

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR

REIKO MATSUYAMA, MANAGING DIRECTOR



Testimony of Derek S.K. Kawakami

Mayor, County of Kaua'i

Before the

Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

March 23, 2026; 1:05 PM

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

In consideration of

House Bill 2218 HD2

Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources

Honorable Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee:

I write in **strong support** for HB 2218 HD2 which would authorize the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to enter into community co-management agreements and establish qualifications for eligible community co-managers; additionally authorizes the disposition of public lands by a community co-management agreement.

This legislation addresses critical gaps in Hawai'i's natural resource management framework while honoring traditional native Hawaiian stewardship practices with qualified community-based organizations.

Many community-government partnerships have existed for years in Hawai'i. The Hui Maka'āinana o Makana from Hā'ena, Kaua'i has worked for over two decades to steward Hā'ena State Park. The Hui has helped transform what was once a chaotic and overrun park to an area where the practices of our kupuna are perpetuated through the interpretation, restoration, care, and protection of its natural and cultural resources.

Although the Hui has a concession agreement with the DLNR, a longer-term agreement that honors the traditional native Hawaiian concept of mālama 'āina and place-based practices for natural and cultural resource management will allow them and other community groups across the state effectively manage the State's public trust resources. HB 2218 HD2 provides the mechanism for this care and protection.

Community co-management is not merely a cultural preference, it is a practical necessity. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of HB 2218 HD2.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
Monday, March 23, 2026 at 1:05 p.m.

By

Darren T. Lerner, PhD
Director, Sea Grant College Program,
School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology
and
Vassilis L. Syrmos, PhD
Interim Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 2218 HD2 – RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) supports HB 2218 HD2, which would authorize the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to enter into "community co-management agreements" with qualified Hawai'i-based nonprofit groups both mauka (inland) and makai (seaward).

Hawai'i Sea Grant supports a novel program of research, education, and extension services, directed to the improved understanding and stewardship of coastal and marine ecosystems of the State, Region, and Nation. Authorizing co-management agreements between DLNR and qualified Hawai'i-based nonprofit groups will place one more tool in the Region's tool box for effective stewardship of natural resources.

Hawai'i Sea Grant currently partners with DLNR, as well as many community nonprofits across the State, on coastal and marine research and conservation initiatives. Co-management agreements will open up new opportunities for collaboration that support thriving coastal ecosystems, community resilience, and the perpetuation of cultural practice.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.



Chair Lee
Vice Chair Inouye
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture, and the Arts

Monday, March 23, 2026
1:05 PM

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB2218 HD2 RELATING TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture, and the Arts,

The Hawai‘i State Youth Commission was first created through Act 106 in 2018, “to advise the governor and legislature on the effects of legislative policies, needs, assessments, priorities, programs, and budgets concerning the youth of the State.” The Hawai‘i State Youth Commission’s Education legislative committee is in **strong support** of **HB2218 HD2**.

As a youth-led body, we recognize that the decisions made today shape the Hawai‘i future generations will inherit. This measure supports long-term, community-driven stewardship by giving DLNR clear authority to enter into co-management agreements with community groups, strengthening care for Hawai‘i’s lands in partnership with communities.

By expanding community-based co-management, this bill creates critical opportunities for youth to engage in place-based, ‘āina-centered education. The need for climate and environmental literacy is urgent, as Hawai‘i faces more frequent and intense storms, prolonged droughts, and increasing wildfire risk. Yet many young people remain disconnected from the

knowledge and skills needed to respond to these challenges. Strengthening these pathways can better connect youth to the ecosystems and practices that sustain our islands, helping prepare the next generation to navigate these growing environmental realities.

The Hawai'i State Youth Commission urges the committee to **PASS HB2218 HD2**.

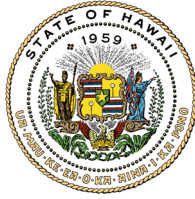
Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Hawai'i State Youth Commission

hawaiistateyc@gmail.com

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

SYLVIALUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KAHOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES KA
'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA
P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY
CIARAW.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER
AQUATIC RESOURCES BOATING
AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

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

Before the Senate Committee on
WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Monday, March 23, 2026
1:05 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2218, HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill 2218, House Draft 2 authorizes the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to enter into community co-management agreements, establishes qualifications for eligible community co-managers, and allows for the disposition of public lands through such agreements. The Department submits this testimony in strong support of this measure and offers the following comments.

This measure responds to long-standing structural limitations that prevent the Department from forming meaningful, long-term partnerships with community organizations that are essential to the stewardship, education, and care of public lands. Across the Department's divisions, existing legal tools—such as short-term permits, rights-of-entry, revocable agreements, or concession contracts—do not adequately support community-based co-management models and do not align with public trust principles or on-the-ground realities.

The Department manages vast and diverse public lands with limited staff and resources. These lands require ongoing stewardship, education, restoration, cultural access, and monitoring that cannot be met by the Department alone. Community partners regularly step forward to fulfill these roles on a volunteer or nonprofit basis, without seeking commercial benefit. However, current mechanisms do not allow for secure, long-term agreements that reflect the true nature of these partnerships.

In some cases, the Department has been unable to implement community co-management because existing legal tools are either too restrictive or inappropriate. For example, leasing arrangements that grant exclusive control have been found to conflict with public trust requirements, while concession agreements are designed for commercial activity and are not suitable for non-commercial stewardship or cultural partnerships. As a result, the Department

has been limited to short-term or revocable agreements that fail to meet long-term management and restoration goals.

These short-term arrangements also make it difficult for community organizations to obtain funding or invest in long-term projects. Financial institutions are reluctant to support programs where agreements are month-to-month, revocable, or lack long-term security. Community partners must repeatedly seek renewals, creating uncertainty and administrative burden that undermines sustained engagement and capacity-building.

House Bill 2218, House Draft 2 would allow the Board of Land and Natural Resources to enter into community co-management agreements through direct negotiation, without recourse to public auction, with qualified community-based organizations. This authority would create a more appropriate and transparent pathway for long-term partnerships that support stewardship, mālama 'āina, and public access.

Under this framework, the Department would continue to require compliance with all applicable laws, including Chapter 343, HRS, and would ensure community outreach and environmental review where required.

Many community organizations lack the capacity to meet the financial, bonding, and environmental testing requirements associated with long-term commercial leases. Community co-management agreements would allow these largely volunteer-based groups to provide management, maintenance, education, restoration, and cultural programming without being subject to requirements that are unrelated to their mission or activities.

For lands managed for conservation and resource protection, such as Forest Reserves, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Natural Area Reserves, and Nā Ala Hele trails, long-term agreements are especially critical. Restoration, ecosystem recovery, and cultural practices require time horizons that extend well beyond the limits of short-term permits. A co-management framework would allow for sustained collaboration, trust-building, and intergenerational continuity of care.

In addition, many public lands—such as Forest Reserves—do not generate sufficient revenue to cover management costs. Community co-management agreements would allow partners to generate revenue, where appropriate, to help offset operational and stewardship expenses while maintaining public access and trust protections.

Community co-management agreements have the potential to create jobs for residents and to allow generated revenue to remain within these communities instead of in the pockets of foreign entities. Accordingly, every co-managed site represents avoided contractor costs, permitting the Department to extend project lifespans without engaging in public auction or procurement requirements, making co-management one of the most cost- and time-effective tools available for achieving various Department goals.

House Bill 2218, House Draft 2, provides a long-term, secure, and flexible framework that protects the public trust, strengthens relationships between the Department and community partners, and supports collaborative mālama 'āina principles. It fills a critical gap in existing law and enables the Department to more effectively steward Hawai'i's public lands for present and future generations.

However, the Department recommends the following amendment to ensure the Department and the applicant collaborate in developing a co-management plan and to ensure intra-department coordination in executing a co-management agreement to page 6, line 13:

- (7) A co-management plan recommended by the department containing a description of the:

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments in support of this measure.



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT TO HB2218 HD2

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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

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

Malaki 23, 2026

1:05PM

Lumi 224

Aloha e Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Senate Members of the Committee on Water, Land, Cultural and the Arts:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB2218 HD2, which provides clear and consistent pathway and standards for the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to enter into community co-management agreements. Such agreements empower communities to continue to mālama ‘āina and support ahupua‘a-based management. Further, this bill has no appropriation or other funding request.

OHA supports policies that protect and perpetuate traditional, place-based management practices consistent with OHA’s statutory and constitutional duties. OHA is the constitutionally-established body responsible for protecting and promoting the rights of Native Hawaiians.¹ Further, under the Hawai‘i State Constitution Article XII, section 7, the state has a specific duty to protect Native Hawaiian cultural practices, including practices that mālama ‘āina. In furtherance of its constitutional mission, OHA has identified the following strategic priority relevant to HB2218 HD2: “Increased community stewardship of Hawai‘i’s natural and cultural resources that foster connection to ‘āina, ‘ohana, and communities.”² OHA therefore has substantive obligations to protect the cultural and natural resources of Hawai‘i for the agency’s beneficiaries and believes this measure assists in this kuleana.³

¹ Haw. Const. Art. XII Sec. 5

² Office of Hawaiian Affairs, *Mana I Maui Ola: OHA’s 15-Year Strategic Plan for 2020-2035*, available at <https://www.oha.org/about/mana-to-maui-ola/>.

³ See HRS Chapter 10.

OHA recognizes community-based stewardship and management as perpetuating Native Hawaiian traditional and customary resource management practices. OHA has supported community-based fisheries management initiatives, particularly initiatives by rural communities that follow the Native Hawaiian traditions, values, and lifestyles that have sustained communities for generations.⁴ The promotion of traditional, place-based harvesting practices also preserves and perpetuates culture, highlights the cultural significance of the nearshore area, and models the sense of respect traditionally maintained for the ocean and its resources.

DLNR has long acknowledged that it alone cannot sustainably manage the public trust lands. Place based management by ‘āina based groups ensures resource protection and assists DLNR in fulfilling its mission to sustainability manage public trust lands. While communities and the State increasingly demonstrate overlapping interests and goals, no consistent legal pathway exists for DLNR to enter into community co-management agreements. As a friendly amendment, since “performance and accountability standards” and “reporting processes and requirements” (on page 7, lines 5 and 8) are already required for any community co-management plan, we suggest a friendly amendment of removing the 5-year review as it is unnecessary. If the Committee chooses to not include this friendly amendment, we suggest that the 5-year reviews be coordinated and led by DLNR, and not for the community-based organization to burden alone.

HB2218 HD2 will ensure DLNR has the authority to enter into community co-management agreements to continue the work they are already doing and for years to come. The management framework outlined in this bill provides meaningful guidance to identify bona fide community groups with community ties and place-based relationships, and establishes clear rights, roles, and responsibilities of co-managers. The proposed framework in this bill is not merely theory, but codifies demonstrated best practices developed by community groups practicing mālama ‘āina. Authorizing community co-management agreements allows Native Hawaiian and local communities to care for their beloved places.

For the reasons stated above, OHA respectfully urges this committee to **PASS HB2218 HD2**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this critical issue.

⁴ See, e.g., Office of Hawaiian Affairs Board of Trustees Resolution of February 27, 2014, *A Resolution Supporting Community Based Subsistence Fishing Area Designation and Rules*.

