

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

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
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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 House Committee on  
WATER & LAND

Tuesday, February 10, 2026  
9:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 411

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

House Bill 2103 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**

Relating to the Land Use Commission  
Ke Kōmike Hale o ka Wai a me ka 'Āina  
(House Committee on Water and Land)

Pepeluali 10, 2026 9:00 a.m. Lumi 411

Aloha e Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee on Water, and Land:

Mahalo for setting HB2103 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**. **HB2103** 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 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*, requires that prior to making discretionary permitting decisions state and county agencies must 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). State and county agencies are also constitutionally bound to affirmatively protect the public trust in water by prioritizing public trust water uses over private commercial uses, and requiring that private commercial users justify water demands. *In re Waiāhole*, 94 Haw. 97, 142 (2000).

Unlike many other agencies, commissions, and boards that share this 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 the redistricting hearing. See HRS § 205-4. The result is a transparent, evidence-based decision-making framework supported by due process safeguards, that creates a complete evidentiary record and better ensures meaningful consideration of relevant facts, data, and cultural 'ike.

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. Kanāwai (Hawaiian Law) literally means "relating to water,"

reflecting the centrality of wai and its management to governance in Hawai‘i.<sup>1</sup> Informed land use decisions today should be no different and must consider water management. Decisions by the LUC create development entitlements which impact the availability, allocation, and long-term sustainability of water resources needed to support communities and fulfill public trust obligations. These decisions must therefore be grounded in a clear understanding of water systems and must not impair other public trust water uses. Despite the centrality of water to land use outcomes, current law does not explicitly require water expertise on the LUC.

HB2103 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

HB2103 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 is governed by HRS chapter 92, Hawai‘i’s Sunshine Law, 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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).

OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** HB2103 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."<sup>2</sup>

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

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<sup>2</sup> Act 187, § 1 (1961).



# LAND USE COMMISSION

*Komikina Ho'ohana 'Āina*

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

*Ka 'Oihana Ho'omōhala Pā'oihana, 'Imi Wai wai a Ho'omāka'ika'i*

**JOSH GREEN, MD**  
GOVERNOR

**DANIEL E. ORODENKER**  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

235 S. Beretania Street, RM 406, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

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

Before the  
**House Committee on Water and Land**

Tuesday February 10, 2026  
9:00 AM  
State Capitol, Room 411 and Video Conference

In consideration of  
**HB2103**

## **RELATING TO THE LAND USE COMMISSION**

Chair Hashem; Vice Chair Morikawa; and members of the House Committee on Water and Land:

The Land Use Commission ("LUC") staff has the following comments on this measure that 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 LUC staff welcomes any additional expertise that would assist the Commission in balancing its public trust responsibilities with economic development.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter



Testimony Before The  
House Committee on Water and Land (WAL)  
**IN SUPPORT OF HB2103**

February 10, 2026, 9:00 AM, Room 411 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 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.<sup>1</sup>*

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 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.

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

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.

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



## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

February 10, 2026

9:00 AM

Conference Room 411

### In **SUPPORT** of **HB2103**: RELATING TO THE LAND USE COMMISSION

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Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, 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, 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 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 traditional and customary rights, 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 Committee to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



**Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair**  
**Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair**  
Committee on WATER AND LAND

Thursday, February 5, 2026  
9:30AM Conference Room 309

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

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committees,

On behalf of the Chamber of Sustainable Commerce (CSC), we write in strong support of HB2103, which strengthens the composition of the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring that its membership includes expertise critical to Hawai'i's long-term economic and environmental stability. 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 requires that at least one LUC member have substantial experience in water resource management and formalizes the role of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs in nominating commissioners with expertise in traditional Hawaiian land usage and cultural land practices.

From a business and workforce perspective, 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. Ensuring the Commission includes these forms of expertise improves decision-making, reduces litigation risk, and supports predictable, transparent processes that benefit both communities and the local economy.

HB 2103 does not expand the authority of the LUC or add new regulatory burdens. Instead, it improves governance quality by aligning commission expertise with the realities of Hawai'i's finite land and water resources—an essential foundation for housing, agriculture, infrastructure, and small business growth.

Thank you.

