regarding the availability of water – or to otherwise understand the impacts of large-scale land use changes on regional water security.

In addition, the LUC provides one of if not the only opportunity for Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners to assert their constitutional traditional and customary rights and to have these rights explicitly considered and protected in land use decision-making; accordingly, its membership includes a cultural expert to help the LUC understand and protect Native Hawaiian cultural practices and rights. However, this cultural expert is appointed by the Governor, who may not necessarily have sufficient expertise or community connections to identify the best candidates to serve in this role.

HB2103 HD2 accordingly ensures that the LUC includes a member with water management expertise, and allows the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to help the Governor identify potential Commissioners to appropriately fill the LUC's cultural expert seat. These are common-sense fixes that will ensure much more prudent land use planning and decision-making, while better safeguarding the cultural practices and resources that are the foundation of our islands' identity and future resilience.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jonnetta Peters
Executive Director

Telephone/Fax: 224.338-6511 | email: info@conservehi.org

web: www.conservehawaii.org | P.O. Box 2923, Honolulu, HI 96802

President: Bret Nainoa Mossman | **Vice President:** Les Welsh | **Secretary:** Colleen Heyer

Treasurer: Mashuri Waite, PhD |

Directors: Erica Amundson, Puanani Anderson-Fung, Maka'ala Ka'aumoana, Steven Lee Montgomery, PhD,
Emily Sarasa |

Executive Director: Jonnetta "Jonee" Peters | **Operations and Events Manager:** Leah Kocher

National Wildlife Federation Region 12 Director: Rachel Sprague

National Wildlife Federation Pacific Region Associate Director: Emily Martin

Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu – Hawai'i's voice for wildlife | State Affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT TO HOUSE BILL 2103 HD2
RELATING TO THE LAND USE COMMISSION.

SENATE COMMITTEES on WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND ARTS
and HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Hawai'i State Capitol

March 24th, 2026

1:01 p.m.

CR 224

Aloha Chairs Lee and Richards, Vice Chair Inouye and Lamosao, and members of Senate Committees,

My name is Keanu Binney-Medeiros, and I am a Lineal descendant of Kealakekua Bay and a proud Hoa'aina of Ho'ala Kealakekua Nui inc.

I am submitting this testimony in **SUPPORT of HB2103 HD2**, which amends the composition of the Land Use Commission to permit more than one member who has substantial experience or expertise in traditional Hawaiian land usage and knowledge of cultural land practices and require at least one member who has substantial experience in water resource management. Requires the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to submit a list of nominees to the Governor for the appointment of a commission member having substantial experience or expertise in traditional Hawaiian land usage and knowledge of cultural land practices.

At its core, this measure recognizes a simple but critical truth: the decisions we make about land and water must be guided by those who understand their depth, history, and cultural significance.

HB2103 HD2 strengthens the voices and expertise guiding the Land Use Commission by ensuring that individuals with substantial experience in traditional Hawaiian land usage, cultural land practices, and water resource management are not just included, but meaningfully represented. This is about ensuring that the perspectives shaping these decisions are grounded in 'ike kūpuna that has sustained these islands for generations.

For too long, land use decisions have often been made without sufficient cultural context or 'ike kūpuna at the table. The result is a system that can overlook the deeper relationships between people, land, and water. Relationships that are essential to the long-term health of Hawai'i.

By expanding representation and requiring nominations through the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, this bill creates a more balanced and intentional decision-making process. It

helps ensure that those with lived experience, cultural expertise, and generational knowledge have a direct role in shaping how our lands are used and cared for.

This is about more than governance, it is about restoring balance. Ensuring that decisions become more thoughtful, more responsible, and more reflective of the values that make Hawai'i unique.

Passing HB2103 HD2 is a step toward a future where land use decisions are not only efficient, but grounded in cultural integrity and long-term stewardship.

Our lands and waters are not just assets, they are the foundation of our identity and the source of life for future generations. Ensuring the right expertise guides their use today is how we protect that future.

I respectfully urge this committee to pass HB2103 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Me ka ha'aha'a

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K Binney-Medeiros". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Keanu Binney-Medeiros

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 4:24:53 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kapiolani Spencer	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2103 HD2

Subject: SUPPORT for HB2103 HD2 – Relating to Land Use Commission

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

My name is Kapi‘olani Spencer. I am a lineal and cultural descendant of this ‘āina, a community advocate, and a protector of our natural resources, wai, and kūpuna iwi.

I stand in strong support of HB2103 HD2.

This measure is a necessary step toward restoring balance in how decisions are made regarding land use in Hawai‘i. For far too long, development has moved forward without fully accounting for the protection of our wai, our cultural practices, and the ‘ike of those who have genealogical ties to these lands.

Wai is not just a resource, it is life. It is our connection to our ancestors, our sustenance, and our future. When wai is mismanaged or diverted for development, it directly impacts the ability of Kānaka Maoli to practice traditional and customary practices, including farming, gathering, and caring for sacred spaces.

Requiring at least one Land Use Commission member to have water management expertise is a critical safeguard. Decisions that affect our aquifers, streams, and ecosystems must be guided by knowledge and responsibility, not solely by economic interest.

Equally important is the role of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs in nominating candidates for the traditional Hawaiian land use seat. This ensures that Native Hawaiian voices, those with generational ‘ike and kuleana, are not just consulted, but represented at the decision-making table.

Without this representation, decisions continue to be made about us, without us.

I have witnessed firsthand the impacts of overdevelopment and outdated environmental considerations being used to justify projects that threaten our resources and cultural sites. We

cannot continue to rely on studies and systems rooted in an “old boys” network that has historically excluded the very people of this land.

This bill helps correct that imbalance.

It is about accountability.

It is about ‘ike kūpuna.

It is about protecting what remains for future generations

“Wai ola ke kanaka, wai make ke kanaka.”

Water is life. Without water, we perish.

In closing, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB2103 HD2 and stand on the side of protecting Hawai‘i’s wai, cultural practices, and the rights of its people.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kapi‘olani Spencer

Cultural & Lineal Descendant

Protector of Kūpuna Iwi, Wai, and Natural Resources

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 1:45:15 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support including OHA 2/24/26 testimony

2103 HB RELATING TO THE LAND USE COMMISSION.

TESTIMONY OF KEALI'I PANG, PH.D.
Kaimukī, O'ahu
IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2103, HD2

TO: Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Chair; Senator Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

Senator Chris Lee, Chair; Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, March 24, 2026

TIME: 1:01 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 224 & Videoconference, State Capitol

Aloha Chair Richards, Chair Lee, Vice Chairs Lamosao and Inouye, and distinguished members of the Senate Committees on Hawaiian Affairs and Water, Land, Culture and the Arts:

My name is Keali'i Pang, Ph.D. I am a resident of Kaimukī, a lifetime member of the Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu, and have served as an environmentalist in Hawai'i for the last 35 years. I am also a retired federal biologist with extensive experience in invasive species management, and currently serve as a State Commissioner. I write today to express my strong support for HB 2103, HD2, which strengthens the composition of the Land Use Commission (LUC) by embedding both traditional Hawaiian land knowledge and water resource expertise directly into its membership requirements.

The dual referral of this measure to the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs and the Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts reflects the integrated nature of what this bill seeks to accomplish. Native Hawaiian land knowledge and water stewardship are not separate disciplines—in the Hawaiian worldview, they are expressions of the same relationship with 'āina. That these two committees are reviewing this measure together is itself an affirmation of the values embedded in HD2.

Land and Water as Inseparable Responsibilities

The 'ōlelo no'eau "Ola i ka Wai"—Water is Life—reminds us that land use decisions cannot be made in isolation from water management. As a retired federal biologist who has spent decades working on resource management issues across the pae'āina, I have witnessed firsthand how land use entitlements granted without adequate attention to water can have cascading and irreversible consequences. The addition of a required seat for water resource expertise on the LUC is not a bureaucratic nicety; it is an ecological necessity.