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Committee

FROM: Michelle Ka'uhane, COO & Executive Vice President

RE: Testimony in Support for HB 2218 HD 2, Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources

DATE: Monday, March 23, 2026 at 1:05 pm

LOCATION: Hearing Room 224

The Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) **strongly supports HB 2218 HD 2** to authorize community co-management agreements between the State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and qualified Hawai'i-based nonprofit organizations. Protecting natural resources and promoting responsible 'āina stewardship are priority areas within HCF's CHANGE Framework under the Natural Environment sector. This bill is cost neutral.

For decades, Native Hawaiian and local community groups throughout Hawai'i have been supporting and collaborating with DLNR to mālama our public trust 'āina. However, the need and interest in collaborative mālama 'āina continues to grow, and no consistent legal pathway exists for DLNR to enter into community co-management agreements. Several different tools do exist, but they all vary significantly in form and function, often causing various administrative delays and managerial issues.

Currently, HCF partners with the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) to implement the goals of the Holomua Marine Initiative including working with communities to effectively manage our nearshore marine resources around each main Hawaiian island so that our local resources are available and plentiful, today and for future generations. HCF manages philanthropic donations that supports the Holomua Marine Initiative. By administering a pooled fund and providing grants and contracts to carry out the initiative and build a marine managed areas (MMA) program, we see first-hand the power of community co-management.

Protecting the 'āina, preserving the ocean and its marine life, and ensuring fresh water is critical to the future of our people. DLNR has long acknowledged it cannot alone effectively

and sustainably manage all the lands and waters within its purview. Authorizing community co-management agreements will enable our communities to more effectively and sustainably manage Hawai'i's 'āina and waters. **We respectfully urge you to advance HB 2218 HD 2.**



Testimony Before The
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts (WLA)
IN SUPPORT OF HB2218 HD2
March 23, 2026, 1:05 p.m., Room 224 & via Videoconference

We are Olan Leimomi Fisher and Kevin Chang, Kua'āina Advocate and Executive Director, respectively, testifying on behalf of [Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo \(or KUA\)](#). "Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo" stands for "grassroots growing through shared responsibility," and our acronym "KUA" means "backbone." **Our mission is to connect and empower communities to improve their quality of life through the collective care for their biocultural (natural and cultural) heritage, serving as a "backbone organization" that supports creative and community-driven solutions to problems stemming from environmental degradation.** Hawai'i's biocultural resources continue to be negatively impacted by political, economic, and social changes, and the increasing dangers of climate change make fostering and empowering resilient communities acutely critical.

Currently KUA supports three major networks of: (1) over 40 mālama 'āina (caring for our 'āina or "that which feeds") community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together); (2) over 60 loko i'a (fishpond aquaculture systems unique to Hawai'i) and wai 'ōpae (anchialine pool systems) sites in varying stages of restoration and development, with numerous caretakers, stakeholders, and volunteers known as the Hui Mālama Loko I'a ("caretakers of fishponds"); and (3) the Limu Hui made up of over 50 loea (traditional experts) and practitioners in all things "limu" or locally-grown "seaweed." **Our shared vision is to once again experience what our kūpuna (ancestors) referred to as 'ĀINA MOMONA – abundant and healthy ecological systems that sustain our community resilience and well-being.**

KUA strongly supports HB2218 HD2 as an incremental step toward 'āina momona.

This measure would authorize the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to enter into "community co-management agreements" with qualified Hawai'i-based nonprofit groups both mauka (inland) and makai (seaward). KUA supported the development of this bill over the past several months with significant community input and under the leadership of the Hui Maka'āinana o Makana (the Hui), longtime collaborative caretakers of the Hā'ena State Park and Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA) on Kaua'i. KUA was founded in part by leaders from Hā'ena and the Hui to empower communities to care for their biocultural (natural and cultural) heritage together.

This legislative effort was born in response to a shift from the expected long-term lease to the Hui at a Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) meeting on July 25, 2025, to a concession agreement that was deemed the "only" legal instrument available to secure a long-term agreement with the Hui. As made clear during that BLNR meeting, while the Hui greatly appreciated the efforts of Division of State Parks (DSP) to help secure a concession agreement, the shift from an anticipated long-term lease came as a shock and disappointment to the Hui and many of their supporters. Both DSP and the Hui voiced that a concession

agreement is a step backward in their decades-long journey toward co-management of their ancestral 'āina in Hā'ena. After this disappointing BLNR meeting, and with strong support from Speaker Nakamura's office, an informal "Community Co-management Strategy Working Group" was formed to delve further into solutions to better support for community co-management in Hawai'i. What emerged from an issue only for the Hui was insight on a policy gap that could serve a greater statewide effort for other community co-management initiatives across the state. The working group helped with the creation of HB2218 (companion [SB2685](#)) as one potential solution. **Visit our [website](#) for more on the Hui's history with co-management and the inspirations behind this legislative effort.**

Emphasizing the collaborative nature of this bill, DLNR (DSP and Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR)) have been key partners from the beginning, with the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) recently coming on board, too. House Speaker Nakamura's office has been instrumental in this whole effort as well. KUA hosted three community talk story sessions regarding this legislation, the first with our E Alu Pū network members on October 11, 2025 in Kahalu'u, Hawai'i Island, then two virtual talk story sessions on October 28, 2025 and January 7, 2026 with various KUA network members and partners. Feedback from this outreach was carefully incorporated into the original version of the bill.

We appreciate this HD2 version, but offer one friendly amendment. **The HD1 addition of 5-year reviews is unnecessary given that any community co-management agreement plan already requires "performance and accountability standards..." and "reporting processes and requirements," (Page 7, Lines 13 and 16).** Regular reviews and reporting should be unique to each community co-management agreement plan, leaving more flexibility and discretion for DLNR and the communities themselves to determine. However, if your Committee determines that *also* requiring 5-year reviews is essential in statute, we urge you to clarify that DLNR will coordinate these 5-year reviews. For the Hā'ena CBSFA 5-year review, the kuleana (responsibility) fell mainly on the Hui to organize and complete. For their upcoming 10-year review however, DAR is taking the lead. To avoid confusion on who will lead these *additional* 5-year reviews for co-management agreements, we recommend amending the language as follows on Page 8, Lines 3-9:

"(d) Every five years, beginning from the effective date of the community co-management agreement, the department shall coordinate and submit to the board for its review a report detailing the community-based organization's progress on meeting the goals set out in the co-management plan. The board may make any pertinent amendments to the co-management plan or terminate the community co-management agreement."

We also want to clarify certain questions raised in past hearings, particularly regarding Section 4 of HB2218 HD1 amending *Hawai'i Revised Statutes* (HRS) § 171-13. **Currently, [HRS § 171-13](#) already authorizes DLNR to dispose of public lands through various means including fee-simple, lease, lease with option to purchase, license, permit, and easement with reverter, subject to certain restrictions.** Adding "community co-management agreements" to HRS § 171-13, along with the 65-year time period restriction (Page 6, Lines

1-5), gives DLNR the authority to enter into co-management agreements for *no longer than 65 years*, as already allowed for leases under HRS §§ [171-36\(a\)\(2\)](#) and [171-95\(a\)\(2\)](#). Therefore, **this bill does not allow for any fee-simple sale of public lands through community co-management agreements, but merely mirrors the existing law, and gives DLNR and community organizations the flexibility to determine appropriate time periods for such agreements that can be *no longer than 65 years*.**

Further, regarding potential disputes related to the hypothetical of two or more community-based organizations seeking to undertake co-management for the same area – the intention behind these community co-management agreements is to better enable established, well-respected, community nonprofits that have largely already proven they are ready to carry co-management kuleana with DLNR. **Vetting for community co-manager organizations was deliberated extensively through our community outreach discussions and infused throughout the bill**, including: (1) providing information on past and current projects in the proposed area, (2) justification for the co-management agreement, and (3) a list of qualifications for board members and staff. As written, HB2218 HD1 already allows for multiple purposes under these agreements (Page 5, Lines 9-21), and encourages cross-community collaboration with *more than one* organization able to partake in co-management *in the same area*. **Even further, any co-management agreement would still have to go through the HRS Chapter 91 public hearing process for further feedback and testimonies by others across Hawai‘i.**

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 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 protect necessary... Our decisions today will continue to shape the future that our 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** HB2218 HD2.

Aloha ‘Āina Momona no nā kau ā kau.

HAWAI'I OCEAN LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE



March 23, 2026

Hawai'i State Legislature
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

Re: Testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** for HB 2218 HD2, Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and esteemed members of the committee,

The Ocean Legislative Task Force—a coalition of more than 150 individuals across over 20 organizations statewide—**strongly supports** HB 2218 HD2, relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources. This measure authorizes DLNR to enter into community co-management agreements and establishes qualifications for eligible community co-managers. It also authorizes the disposition of public lands by a community co-management agreement.

HB 2218 HD2 advances responsible stewardship of Hawai'i's public trust resources by formally recognizing the role that communities can play in caring for lands and waters through structured partnerships with the State. By authorizing DLNR to enter into written community co-management agreements with qualified community-based organizations, this bill creates a clear legal framework for collaborative, place-based management that can strengthen ecological outcomes while supporting cultural practices and local knowledge.

The Task Force strongly supports the bill's recognition of long-standing Native Hawaiian and community stewardship traditions, which have helped sustain natural and cultural resources for generations. Providing statutory authority for co-management will empower communities to participate meaningfully in conservation, restoration, education, and monitoring efforts in ways that align with both traditional practices and contemporary science.

This measure also helps build long-term local capacity to advance statewide conservation goals. Community co-management agreements can support habitat restoration, protection of marine and coastal resources, visitor management, and the preservation of customary and subsistence practices—priorities that directly align with DLNR's mission to protect Hawai'i's natural and cultural heritage for present and future generations.

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

Finally, HB 2218 HD2 establishes important qualifications for community co-managers that promote accountability, transparency, and readiness to undertake shared management responsibilities. These standards will help ensure that partnerships are effective, equitable, and grounded in broad community support, while respecting the State's public trust obligations.

For these reasons, the Ocean Legislative Task Force respectfully urges the Committee to pass HB 2218 HD2 with favorable recommendations.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

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



**Ko'olauloa
HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB**

**P.O. Box 532
Hau'ula, Hawaii 96717**

March 19, 2026

Aloha Pumehana Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Committee Members,

WE strongly support HB2218 HD2 authorizing the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to enter into community co-management agreements with qualified community-based Organizations.

The State has an affirmative duty to mālama'āina, care for the public trust lands and waters of Hawai'i. Caring for our precious 'āina (that which feeds us all) requires collective kuleana (responsibility), and as DLNR has long acknowledged, it alone cannot effectively and sustainably manage all the lands and waters within its purview. For decades, grassroots communities throughout Hawai'i have been supporting and collaborating with DLNR to mālama the places we all love and call home. But while the need and interest in collaborative mālama'āina continues to grow, no consistent legal pathway exists for DLNR to enter into community co-management agreements. Several different tools do exist (e.g., curatorships, permits, concessions, community-based subsistence fishing areas), but these all vary significantly in form and function, often causing various administrative delays and managerial Issues.

WE do suggest a friendly amendment to this HD2 version, as the HD1 addition of 5-year reviews is unnecessary with "performance and accountability standards," and "reporting processes and requirements" already required for any community co-management plan (Page 7, Lines 13 and 16). Regular review and reporting of community co-management agreements should be left to the discretion of DLNR and each community-based organization to determine what is best given their own unique circumstances. However, if your Committee chooses to accept the HD1 amendment and require 5-year reviews via statute, please ensure that these 5-year reviews are coordinated and led by DLNR, and not left to community-based organizations to shoulder Alone.