**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

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:46:58 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nakoolani Warrington	Kupuna for the Moopuna	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2103**

Aloha,

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** which strengthens the Land Use Commission by ensuring essential water expertise is required.

We strongly urge you to support and pass HB 2103 to safeguard Hawaii’s water availability, ensure water and land use planning, and affirm the Land Use Commission’s constitutional duties to protect public trust water resources and Native Hawaiian Rights.

Mahalo.



P.O. Box 8637, Honolulu, HI 96830 808.468.1686 www.mgfhawaii.org

TESTIMONY OF THE MOANALUA GARDENS FOUNDATION  
To the House Committee on Education  
February 10, 2026

In Support of

**HB 2103 - RELATING TO RELATING TO THE LAND USE COMMISSION**

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and members of the Committee:

The Moanalua Gardens Foundation submits testimony in **strong support of HB 2103**. 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.

HB 2103 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.

Founded in 1970, The Moanalua Gardens Foundation was established to preserve and perpetuate the history, native culture, and environment of Hawai'i through education and stewardship.

**The Moanalua Gardens Foundation urges the committee to pass HB 2103 Mahalo for your attention and consideration.**

*Me ke aloha,*

Ian Keali'i Custino  
*Executive Director*

*Moanalua Gardens Foundation*  
ian@mgfhawaii.org

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 12:28:49 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keoni Shizuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

The indigenous people of Hawaii 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.

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.

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.

The majority of the Land Use Commission (LUC) should be practitioners of Hawaiian culture. It is understandable to also have an expert with water usage and traditional water resource management. While this bill would require one of each, the majority of the LUC should really have the expertise and experience with Hawaiian cultural practices, as well as with 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.

Mahalo for the consideration,  
Keoni Shizuma

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 4:59:09 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Aric Andrade	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in support of HB2103, which strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring 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 calls 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 best practices. 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 e 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Aric Andrade, Haleiwa, O'ahu

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 6:21:32 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ahia Dye	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in support of HB2103, which strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring 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 that 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 best practices. 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 6:27:25 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carrie Ann Shirota	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in support of HB2103, which strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring essential water expertise is required. The proposed measure also designates the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to nominate candidates for the traditional Native Hawaiian land usage seat.

I strongly urge the Committee to pass this bill because the LUC, a State agency, has affirmative constitutional duties to protect public trust water resources and Native Hawaiian rights.

The LUC will be better equipped to fulfill its duty to protect public trust water resources with a water expert. Relatedly, OHA is better equipped to play a role in recruiting, vetting, and nominating candidates to the traditional Hawaiian land usage seat. This 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.

Please pass HB2103.

Mahalo,  
Carrie Ann Shirota, Esq.

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 6:29:04 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Linda Rosenstock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in support of HB2103, which strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring 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 that 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 best practices. 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Linda Rosenstock, Kamuela, HI

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 6:35:57 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J. Kehau Lucas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I strongly support HB2103, which strengthens the Land Use Commission by requiring water expertise and authorizing the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to nominate candidates for the traditional Native Hawaiian land use seat.

**Land use decisions are water decisions.**

In Hawai‘i, every increase in density presumes long-term water availability. When water impacts are not evaluated early, projects advance based on speculative assumptions, leading to over-allocation, deferred mitigation, and irreversible strain on public trust water resources. Requiring water expertise at the LUC ensures water availability and impacts are assessed **before** project scale and infrastructure commitments are locked in.

**Integrated water and land use planning is an established professional standard.**

The American Planning Association and other planning authorities identify early integration of water management into land use approvals as a best practice to reduce resource conflict, infrastructure failure, and environmental harm. States that embed water review at the entitlement stage are better positioned to protect water supplies over the long term. HB2103 aligns Hawai‘i with these evidence-based planning standards.

**HB2103 strengthens the LUC’s constitutional obligations.**

The LUC has an affirmative duty to protect public trust water resources and Native Hawaiian rights. Adding a water expert directly supports this mandate. Allowing OHA to nominate candidates for the traditional Hawaiian land use seat ensures that nominees are vetted through a public, beneficiary-driven process, increasing transparency, accountability, and public confidence in LUC decisions affecting ‘āina and wai.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS HB2103**.

**Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**Aloha ‘āina,**

**J. Kēhau Lucas**

**Wailuku, Maui**

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 6:53:27 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lea Kamakawiwoole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in support of HB2103, which strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring 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 that 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 best practices. 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Lea Kamakawiwoole

Honolulu oahu

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 7:59:01 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Constance Keoahunui Uale Warrington	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in support of HB2103, which strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring 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 that 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 best practices. 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.  
Constance Keoahunui Uale Warrington

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 8:00:16 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Makana Hicks-Goo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

AI

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 8:22:17 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Ann K Poire	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in support of HB2103, which strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring 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 that 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 best practices. 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Elizabeth Poire  
Kailua Kona, Hawaii

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

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

**Project Planning Must Consider Water Availability:**

Water and land are inseparable, especially in an island context. Each LUC decision for denser development carries assumptions about water availability. A dedicated water expert seat ensures careful planning occurs early, before project size and infrastructure decisions are finalized.

**Professional Best Practices:**

The American Planning Association and other states emphasize integrated water and land use planning as a best practice. Considering water early in project planning better protects resources over the long term.

**Supporting LUC's Constitutional Duties:**

The LUC has constitutional duties to protect public trust water resources and Native Hawaiian rights. Strengthening its membership with a water expert and allowing OHA to nominate candidates for the traditional land usage seat increases transparency, community input, and alignment with Indigenous knowledge.

**Health Equity Perspective:**

As a Master of Social Work student and Native Hawaiian community member, I see HB2103 through a health equity lens. Native Hawaiians experience some of the highest health disparities in Hawai'i, shaped by social, environmental, and structural inequities. Health is holistic, connected to land, water, and culture. The National Academy of Medicine notes,

“...the cultural trauma/loss that continues today greatly impacts this group and is manifested in their many health disparities.” — National Academy of Medicine, *Challenges and Promise of Health Equity for Native Hawaiians*

Protecting water and honoring traditional land practices supports healthier environments, cultural continuity, and community well-being.

I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS HB2103**.

Mahalo,

Teave Heen, MSW  
Kawela, Molokai

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 9:54:42 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Noel Shaw	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in support of HB2103, which strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring 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 that 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 best practices. 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.  
Noel Shaw, Kalāwahine O'ahu

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 10:04:19 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Thomas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in support of HB2103, which strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring 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 that 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 best practices. 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Michael Thomas Kamuela, Hawaii

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 11:50:24 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kawaiohawaiki Anakalea-Kila	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

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

I am writing in support of HB2103, which strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring 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 that 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 best practices. 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.  
Kawaiohawaiki Anakalea-Kila

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 1:17:02 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Larissa A Cordeira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in support of HB2103, which strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring 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 that 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 best practices. 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Larissa Cordeira

Waipi'o, 'Oahu

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 1:53:37 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brenten Kanoa Yamane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in support of HB2103, which strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring 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 that 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 best practices. 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Brenten Kanoa Yamane, Kapolei, O'ahu

[brentenyamane@gmail.com](mailto:brentenyamane@gmail.com)

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 7:15:35 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debra Koonohiokala Norenberg	Kauwamakaainanakahunaalii	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha,

Since the truth has already been stated in a previous testimony regarding the fictitious entity known as the 'state' of Hawaii and this legislative due process, I'll get right to the point in support of HB 2103.

First, according to the 'state' of Hawaii, I quote, "Conservation District Subzones are administered by the Department of Land and Natural Resources Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL). The Conservation Districts are administered by the State Land Use Commission." Further, in a quote of the 'state of Hawaii', "The Commission is responsible for reviewing and acting on petitions for district boundary amendments involving more than 15 acres or lands within the Conservation District." The Land Use Commission members are volunteers tasked with a monumental challenge requiring their time, a high level of expertise, and integrity to fulfill their purpose. As unpaid appointees, it is easy enough to manipulate, (without a measure of accountability) this commission to create an outcome desired in the interests of development where there possibly should be none. So, in light of their impactful duties, time, high level of expertise and integrity required, I strongly suggest the members be paid for their services. I realize that's not the topic of this bill but, this bill may be amended especially given the following paragraphs in this testimony.