Hawai'i's freshwater systems are deeply intertwined with land cover, soil health, and coastal ecosystems. Decisions about boundary amendments and land use reclassification directly affect aquifer recharge, stream flow, and the integrity of our nearshore marine environments. A commissioner with substantial water resource management experience brings a critical analytical lens that the LUC currently may lack in its composition.

Formalizing the Path for Cultural 'Ike

HD2 also formalizes the process by which the Office of Hawaiian Affairs submits a list of nominees for the seat requiring traditional Hawaiian land usage knowledge and cultural land practice expertise. This is a sound and transparent approach. OHA has the established community networks and the institutional mandate to identify practitioners who carry the 'ike of our kūpuna—individuals whose understanding of traditional resource management comes not from textbooks alone, but from lived relationship with the 'āina.

In my 35 years as an environmentalist in Hawai'i, I have consistently observed that the most durable land management outcomes arise when Native Hawaiian cultural knowledge is treated not as a courtesy inclusion, but as an essential analytical framework. The LUC makes decisions with multigenerational consequences—boundary amendments, once granted, are extraordinarily difficult to reverse. A commissioner who brings the perspective of long-term, place-based stewardship rooted in traditional Hawaiian land use can provide a safeguard against short-term thinking that the commission's statutory mandate demands.

Why HB 2103, HD2 Strengthens the LUC

I support this measure for the following specific reasons:

- **Integrated Water Management Expertise (Section 1, §205-1(a)):** Requiring at least one member with substantial water resource management experience ensures the commission has the technical grounding to assess how land use changes affect our public trust water resources. This is a gap that the current statute does not adequately address.
- **OHA Nomination Process for Cultural Expertise (Section 1, §205-1(b)):** Creating a clear, structured timeline for OHA to submit nominees—whether for a scheduled vacancy or a mid-term opening—removes ambiguity and ensures the seat does not sit unfilled or filled without adequate cultural vetting. This brings accountability and predictability to a process that currently lacks both.
- **Expanded Pool of Cultural Expertise:** The HD2 amendment removes the prior limit of a single seat for traditional Hawaiian land knowledge, allowing more than one member with this expertise to serve on the commission. This is a welcome change. Hawai'i's land use challenges are complex, and the depth of traditional ecological knowledge brought by multiple culturally grounded commissioners can only strengthen the quality of the commission's deliberations.

Conclusion

The Land Use Commission sits at the intersection of environmental protection, economic development, and the rights of Native Hawaiians to practice traditions dependent on an intact and respected landscape. Its membership must reflect the full complexity of what it is being asked to steward. HB 2103, HD2 takes meaningful steps in that direction by ensuring that both traditional Hawaiian land knowledge and water resource expertise are structurally embedded in the commission's composition—not as aspirational goals, but as legal requirements.

I respectfully urge both committees to PASS HB 2103, HD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

Keali'i Pang, Ph.D.

Kaimukī, O'ahu

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 7:56:57 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Contiue to support for the reasons stated in earlier testimony.

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 8:47:05 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2103 HD2 that amends the composition of the Land Use Commission to require at least one member who has substantial experience and expertise in water resource management and at least one member who has substantial experience or expertise in traditional Hawaiian land usage and knowledge of cultural land practices. Additionally, this measure would require the Native Hawaiian cultural expert to be chosen from a list of names submitted by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. These are common-sense fixes that will ensure wise land use planning and decision-making. I urge the Committee to PASS this measure

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 10:43:08 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

Please support this bill to ensure that two vital concerns--water and cultural resources-- are addressed in LUC decisions.

mahalo,

Cory Harden, Hilo

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 10:49:06 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bo Breda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committees,

My name is Bo Breda and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB2103 HD2.

Water is one of the most critical considerations in any decision regarding land use, yet the lack of any required water management expertise on the Land Use Commission (LUC) means that the LUC must often make land use decisions without the ability to properly assess developer’s assertions regarding the availability of water – or to otherwise understand the impacts of large-scale land use changes on regional water security.

In addition, the LUC provides one of if not the only opportunity for Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners to assert their constitutional traditional and customary rights and to have these rights explicitly considered and protected in land use decisionmaking; accordingly, its membership includes a cultural expert to help the LUC understand and protect Native Hawaiian cultural practices and rights. However, this cultural expert is appointed by the Governor, who may not necessarily have sufficient expertise or community connections to identify the best candidates to serve in this role.

HB2103 HD2 accordingly ensures that the LUC includes a member with water management expertise, and allows the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to help the Governor identify potential Commissioners to appropriately fill the LUC’s cultural expert seat. These are common-sense fixes that will ensure much more prudent land use planning and decisionmaking, while better safeguarding the cultural practices and resources that are the foundation of our islands’ identity and future resilience.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Bo Breda

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 10:50:12 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committees,

My name is Peter Wilson and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB2103 HD2.

Water is one of the most critical considerations in any decision regarding land use, yet the lack of any required water management expertise on the Land Use Commission (LUC) means that the LUC must often make land use decisions without the ability to properly assess developer’s assertions regarding the availability of water – or to otherwise understand the impacts of large-scale land use changes on regional water security.

In addition, the LUC provides one of if not the only opportunity for Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners to assert their constitutional traditional and customary rights and to have these rights explicitly considered and protected in land use decisionmaking; accordingly, its membership includes a cultural expert to help the LUC understand and protect Native Hawaiian cultural practices and rights. However, this cultural expert is appointed by the Governor, who may not necessarily have sufficient expertise or community connections to identify the best candidates to serve in this role.

HB2103 HD2 accordingly ensures that the LUC includes a member with water management expertise, and allows the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to help the Governor identify potential Commissioners to appropriately fill the LUC’s cultural expert seat. These are common-sense fixes that will ensure much more prudent land use planning and decisionmaking, while better safeguarding the cultural practices and resources that are the foundation of our islands’ identity and future resilience.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Peter Wilson

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 2:16:38 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christy Shaver	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committees,

My name is Christy Shaver and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2103 HD2.

Water is one of the most critical considerations in any decision regarding land use, yet the lack of any required water management expertise on the Land Use Commission (LUC) means that the LUC must often make land use decisions without the ability to properly assess developer’s assertions regarding the availability of water – or to otherwise understand the impacts of large-scale land use changes on regional water security.

In addition, the LUC provides one of if not the only opportunity for Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners to assert their constitutional traditional and customary rights and to have these rights explicitly considered and protected in land use decisionmaking; accordingly, its membership includes a cultural expert to help the LUC understand and protect Native Hawaiian cultural practices and rights. However, this cultural expert is appointed by the Governor, who may not necessarily have sufficient expertise or community connections to identify the best candidates to serve in this role.

HB2103 HD2 accordingly ensures that the LUC includes a member with water management expertise, and allows the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to help the Governor identify potential Commissioners to appropriately fill the LUC’s cultural expert seat. These are common-sense fixes that will ensure much more prudent land use planning and decisionmaking, while better safeguarding the cultural practices and resources that are the foundation of our islands’ identity and future resilience.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to PASS this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Christy Shaver

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 5:22:15 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jodi Rodar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committees,

My name is Jodi Rodar and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB2103 HD2.

Water is one of the most critical considerations in any decision regarding land use, yet the lack of any required water management expertise on the Land Use Commission (LUC) means that the LUC must often make land use decisions without the ability to properly assess developer’s assertions regarding the availability of water – or to otherwise understand the impacts of large-scale land use changes on regional water security.

In addition, the LUC provides one of if not the only opportunity for Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners to assert their constitutional traditional and customary rights and to have these rights explicitly considered and protected in land use decisionmaking; accordingly, its membership includes a cultural expert to help the LUC understand and protect Native Hawaiian cultural practices and rights. However, this cultural expert is appointed by the Governor, who may not necessarily have sufficient expertise or community connections to identify the best candidates to serve in this role.