Please PASS HB2218 HD2 out of your committee with my friendly amendment.

Mahalo nui loa,

Raynae "Tessie" Fonoimoana

Raynae "Tessie" Fonoimoana, Pelekikena
& the Membership of the Ko'olauloa Hawaiian Civic Club



HUI MAKA'ĀINANA O MAKANA

The Hui Maka'āinana o Makana is a non-profit organization dedicated to perpetuating and teaching the skills, knowledge, and practices of our kūpuna (ancestors) through the interpretation, restoration, care, and protection of natural and cultural resources in Hā'ena, Kaua'i.

TO: Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Members of the **SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND CULTURAL AND THE ARTS**

DATE & TIME: Monday, March 23, 2026, at 1:00 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 224 & via Videoconference

From: Billy Kinney, Assistant Director
Hui Maka'āinana o Makana

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2218 HD2

I am Billy Kinney, testifying on behalf of the Hui Maka'āinana o Makana (the Hui), a nonprofit established in 1998 to support the care and management of Hā'ena State Park (HSP). Dedicated to the skills, knowledge, and the practices of our ancestors the Hui has been collaborating with State Parks to restore, care for, and protect the lands of HSP. The Hui has been instrumental in shaping what collaborative care and co-management looks like in Hawai'i: since the late 90's the Hui has worked closely with State Parks to steward HSP via curatorship, the Hui has created important management schema with the Division of Aquatic Resources and DOCARE establishing the first CBSFA with a management plan and rules package in 2015. After the 2018 Flood event, the Hui began community-led, government-supported efforts to manage visitor access to Hā'ena State Park: co-managing the area with DLNR, State Parks, and other agencies, the Hui's work is now a model and strong example for other communities to follow.

The Hui is in strong support of HB 2218 HD2.

HB 2218 HD2, as currently written, will authorize the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) under legal terms that reflect those already written in State laws, to enter into "community co-management agreements" with qualified Hawai'i-based nonprofit groups both mauka (inland) and makai (seaward). **Please refer to the testimony of Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (or KUA) for more in-depth language regarding the considerations and concerns brought up prior about: 1) how the bill would address the issue of two or more community-based organizations wishing to undertake community co-management in the same community co-management, 2) fee-simple sale / dispostion and term limits and, 3) version HD2's addition of 5-year reviews.** Firstly, as mentioned in the testimony of KUA and Chipper Wichman (members of the drafting group of this bill), community co-management agreements would be most appropriate for well-established and respected organizations – organizations that have already demonstrated their pilina (connection/relationship) to that place over years if not decades. On page 7 of the bill, at line 21, section §171-C(c)(7) the bill describes the "co-management plan" that the applying organization must provide to the BLNR. There are a number of outlined and specific information that must be included in that co-management plan prepared by the organization for the BLNR's review. Secondly, as drafting members of this bill, it is important to note that it the bill does not allow for any specific disposition or fee-simple sale of public lands through community co-management agreements. Instead, it merely refers to what is already authorized by Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) § 171-13. DLNR is already authorized to dispose of public lands through various means including fee-simple, lease, lease with option to purchase, license, permit, and easement with reverter,



HUI MAKA'ĀINANA O MAKANA

The Hui Maka'āinana o Makana is a non-profit organization dedicated to perpetuating and teaching the skills, knowledge, and practices of our kūpuna (ancestors) through the interpretation, restoration, care, and protection of natural and cultural resources in Hā'ena, Kaua'i.

subject to certain restrictions. This bill adds community co-management to HRS § 171-13, giving the State and community organizations the flexibility to determine the appropriate time periods for such agreements – in addition, this bill outlines agreements as having 65-year time period restriction to mirror what is already allowed for leases under HRS §§ 171-36(a)(2) and 171-95(a)(2). Lastly, we are grateful for this version of the bill (HD2), but the addition of a 5-year review is unnecessary as “performance and accountability standards...” and “reporting processes and requirements,” are required to be set up in community co-management agreement plans (see Page 7, Lines 13 and 16 of bill).

We wanted to note that our Hui has worked closely various levels of community and government. Particularly, we have worked with Speaker Nakamura's office and DLNR leadership over the past six months to draft this bill, with the majority of the actual drafting of the bill over these many months being done by Olan Leimomi Fisher the Kua'āina Advocate working for Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (or KUA) in collaboration with a “working group” made up of government experts and community leaders. I have personally worked with KUA to bring draft concepts to their established networks in order to gain insight, feedback, and to vet the ideas and proposed language that ultimately became the foundation of the drafting process and language. Ultimately, that is the language that is in the bill before you today. Another key partner in the process has been the Hawaii Conservation Alliance (HCA), and the Ahupua'a Alliance Initiative, which hosted weekly zoom calls and gathered valuable suggestions and feedback from their extensive membership and networks. We have collectively never done advocacy, nor have we been apart of collaborative legislative efforts, that have been this powerfully reflective of both our communities voices and government's needs.

Finally, I would like to add that our Hui is unique in the fact that it is governed by a council of lineal descendant families. Our “Ohana Council” is comprised of lineal families that trace their lineage back, extending to a time before the lands of Hā'ena were partitioned and its people displaced. The lineal families have always been in support and dreamed of co-management as the path forward and to finally steward their ancestral lands and seas once more. We are fortunate to be able to elevate the phrase “Community Led, Government-Supported”. It is a phrase that encompasses how the Hui, its lineal ties, and community leaders have been able to make Hā'ena the state-wide model of regenerative tourism and the standard for community-based natural and biocultural resource management. While rooted in historical frustration for the Hui, this bill and its familiars are opportunities to finally create a legal pathway for community co-management initiatives across the state—and for the State itself to truly benefit from partnering with expert communities so agencies may fulfill their respective duties to people and to protecting the natural and cultural resources of Hawai'i for all. Please, consider being the champions of this extraordinary bill and important piece of Hawai'i stewardship history. We humbly ask that you STRONGLY support of HB 2218 HD2!

Aloha 'āina,

William “Billy” Kinney
Assistant Director, Hui Maka'ainana O Makana
P.O. Box 1225 Hanalei, HI 96714

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 11:49:28 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2218 HD2

We, Kūpuna for the Mo‘opuna, a hui of Hawaiian Homes Commission Act kūpuna beneficiary farmers from Pana‘ewa, Hawai‘i, **testify in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2218 HD2.**

HB 2218 HD2 will allow the Board of Land and Natural Resources to realize the tremendous potential benefits that community organizations can provide in upholding the public trust, and protecting the environmental and cultural foundations of our islands and ways of life. The voice of the People should be encouraged and welcomed.

We strongly urge the Committee to **pass this measure, with a friendly amendment** removing the reporting requirement found on page 7, lines 15-21. We are familiar with 5-year time-consuming reporting requirements that quite frankly, in this case, will only add unnecessary burden since there already exists required reporting “performance and accountability standards” and “reporting processes and requirements” for any community co-management plan entered into under this bill. **Mahalo for this amendment consideration which will greatly support this collaboration effort for the well-being of Hawai‘i.**

SUPPORT and PASS HB 2218 HD2. Mahalo.



HUI MAKA'ĀINANA O MAKANA

teaching the skills, knowledge, and practices of our kūpuna (ancestors) through the interpretation, restoration, care, and protection of natural and cultural resources in within the Hā'ena State Park.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND CULTURAL AND THE ARTS

Senator Chris Lee, Chair

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

Monday, March 23, 2026 at 1:00 pm

Conference Room 224 & via Videoconference

Testimony in Support of HB 2218 HD2

From Chipper Wichman, Vice President of Hui Maka'āinana o Makana

I am writing today as a founding Director and current Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Hui Maka'āinana o Makana (the Hui) a nonprofit established in 1998 to support the care and management of Hā'ena State Park (HSP). **The Hui is in strong support of HB 2218 HD2.**

Today, I wanted to focus my testimony on a comment made in the committee report following the hearing of this bill by the House WAL Committee Report last month. In the last paragraph of the Committee Report, it says: *"Your Committee respectfully requests your Committee on Finance, should it deliberate on this measure, to consider how to address the issue of two or more community-based organizations that wish to undertake community co-management in the same community co-management unit."*

In response to this comment, I wanted to share that the drafting group spent nearly six months working on the language in this bill with DLNR subject matter experts. We discussed this scenario on multiple occasions. Additionally, this was an important point of discussion during the several community outreach sessions we held with mālama 'āina practitioners across the State. As a result of the input from both DLNR and the community, it was clear that a community co-management agreement was intended to be a tool that would be most appropriate for well-established and respected organizations – organizations that have already demonstrated their *pilina* (connection/relationship) to that place over years if not decades. It was the opinion of the drafting group that rarely will you have two community organizations competing with each other as long-established stewards of a place. However, in the event there is more than one qualified organization desiring to enter into a community co-management agreement with DLNR for a specific place, this bill has been written so as to provide the BLNR with a wealth of information about each organization so that they can make an informed and thoughtful decision.

Specifically, beginning at the bottom of page 7 at line 21, section §171-C(c)(7) the bill describes the **"co-management plan"** that the aspiring organization must provide to the BLNR. There are 10 sub-paragraphs that follow listing specific information that must be included in that co-management plan prepared by the organization for the BLNR's review. The wealth of details

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2218 HD2

From Chipper Wichman, Vice President of Hui Maka'āinana o Makana

provided in the co-management plan will provide the BLNR with the critical information they need to make a wise decision about which organization is best qualified to enter into a co-management agreement with the Department. I hope that this explanation is helpful in understanding why this section of the bill was drafted the way it is.

Secondly, I wanted to address the concern raised by some members of the legislature about the term “disposition” which is used in the bill. In Section 1 paragraph (3) (line 5 on the top of page 3) it states: “Authorize the disposition of public lands by a community co-management agreement”. Unfortunately, this has been incorrectly interpreted to mean “sale” of public lands. Disposition is a legal term that has several meanings. Currently, HRS § 171-13 authorizes DLNR to dispose of public lands through various means including fee-simple, lease, lease with option to purchase, license, permit, and easement with reverter, subject to certain restrictions.

The intent of Section 4 of HB2218 HD2 is simply to add “community co-management agreements” to HRS § 171-13, along with the 65-year time period restriction, gives DLNR the authority to enter into co-management agreements for *no longer* than 65 years, as already allowed for in leases under HRS §§ 171-36(a)(2) and 171-95(a)(2).

It is important to note that **this bill does not allow** for any fee-simple sale of public lands through community co-management agreements. Instead, it merely mirrors the existing law, and gives DLNR and community organizations the flexibility to determine appropriate time periods for such agreements that can be *no longer than 65 years*

Finally, I wanted to note that our Hui has worked closely with Speaker Nakamura’s office and DLNR leadership over the past six months to draft this bill. The actual drafting of the bill over these many months was done by Olan Leimomi Fisher the Kua'āina Advocate working for Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (or KUA) in collaboration with a “working group” made up of government experts and community leaders. KUA used their established networks to vet the ideas and proposed language which ultimately became the foundation of a draft bill creating an effective feed-back loop that informed the drafting process and ultimately the final language that is in the bill before you today.

Another key partner in the process has been the Hawaii Conservation Alliance (HCA) which hosted weekly zoom calls and gathered valuable suggestions and feed-back from their extensive membership and networks! In the 50 years that I have been advocating for community-based resource management I have never been part of such a collaborative process. This reflects the importance of this bill for both our communities as well as our State government.