The boundaries between urban, rural, conservation, and agricultural land zones are entirely imaginary. And to rationalize that they are like walls built to separate is preposterous. Considering that nearly half of all lands in the state of Hawaii are Conservation lands bordered by urban, rural, and agricultural lands, the borders need to be addressed as encroachment issues are prevalent especially in the Urban/Agricultural Wildland Interface Areas. Given this fact, the Land Use Commission's mission must also be to address those issues which tend to involve lands less than 15 acres.

Finally, it's shocking there isn't already a skilled expert in the field of water use, planning, and management on the commission and shocking that there isn't already a Hawaii expert duly acknowledged and appointed by Hawaii experts to the commission. Because of the shocking shortcomings, I ask, what experts are there, if any on the Land Use Commission in any related fields of Environmental Science, Sustainability, Agricultural Science, Civil Engineering, Hawaii Science, and Water use management? If the answer is none or only a few than, that is shameful and problematic to fulfilling the bare minimum purpose of the Land Use Commission. Please

consider amending this bill to address the concerns and facts in this testimony. If that's not possible than, the bare minimum this bill proposes for an act will do well enough to temporarily fill a gap in a much bigger gap that needs filling.

Aloha,

Deb

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 9:08:27 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brandee Yuen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in support of HB2103, which strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring 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 that 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 best practices. 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 currently and for our future generations.

Accordingly, I urge the Committee to PASS HB2103.

Mahalo for the opportunity to be heard,

Brandee Yuen - pearl city, oahu

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 9:43:14 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kamahana Kealoha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in support of HB2103, which strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring 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:**

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Multiple professional associations, including the American Planning Association, encourage and support integrated water and land use planning as best practices. 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.  
Brannon Kamahana Kealoha Waianae, O'ahu

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 9:58:57 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donelle Sawyer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Donelle Sawyer and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB2103.

I'm incredulous that this has to be said, but 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 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 Committee to please **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Donelle Sawyer

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 10:04:54 AM

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

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

Comments:

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

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

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

Sincerely,  
Bo Breda

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 10:09:05 AM

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

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

Comments:

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

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

Sincerely,  
Peter Wilson

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 10:15:43 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sharlene Chun Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill which will allow the office of Hawaiian Affairs to provide the list of Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners to be selected for the Land Use Commission. OHA has the expertise and responsibility to protect Native Hawaiian cultural practices and rights.

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 10:21:53 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Linda Lyerly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB 2103 which protects water rights and steers the way for a pono course of action for agriculture.

MAhalo nui for this opportunity.

Sincerely, Linda Lyerly, Lahaina 96761

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 10:30:55 AM

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

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

Comments:

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

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

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

Sincerely,  
Andrew Isoda  
Lahaina, Mau'i

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 11:47:37 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Umiamaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Re: Strong Support for HB2103 – Land Use Commission Membership and Water Protection**

**To the Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:**

**I am writing in strong support of HB2103 because it takes a necessary and overdue step toward aligning Hawai‘i’s land use decision-making with our islands’ finite water resources, fragile ecosystems, and the constitutional protection of Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights. This bill does not stop responsible development; it ensures that decisions with permanent consequences for our ‘āina and communities are made with the right expertise and voices at the table.**

**First, requiring that at least one member of the Land Use Commission possess substantial water resource management expertise is a matter of basic prudence and public safety. Every major reclassification decision directly affects our aquifers, streams, and watersheds, especially as climate change intensifies droughts, extreme rainfall, and saltwater intrusion. Without qualified water expertise on the Commission, the State risks approving projects that over-pump, contaminate, or otherwise compromise critical drinking water and agricultural sources.**

**Second, HB2103 appropriately strengthens representation for Native Hawaiian traditional land use and cultural practice by ensuring that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs has a defined role in nominating candidates for that dedicated seat. Native Hawaiian customary and traditional rights are enforceable legal interests that must be meaningfully considered in land use decisions. Having a commissioner with cultural competence and clear accountability to Native Hawaiian beneficiaries helps the Commission fulfill its trust obligations and avoid decisions that marginalize Native Hawaiian relationships to ‘āina and wai.**

**Third, by combining water expertise and Native Hawaiian land use expertise within the Commission, HB2103 will improve the quality and defensibility of Land Use Commission decision-making. The Commission will be better equipped to impose reasonable, science-based and culturally informed conditions on large projects, including protections for lo‘i, fishponds, traditional gathering areas, and monitoring and mitigation for wells and surface**

**water. This reduces conflict and provides more certainty to both communities and responsible developers.**

**For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to pass HB2103 out of committee and support its enactment into law.**

**Mahalo for your consideration and for your service to the people of Hawai'i.**

**Sincerely,**

**Deborah Umiamaka**

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 11:52:21 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Princeton Yamaguchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Princeton Yamaguchi and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB2103.