HB2103 HD2 accordingly ensures that the LUC includes a member with water management expertise, and allows the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to help the Governor identify potential Commissioners to appropriately fill the LUC’s cultural expert seat. These are common-sense fixes that will ensure much more prudent land use planning and decisionmaking, while better safeguarding the cultural practices and resources that are the foundation of our islands’ identity and future resilience.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jodi Rodar

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 6:51:39 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 8:20:13 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Kathryn Afable	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committees,

My name is Mary Afable and I live in HIlo.

I support HB2103 HD2 because it ensures that the LUC includes a member with water management expertise, and allows the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to help the Governor identify potential Commissioners to appropriately fill the LUC’s cultural expert seat. These are common-sense fixes that will ensure much more prudent land use planning and decisionmaking, while better safeguarding the cultural practices and resources that are the foundation of our islands’ identity and future resilience.

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 8:45:20 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Likeke Scheuer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jonathan Likeke Scheuer and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB2103 HD1.

The lack of any required water management expertise on the Land Use Commission (LUC) has meant that the LUC must often make land use decisions without the ability to properly assess developer’s assertions regarding the availability of water. Many thousands of approved housing units languish, in some cases because the LUC approved of them but now, as it turns out, water is not available.

During my eight years serving on the LUC, I often heard blithe reassurances from project proponents and their consultants that there was sufficient water available, even when readily available public information, to those who were aware of it, revealed that these statements were questionable at best.

It is often the default statement in environmental review and entitlement documents to simply say something like 'this development will use X million gallons per day of water, the unused sustainable yield of this aquifer is Y, and X is less than Y so everything is fine.' Such statements are deceptive, yet are readily accepted when there is no further context provided or awareness of their misleading nature. Successful development and use of water sources depends on not just general availability, but the ability to develop source storage and transmission in a manner that has economically feasible, is consistent with the public trust doctrine, and can be done in a timely manner.

If we want good projects to be built, if we want necessary housing and other development, we should be sure that projects have the water necessary to be successfully developed.

This bill is an absolutely common sense proposal.

I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 10:40:35 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committees,

My name is Andrew Isoda and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB2103 HD2.

Water is one of the most critical considerations in any decision regarding land use, yet the lack of any required water management expertise on the Land Use Commission (LUC) means that the LUC must often make land use decisions without the ability to properly assess developer’s assertions regarding the availability of water – or to otherwise understand the impacts of large-scale land use changes on regional water security.

In addition, the LUC provides one of if not the only opportunity for Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners to assert their constitutional traditional and customary rights and to have these rights explicitly considered and protected in land use decisionmaking; accordingly, its membership includes a cultural expert to help the LUC understand and protect Native Hawaiian cultural practices and rights. However, this cultural expert is appointed by the Governor, who may not necessarily have sufficient expertise or community connections to identify the best candidates to serve in this role.

HB2103 HD2 accordingly ensures that the LUC includes a member with water management expertise, and allows the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to help the Governor identify potential Commissioners to appropriately fill the LUC’s cultural expert seat. These are common-sense fixes that will ensure much more prudent land use planning and decisionmaking, while better safeguarding the cultural practices and resources that are the foundation of our islands’ identity and future resilience.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Andrew Isoda
Lahaina, Mau’i

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 10:54:47 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Earl Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committees,

My name is Earl J. Kim and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB2103 HD2.

Water is one of the most critical considerations in any decision regarding land use, yet the lack of any required water management expertise on the Land Use Commission (LUC) means that the LUC must often make land use decisions without the ability to properly assess developer’s assertions regarding the availability of water – or to otherwise understand the impacts of large-scale land use changes on regional water security.

In addition, the LUC provides one of if not the only opportunity for Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners to assert their constitutional traditional and customary rights and to have these rights explicitly considered and protected in land use decisionmaking; accordingly, its membership includes a cultural expert to help the LUC understand and protect Native Hawaiian cultural practices and rights. However, this cultural expert is appointed by the Governor, who may not necessarily have sufficient expertise or community connections to identify the best candidates to serve in this role.

HB2103 HD2 accordingly ensures that the LUC includes a member with water management expertise, and allows the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to help the Governor identify potential Commissioners to appropriately fill the LUC’s cultural expert seat. These are common-sense fixes that will ensure much more prudent land use planning and decisionmaking, while better safeguarding the cultural practices and resources that are the foundation of our islands’ identity and future resilience.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Earl J. Kim

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 4:06:53 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleiheana-a-Pohaku Stormcrow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committees,

My name is Kaleiheana Stormcrow and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB2103 HD2.

Water is one of the most critical considerations in any decision regarding land use, yet the lack of any required water management expertise on the Land Use Commission (LUC) means that the LUC must often make land use decisions without the ability to properly assess developer’s assertions regarding the availability of water – or to otherwise understand the impacts of large-scale land use changes on regional water security.

In addition, the LUC provides one of if not the only opportunity for Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners to assert our constitutional traditional and customary rights and to have these rights explicitly considered and protected in land use decisionmaking; accordingly, its membership includes a cultural expert to help the LUC understand and protect Native Hawaiian cultural practices and rights. However, this cultural expert is appointed by the Governor, who may not necessarily have sufficient expertise or community connections to identify the best candidates to serve in this role.

HB2103 HD2 accordingly ensures that the LUC includes a member with water management expertise, and allows the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to help the Governor identify potential Commissioners to appropriately fill the LUC’s cultural expert seat. These are common-sense fixes that will ensure much more prudent land use planning and decisionmaking, while better safeguarding the cultural practices and resources that are the foundation of our islands’ identity and future resilience.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Kaleiheana Stormcrow

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 4:14:24 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 4:11:06 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mehana Vaughan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. Please support this bill which strengthens the LUCs ability to consider wai in decision making. Water is life and gives life to our lands. Including expertise on water within the LUC is vital.

mahalo nui no,

Dr. Mehana Vaughan

Kīlauea, Kaua'i

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 4:28:33 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisette Akamine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chairs Richards and Lee, Vice Chairs Lamosao and Inouye, and Members of the Committees:

I am writing in **support of HB2103 HD2**, which strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring that essential water expertise is required, and designates the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to nominate candidates for the traditional Native Hawaiian land usage seat. I urge the Committee to pass this bill for the following reasons:

Project Planning Must Consider Water Availability:

Water and land are connected, and this is especially apparent in an island context. Each LUC decision that allows for denser development carries implicit assumptions about associated water resource availability. Sound land use decision-making requires deliberate consideration of water source availability and impacts. A dedicated water expert seat would help ensure this type of careful deliberation occurs at the outset of project planning before project size and infrastructure decisions have been locked in.

Industry Best Practices call for Integrated Water and Land Use Planning:

Multiple professional associations, including the American Planning Association, encourage and support integrated water and land use planning as a best practice. As such, other states have also integrated water and land use planning processes by ensuring water management is considered early in the project entitlement process. This model of planning best protects water sources over the long term.

Supporting the LUC's Constitutional Duties:

As a state agency, the LUC has affirmative constitutional duties to protect public trust water resources and Native Hawaiian rights. Strengthening its membership with a water expert will better equip the LUC to fulfill its duty to protect public trust water resources. Moreover, allowing OHA a role in recruiting, vetting, and nominating candidates to the traditional Hawaiian Land usage seat would provide beneficiaries and the general public with the opportunity to provide early input on the selection of candidates. OHA nominees would be approved by the Board of Trustees at a public meeting prior to nomination, allowing for

community input and feedback, and fostering greater awareness of the LUC's critical role in protecting our 'āina.

Accordingly, **I urge the Committee to PASS HB2103 HD2.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Lisette Akamine

Kahalu'u, O'ahu

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 5:13:41 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Holst	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

It is critical that the nine member Land Use Commission have at least one person knowledgeable on water resource management; and that a person is nominated by OHA for the position of one person knowledgeable on native Hawaiian land usage and cultural land practices.

This is critical to protect the wai.

Please approve this bill.