This effort was truly a “Community Led, Government-Supported” process which has been the model our Hui has used to make Hā'ena a State-wide model of regenerative tourism and the gold standard for community-based natural and cultural resource management. What started

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2218 HD2
From Chipper Wichman, Vice President of Hui Maka'āinana o Makana

as an effort within the Division of State Park to support the Hui, has grown into a coalition of three divisions within DLNR – State Parks, the Division of Aquatic Resources, and the Division of Forestry and Wildlife – all of whom are important members of the “community co-management working group”. This bill will truly benefit DLNR by giving these divisions a new tool to work with in harnessing the power of communities to care for our natural and cultural resources of the State of Hawaii!

In closing, we ask for your **STRONG** support of HB 2218 HD2 and support for the amendments requested by both KUA and DLNR.

Me ke aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chipper Wichman", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Chipper Wichman, Secretary
Hui Maka'āinana o Makana

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Supporting HB2218 HD2, Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources
Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
March 23, 2026 at 1:05 pm
Conference Room 224 and via Videoconference**

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify today. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Hawai'i and Palmyra strongly supports HB2218 HD2, which authorizes the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to enter into community co-management agreements, establishes qualifications for eligible community co-managers, and authorizes the disposition of public lands by a community co-management agreement.

TNC has worked across Hawai'i to conserve native ecosystems in partnership with the State and community leaders who hold generational knowledge and kuleana for their lands and waters. These partnerships have advanced watershed protection, invasive species control, community-led monitoring, nearshore fisheries management, coastal restoration, and resident and visitor education. Despite their maturity and success, there remains no consistent statutory authority to define shared responsibilities, roles, and rights of entry and use between DLNR and co-managers.

Across the state, including at Kīholo, Kīpahulu, and Ka'ūpūlehu, TNC has seen how supporting community-led stewardship produces stronger ecological outcomes and more durable, culturally grounded management solutions. These communities already engage in long-standing collaborative management with DLNR, including through Curatorship Agreements, Fishery Management Areas, and other arrangements. However, these tools do not provide the consistent, comprehensive, durable framework needed to clarify shared management functions, ensure accountability, and support the multi-generational planning needed to best manage the state's natural and cultural resources.

By authorizing long-term agreements with qualified nonprofits, this bill allows successful partnerships to be supported in a consistent, transparent, and enduring way. TNC respectfully urges passage of this measure with an amendment. To avoid confusion on who will lead these additional 5-year reviews for co-management agreements, we recommend amending the language as follows on Page 8, Lines 3-9:

“(d) Every five years, beginning from the effective date of the community co-management agreement, the department shall coordinate and submit to the board for its review a

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Founders: Samuel A. Cooke Herbert C. Cornuelle

report detailing the community-based organization's progress on meeting the goals set out in the co-management plan. The board may make any pertinent amendments to the co-management plan or terminate the community co-management agreement."

We feel that the addition of 5-year reviews included the current text is redundant with "performance and accountability standards," and "reporting processes and requirements" already required for any community co-management plan (Page 7, Lines 13 and 16). Regular review and reporting of community co-management agreements should be left to the discretion of DLNR and each community-based organization to determine what is best given their own unique circumstances. Should the Committee choose to move forward with the requirement for 5-year reviews, we ask that you include language to ensure reviews are coordinated and led by DLNR, and not left to community-based organizations to shoulder alone.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB2218 HD2.

Guided by science, TNC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 84,000 acres in 13 nature preserves and 18 managed areas and have supported over 50 coastal communities to help protect and restore the nearshore reefs and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands.

LATE

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 1:07:09 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha!

The Free Access Coalition supports HB2218. The more contact and cooperation with public trust is important for a strong democracy.

HB2218 HD2 would authorize community co-management agreements between the Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources and mālama 'āina organizations seeking to steward their 'āina and foster deeper connections between people and place.

Mahalo for your time.

LATE



Care for 'Āina Now Coalition

March 23, 2026

Hawai'i State Legislature
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

Re: Testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 2218 HD2, Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and esteemed members of the committee,

On behalf of the Care for 'Āina Now Coalition leadership committee, we write in strong support of HB 2218 HD2, relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources. This measure authorizes DLNR to enter into community co-management agreements and establishes qualifications for eligible partners.

HB 2218 HD2 strengthens stewardship of Hawai'i's public trust resources by enabling collaboration between the State and community-based organizations through a clear co-management framework. This approach supports place-based management grounded in local knowledge and community relationships.

Community organizations across the state are already engaged in restoration, monitoring, education, and cultural stewardship. This measure better aligns those efforts with state priorities while recognizing the importance of Native Hawaiian knowledge and long-standing stewardship practices.

Co-management will also help build capacity to advance key conservation priorities, including habitat restoration, protection of marine and coastal resources, visitor management, and the continuation of customary and subsistence practices. The bill also establishes qualifications for co-managers that promote accountability, transparency, and strong community support.

For these reasons, the Care for 'Āina Now Coalition leadership committee respectfully urges the Committee to pass HB 2218 HD2 with favorable recommendations. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Care for 'Āina Now Coalition Leadership Committee

LATE

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 4:49:09 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Nakachi	Testifying for Moana Ohana	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Strong support for Co-Management moving forward for all Hoa Aina, Malama Pono, Mike Nakachi, Moana Ohana

LATE



SIERRA CLUB
OF HAWAII

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

March 23, 2026

1:05 PM

Conference Room 224

In SUPPORT of HB2218 HD2: RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **strongly supports HB2218 HD2**. This bill provides long-needed statutory clarity for DLNR to enter into community co-management agreements with qualified Hawai'i-based nonprofits, an essential tool for effective, place-based stewardship across the islands.

For decades, communities across Hawai'i have stepped up to monitor, restore, and mālama the lands and waters they rely on, providing countless thousands of volunteer hours monitoring resources and both human and non-human activities, educating the public, developing place-based and culturally-informed management plans, and otherwise filling the gaps left by the lack of sufficient government resources. Existing community-based partnerships in places such as Hā'ena, Miloli'i, and Kīpahulu have already demonstrated that collaborative co-management strengthens resource protection and supports long-term ecosystem resilience. Yet, as highlighted at the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) meeting on July 25, 2025, the absence of a clear legal co-resource management mechanism has forced the state to rely on unsuitable and piecemeal instruments such as concession agreements, to attempt to leverage the potential contributions of our communities – undermining long-standing community efforts and the true value of community-based stewardship.

HB2218 HD2 directly addresses this policy gap. The bill reflects extensive collaboration among community networks and organizations, such as Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and multiple DLNR divisions, and provides a consistent framework for shared management from mauka to makai that strengthens ecological resilience, honors cultural responsibility, and advances the public trust.

The Sierra Club does note that the blanket 5-year reporting requirement may be both unnecessary and unduly burdensome for both DLNR staff as well as community co-management partners. Progress and accountability metrics and reporting requirements are already required in the community co-management plans described in this measure; to include an additional 5-year reporting requirement may result in the arbitrary and duplicative diversion of DLNR staff capacity otherwise needed to facilitate existing and new co-management efforts. **Accordingly, the Sierra Club respectfully urges the Committee to consider removing this 5-year reporting requirement as found on page 7, lines 15-21.**



SIERRA CLUB

OF HAWAII

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to **pass HB2218 HD2**, with the friendly amendment described above.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

March 21, 2026

To: Chair Chris Lee, Vice Chair Lorraine R. Inouye, and the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture & the Arts

Subject: **HB2218 HD2**, Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources

Aloha,

We express **our strong support for HB2218 HD2**, which authorizes the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to enter into community co-management agreements. Our mission to develop the next generation of food system leaders and advocate for resilient, equitable, and 'āina-centered food systems directly aligns with this bill.

The bill's establishment of stable, long-term, co-management agreements can secure land access for community groups engaged in mālama 'āina activities that in turn promote local food production. Ensuring 'āina is respectfully stewarded helps support healthy ecosystems that are the foundation for a healthy food system. A healthy food system grown from the long-term viability of local agriculture that will emerge from this bill strengthens the resiliency of our local food supply chains.

The bill's inclusion of 'āina education as an activity under co-management agreements helps reconnect young people to where their food comes from alongside traditional cultural practices. These agreements will provide stable, community-led spaces where the next generation can learn about sustainable food production, resource management, and traditional customs.

Community co-management can honor traditional Native Hawaiian knowledge and is a crucial step towards food sovereignty. Community-led, local stewardship also fosters a sense of adaptive management that is essential for resiliently responding to climate change impacts.

We **strongly support HB2218 HD2** as this bill is the step we need towards fostering future leaders in Hawai'i's food system. Establishing DLNR's authority to form community co-management agreements is a critical step toward creating a more resilient, equitable, and 'āina-rooted food system for Hawai'i.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,
Sydney Haas & the Food+ Policy Team #fixourfoodsystem

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2026, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students and young professionals working in the food system. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.



LATE

March 23, 2026

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

**HB2218 HD2 – RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL
RESOURCES**

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

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs **supports** HB2218 HD2 relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources, which would authorize the department to enter into community co-management agreements and establish qualifications for eligible community co-managers related to the care and disposition of public lands.

The well-being of ʻāina is essential to the well-being of our people. The preservation, protection, and stewardship of land, watersheds, ocean resources, cultural sites, and other natural resources is critical to building a Hawaiʻi that can feed generations of Native Hawaiians. Community co-management agreements will enable our local communities to apply ʻike kūpuna such as ahupuaʻā-based land management practices and intergenerational knowledge, in partnership with DLNR, toward the goals of mālama ʻāina for a resilient Hawaiʻi.

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

We appreciate your favorable consideration of this bill.



LATE

March 23, 2026

WLA Hearing, 1:05 pm

HB2218 HD2 DLNR Community Co-Management – In Support

Aloha WLA Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members,

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

For twenty-one years, we have focused our collaborative stewardship and education efforts on the Pūpūkea Marine Life Conservation District (MLCD), one of only three MLCDs on O'ahu.

MPW strongly supports HB2218 HD2.

This bill provides DLNR clear authority to enter into community based co-management agreements, with qualified community groups, which significantly amplifies the ability of both the State and communities across the islands to more effectively achieve our collective goals for sustained protection of the 'āina.

Mahalo for passing HB2218 HD2!

Denise Antolini
President, MPW

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

Board of Directors

*Denise Antolini
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Executive Director*

*Jenny Yagodich
Director of Educational Programs &
Makai Watch Coordinator*

Federal Nonprofit Organization
501(c)(3) FEIN 27-0855937
www.pupukeawaimea.org
info@pupukeawaimea.org

LATE

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 11:17:14 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

.

LATE

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 7:10:11 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Lamson	Testifying for Hawai'i Wildlife Fund	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Committee Members,

We **strongly support HB2218 HD2** authorizing the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to enter into community co-management agreements with qualified community-based organizations.

Hawai'i Wildlife Fund has spent three decades supporting community-based marine and coastal management across the Hawaiian Islands, and we have seen firsthand the transformative power of collaborative stewardship between communities and government agencies.

The State has an affirmative duty to mālama 'āina, care for the public trust lands and waters of Hawai'i. Caring for our precious 'āina requires collective kuleana, and as DLNR has long acknowledged, it cannot effectively and sustainably manage all the lands and waters within its purview alone. For decades, grassroots communities throughout Hawai'i have been supporting and collaborating with DLNR to mālama the places we all love and call home. But while the need and interest in collaborative mālama 'āina continues to grow, no consistent legal pathway exists for DLNR to enter into community co-management agreements. Several different tools do exist (e.g., curatorships, permits, concessions, community-based subsistence fishing and forestry areas), but these all vary significantly in form and function, often causing various administrative delays and managerial issues.