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

Sincerely,

Princeton Yamaguchi

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 11:57:02 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support!

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 12:34:56 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2103.

- Water is a critical factor in land use decisions, but the Land Use Commission (LUC) currently lacks required water management expertise.
- As a result, the LUC often cannot adequately evaluate developers' claims about water availability or assess impacts on regional water security.
- The LUC is one of the primary venues where Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners can assert and protect their constitutional traditional and customary rights.
- The LUC includes a cultural expert position to support this role, but the expert is appointed solely by the Governor, who may lack sufficient cultural expertise or community connections.
- HB2103 would require the LUC to include a member with water management expertise.
- The bill would also allow the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to assist the Governor in identifying qualified candidates for the cultural expert seat.
- These changes aim to improve land use decisionmaking while better protecting water resources and Native Hawaiian cultural practices essential to the islands' identity and resilience.

I urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Jody Smith

East Honolulu 96825

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 12:37:13 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha:

**I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2103.**

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

Sincerely,

Shay Chan Hodges

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 1:30:48 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Inam Rahman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2103 WITH RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS

Aloha e Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the House Committee on Water and Land,

My name is Inam Rahman MD and I submit this testimony in strong support of HB2103, with several constructive recommendations to strengthen the bill, broaden stakeholder confidence, and ensure its long-term success.

HB2103 addresses a critical gap in Hawai'i's land use decision-making by requiring water resource expertise on the Land Use Commission (LUC) and by enhancing cultural competency through the nomination process for the traditional Hawaiian land usage seat. In an island state facing climate change, water scarcity, and competing demands on limited land, these reforms are both timely and necessary.

Requiring water expertise on the LUC is sound public policy. Land use decisions inherently depend on assumptions about water availability, sustainability, and infrastructure. Integrating water expertise early in the decision-making process improves planning outcomes, reduces litigation risk, and strengthens the LUC's ability to fulfill its constitutional obligations to protect public trust water resources and Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.

At the same time, thoughtful amendments can help ensure that HB2103 achieves its goals without creating unintended consequences. I respectfully offer the following recommendations:

First, the role of the water resource management expert should be clearly defined. Clarifying that this member provides technical analysis and guidance—rather than independent veto authority—would preserve the LUC's collective decision-making process while addressing concerns about procedural delays.

Second, the bill would benefit from specifying minimum professional qualifications for the water expert, such as experience in hydrology, water resource planning, engineering, or Hawai'i water law. Clear criteria will help ensure appointments are based on expertise and professionalism, not politics.

Third, to avoid unnecessary delays, the Legislature may consider adding time-certain review benchmarks for water-related analysis. Early-stage review with defined timelines would provide clarity for all parties and reduce last-minute disputes.

Fourth, the Committee may wish to include explicit language recognizing the importance of timely review for affordable housing and essential public facilities, while maintaining full water and cultural protections. This balance is critical to addressing Hawai'i's housing and infrastructure needs responsibly.

Fifth, with respect to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs' nomination role, I support maintaining transparency and public trust by affirming that OHA's role is to nominate qualified candidates, with final appointment and confirmation remaining subject to existing executive and legislative processes, including public input.

Finally, the Legislature could consider a future sunset review or reporting requirement to evaluate how these changes affect decision-making, housing production, and water resource protection over time. This would allow for data-driven refinement while preserving the bill's core intent.

In summary, HB2103 strengthens the Land Use Commission's capacity to make informed, constitutional, and forward-looking decisions. With modest clarifying amendments, it can protect wai, respect Native Hawaiian rights, and support responsible development across Hawai'i.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB2103, with consideration of the recommendations above.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Inam Rahman MD

Honolulu, HI

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 2:34:50 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Michele Nihipali and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB2103.