Mahalo,

Mark

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 4:32:51 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB2103 HD2, which strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring that essential water expertise is required, and designates the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to nominate candidates for the traditional Native Hawaiian land usage seat. I urge the Committee to pass this bill for the following reasons:

Project Planning Must Consider Water Availability:

Water and land are connected, and this is especially apparent in an island context. Each LUC decision that allows for denser development carries implicit assumptions about associated water resource availability. Sound land use decision-making requires deliberate consideration of water source availability and impacts. A dedicated water expert seat would help ensure this type of careful deliberation occurs at the outset of project planning before project size and infrastructure decisions have been locked in.

Professional Best Practices call for Integrated Water and Land Use Planning:

Multiple professional associations, including the American Planning Association, encourage and support integrated water and land use planning as a best practice. As such, other states have also integrated water and land use planning processes by ensuring water management is considered early in the project entitlement process. This model of planning best protects water sources over the long term.

Supporting the LUC’s Constitutional Duties:

As a state agency, the LUC has affirmative constitutional duties to protect public trust water resources and Native Hawaiian rights. Strengthening its membership with a water expert will better equip the LUC to fulfill its duty to protect public trust water resources. Moreover, allowing OHA a role in recruiting, vetting, and nominating candidates to the traditional Hawaiian Land usage seat would provide beneficiaries and the general public with the opportunity to provide early input on the selection of candidates. OHA nominees would be approved by the Board of Trustees at a public meeting prior to nomination, allowing for community input and feedback, and fostering greater awareness of the LUC’s critical role in protecting our ‘āina.

Accordingly, I urge the Committee to PASS HB2103 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 6:37:52 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori Poaipuni	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chairs Richards and Lee, Vice Chairs Lamosao and Inouye, and Members of the Committees:

I am writing in **support of HB2103 HD2**, which strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring that essential water expertise is required, and designates the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to nominate candidates for the traditional Native Hawaiian land usage seat. I urge the Committee to pass this bill for the following reasons:

Project Planning Must Consider Water Availability:

Water and land are connected, and this is especially apparent in an island context. Each LUC decision that allows for denser development carries implicit assumptions about associated water resource availability. Sound land use decision-making requires deliberate consideration of water source availability and impacts. A dedicated water expert seat would help ensure this type of careful deliberation occurs at the outset of project planning before project size and infrastructure decisions have been locked in.

Professional Best Practices call for Integrated Water and Land Use Planning:

Multiple professional associations, including the American Planning Association, encourage and support integrated water and land use planning as a best practice. As such, other states have also integrated water and land use planning processes by ensuring water management is considered early in the project entitlement process. This model of planning best protects water sources over the long term.

Supporting the LUC's Constitutional Duties:

As a state agency, the LUC has affirmative constitutional duties to protect public trust water resources and Native Hawaiian rights. Strengthening its membership with a water expert will better equip the LUC to fulfill its duty to protect public trust water resources. Moreover, allowing OHA a role in recruiting, vetting, and nominating candidates to the traditional Hawaiian Land usage seat would provide beneficiaries and the general public with the opportunity to provide early input on the selection of candidates. OHA nominees would be approved by the Board of Trustees at a public

meeting prior to nomination, allowing for community input and feedback, and fostering greater awareness of the LUC's critical role in protecting our 'āina.

Accordingly, I urge the Committee to **PASS HB2103 HD2**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Loriann Poaipuni
Waiehu, Maui

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 6:54:48 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Fryer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2103 HD2.

Water is one of the most critical considerations in any discussions regarding land use, but the Land Use Commission must often make decisions over large-scale land use changes without the expertise necessary to assess developers' assertions regarding water use and availability.

In addition, in many cases, the Land Use Commission provides the only opportunity for Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners to assert their constitutional traditional and customary rights, and have these rights explicitly considered and protected in land use decision-making. Accordingly, LUC membership includes a required cultural expert to help the Commission understand and protect Native Hawaiian cultural practices and rights. However, this cultural expert is appointed by the Governor, who may not have the requisite expertise or community connections to identify the best candidates to serve in this role.

HB2103 ensures that the Commission includes a member with water management expertise, and allows the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to assess and nominate a list of candidates to fill the cultural expert seat. These are practical measures that will ensure much more prudent land use planning while protecting traditional cultural practices.

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 7:31:48 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dee Green	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2103 HD2.

This measure addresses two clear gaps in the Land Use Commission. First, it adds needed water management expertise, which is essential for evaluating development impacts and ensuring long-term water security. Second, it strengthens the process for identifying a qualified cultural expert by allowing the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to assist, helping ensure Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights are meaningfully understood and protected.

These are practical, necessary improvements that will lead to more informed and responsible land use decisions.

I respectfully urge passage.

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 9:19:56 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matt L	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chairs Richards and Lee, Vice Chairs Lamosao and Inouye, and Members of the Committees:

I am writing in support of HB2103 HD2, which strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring that essential water expertise is required, and designates the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to nominate candidates for the traditional Native Hawaiian land usage seat. I urge the Committee to pass this bill for the following reasons: **We need to have a voice at the table!**

Project Planning Must Consider Water Availability: Water and land are connected, and this is especially apparent in an island context. Each LUC decision that allows for denser development carries implicit assumptions about associated water resource availability. Sound land use decision-making requires deliberate consideration of water source availability and impacts. A dedicated water expert seat would help ensure this type of careful deliberation occurs at the outset of project planning before project size and infrastructure decisions have been locked in.

Professional Best Practices call for Integrated Water and Land Use Planning: Multiple professional associations, including the American Planning Association, encourage and support integrated water and land use planning as a best practice. As such, other states have also integrated water and land use planning processes by ensuring water management is considered early in the project entitlement process. This model of planning best protects water sources over the long term.

Supporting the LUC’s Constitutional Duties: As a state agency, the LUC has affirmative constitutional duties to protect public trust water resources and Native Hawaiian rights. Strengthening its membership with a water expert will better equip the LUC to fulfill its duty to protect public trust water resources. Moreover, allowing OHA a role in recruiting, vetting, and nominating candidates to the traditional Hawaiian Land usage seat would provide beneficiaries and the general public with the opportunity to provide early input on the selection of candidates. OHA nominees would be approved by the Board of Trustees at a public meeting prior to nomination, allowing for community input and feedback, and fostering greater awareness of the LUC’s critical role in protecting our ‘āina.

Accordingly, I urge the Committee to PASS HB2103 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Matt L.

Honolulu

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 9:40:48 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committees,

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2103 HD2.

Water is one of the most critical considerations in any decision regarding land use, yet the lack of any required water management expertise on the Land Use Commission (LUC) means that the LUC must often make land use decisions without the ability to properly assess developer’s assertions regarding the availability of water – or to otherwise understand the impacts of large-scale land use changes on regional water security.

In addition, the LUC provides one of if not the only opportunity for Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners to assert their constitutional traditional and customary rights and to have these rights explicitly considered and protected in land use decisionmaking; accordingly, its membership includes a cultural expert to help the LUC understand and protect Native Hawaiian cultural practices and rights. However, this cultural expert is appointed by the Governor, who may not necessarily have sufficient expertise or community connections to identify the best candidates to serve in this role.

HB2103 HD2 accordingly ensures that the LUC includes a member with water management expertise, and allows the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to help the Governor identify potential Commissioners to appropriately fill the LUC’s cultural expert seat. These are common-sense fixes that will ensure much more prudent land use planning and decisionmaking, while better safeguarding the cultural practices and resources that are the foundation of our islands’ identity and future resilience.

I respectfully urge the Committees to PASS this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Diane Ware Volcano 96785

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 11:47:43 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Kau'i Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support HB2103 HD2 and its measure to ensure that at least one member of the Land Use Commission has experience and expertise in water resource management and allow the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to submit names to the governor to fill the Commission's Native Hawaiian cultural expert seat. Indigenous practices protect our planet's health and such expertise should be recognized and implemented in the management of all our shared sources of life. Ola i ka wai!

me ka mana, Kau'i Young

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 5:18:22 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeannine Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chairs Richards and Lee, Vice Chairs Lamosao and Inouye, and Members of the Committees:

I am writing in **support of HB2103 HD2**, which strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring that essential water expertise is required, and designates the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to nominate candidates for the traditional Native Hawaiian land usage seat. I urge the Committee to pass this bill.