We do also suggest a friendly amendment to this HD2 version, as the HD1 addition of 5-year reviews is unnecessary with "performance and accountability standards," and "reporting processes and requirements" already required for any community co-management plan (Page 7, Lines 13 and 16). Regular review and reporting of community co-management agreements should be left to the discretion of DLNR and each community-based organization to determine what is best given their own unique circumstances. However, if your Committee chooses to accept the HD1 amendment and require 5-year reviews via statute, please ensure that these 5-year reviews are coordinated and led by DLNR, and not left to community-based organizations to shoulder solo. Community organizations should spend their limited time and capacity on the management work, and not any extra burdensome (and needless) reporting requirements established by the legislature.

Many thanks for your time and consideration. **Please PASS HB2218 HD2 out of your committee with this minor but important amendment.**

Mahalo nui loa,

Megan Lamson, President

Hawai'i Wildlife Fund

Kealekekua, HI

March 22nd 2026
Hearing Date: February 23rd, 2026; 1:05 PM
Committee: WLA

LATE

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Committee Members,

My name is **Rafael Bergstrom**, the executive director for **Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i**, and we **strongly support** HB2218 to authorize community co-management agreements between the State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and qualified Hawai'i-based nonprofits.

As a nonprofit with a **mission to inspire communities to care for coastlines**, we firmly believe in the powerful opportunity there is to expand kuleana and connectivity with our natural world through this bill. Across Hawai'i and beyond, we have partnered with local communities who know their 'āina intimately in ways that allow nuanced integration of conservation, stewardship, and culture.

There is a long history of community collaboration and working with DLNR to accomplish shared goals, but the formalization of these partnerships in efficient and meaningful ways is lacking. The idea is not to replace the efforts of DLNR, but to give added and more detailed tools to regions that often lack the state resources to fully meet these shared objectives of active stewardship. There are a growing number of success stories around the state, from CBSFAs to simple adopt-a-park programs that empower communities to actively engage in needed care projects.

The logical next step to more effectively and sustainably manage our 'āina is to authorize community co-management agreements as a new tool to enable more Native Hawaiian and local community groups to partner with DLNR and mālama our public trust 'āina.

Please support this longstanding effort, and PASS HB2218 out of your committee.

With Aloha & Appreciation,

Rafael Bergstrom,



Executive Director, Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i



He Lawai'a no ke kai papa'u, he pōkole ke aho; He Lawai'a no ke kai hohonu he loa ke aho" "A fisherman of shallow seas uses a short line; a fisherman of the deep sea uses a long line."

LATE

KALANIHALE

March 23, 2026

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

My name is **Kaimi Kaupiko**, and I submit this testimony on behalf of **Kalanihale** and in support of the **Miloli'i community in strong support of HB2218 HD2**.

This measure is important because it gives the Department of Land and Natural Resources clear authority to enter into **community co-management agreements** with qualified community-based organizations for the stewardship of public trust lands and resources. The bill recognizes that this approach honors Native Hawaiian concepts of **mālama 'āina** and **ahupua'a-based management**, while creating a practical framework for long-term partnership between communities and the State.

For Miloli'i, this bill is especially meaningful. The measure specifically recognizes that communities such as **Miloli'i, Hā'ena, Kipahulu, and Kealahou** have already established community-based subsistence fishing areas and would benefit from long-term co-management agreements. That recognition matters because it reflects what our communities have long known: place-based communities carry generational knowledge, stewardship capacity, and a deep commitment to caring for the natural and cultural resources that sustain us.

As someone from Miloli'i, I know our relationship to 'āina and kai is not theoretical. It is cultural, genealogical, and lived. Our families have long practiced stewardship through responsibility, observation, and reciprocity. HB2218 HD2 helps create a lawful and accountable pathway for communities and government to share responsibility in caring for these resources for subsistence, cultural, and future community benefit.

We also support this bill because it allows co-management agreements to include the protection of natural and cultural resources, Native Hawaiian customary and traditional practices, habitat restoration, visitor management, and 'āina-based education. It also requires co-management plans to include clear responsibilities, adaptive management, accountability, reporting, and equitable data sharing. Those provisions are important to ensure these agreements are credible, durable, and community-centered.

For these reasons, **I, Kaimi Kaupiko, on behalf of Kalanihale and in support of Miloli'i, strongly support HB2218 HD2** and respectfully urge the Committee to pass this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Kaimi Kaupiko

On behalf of Kalanihale and in support of Miloli'i

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LATE

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Executive Director

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*Office Manager & Program
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Mckenzie Au

*Community-Based Economic
Development Project Associate*

Date: March 23, 2026

To: Senator Chris Lee, Chair, Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice-Chair, and members of the Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

From: Brent Kakesako, Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED)

Re: Support for HB2218 HD2 and comments

Aloha e Chair Lee, Vice-Chair Inouye, and Committee Members,

The Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED) strongly supports HB2218 HD2, which would authorize the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to enter into community co-management agreements and establishes qualifications for eligible community co-managers and authorize the disposition of public lands by a community co-management agreement.

HACBED was established in 1992 as a nonprofit statewide intermediary to address social, economic, and environmental justice concerns through community-based economic development. Our team advances its mission with core competencies in the areas of community and organizational capacity building, community and economic development planning, and asset policy development and advocacy.

In our work over the years, we have seen the commitment and struggle of community members and community-based organizations in stewarding 'āina that is connected to the different divisions of DLNR. There is also a growing interest and capacity to engage in collaborative mālama 'āina activities with the different divisions of DLNR but no consistent legal pathway exists across DLNR to enter into community co-management agreements. Several different tools do exist (e.g., curatorships, permits, concessions, community-based subsistence fishing areas), but these all vary significantly in form and function, often causing various administrative delays and managerial issues. As such, we see the authorization of community co-management agreements across DLNR as a huge opportunity for stewardship of 'āina in partnership with the people who know their places the best – and by extension a form of community-based economic development.

In reviewing the current bill, we humbly request the removal of the HD1 addition of 5-year reviews. The bill already includes “performance and accountability standards,” and “reporting processes and requirements” as requirements for any community co-management plan (Page 7, Lines 13 and 16). Regular review and reporting of community co-management agreements should be left to the discretion of DLNR and each community-based organization to determine what is best given their own unique circumstances. However, if your Committee chooses to accept this HD1 amendment and require 5-year reviews via statute, please ensure that these 5-year reviews are *coordinated and led by DLNR*, and not left to community-based organizations to shoulder alone.

The passage of HB2218 HD2 with the above amendments would be an opportunity for reciprocal benefit for DLNR and the state alongside community-based organizations and community members who are truly connected to these important places across our pae ‘āina.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify,

Brent N. Kakesako
Executive Director



LATE

**Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture & the Arts
March 23, 2026 at 1:05 PM
Room 224**

Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2218 HD2

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Hawai'i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations (HANO) we submit **strong support** for **HB2218 HD2**. This measure provides an essential framework for community co-management of state lands, strengthening partnerships between DLNR and trusted nonprofit and community stewards.

HANO is a statewide, sector-wide association representing nonprofits across Hawai'i. Since 2006, HANO has worked to strengthen and unite the nonprofit sector as a collective force to improve quality of life statewide by advancing policies and practices that promote nonprofit professionalism, sustainability, and effectiveness.

HB2218 directly supports nonprofits and community-based organizations that have long engaged in place-based stewardship of public trust lands. These organizations bring deep-rooted knowledge and demonstrated capacity to care for natural resources, cultural sites, and customary practices through restoration, education, and mālama 'āina. By establishing clear eligibility and agreement standards, this bill creates more durable, transparent, and effective pathways for community participation in land stewardship.

Community co-management recognizes the reality that many nonprofits have been caring for these lands for generations, often with limited resources but significant public benefit. HB2218 affirms their role as partners in achieving sustainable land management while improving continuity, planning, and long-term stewardship outcomes.

Importantly, this bill advances Hawai'i's constitutional obligations under Articles XI and XII by supporting the sustainable management of natural resources and the protection of traditional and customary Native Hawaiian practices. HB2218 aligns state policy with mālama 'āina values and ensures that stewardship decisions are informed by community-based nonprofits and leaders who are most connected to place.

For nonprofits and community-based organizations, HB2218 represents a meaningful step toward equitable, effective, and culturally grounded stewardship of state lands. HANO respectfully urges your **strong support**.



LATE

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Kaua'i

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Senate Water, Land, Culture and the Arts Committee,

The Hawai'i Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFU supports HB2218.**

This bill provides DLNR with clear statutory authority to enter co-management agreements with qualified community-based organizations, bringing structure and accountability to the stewardship of public lands. The 65-year term, five-year review cycle, and co-management plan requirements strike a reasonable balance between long-term commitment and ongoing oversight. The direct negotiation pathway recognizes that co-management is built on sustained relationships and local knowledge, not competitive bidding. This is a practical framework for a model of land stewardship that has proven effective across the state.

We encourage the Committee to consider how co-management agreements might explicitly accommodate agricultural stewardship, including traditional Hawaiian food cultivation, agroforestry, and community food production, as part of the permitted purposes under Section 171-C. We also note that the bill's value will depend on implementation. DLNR will need the staffing and resources to review applications, conduct five-year evaluations, and support co-management partners. A co-management system that is accessible to grassroots organizations, not only those with the institutional capacity to navigate complex application and reporting processes, will best serve the public trust purposes this bill advances.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin
Advocacy Director
Hawai'i Farmers Union

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 2:11:26 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB2218 provides a framework for the most effective management of our most precious natural areas. I offer my support for HB2218.

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 7:52:07 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I stand in support of HB2218.

This bill includes good evidence in Section 1 that outlines the value of community groups that have previously managed the State’s resources, and the challenges that persist. Many other groups on private lands are restoring and stewarding natural and cultural resources that will protect and perpetuate those resources for future generations. These same groups, with an improved process, could also spread their impact to State resources, benefiting the State, our environment, and the future generations.

I appreciate the authoring and introduction of this bill, and hope that you consider passing it.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Keoni Shizuma

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 8:06:06 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I am testifying in **strong support** of HB2218, a landmark bill that would empower the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to formally enter into long-term community co-management agreements.

This legislation represents a profound and necessary shift toward collaborative stewardship, recognizing that the most effective and sustainable management of our public trust resources arises from partnerships with the communities who know, love, and are culturally bound to these places.

For decades, grassroots and lineal descendant organizations have been the de facto stewards of countless wahi pana and natural resources across our islands. They have invested immense volunteer labor, traditional knowledge, and cultural passion into restoration, education, and protection—often without the formal recognition or security needed to sustain their work for generations.

HB2218 provides that essential framework. It moves beyond temporary permits and unstable arrangements to authorize agreements of 65 years or more, granted through direct negotiation. This long-term security is not a privilege; it is the necessary foundation for true, multi-generational stewardship.

This bill is a direct fulfillment of our State Constitution’s mandate. Article XI, Section 1, and Article XII, Section 7, charge the state with protecting public trust resources and upholding Native Hawaiian customary and traditional rights. Community co-management is the most powerful tool to achieve both goals simultaneously.

By authorizing agreements specifically for the "preservation and practice of all rights customarily and traditionally exercised by Native Hawaiians," and for the restoration of native ecosystems, this bill ensures that management is guided by the very principles of mālama ‘āina that have sustained these islands for millennia.