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

Sincerely,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy

Hauula, HI 96717



**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 3:41:55 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Karen Luke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representation by a member with experience or good knowledge of water resource is a must.

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 8:54:35 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chai Blair-Stahn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in support of HB2103, which strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring 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:

1) 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 that this type of careful deliberation occurs at the outset of project planning before project size and infrastructure decisions have been locked in.

2) 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 best practices. 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.

3) 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.

Again, I urge the Committee to PASS HB2103. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chai Blair-Stahn

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 9:34:38 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in support of HB2103, which strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring 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 that 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 best practices. 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 10:32:32 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Katherine Fryer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2103.

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**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 11:41:41 PM

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

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

Comments:

I support.

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 8:28:56 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire	Ohana Unity Party & Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Testimony in **\*\*STRONG SUPPORT\*\*** of HB2103 Relating to the Land Use Commission

Aloha Chair(s) and Members of the Committees,

My name is Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM, Chairman of the Ohana Unity Party, representing the Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands. As a dedicated advocate for the protection of our sacred 'āina, wai (water), cultural heritage, Native Hawaiian rights, and the journey toward true self-sovereignty for our people, I submit this testimony in **\*\*STRONG SUPPORT\*\*** of HB2103.

This forward-thinking OHA package bill amends the composition of the Land Use Commission (LUC) under HRS §205-1 to ensure more balanced, informed, and culturally grounded decisions on land classification, boundary amendments, and development petitions. The LUC, established in 1961 to prevent the unchecked conversion of prime agricultural lands, plays a critical role in classifying Hawai'i's lands into conservation, agricultural, rural, and urban districts while imposing conditions to protect natural resources, affordable housing, cultural practices, and water sustainability. HB2103 strengthens the LUC by requiring: - At least one member with substantial experience in **\*\*water resource management\*\***—vital amid Hawai'i's ongoing water scarcity, climate challenges, and threats to streams, aquifers, and traditional lo'i (taro) systems. - At least one member with substantial experience or expertise in **\*\*traditional Hawaiian land usage and knowledge of cultural land practices\*\***, with appointments drawn from a list of nominees submitted by the **\*\*Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)\*\***.

This ensures the Commission better reflects Native Hawaiian perspectives and expertise in stewardship of 'āina momona (abundant land), pono resource use, and traditional and customary rights protected under Article XII, Section 7 of the Hawai'i State Constitution. Here are numbered, compelling reasons why the Committees should support and advance HB2103:

1. **\*\*Enhances Expertise in Water Resource Management\*\*** Hawai'i's freshwater resources face severe pressures from climate change, drought, overuse, and development impacts. Requiring a dedicated member with substantial water expertise ensures the LUC can better evaluate petitions involving water diversion, stream protection, watershed health, and sustainable allocation—directly supporting resilient communities and traditional practices like kalo cultivation that depend on healthy wai.

2. **\*\*Strengthens Native Hawaiian Representation and Cultural Expertise\*\*** Designating OHA to submit nominees for the cultural land practices seat formalizes meaningful input from kānaka maoli, honoring the LUC's role in protecting traditional and customary Native Hawaiian rights. This addresses historical underrepresentation and ensures decisions consider cultural significance, access to resources, and exercise of practices on ceded or trust lands.
3. **\*\*Promotes Balanced, Informed Land Use Decisions\*\*** The LUC reviews major boundary changes and reclassifications that affect agriculture, conservation, housing, and cultural sites. Adding specialized members in water and traditional Hawaiian practices equips the Commission to impose stronger conditions on developments, safeguard prime agricultural lands, prevent overdevelopment, and prioritize public trust resources over short-term private gains.
4. **\*\*Aligns with OHA Advocacy and Community Priorities\*\*** As an OHA-initiated measure, HB2103 advances OHA's mission to protect Native Hawaiian rights and resources. OHA emphasizes that expert input on water and cultural land use empowers the LUC to better protect natural and cultural resources, ensure affordable housing obligations, and support early planning around water and cultural issues—key to 'āina-based self-determination.
5. **\*\*Advances Self-Sovereignty and Pono Stewardship\*\*** By embedding water expertise and OHA-nominated cultural knowledge, HB2103 reinforces constitutional obligations under Article XI (conservation and public trust) and Article XII (traditional rights). It reduces reliance on external or development-biased perspectives, empowering local and Native Hawaiian voices in land governance and building toward greater sovereignty, resilience, and abundance for future generations of Hawai'i's people. HB2103 maintains the LUC's existing structure (nine members, six affirmative votes for boundary amendments) while enhancing independence and expertise.