I have been submitting testimony to the LUC for over 20 years on a variety of issues. Therefore, I know first hand that **it is critical the LUC has the expertise to ensure that constitutional principles protecting wai and Native Hawaiians are consistently enforced.** I respectfully ask for your support of HB2103 HD2 too. Mahalo.

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 5:31:16 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Kaiwi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chairs Richards and Lee, Vice Chairs Lamosao and Inouye, and Members of the Committees:

I am writing in **support of HB2103 HD2**, which strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring that essential water expertise is required, and designates the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to nominate candidates for the traditional Native Hawaiian land usage seat. I urge the Committee to pass this bill for the following reasons:

Project Planning Must Consider Water Availability:

Water and land are connected, and this is especially apparent in an island context. Each LUC decision that allows for denser development carries implicit assumptions about associated water resource availability. Sound land use decision-making requires deliberate consideration of water source availability and impacts. A dedicated water expert seat would help ensure this type of careful deliberation occurs at the outset of project planning before project size and infrastructure decisions have been locked in.

Professional Best Practices call for Integrated Water and Land Use Planning:

Multiple professional associations, including the American Planning Association, encourage and support integrated water and land use planning as a best practice. As such, other states have also integrated water and land use planning processes by ensuring water management is considered early in the project entitlement process. This model of planning best protects water sources over the long term.

Supporting the LUC's Constitutional Duties:

As a state agency, the LUC has affirmative constitutional duties to protect public trust water resources and Native Hawaiian rights. Strengthening its membership with a water expert will better equip the LUC to fulfill its duty to protect public trust water resources. Moreover, allowing OHA a role in recruiting, vetting, and nominating candidates to the traditional Hawaiian Land usage seat would provide beneficiaries and the general public with the opportunity to provide early input on the selection of candidates. OHA nominees would be approved by the Board of Trustees at a public meeting prior to nomination, allowing for community input and feedback, and fostering greater awareness of the LUC's critical role in protecting our 'āina.

Accordingly, I urge the Committee to **PASS HB2103 HD2**.

Thank you,

Barbara Kaiwi

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 6:23:34 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
János Samu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chairs Richards and Lee, Vice Chairs Lamosao and Inouye, and Members of the Committees:

I am writing in support of HB2103 HD2, which strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring that essential water expertise is required, and designates the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to nominate candidates for the traditional Native Hawaiian land usage seat. I urge the Committee to pass this bill for the following reasons:

Project Planning Must Consider Water Availability:

Water and land are connected, and this is especially apparent in an island context. Each LUC decision that allows for denser development carries implicit assumptions about associated water resource availability. Sound land use decision-making requires deliberate consideration of water source availability and impacts. A dedicated water expert seat would help ensure this type of careful deliberation occurs at the outset of project planning before project size and infrastructure decisions have been locked in.

Professional Best Practices call for Integrated Water and Land Use Planning:

Multiple professional associations, including the American Planning Association, encourage and support integrated water and land use planning as a best practice. As such, other states have also integrated water and land use planning processes by ensuring water management is considered early in the project entitlement process. This model of planning best protects water sources over the long term.

Supporting the LUC’s Constitutional Duties:

As a state agency, the LUC has affirmative constitutional duties to protect public trust water resources and Native Hawaiian rights. Strengthening its membership with a water expert will better equip the LUC to fulfill its duty to protect public trust water resources. Moreover, allowing OHA a role in recruiting, vetting, and nominating candidates to the traditional Hawaiian Land usage seat would provide beneficiaries and the general public with the opportunity to provide early input on the selection of candidates. OHA nominees would be approved by the Board of Trustees at a public meeting prior to nomination, allowing for community input and feedback, and fostering greater awareness of the LUC's critical role in protecting our 'āina.

Accordingly, I urge the Committee to PASS HB2103 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

János Samu

Kalaheo, Kauai

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 8:03:41 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS BILL!

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 8:10:02 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Jorgensen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a good bill; please pass it.

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 8:32:05 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting testimony in support of HB2103.

While this bill would require at least one member to have expertise in Hawaiian land use and cultural practices and at least one member with expertise in water resource management, all members of the LUC should really have the expertise and experience with Hawaiian cultural practices and traditional water resource management. There is no shortage of practitioners who could fill these roles, we should make a higher requirement than just 1 of each. As we have seen recently with the devastating floods on all islands, we need cultural practitioners who have expertise in land and water use in traditional Hawaii to better guide our land use decisions in the future.

The indigenous people of Hawai'i lived in these islands for centuries, yet when the islands were found by merchant traders, missionaries, and other foreign folk, these islands were in the utmost pristine conditions, abundant with food to feed the estimated 1 million people living on these islands, with more than enough fresh water and food to sustain the population and its visitors. There was more than enough, and devastation like we recently seen in our islands was mitigated by good land management practices. Fast forward a couple hundred years and we barely have enough fresh water for our current uses and we barely produce enough food to sustain even a small sliver of this population. We also see heavy rainfall as devastating, causing enormous amounts of damage.

The traditional practices and beliefs of the indigenous people need to be incorporated into the way we utilize our land today. The practices that have been honed over the centuries by the native people living in these islands which produced the wealth of natural and cultivated resources need to be considered in our planning and decisions on how land is used today. We need this expertise on the LUC, not in at least 1 member of each, but ALL members should be an expert in Hawaiian land use and cultural practices as well experts in traditional water resource management. We have enough of these people to fill the seats. They will be passionate and get the work done. The University of Hawaii at Manoa has graduates that fit this need. There is no reason ALL members of the LUC shouldn't be experts in Hawaiian culture and traditional land and water use.

Mahalo for the consideration,
Keoni Shizuma

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 8:38:56 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janine Dumaguin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committees,

My name is Janine K. Dumaguin and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2103 HD2.

Water is one of the most critical considerations in any decision regarding land use, yet the lack of any required water management expertise on the Land Use Commission (LUC) means that the LUC must often make land use decisions without the ability to properly assess developer’s assertions regarding the availability of water – or to otherwise understand the impacts of large-scale land use changes on regional water security.

In addition, the LUC provides one of if not the only opportunity for Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners to assert their constitutional traditional and customary rights and to have these rights explicitly considered and protected in land use decisionmaking; accordingly, its membership includes a cultural expert to help the LUC understand and protect Native Hawaiian cultural practices and rights. However, this cultural expert is appointed by the Governor, who may not necessarily have sufficient expertise or community connections to identify the best candidates to serve in this role.

HB2103 HD2 accordingly ensures that the LUC includes a member with water management expertise, and allows the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to help the Governor identify potential Commissioners to appropriately fill the LUC’s cultural expert seat. These are common-sense fixes that will ensure much more prudent land use planning and decision-making, while better safeguarding the cultural practices and resources that are the foundation of our islands’ identity and future resilience.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to PASS this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Janine K. Dumaguin

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 8:48:09 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Chair Lee, Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committees,

My name is Nanea Lo and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2103 HD2.

Water is one of the most critical considerations in any decision regarding land use, yet the lack of any required water management expertise on the Land Use Commission (LUC) means that the LUC must often make land use decisions without the ability to properly assess developer’s assertions regarding the availability of water – or to otherwise understand the impacts of large-scale land use changes on regional water security.

In addition, the LUC provides one of if not the only opportunity for Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners to assert their constitutional traditional and customary rights and to have these rights explicitly considered and protected in land use decisionmaking; accordingly, its membership includes a cultural expert to help the LUC understand and protect Native Hawaiian cultural practices and rights. However, this cultural expert is appointed by the Governor, who may not necessarily have sufficient expertise or community connections to identify the best candidates to serve in this role.