The qualifications established in HB2218 ensure that agreements are forged with legitimate, place-based organizations deeply rooted in their areas of care. This structure provides clarity and accountability for both the state and the community.

Furthermore, by enabling the disposition of public lands through these agreements, the bill provides the tangible authority needed for co-managers to effectively carry out their kuleana, from managing visitor impacts to restoring native forests.

We have seen the success of this model in Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Areas (CBSFAs) and in countless informal partnerships. HB2218 seeks to replicate and strengthen that success statewide. It is a recognition that the state cannot manage these precious resources alone, and that the most powerful resource we have is the love and knowledge of our own communities.

I urge you to pass HB2218. It is a critical step toward justice, resilience, and a future where the state and its people work in true partnership to heal and protect our 'āina for all generations to come.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY OF KEALI'I PANG, PH.D.
Kaimukī, O'ahu
IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2218, HD2

TO: Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

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

DATE: Monday, March 23, 2026

TIME: 1:05 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 224 & Videoconference, State Capitol

Aloha pumehana e Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and distinguished members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts:

My name is Keali'i Pang, Ph.D. I am a resident of Kaimukī, a lifetime member of the Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu, and have served as an environmentalist in Hawai'i for the last 35 years. I am also a retired federal biologist with extensive experience in conservation partnerships and private lands stewardship across the Pacific Islands, and currently serve as Board President of Ka'ala Farm, Inc. in Wai'anae—a cultural education nonprofit that holds a long-term lease on State land and this year marks its 50th anniversary of uninterrupted community stewardship. I write today in my personal capacity in strong support of HB 2218, HD2, which authorizes DLNR to enter into community co-management agreements with qualified community-based organizations.

Fifty Years of Proof

Ka'alā Farm is now in its 50th year of operation in Wai'anae. For most of those five decades, we have stewarded State land, cultivated relationships between our 'ōpio and their 'āina, and demonstrated that community-led management produces outcomes that government alone cannot replicate. We have done this without a consistent statutory framework that recognizes our role as formal partners rather than volunteers or temporary permittees.

The State has an affirmative duty to mālama 'āina—to care for the public trust lands and waters of Hawai'i. As DLNR has long acknowledged, it cannot effectively manage all the lands within its purview on its own. Grassroots communities throughout Hawai'i have been filling that gap for decades. HB 2218, HD2 creates the consistent legal pathway that has been missing, and honors the kuleana of those with the deepest genealogical and physical ties to the 'āina.

Why This Bill Works

Based on my decades of experience in both federal conservation work and community-based stewardship, I support this measure for the following reasons:

- **Long-term agreements match ecological and cultural reality:** True restoration—clearing invasive species from a watershed, rebuilding a traditional lo'i system, reestablishing native plant communities—does not happen on a fiscal year cycle. It happens over decades. The 65-year maximum term reflects that biological and cultural reality.

- **Formal agreements unlock outside investment:** Philanthropic partners and federal agencies consistently require site control or long-term tenure before committing significant capital. A formal Community Co-Management Agreement gives community organizations the credentials to bring outside investment into public lands at no cost to the taxpayer. I have experienced this barrier directly at Ka'ala Farm.
- **'Āina education as a core purpose:** Explicitly authorizing agreements for 'āina education ensures these lands remain living classrooms for our keiki, preserving the connection between people and place that is the foundation of all sustainable stewardship.
- **Accountability is already built in:** HD2 already requires performance and accountability standards and reporting processes for any community co-management plan. These provisions provide the necessary oversight without imposing a rigid, one-size-fits-all review schedule.

Friendly Amendment

I support HD2 as written and offer one friendly amendment for the Committee's consideration. The HD1 addition of mandatory five-year reviews is unnecessary given that performance and accountability standards and reporting processes are already required for every co-management plan under HD2. Imposing a statutory five-year review cycle adds administrative burden without a corresponding benefit, and—more importantly—a single statewide review interval does not account for the widely varying circumstances of different organizations and landscapes.

Regular review and reporting should be left to the discretion of DLNR and each community-based organization to determine what best fits their unique agreement. If the Committee does choose to retain a statutory review requirement, I respectfully ask that those reviews be coordinated and led by DLNR—not left to community-based organizations to shoulder alone.

Conclusion

We have 50 years of evidence from Ka'ala Farm and from community stewardship sites across the islands that this model works. We no longer need to treat these successes as exceptions. HB 2218, HD2 makes community stewardship the standard—and gives DLNR and our communities the legal foundation to do what we have already proven we can do together. I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB 2218, HD2 with the friendly amendment described above. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

Keali'i Pang, Ph.D.
Kaimukī, O'ahu

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 5:27:32 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Culbertson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators!

Please pass HB2218 and put more management level authority back into the hands of the people who have nurtured and cared for the resources at hand for years and even centuries!

Mahalo!

R A Culbertson

Honokaa

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Committee Members,

I **strongly support** HB2218 HD2 authorizing the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to enter into community co-management agreements with qualified community-based organizations.

This is an exciting and critical moment in Hawai‘i when we can meaningfully advance and enhance the partnerships and collaborations among community groups and DLNR to mālama‘āina. I urge you to **PASS** HB2218 HD2 out of your committee.

Mahalo piha,

Heather McMillen

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 10:40:00 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha legislaors,

Community partnerships are a wonderful way for people who know their land and care about it to protect that land.

However, please delete the reporting requirement on page 7, lines 15-21--it would be burdensome for State staff, and there are other reporting methods already in place.

mahalo,

Cory Harden

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 10:48:05 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Committee,

My name is Bo Breda and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB2218 HD2, which will allow the Land Board to realize the tremendous potential benefits that community organizations can provide in upholding the public trust, and protecting the environmental and cultural foundations of our islands and ways of life.

The Board of Land and Natural Resources is the primary entity tasked with carrying out the state of Hawai‘i’s affirmative, constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina, or to care for the natural and cultural resources of our islands. However, the vast areas of land and waters under its jurisdiction and its own institutional limitations mean the Land Board simply cannot uphold this constitutional obligation on its own. Fortunately, grassroots communities throughout Hawai‘i have long expressed their willingness to partner with the Land Board, to co-manage and steward the lands and waters that they are both intimately familiar with and deeply committed to, as dedicated tenants of their ‘āina. Unfortunately, however, no explicit or consistent legal pathway exists for the Land Board to enter into formal agreements that can facilitate such community partnerships, in furtherance of its and the state’s constitutional duties.

This measure would accordingly establish a clear, explicit, and flexible framework for collaboration, itself developed in partnership between community organizations and the Department of Land and Natural Resources, that could provide transformative benefits to natural and cultural resource management throughout Hawai‘i, for the benefit of the public trust, our ‘āina, and present and future generations.

I do request a friendly amendment to this bill, to remove superfluous 5-year reporting requirement that could create significant administrative burdens for both Department of Land and Natural Resources staff as well as its community partners. Such reporting could arbitrarily limit this measure’s potential benefits, as Department staff may be forced to use their limited time and capacity to prepare these 5-year reports rather than facilitate community partnerships. Notably, “performance and accountability standards” and “reporting processes and requirements” are already required for any community co-management plan entered into under this bill; the frequency and need for an additional review of and reporting on community co-management agreements should therefore be left to the discretion of DLNR and each community-based organization, based on their own unique circumstances and needs.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure, with a friendly amendment removing the reporting requirement found on page 7, lines 15-21.

Sincerely,
Bo Breda

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 10:51:10 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Committee,

My name is Peter Wilson and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB2218 HD2, which will allow the Land Board to realize the tremendous potential benefits that community organizations can provide in upholding the public trust, and protecting the environmental and cultural foundations of our islands and ways of life.

The Board of Land and Natural Resources is the primary entity tasked with carrying out the state of Hawai‘i’s affirmative, constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina, or to care for the natural and cultural resources of our islands. However, the vast areas of land and waters under its jurisdiction and its own institutional limitations mean the Land Board simply cannot uphold this constitutional obligation on its own. Fortunately, grassroots communities throughout Hawai‘i have long expressed their willingness to partner with the Land Board, to co-manage and steward the lands and waters that they are both intimately familiar with and deeply committed to, as dedicated tenants of their ‘āina. Unfortunately, however, no explicit or consistent legal pathway exists for the Land Board to enter into formal agreements that can facilitate such community partnerships, in furtherance of its and the state’s constitutional duties.

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Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure, with a friendly amendment removing the reporting requirement found on page 7, lines 15-21.

Sincerely,
Peter Wilson

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 2:14:43 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Committee,

My name is Christy Shaver and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2218 HD2, which will allow the Land Board to realize the tremendous potential benefits that community organizations can provide in upholding the public trust, and protecting the environmental and cultural foundations of our islands and ways of life.

The Board of Land and Natural Resources is the primary entity tasked with carrying out the state of Hawai‘i’s affirmative, constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina, or to care for the natural and cultural resources of our islands. However, the vast areas of land and waters under its jurisdiction and its own institutional limitations mean the Land Board simply cannot uphold this constitutional obligation on its own. Fortunately, grassroots communities throughout Hawai‘i have long expressed their willingness to partner with the Land Board, to co-manage and steward the lands and waters that they are both intimately familiar with and deeply committed to, as dedicated tenants of their ‘āina. Unfortunately, however, no explicit or consistent legal pathway exists for the Land Board to enter into formal agreements that can facilitate such community partnerships, in furtherance of its and the state’s constitutional duties.

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Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS this measure, with a friendly amendment removing the reporting requirement found on page 7, lines 15-21.

Sincerely,
Christy Shaver

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 5:20:51 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Committee,

My name is Jodi Rodar and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB2218 HD2, which will allow the Land Board to realize the tremendous potential benefits that community organizations can provide in upholding the public trust, and protecting the environmental and cultural foundations of our islands and ways of life.

The Board of Land and Natural Resources is the primary entity tasked with carrying out the state of Hawai‘i’s affirmative, constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina, or to care for the natural and cultural resources of our islands. However, the vast areas of land and waters under its jurisdiction and its own institutional limitations mean the Land Board simply cannot uphold this constitutional obligation on its own. Fortunately, grassroots communities throughout Hawai‘i have long expressed their willingness to partner with the Land Board, to co-manage and steward the lands and waters that they are both intimately familiar with and deeply committed to, as dedicated tenants of their ‘āina. Unfortunately, however, no explicit or consistent legal pathway exists for the Land Board to enter into formal agreements that can facilitate such community partnerships, in furtherance of its and the state’s constitutional duties.

This measure would accordingly establish a clear, explicit, and flexible framework for collaboration, itself developed in partnership between community organizations and the Department of Land and Natural Resources, that could provide transformative benefits to natural and cultural resource management throughout Hawai‘i, for the benefit of the public trust, our ‘āina, and present and future generations.

I do request a friendly amendment to this bill, to remove superfluous 5-year reporting requirement that could create significant administrative burdens for both Department of Land and Natural Resources staff as well as its community partners. Such reporting could arbitrarily limit this measure’s potential benefits, as Department staff may be forced to use their limited time and capacity to prepare these 5-year reports rather than facilitate community partnerships. Notably, “performance and accountability standards” and “reporting processes and requirements” are already required for any community co-management plan entered into under this bill; the frequency and need for an additional review of and reporting on community co-management agreements should therefore be left to the discretion of DLNR and each community-based organization, based on their own unique circumstances and needs.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure, with a friendly amendment removing the reporting requirement found on page 7, lines 15-21.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jodi Rodar

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 6:51:03 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Strongly support

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 8:31:22 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Committee,

My name is Mary Afable and I live in Hilo.