It takes effect upon approval, with no fiscal burdens beyond improved decision-making. This bill represents a positive step toward responsible, culturally informed land use planning. Groups like the Sierra Club Hawai'i and OHA have voiced support, highlighting its role in protecting our wai and 'āina. I urge the Committees to pass HB2103 unanimously and forward it swiftly. Let's empower the LUC to truly serve as guardians of our sacred lands and waters—for our ohana, culture, and sovereign future. Mahalo nui loa for your kuleana in advancing measures that honor Hawai'i's natural, cultural, and sovereign heritage.

Sincerely, Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I.  
Ohana Unity Party, Chairman [www.Ohanaunityparty.com](http://www.Ohanaunityparty.com) [Presidentbillionaire@gmail.com](mailto:Presidentbillionaire@gmail.com)

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1sRfKDphW18hojoyTQVy9qQVSUtQgahYwj

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:08:15 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I come before you today as a Native Hawaiian born and raised in Pālolo Valley, as a professional dedicated to the well-being of our communities, and as someone who currently serves on a state commission. It is from these interconnected perspectives that I offer my unequivocal and passionate support for H.B. No. 2103.

This bill addresses a critical deficit in our state’s most powerful land use decision-making body. The Land Use Commission (LUC) holds the awesome responsibility of determining the classification—and therefore the destiny—of our ‘āina across the archipelago. For decades, its decisions have shaped our housing, our agriculture, our conservation lands, and our collective future. Yet, the institutionalized voice for the first people and knowledge systems of this land has been absent or, at best, optional.

1. The Imperative for Codified Hawaiian Expertise:

The proposed amendment to Section 205-1, which mandates at least one commissioner with “substantial experience or expertise in traditional Hawaiian land usage and knowledge of cultural land practices,” is not a symbolic gesture. It is a matter of good governance and ethical decision-making. Hawaiian cultural values such as *mālama ‘āina* (care for the land that feeds), *aloha ‘āina* (love and reverence for the land), and the understanding of *ahupua‘a* as an integrated system from mountain to sea, are not merely historical concepts. They are proven frameworks for sustainability, resource management, and community resilience. To make land use decisions without this foundational lens is to ignore the very genius of place that allowed generations to thrive here. From my experience on a state commission, I can attest that while members may have good intentions, these values are not systematically prioritized unless the structure and membership require it.

2. The Role of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA):

Equally vital is the provision that nominations for this seat come from OHA. This ensures a pipeline of qualified candidates whose expertise is recognized by the Native Hawaiian community. It provides legitimacy and accountability. Appointment processes can be opaque; this measure brings necessary transparency and ensures the Governor is selecting from a pool vetted for authentic, substantial knowledge, not just nominal cultural affiliation.

### 3. The Critical Addition of Water Resource Management Expertise:

The requirement for a commissioner with expertise in water resource management is a brilliant and necessary complement. In Hawaiian thought, land (*‘āina*) and water (*wai*) are inseparable—*wai* is the first word in *waiwai* (wealth). You cannot responsibly manage one without the other. This pairing in the bill reflects a sophisticated understanding that the most pressing issues of our time—climate change, food security, development pressure—require us to integrate ancestral knowledge with contemporary hydrological science. This dual requirement makes the commission stronger, more holistic, and better equipped for the complex challenges ahead.

#### In Conclusion:

This bill is a pragmatic step toward reconciliation and smarter planning. It does not give special rights; it fulfills a special responsibility to incorporate the unique knowledge system of Hawai‘i into the decisions that shape its physical and cultural landscape. As a commissioner, I know that diverse expertise around the table leads to more robust, thoughtful, and enduring decisions.

I urge you to pass H.B. No. 2103. Let us ensure that the body deciding the fate of our ‘āina is grounded in the wisdom of the ‘āina itself. E ola ka ‘āina, e ola kākou (When the land lives, we live).

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Keali‘i Pang, Ph.D.