HB2103 HD2 accordingly ensures that the LUC includes a member with water management expertise, and allows the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to help the Governor identify potential Commissioners to appropriately fill the LUC’s cultural expert seat. These are common-sense fixes that will ensure much more prudent land use planning and decisionmaking, while better safeguarding the cultural practices and resources that are the foundation of our islands’ identity and future resilience.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to PASS this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, 96826

Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Member

Hawai'i Workers Center Board Member

Clean Elections Hawai'i Member

Honolulu Tenants Union Member

350 Hawai'i Member

Carbon Cashback Hawai'i Member

Hawai'i Tax Fairness Coalition Member

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 8:51:38 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malialani Dullanty	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai Chairs Richards and Lee, Vice Chairs Lamosao and Inouye, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Malialani Dullanty, I am a Kānaka Maoli resident of Moku o Keawe. I am writing in support of HB2103 HD2 to strengthen the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring that essential water expertise is required. I urge the Committee to pass this bill.

Wai and 'āina are inextricably linked within Oceania rooted methodologies. It is vital we consider within an island context how best to integrate water and land use when planning so we do not damage our ecosystem or set residents up for failure.

LUC decisions that allow for denser development carry implicit assumptions about associated water resource availability. Sound land use decision-making requires deliberate consideration of water source availability and impacts. A dedicated water expert seat would help ensure this type of careful deliberation occurs at the outset of project planning before project size and infrastructure decisions have been locked in.

As a state agency, the LUC has affirmative constitutional duties to protect public trust water resources and Native Hawaiian rights. Strengthening its membership with a water expert will better equip the LUC to fulfill its duty to protect public trust water resources.

I strongly urger the Committee to PASS HB2103 HD2.

Me ka mahalo,

Malialani Dullanty

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 9:02:05 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Louis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

testimony:

Aloha e Chairs Richards and Lee, Vice Chairs Lamosao and Inouye, and Members of the Committees:

I am writing in support of HB2103 HD2, which strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring that essential water expertise is required, and designates the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to nominate candidates for the traditional Native Hawaiian land usage seat. I urge the Committee to pass this bill for the following reasons:

Project Planning Must Consider Water Availability:

Water and land are connected, and this is especially apparent in an island context. Each LUC decision that allows for denser development carries implicit assumptions about associated water resource availability. Sound land use decision-making requires deliberate consideration of water source availability and impacts. A dedicated water expert seat would help ensure this type of careful deliberation occurs at the outset of project planning before project size and infrastructure decisions have been locked in.

Professional Best Practices call for Integrated Water and Land Use Planning:

Multiple professional associations, including the American Planning Association, encourage and support integrated water and land use planning as a best practice. As such, other states have also integrated water and land use planning processes by ensuring water management is considered early in the project entitlement process. This model of planning best protects water sources over the long term.

Supporting the LUC's Constitutional Duties:

As a state agency, the LUC has affirmative constitutional duties to protect public trust water resources and Native Hawaiian rights. Strengthening its membership with a water expert will better equip the LUC to fulfill its duty to protect public trust water resources. Moreover, allowing OHA a role in recruiting, vetting, and nominating candidates to the traditional Hawaiian Land usage seat would provide beneficiaries and the general public with the opportunity to provide early input on the selection of candidates. OHA nominees would be approved by the Board of Trustees at a public meeting prior to nomination, allowing for community input and feedback, and fostering greater awareness of the LUC's critical role in protecting our 'āina.

Accordingly, I urge the Committee to PASS HB2103 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Malia Louis

Big Island of Hawaii

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 9:15:42 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makaiwa kanui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chairs Richards and Lee, Vice Chairs Lamosao and Inouye, and Members of the Committees:

I am writing in support of HB2103 HD2, which strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring that essential water expertise is required, and designates the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to nominate candidates for the traditional Native Hawaiian land usage seat. I urge the Committee to pass this bill for the following reasons:

Project Planning Must Consider Water Availability:

Water and land are connected, and this is especially apparent in an island context. Each LUC decision that allows for denser development carries implicit assumptions about associated water resource availability. Sound land use decision-making requires deliberate consideration of water source availability and impacts. A dedicated water expert seat would help ensure this type of careful deliberation occurs at the outset of project planning before project size and infrastructure decisions have been locked in.

Professional Best Practices call for Integrated Water and Land Use Planning:

Multiple professional associations, including the American Planning Association, encourage and support integrated water and land use planning as a best practice. As such, other states have also integrated water and land use planning processes by ensuring water management is considered early in the project entitlement process. This model of planning best protects water sources over the long term.

Supporting the LUC's Constitutional Duties:

As a state agency, the LUC has affirmative constitutional duties to protect public trust water resources and Native Hawaiian rights. Strengthening its membership with a water expert will better equip the LUC to fulfill its duty to protect public trust water resources. Moreover, allowing OHA a role in recruiting, vetting, and nominating candidates to the traditional Hawaiian Land usage seat would provide beneficiaries and the general public with the opportunity to provide early input on the selection of candidates. OHA nominees would be approved by the Board of Trustees at a public meeting prior to nomination, allowing for community input and feedback, and fostering greater awareness of the LUC's critical role in protecting our 'āina.

Accordingly, I urge the Committee to PASS HB2103 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Makaiwa Kanui

Hilo, Hawai'i

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 9:16:47 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megaan M. Clark	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chairs Richards and Lee, Vice Chairs Lamosao and Inouye, and Members of the Committees:

I am writing in support of HB2103 HD2, which strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring that essential water expertise is required, and designates the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to nominate candidates for the traditional Native Hawaiian land usage seat. I urge the Committee to pass this bill for the following reasons:

Project Planning Must Consider Water Availability:

Water and land are connected, and this is especially apparent in an island context. Each LUC decision that allows for denser development carries implicit assumptions about associated water resource availability. Sound land use decision-making requires deliberate consideration of water source availability and impacts. A dedicated water expert seat would help ensure this type of careful deliberation occurs at the outset of project planning before project size and infrastructure decisions have been locked in.

Professional Best Practices call for Integrated Water and Land Use Planning:

Multiple professional associations, including the American Planning Association, encourage and support integrated water and land use planning as a best practice. As such, other states have also integrated water and land use planning processes by ensuring water management is considered early in the project entitlement process. This model of planning best protects water sources over the long term.

Supports the LUC's Constitutional Duties:

As a state agency, the LUC has affirmative constitutional duties to protect public trust water resources and Native Hawaiian rights. Strengthening its membership with a water expert will better equip the LUC to fulfill its duty to protect public trust water resources. Moreover,

allowing OHA a role in recruiting, vetting, and nominating candidates to the traditional Hawaiian Land usage seat would provide beneficiaries and the general public with the opportunity to provide early input on the selection of candidates. OHA nominees would be approved by the Board of Trustees at a public meeting prior to nomination, allowing for community input and feedback, and fostering greater awareness of the LUC's critical role in protecting our 'āina.

Accordingly, I urge the Committee to PASS HB2103 HD2.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Yours truly,

Megaan M. Clark

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 10:05:59 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Conall K. Ravenscraft	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ano ai ke aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee members

Please let this serve as testimony in Support of HB2103 HD2 which 'Amends the composition of the Land Use Commission to permit more than one member who has substantial experience or expertise in traditional Hawaiian land usage and knowledge of cultural land practices and require at least one member who has substantial experience in water resource management. Requires the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to submit a list of nominees to the Governor for the appointment of a commission member having substantial experience or expertise in traditional Hawaiian land usage and knowledge of cultural land practices.'

Mahalo for your consideration on this important matter.

Aloha

C. Kahaka'io Ravenscraft

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 10:08:31 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 10:23:15 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chairs Richards and Lee, Vice Chairs Lamosao and Inouye, and Members of the Committees:

I am writing in **support** of HB2103 HD2, which strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring that essential water expertise is required, and designates the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to nominate candidates for the traditional Native Hawaiian land usage seat. I urge the Committee to pass this bill for the following reasons:

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Professional Best Practices call for Integrated Water and Land Use Planning:

Multiple professional associations, including the American Planning Association, encourage and support integrated water and land use planning as a best practice. As such, other states have also integrated water and land use planning processes by ensuring water management is considered early in the project entitlement process. This model of planning best protects water sources over the long term.