I support HB2218 HD 2 because it would establish a clear, explicit, and flexible framework for collaboration, itself developed in partnership between community organizations and the Department of Land and Natural Resources, that could provide transformative benefits to natural and cultural resource management throughout Hawai‘i, for the benefit of the public trust, our ‘āina, and present and future generations.

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 8:47:45 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I have worked on the management of environmental conflict in Hawai`i for the entirety of my career of over three decades. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) is often not only at the center of these conflicts due to its kuleana, but an inadvertent perpetrator of these conflicts due to institutional structure and inertia. This bill is an important step in a critical direction to ultimately reform DLNR to become an institution that pursues partnership with community as a central activity and an essential method to fulfill their constitutional, statutory, and other legal mandates. Please PASS HB2218 out of your committee.

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 9:50:56 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Kite	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Richard kite and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB2218 HD2, which will allow the Land Board to realize the tremendous potential benefits that community organizations can provide in upholding the public trust, and protecting the environmental and cultural foundations of our islands and ways of life.

The Board of Land and Natural Resources is the primary entity tasked with carrying out the state of Hawai‘i’s affirmative, constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina, or to care for the natural and cultural resources of our islands. However, the vast areas of land and waters under its jurisdiction and its own institutional limitations mean the Land Board simply cannot uphold this constitutional obligation on its own. Fortunately, grassroots communities throughout Hawai‘i have long expressed their willingness to partner with the Land Board, to co-manage and steward the lands and waters that they are both intimately familiar with and deeply committed to, as dedicated tenants of their ‘āina. Unfortunately, however, no explicit or consistent legal pathway exists for the Land Board to enter into formal agreements that can facilitate such community partnerships, in furtherance of its and the state’s constitutional duties.

This measure would accordingly establish a clear, explicit, and flexible framework for collaboration, itself developed in partnership between community organizations and the Department of Land and Natural Resources, that could provide transformative benefits to natural and cultural resource management throughout Hawai‘i, for the benefit of the public trust, our ‘āina, and present and future generations.

I do request a friendly amendment to this bill, to remove superfluous 5-year reporting requirement that could create significant administrative burdens for both Department of Land and Natural Resources staff as well as its community partners. Such reporting could arbitrarily limit this measure’s potential benefits, as Department staff may be forced to use their limited time and capacity to prepare these 5-year reports rather than facilitate community partnerships. Notably, “performance and accountability standards” and “reporting processes and requirements” are already required for any community co-management plan entered into under this bill; the frequency and need for an additional review of and reporting on community co-management agreements should therefore be left to the discretion of DLNR and each community-based organization, based on their own unique circumstances and needs.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure, with a friendly amendment removing the reporting requirement found on page 7, lines 15-21.

Sincerely,

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 10:09:28 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hermina Morita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Strong Support of HB 2218, HD2

Aloha Chair Lee and Vice Chair Inouye:

My name is Mina Morita. I serve as Vice President of the Board of the Hanalei Initiative, the access management system operator at Hā‘ena State Park for Hui Maka‘āinana o Makana; however, today I submit testimony in my personal capacity as a Hanalei resident in strong support of House Bill 2218, HD2 with the effective date corrected.

I am deeply proud of the work my community—in particular Hui Maka‘āinana o Makana, the lineal descendants of Hā‘ena, Kaua‘i—has undertaken in the stewardship of Hā‘ena State Park and the surrounding nearshore waters in partnership with the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Through careful planning, coordination, and the empowerment of North Shore communities, this collaboration has created an exemplary, place-based model of resource management that can be shared with other visitor-impacted communities across Hawai‘i.

This work reflects nearly three decades of community commitment, preceding my own service as a State Representative, and has continued to flourish through the leadership of Speaker Nadine Nakamura in convening community members, government agencies, and other key stakeholders toward sustainable solutions.

Yet despite this success, existing tools available to the Department of Land and Natural Resources remain limited to short-term revocable permits, concessions, or similar transactional arrangements. These instruments fail to reflect the kuleana embraced by community-based stewards as long-term partners with DLNR and instead create uncertainty that undermines sustained investment in mālama ‘āina.

HB 2218, HD2 addresses this gap by explicitly authorizing community co-management agreements between DLNR and qualified community-based organizations, grounded in Native Hawaiian principles of mālama ‘āina and ahupua‘a-based stewardship. These agreements support the preservation of cultural practices, restoration of natural and historical resources, habitat protection, visitor management, and ‘āina-based education.

The DLNR alone cannot sustainably manage Hawai‘i’s public trust resources but as partners with place-based Native Hawaiian and local communities providing essential stewardship, knowledge, and capacity, hopefully this will achieve better outcomes for the ‘āina. Community co-management therefore helps to fulfill the State’s constitutional responsibilities to protect natural and cultural resources for present and future generations.

By establishing clear qualifications, accountability standards, adaptive management requirements, and defined roles within written co-management agreements, HB 2218, HD2 ensures that partnerships are transparent, performance-based, and aligned with community-driven stewardship outcomes.

For communities like Hā‘ena—and many others across the pae ‘āina—this bill represents the next necessary step: moving from short-term, transactional permissions toward durable, trust-based partnerships that reflect and encourage generations of stewardship and responsibility.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB 2218, HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Mina Morita, P.O. Box 791, Hanalei, HI 96714

herminamorita@gmail.com

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 10:19:35 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB2218. I believe it is a good idea for the DLNR to work with those groups which honor Native Hawaiian practices that protect the land and water. Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 10:39:15 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Committee,

My name is Andrew Isoda and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB2218 HD2, which will allow the Land Board to realize the tremendous potential benefits that community organizations can provide in upholding the public trust, and protecting the environmental and cultural foundations of our islands and ways of life.

The Board of Land and Natural Resources is the primary entity tasked with carrying out the state of Hawai‘i’s affirmative, constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina, or to care for the natural and cultural resources of our islands. However, the vast areas of land and waters under its jurisdiction and its own institutional limitations mean the Land Board simply cannot uphold this constitutional obligation on its own. Fortunately, grassroots communities throughout Hawai‘i have long expressed their willingness to partner with the Land Board, to co-manage and steward the lands and waters that they are both intimately familiar with and deeply committed to, as dedicated tenants of their ‘āina. Unfortunately, however, no explicit or consistent legal pathway exists for the Land Board to enter into formal agreements that can facilitate such community partnerships, in furtherance of its and the state’s constitutional duties.

This measure would accordingly establish a clear, explicit, and flexible framework for collaboration, itself developed in partnership between community organizations and the Department of Land and Natural Resources, that could provide transformative benefits to natural and cultural resource management throughout Hawai‘i, for the benefit of the public trust, our ‘āina, and present and future generations.

I do request a friendly amendment to this bill, to remove superfluous 5-year reporting requirement that could create significant administrative burdens for both Department of Land and Natural Resources staff as well as its community partners. Such reporting could arbitrarily limit this measure’s potential benefits, as Department staff may be forced to use their limited time and capacity to prepare these 5-year reports rather than facilitate community partnerships. Notably, “performance and accountability standards” and “reporting processes and requirements” are already required for any community co-management plan entered into under this bill; the frequency and need for an additional review of and reporting on community co-management agreements should therefore be left to the discretion of DLNR and each community-based organization, based on their own unique circumstances and needs.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure, with a friendly amendment removing the reporting requirement found on page 7, lines 15-21.

Sincerely,
Andrew Isoda
Lahaina, Mau'i

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 10:51:46 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Committee,

My name is Earl J. kim and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB2218 HD2, which will allow the Land Board to realize the tremendous potential benefits that community organizations can provide in upholding the public trust, and protecting the environmental and cultural foundations of our islands and ways of life.

The Board of Land and Natural Resources is the primary entity tasked with carrying out the state of Hawai‘i’s affirmative, constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina, or to care for the natural and cultural resources of our islands. However, the vast areas of land and waters under its jurisdiction and its own institutional limitations mean the Land Board simply cannot uphold this constitutional obligation on its own. Fortunately, grassroots communities throughout Hawai‘i have long expressed their willingness to partner with the Land Board, to co-manage and steward the lands and waters that they are both intimately familiar with and deeply committed to, as dedicated tenants of their ‘āina. Unfortunately, however, no explicit or consistent legal pathway exists for the Land Board to enter into formal agreements that can facilitate such community partnerships, in furtherance of its and the state’s constitutional duties.

This measure would accordingly establish a clear, explicit, and flexible framework for collaboration, itself developed in partnership between community organizations and the Department of Land and Natural Resources, that could provide transformative benefits to natural and cultural resource management throughout Hawai‘i, for the benefit of the public trust, our ‘āina, and present and future generations.

I do request a friendly amendment to this bill, to remove superfluous 5-year reporting requirement that could create significant administrative burdens for both Department of Land and Natural Resources staff as well as its community partners. Such reporting could arbitrarily limit this measure’s potential benefits, as Department staff may be forced to use their limited time and capacity to prepare these 5-year reports rather than facilitate community partnerships. Notably, “performance and accountability standards” and “reporting processes and requirements” are already required for any community co-management plan entered into under this bill; the frequency and need for an additional review of and reporting on community co-management agreements should therefore be left to the discretion of DLNR and each community-based organization, based on their own unique circumstances and needs.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure, with a friendly amendment removing the reporting requirement found on page 7, lines 15-21.

Sincerely,
Earl J. Kim

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 11:57:51 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tam Nguyen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai e Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Committee Members,

'O wau o Tam Nguyen. I write in strong support of HB2218 and respectfully urge you to pass HB2218. Though I am submitting testimony in my individual capacity in support of HB 2218, I am also a Project Manager for the Clean Water and Natural Lands Fund where I assist the City and County of Honolulu in acquiring conservation lands via a special fund established by Honolulu voters in 2007 using 0.5% of real property tax revenue. In order for there to be effective community-led management of 'aina, there must be a mechanism that allows the Department of Land and Natural Resources to enter into agreements with qualified co-manager organizations.

Native Hawaiian-serving and Kanaka oiwi-led organizations are most qualified to lead bio-cultural restoration efforts of land. They possess community buy-in, expertise in land management, a longitudinal understanding of land and the importance of adaptive management planning, and often have a proven track record of using best practices to steward land. This ensures that land management is both effective and long-term, which is in the best interests of 'aina, community, and the state.

HB 2218 defines what a qualified co-manager is and ensures that the State can properly fulfil its kuleana to manage lands and see that they are returned to bio-cultural restoration. Mahalo for considering this testimony.

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 12:18:54 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Breanne Fong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha pumehana Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Committee Members,

My name is Breanne Fong, and I strongly support HB2218 HD2 authorizing the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to enter into community co-management agreements with qualified community-based organizations.

The State has an affirmative duty to mālama ‘āina, care for the public trust lands and waters of Hawai‘i. Caring for our precious ‘āina (that which feeds us all) requires collective kuleana (responsibility), and as DLNR has long acknowledged, it alone cannot effectively and sustainably manage all the lands and waters within its purview. For decades, grassroots communities throughout Hawai‘i have been supporting and collaborating with DLNR to mālama the places we all love and call home. But while the need and interest in collaborative mālama ‘āina continues to grow, no consistent legal pathway exists for DLNR to enter into community co-management agreements. Several different tools do exist (e.g., curatorships, permits, concessions, community-based subsistence fishing areas), but these all vary significantly in form and function, often causing various administrative delays and managerial issues.