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:14:37 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Monica Morris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the House Committee on Water and Land,

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support.

Monica Morris, Honolulu, Hawai'i

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:33:41 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ezgi Green	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I support HB2103.

Water availability is a critical factor in land use decisions. Currently, the Land Use Commission (LUC) does not have a required position for a member with water management expertise. This means the LUC may lack the technical capacity to independently evaluate developer claims regarding water availability or to fully assess how large-scale land use changes affect regional water security.

The LUC also serves as a venue where Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners can assert their constitutional traditional and customary rights in land use proceedings. To support this function, the LUC includes a cultural expert position. However, this position is appointed by the Governor, who may not have direct expertise or community connections to identify the most qualified candidates for this specialized role.

HB2103 addresses both issues by requiring that the LUC include a member with water management expertise and by allowing the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to assist the Governor in identifying qualified candidates for the cultural expert position. These changes would strengthen the LUC's technical capacity for land use planning and improve the process for selecting commissioners with appropriate cultural expertise.

As a mother, I am acutely aware that water is life, especially for those of us living on islands. I respectfully urge the Committee to make choices that protect our keiki by passing this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Ezgi Green, Waialua

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:53:29 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Harter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Nancy Harter and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB2103.

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

Sincerely,  
Nancy Harter, Lahaina, HI

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:56:38 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 11:38:47 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**SUPPORT**

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 1:11:34 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Perle Besserman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Perle Besserman, and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB2103.

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

Sincerely,  
Perle Besserman

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 4:32:45 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teri Corpuz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Teri Corpuz and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB2103.

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

Sincerely,

Teri Corpuz (Pukalani, Maui)

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 6:20:04 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support HB2103

Dana Keawe

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 6:29:00 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and committee members,

I ask that you please support HB 2103 which amends the composition of the Land Use Commission to require at least one member who has **substantial experience** and **expertise 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.

It is especially essential that a member has these qualifications and expertise as well as understanding of Hawaiian land usage and cultural practices.

Mahalo

Cheryl Burghardt

Nuuanu Oahu

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:45:01 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
William Reese Liggett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is William Reese Liggett and I **STRONGLY OPPOSE** HB1845.

This measure would allow a vote of just three out of a quorum of five commissioners on the Land Use Commission (LUC) to render decisions affecting vast areas of land - decisions that could impact critically important public needs including but not limited to food security, water security and watershed health, Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, public trust resources, affordable housing, climate resilience, and more. I am deeply concerned that allowing just three individuals to approve district boundary amendments would invite oversights and decisions that fail to protect the public interest in responsible and thoughtful land use planning of our limited land base.

Given the stakes at play, and the need for multiple perspectives and a wide range of knowledge to protect and balance the community's needs in land use decisionmaking, the LUC must retain its high standard of care, currently reflected in the six vote requirement for district boundary amendments.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to **HOLD** this measure.

Sincerely,  
William Reese Liggett

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 11:40:40 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kimo Cashman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in support of HB2103, which strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring 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 that 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 best practices. 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Dr. Kimo Cashman

Wahiawā, O'ahu

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:44:17 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Pua'ena Ahn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support. This seems like a pretty uncontroversial amendment that would have positive impact. Pass it, mahalo.

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:36:29 AM

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

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

Comments:

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

**I am writing in support of HB2103**, which strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring 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 that 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 best practices. 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.**

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Lisette Puanani Akamie

Kāneohe, O‘ahu

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:56:10 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Molly Mamaril	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in support of HB2103, which strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring 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 that this type of careful deliberation occurs at the outset of project planning before project size and infrastructure decisions have been locked in.

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**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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.  
Molly Mamaril

Kaimukī, O'ahu

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:20:09 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing today in strong support of HB2103.

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

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:32:05 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Anne M. Lorenzo

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 4:08:28 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
malcolm mackey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Malcolm Mackey and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB2103.

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

Sincerely,  
Malcolm Mackey

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 4:10:59 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keri Zacher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Keri Zacher and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB2103.

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

Sincerely, Keri Zacher

**HB-2103**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:06:05 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Theodora Furtado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in support of HB2103, which strengthens the Land Use Commission (LUC) by ensuring 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 that 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 best practices. 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Theodora Furtado, Honolulu, Oahu