Supporting the LUC's Constitutional Duties:

As a state agency, the LUC has affirmative constitutional duties to protect public trust water resources and Native Hawaiian rights. Strengthening its membership with a water expert will better equip the LUC to fulfill its duty to protect public trust water resources. Moreover, allowing OHA a role in recruiting, vetting, and nominating candidates to the traditional Hawaiian Land usage seat would provide beneficiaries and the general public with the opportunity to provide early input on the selection of candidates. OHA nominees would be approved by the Board of Trustees at a public meeting prior to nomination, allowing for community input and feedback, and fostering greater awareness of the LUC's critical role in protecting our 'āina.

Accordingly, I urge the Committee to PASS HB2103 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Leimana Kāne

Wailuku, Maui

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 11:26:58 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Lorenzo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committees,

My name is Anne M. Lorenzo and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB2103 HD2.

Water is one of the most critical considerations in any decision regarding land use, yet the lack of any required water management expertise on the Land Use Commission (LUC) means that the LUC must often make land use decisions without the ability to properly assess developer’s assertions regarding the availability of water – or to otherwise understand the impacts of large-scale land use changes on regional water security.

In addition, the LUC provides one of if not the only opportunity for Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners to assert their constitutional traditional and customary rights and to have these rights explicitly considered and protected in land use decisionmaking; accordingly, its membership includes a cultural expert to help the LUC understand and protect Native Hawaiian cultural practices and rights. However, this cultural expert is appointed by the Governor, who may not necessarily have sufficient expertise or community connections to identify the best candidates to serve in this role.

HB2103 HD2 accordingly ensures that the LUC includes a member with water management expertise, and allows the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to help the Governor identify potential Commissioners to appropriately fill the LUC’s cultural expert seat. These are common-sense fixes that will ensure much more prudent land use planning and decisionmaking, while better safeguarding the cultural practices and resources that are the foundation of our islands’ identity and future resilience.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Anne M. Lorenzo

Aloha e Chairs Richards and Lee, Vice Chairs Lamosao and Inouye, and Members of the Committees:

I am writing in **support of HB2103 HD2**, which strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring that essential water expertise is required, and designates the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to nominate candidates for the traditional Native Hawaiian land usage seat. I urge the Committee to pass this bill for the following reasons:

Project Planning Must Consider Water Availability:

Water and land are connected, and this is especially apparent in an island context. Each LUC decision that allows for denser development carries implicit assumptions about associated water resource availability. Sound land use decision-making requires deliberate consideration of water source availability and impacts. A dedicated water expert seat would help ensure this type of careful deliberation occurs at the outset of project planning before project size and infrastructure decisions have been locked in.

Professional Best Practices call for Integrated Water and Land Use Planning:

Multiple professional associations, including the American Planning Association, encourage and support integrated water and land use planning as a best practice. As such, other states have also integrated water and land use planning processes by ensuring water management is considered early in the project entitlement process. This model of planning best protects water sources over the long term.

Supporting the LUC's Constitutional Duties:

As a state agency, the LUC has affirmative constitutional duties to protect public trust water resources and Native Hawaiian rights. Strengthening its membership with a water expert will better equip the LUC to fulfill its duty to protect public trust water resources. Moreover, allowing OHA a role in recruiting, vetting, and nominating candidates to the traditional Hawaiian Land usage seat would provide beneficiaries and the general public with the opportunity to provide early input on the selection of candidates. OHA nominees would be

approved by the Board of Trustees at a public meeting prior to nomination, allowing for community input and feedback, and fostering greater awareness of the LUC's critical role in protecting our ā'ina.

Accordingly, I urge the Committee to **PASS HB2103 HD2**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Lena Carver
Keaau, Hawaii

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 11:42:31 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am testifying in support of HB2103 with suggestions. I believe the bill creates a clear path for collaboration which I believe to be essential. I am requesting that perhaps the 5 year reporting requirement be deleted from the bill, which may cause undue administrative burdens and seems redundant as standards are already required and any reporting should be discretionary and not held to a strict time standard. Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 11:56:47 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keili McEvilly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committees,

My name is Ke‘ili McEvilly from Kaneohe, and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2103 HD2.

Water is one of the most critical considerations in any decision regarding land use, yet the lack of any required water management expertise on the Land Use Commission (LUC) means that the LUC must often make land use decisions without the ability to properly assess developer’s assertions regarding the availability of water – or to otherwise understand the impacts of large-scale land use changes on regional water security.

In addition, the LUC provides one of if not the only opportunity for Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners to assert their constitutional traditional and customary rights and to have these rights explicitly considered and protected in land use decisionmaking; accordingly, its membership includes a cultural expert to help the LUC understand and protect Native Hawaiian cultural practices and rights. However, this cultural expert is appointed by the Governor, who may not necessarily have sufficient expertise or community connections to identify the best candidates to serve in this role.

HB2103 HD2 accordingly ensures that the LUC includes a member with water management expertise, and allows the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to help the Governor identify potential Commissioners to appropriately fill the LUC’s cultural expert seat. These are common-sense fixes that will ensure much more prudent land use planning and decisionmaking, while better safeguarding the cultural practices and resources that are the foundation of our islands’ identity and future resilience.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to PASS this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Ke'ili

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 11:59:58 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanani Enos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Senator Richards, Vice Chair Senator Lamosao, Chair Senator Lee, Vice Chair Senator Inouye, and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs and the Committee on Water, Land, Culture, and the Arts,

My name is Kanani Enos. I am the Director of Cultural and Community Affairs at Ho‘āla Kealakekua Nui, Inc. (HKN). I am a lineal descendant of the South Kona area, (also known as Kapalilua) spanning from Miloli‘i to Kealakekua. I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT for HB2103 HD2**, which amends the composition of the Land Use Commission to permit more than one member who has substantial experience or expertise in traditional Hawaiian land usage and knowledge of cultural land practices and require at least one member who has substantial experience in water resource management. It also requires the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to submit a list of nominees to the Governor for the appointment of a commission member having substantial experience or expertise in traditional Hawaiian land usage and knowledge of cultural land practices.

Mahalo to the committees for hearing this measure and I strongly urge these committees to pass HB2103 HD2.

Me ke aloha nui,

Kanani Enos

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 12:45:19 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2103 HD2.

Water is one of the most critical considerations in any decision regarding land use, yet the lack of any required water management expertise on the Land Use Commission (LUC) means that the LUC must often make land use decisions without the ability to properly assess developer’s assertions regarding the availability of water – or to otherwise understand the impacts of large-scale land use changes on regional water security.

In addition, the LUC provides one of if not the only opportunity for Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners to assert their constitutional traditional and customary rights and to have these rights explicitly considered and protected in land use decisionmaking; accordingly, its membership includes a cultural expert to help the LUC understand and protect Native Hawaiian cultural practices and rights. However, this cultural expert is appointed by the Governor, who may not necessarily have sufficient expertise or community connections to identify the best candidates to serve in this role.

HB2103 HD2 accordingly ensures that the LUC includes a member with water management expertise, and allows the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to help the Governor identify potential Commissioners to appropriately fill the LUC’s cultural expert seat. These are common-sense fixes that will ensure much more prudent land use planning and decisionmaking, while better safeguarding the cultural practices and resources that are the foundation of our islands’ identity and future resilience.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

--Shay Chan Hodges, Maui, Hawaii

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 12:47:50 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glenn Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Thank you.

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 12:52:08 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shane Akoni Palacat-Nelsen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

The Land Use Commission makes decisions that impact Native Hawaiians, their Rights, and their access to their resources by determining the Use of Land. The measure is seeking more than just one member of the Commission to hold substantial experiences or expertise in traditional Hawaiian Land Uses. Each island is unique, and cultural practices and ideology cannot fit into the State's "One Box Fits All" because your communities that you serve are not the same. More commissioners means more place-based knowledge can now come to the decision making in a form of a decion-making source instead of advisory or testimonial avenues. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of this measure, it will only uphold statutory obligations and those that stem from the 2001 Ka Pa'akai o ka 'āina vs. LUC Hawaii State Supreme Court decision.

Mahalo for kind attention.

Shane Akoni Palacat-Nelsen

LATE

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 8:59:33 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Myles Y Miyasato	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Lee, Chair Richards, and Senators,

I'm Myles Miyasato testifying in opposition to HB 2103.

There is currently a process in place for all concerns and or support to be expressed. Within this process it is OPSD that does the "environmental review" CWRM also provides information to OPSD. OHA has numerous opportunities to weigh in on challenges or solutions.

Thank you, I would also like the opportunity to testify and share comments

Myles Miyasato

LATE

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 1:10:16 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelei Tancayo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chairs Richards and Lee, Vice Chairs Lamosao and Inouye, and Members of the Committees:

I am writing in support of HB2103 HD2, which strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring that essential water expertise is required, and designates the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to nominate candidates for the traditional Native Hawaiian land usage seat. I urge the Committee to pass this bill for the following reasons:

Project Planning Must Consider Water Availability:

Water and land are connected, and this is especially apparent in an island context. Each LUC decision that allows for denser development carries implicit assumptions about associated water resource availability. Sound land use decision-making requires deliberate consideration of water source availability and impacts. A dedicated water expert seat would help ensure this type of careful deliberation occurs at the outset of project planning before project size and infrastructure decisions have been locked in.

Professional Best Practices call for Integrated Water and Land Use Planning:

Multiple professional associations, including the American Planning Association, encourage and support integrated water and land use planning as a best practice. As such, other states have also integrated water and land use planning processes by ensuring water management is considered early in the project entitlement process. This model of planning best protects water sources over the long term.

Supporting the LUC's Constitutional Duties:

As a state agency, the LUC has affirmative constitutional duties to protect public trust water resources and Native Hawaiian rights. Strengthening its membership with a water expert will better equip the LUC to fulfill its duty to protect public trust water resources. Moreover, allowing OHA a role in recruiting, vetting, and nominating candidates to the traditional Hawaiian Land usage seat would provide beneficiaries and the general public with the opportunity to provide early input on the selection of candidates. OHA nominees would be approved by the Board of Trustees at a public meeting prior to nomination, allowing for community input and feedback, and fostering greater awareness of the LUC's critical role in protecting our 'āina.

Accordingly, I urge the Committee to PASSHB2103 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Michelei Tancayo

Lahaina Maui

LATE

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 1:15:13 PM
Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lucienne de Naie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chairs Richards and Lee, Vice Chairs Lamosao and Inouye, and Members of the Committees:

I strongly support this bill. As a Maui resident, our community really depends upon the many important decisions the State Land Use Commission makes. The LUC would greatly benefit in having a member who is a qualified in essential water expertise. The LUC would also benefit from the expertise OHA has in recruiting and nominating candidates for the traditional Native Hawaiian land usage seat. I support the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to be given this role.

The state LUC has affirmative constitutional duties to protect public trust water resources and Native Hawaiian rights. Strengthening its membership with a water expert will better equip the LUC to fulfill its duty to protect public trust water resources. Moreover, allowing OHA a role in recruiting, vetting, and nominating candidates to the traditional Hawaiian Land usage seat would provide beneficiaries and the general public with the opportunity to provide early input on the selection of candidates- which is very welcome in our Maui community.

I urge the Committee to PASS HB2103 HD2.

Mahalo for your consideration

Lucienne de Naie, Huelo, Maui

LATE

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 5:10:13 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James D Cisler	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I fully support the common sense requirement that a water resource management expert must be one of the chairs on our State's Land Use Commision. I also expect that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs be appointed to select all candidates considered for the Native Hawaiian land usage seat on our Land Use Commission. OHA must help to reinforce culural and ethical values to the critical decisions made by this commission.

Respectfully,

James D Cisler

Hawaiian Homes

Kailapa Resident

LATE

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 8:58:06 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Von Kaanaana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly urge the committee to SUPPORT HB2103 HD2.

Land use is a conversation Native Hawaiians should lead. Requiring atleast 1 member to have water management experience and 1 OHA designatee is just a minimum. We expect a robust team of candidates that check multiple boxes. Having a qualified Hui with land use expertise, traditional place name information, water use in ahupua'a systems and respect for Hawaiian Culture. Imposing foreign systems on a place that already has a native population is an expensive mistake.

LATE

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 9:10:14 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelle C Pahinui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chairs Richards and Lee, Vice Chairs Lamosao and Inouye, and Members of the Committees:

I strongly support HB2103 HD2.

In Hawai‘i, land and water are not separate—they are part of one living system that sustains our communities, cultural practices, and future generations. Decisions about land use must fully consider the availability and protection of wai, as well as the ‘ike and stewardship practices of Native Hawaiians who have long cared for these resources.

Strengthening the Land Use Commission by including dedicated expertise in water resource management, and ensuring Native Hawaiian knowledge is represented through OHA’s nomination role, is essential to fulfilling its kuleana. These perspectives help ensure that development decisions are made responsibly, with long-term impacts on communities, culture, and natural resources fully considered.

I respectfully urge you to pass HB2103 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Chelle Pahinui

Hawai‘i Island

Nā‘ālehu Theatre

LATE

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 10:00:58 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chairs Richards and Lee, Vice Chairs Lamosao and Inouye, and Members of the Senate Committees on Hawaiian Affairs and Water, Land, Culture and the Arts:

My name is Tiare Smith and I am writing from Kahalu‘u, O‘ahu in **strong support** of **HB2103 HD2**, an important OHA package bill that strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) so it can better fulfill its kuleana to protect our wai and traditional and customary Native Hawaiian practices threatened by development.

This bill requires that at least one of the nine seats on the LUC be filled by an individual with substantial experience and expertise in water resource management. It also designates the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to nominate candidates for the seat reserved for a person with experience or expertise in traditional Hawaiian land usage and knowledge of cultural land practices. These changes are essential and long overdue.

Water and land are inseparable in our island home. Every LUC decision to reclassify land for denser urban development carries direct consequences for water availability, stream flows, and nearshore ecosystems. Without dedicated water expertise on the Commission, critical questions about sustainable water sources and cumulative impacts are too often overlooked until projects are already far along. Adding a water management expert ensures these considerations happen at the outset, when they can truly shape responsible planning.

The LUC was created in 1961 to bring order to unchecked conversion of agricultural lands. Today it remains the quasi-judicial body responsible for classifying land into conservation, rural, agricultural, and urban districts and for reviewing petitions to change those boundaries. Its decisions must uphold the State’s constitutional public trust duties to protect water resources and Native Hawaiian rights, including the Ka Pa‘akai analysis that safeguards traditional and customary practices. A water expert seat and stronger OHA involvement in nominating the traditional Hawaiian land usage seat will equip the LUC with the expertise needed to consistently enforce these sacred obligations.

Allowing OHA to recruit, vet, and nominate candidates for the traditional Hawaiian land usage seat brings meaningful community input and transparency. OHA nominees would be considered by the Board of Trustees at a public meeting, giving beneficiaries and the public an early voice in selecting someone grounded in cultural land practices. This strengthens public trust in the LUC

and ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are fully represented when development proposals threaten wai, ‘āina, and cultural kuleana.

Professional best practices — endorsed by organizations such as the American Planning Association — strongly support integrated water and land-use planning. Other states have already moved in this direction. Hawai‘i should lead, not lag, especially given our unique island vulnerabilities and the growing pressures on our limited freshwater resources.

I respectfully urge the Committees to **pass HB2103 HD2** without delay. Empowering the LUC with the right expertise is a critical step toward responsible stewardship of our wai, protection of Native Hawaiian rights, and balanced land-use decisions that honor both cultural integrity and future generations.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify and for your continued leadership in protecting Hawai‘i’s natural and cultural resources.

Tiare Smith Kahalu‘u, O‘ahu

LATE

HB-2103-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 10:07:35 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/24/2026 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in STRONG support of **HB2103 HD2**.