I do suggest a friendly amendment to this HD2 version, as the HD1 addition of 5-year reviews is unnecessary with “performance and accountability standards,” and “reporting processes and requirements” already required for any community co-management plan (Page 7, Lines 13 and 16). Regular review and reporting of community co-management agreements should be left to the discretion of DLNR and each community-based organization to determine what is best given their own unique circumstances. However, if your Committee chooses to accept the HD1 amendment and require 5-year reviews via statute, please ensure that these 5-year reviews are coordinated and led by DLNR, and not left to community-based organizations to shoulder alone.

Please PASS HB2218 HD2 out of your committee with my friendly amendment.

Mahalo nui loa,

Breanne Fong

Statement of
Doreen Wong
before the
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

Monday, March 23, 2026
1:05 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HB 2218 HD2
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Chair Chris Lee, Vice Chair Lorraine Inouye, and Members of the Water, Land, Culture, and the Arts Committee,

I'm Doreen Wong, an O'ahu resident and an environmental professional who has been working on ocean and climate solutions for over 14 years. I am writing in strong support of **HB 2218 HD2** to support community co-management agreements between the State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and qualified Hawai'i-based nonprofits.

The State has an affirmative duty to mālama 'āina, care for the public trust lands and waters of Hawai'i. Caring for our precious 'āina requires collective kuleana (responsibility). As DLNR has long acknowledged, it alone cannot effectively and sustainably manage all the lands and waters.

For decades, grassroots communities throughout Hawai'i have been supporting and collaborating with DLNR to mālama the places we all love and call home. However, while the need and interest in collaborative mālama'āina continues to grow, no consistent legal pathway exists for DLNR to enter into community co-management agreements. Several different tools do exist (e.g., curatorships, permits, concessions, community-based subsistence fishing areas), but these all vary significantly in form and function, often causing various administrative delays and challenges.

The logical next step to more effectively and sustainably manage our 'āina is to authorize community co-management agreements as a new tool to enable more Native Hawaiian and local community groups to partner with DLNR and mālama our public trust 'āina.

Please support this longstanding effort and pass **HB 2218 HD2** in your committee.

Mahalo,



Doreen Wong
O'ahu Resident

SUPPORTING HB2218 HD2

LATE

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
Hearing on March 23, 2026 at 1:05 pm
Conference Room 224 and videoconference

My name is John Kawamoto, and I strongly support HB2218 HD2 because it enables the Department of Land and Natural Resources to partner effectively with knowledgeable community groups to protect and preserve Hawaii's precious natural environment, as well as archaeological and historical resources.

I respectfully urge the committee to pass this bill.

LATE

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 3:56:44 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Senate WLA Committee Members:

Mahalo for all the work you do for our Hawai'i on this vital committee. My name is Mehana Vaughan, and I have worked for over thirty years with community management efforts in my home community of Halele'a, Kaua'i, particularly with Hui Maka'ainana o Makana in Hā'ena, Kāhili Preserve through the Hawaiian Islands Lands Trust, and the Waipā Foundation, among other groups. Over the past 15 years, I have had the broader opportunity to support and learn from similar community efforts across our pae 'āina, in my role as a professor of watershed management in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management and the Sea Grant Program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Through our research on community and collaborative management, we see not only the growth of these efforts, from around 90 organizations in 1990 to 220 in 2022, but the many benefits they create in terms of jobs, community cohesion, education across generations, improved human and ecosystem health, climate change resilience, and enhanced enforcement.

I strongly support HB2218 authorizing the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to enter into community co-management agreements with community-based organizations. **The State has an affirmative duty to mālama'āina, care for the public trust lands and waters of Hawai'i.** Caring for our precious 'āina (that which feeds us all) requires collective kuleana (responsibility), and DLNR alone does not have adequate funding, personell or expertise to effectively and sustainably manage all the lands and waters within its purview.

Local level collective management by those who are closest to, and rely most upon, natural resources is documented worldwide as an efective alternative to either solely private or government approaches. In fact, Hawai'i's historic ahupu'a managent systems, developed over centuries of relationship between local people and place, are cited globally as models of sustainability. For decades, grassroots communities throughout Hawai'i have been supporting and collaborating with DLNR to mālama the places we all love and call home. One of their largest challenges is the short term nature of stewardship and lease agreements, without a consistent legal pathway for DLNR to enter into community co-management agreements. This impermanence exacerbates another main challenge for community groups, making it more difficult to secure financing and long term funding, particularly from sources beyond state government.

Community groups have more than proven their capacity to manage effectively in Hawai'i. Restoring the health of ecosystems and people together is long term cross generational work and this bill is needed to allow this work to flourish.

Please **PASS** HB2218. This may be the single most important, and cost effective measure your committee has the opportunity to pass this session, in terms of its potential impact on the health of the ecosystems which fuel Hawai'i's economy and are vital to all of our wellbeing.

Me ke aloha ha'aha'a,

Dr. Mehana Blaich Vaughan

(testifying as a private citizen)

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 4:05:02 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM



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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Committee,

My name is Kaleiheana Stormcrow and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB2218 HD2, which will allow the Land Board to realize the tremendous potential benefits that community organizations can provide in upholding the public trust, and protecting the environmental and cultural foundations of our islands and ways of life.

The Board of Land and Natural Resources is the primary entity tasked with carrying out the state of Hawai‘i’s affirmative, constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina, or to care for the natural and cultural resources of our islands. However, the vast areas of land and waters under its jurisdiction and its own institutional limitations mean the Land Board simply cannot uphold this constitutional obligation on its own. Fortunately, grassroots communities throughout Hawai‘i have long expressed their willingness to partner with the Land Board, to co-manage and steward the lands and waters that they are both intimately familiar with and deeply committed to, as dedicated tenants of their ‘āina. Unfortunately, however, no explicit or consistent legal pathway exists for the Land Board to enter into formal agreements that can facilitate such community partnerships, in furtherance of its and the state’s constitutional duties.

This measure would accordingly establish a clear, explicit, and flexible framework for collaboration, itself developed in partnership between community organizations and the Department of Land and Natural Resources, that could provide transformative benefits to natural and cultural resource management throughout Hawai‘i, for the benefit of the public trust, our ‘āina, and present and future generations.

I do request a friendly amendment to this bill, to remove superfluous 5-year reporting requirement that could create significant administrative burdens for both Department of Land and Natural Resources staff as well as its community partners. Such reporting could arbitrarily limit this measure’s potential benefits, as Department staff may be forced to use their limited time and capacity to prepare these 5-year reports rather than facilitate community partnerships. Notably, “performance and accountability standards” and “reporting processes and requirements” are already required for any community co-management plan entered into under this bill; the frequency and need for an additional review of and reporting on community co-management agreements should therefore be left to the discretion of DLNR and each community-based organization, based on their own unique circumstances and needs.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure, with a friendly amendment removing the reporting requirement found on page 7, lines 15-21.

Sincerely,
[Your name]

Sample testimony for HB2103 HD2

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

My name is [Your name] and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB2103 HD2.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Kaleiheana Stormcrow

LATE

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 4:13:16 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

SUPPORT

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 4:28:37 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM



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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Committee,

My name is Diane Ware and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB2218 HD2, which will allow the Land Board to realize the tremendous potential benefits that community organizations can provide in upholding the public trust, and protecting the environmental and cultural foundations of our islands and ways of life. This should include near shore waters and reefs.

The Board of Land and Natural Resources is the primary entity tasked with carrying out the state of Hawai‘i’s affirmative, constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina, or to care for the natural and cultural resources of our islands. However, the vast areas of land and waters under its jurisdiction and its own institutional limitations mean the Land Board simply cannot uphold this constitutional obligation on its own. Fortunately, grassroots communities throughout Hawai‘i have long expressed their willingness to partner with the Land Board, to co-manage and steward the lands and waters that they are both intimately familiar with and deeply committed to, as dedicated tenants of their ‘āina. Unfortunately, however, no explicit or consistent legal pathway exists for the Land Board to enter into formal agreements that can facilitate such community partnerships, in furtherance of its and the state’s constitutional duties.

This measure would accordingly establish a clear, explicit, and flexible framework for collaboration, itself developed in partnership between community organizations and the Department of Land and Natural Resources, that could provide transformative benefits to natural and cultural resource management throughout Hawai‘i, for the benefit of the public trust, our ‘āina, and present and future generations.

I do request that you consider a friendly amendment to this bill, to remove superfluous 5-year reporting requirement that could create significant administrative burdens for both Department of Land and Natural Resources staff as well as its community partners. Such reporting could arbitrarily limit this measure’s potential benefits, as Department staff may be forced to use their limited time and capacity to prepare these 5-year reports rather than facilitate community partnerships. Notably, “performance and accountability standards” and “reporting processes and requirements” are already required for any community co-management plan entered into under this bill; the frequency and need for an additional review of and reporting on community co-management agreements should therefore be left to the discretion of DLNR and each community-based organization, based on their own unique circumstances and needs.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure, with a friendly amendment removing the reporting requirement found on page 7, lines 15-21.

Malama Pono,

Diane Ware Volcano HI 96785

LATE

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 7:04:24 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B Quimby	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **strongly support** HB2218 HD2 authorizing the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to enter into community co-management agreements with qualified community-based organizations. Please pass this measure out of your committee.

Mahalo nui loa,

Barbara Quimby, PhD

LATE

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 7:28:41 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2218 HD2.

- Establishes a clear legal pathway for the Board of Land and Natural Resources to partner with community organizations in co-managing public lands and waters
- Strengthens the State’s constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina by leveraging community knowledge, capacity, and long-term stewardship
- Addresses existing limitations by enabling collaboration where the Land Board cannot effectively act alone
- Creates a flexible framework, developed with community input, to improve protection of natural and cultural resources for present and future generations

Suggested amendment:

- Remove the 5-year reporting requirement (page 7, lines 15–21) to avoid unnecessary administrative burden
- Existing provisions already require performance standards and reporting; additional mandated reports may divert limited staff capacity away from implementing partnerships
- Allow reporting timelines to be determined by DLNR and community partners based on need

I respectfully urge passage of this measure with the amendment.

LATE

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 10:06:49 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawika Ruddle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I am in full support of HB-2218 to allow a community co-management model.

Mahalo

Kawika Ruddle

Kamuela, Hawaii

LATE

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Committee,

I'm Uilani Naipo and I **SUPPORT** HB2218 HD2. This measure will establish formal agreements for existing as well as new partnerships between stewarding organizations and division(s) of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

Organizations across the pae'āina already partner with divisions of the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), enabling co-management of natural and cultural resources within our wahi kūpuna and supporting place-based governance. However, while resource management plans may exist, they often lack formalized commitments between multiple agency divisions and community organizations. As a result, implementation of these plans relies heavily on independent community efforts with limited enforcement capacity. Currently, there are no formal agreements that effectively integrate resource management plans with consistent compliance and enforcement mechanisms, nor permit pathways that authorize and support streamlined standard monitoring protocols for fisheries management by communities.

I respectfully request consideration of a friendly amendment to eliminate the five-year reporting requirement, as it may impose undue administrative burdens on both DLNR staff and community partners. Instead, allow for appropriate co-management communication and reporting, with checks and balances incorporated throughout the implementation process.

I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure and request a friendly amendment.

Sincerely,
U'ilani Naipo

LATE

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 11:42:36 PM
Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support HB2218 HD2, which will authorize community co-management agreements between the Hawai'i BLNR and mālama 'āina organizations. Cohesive community stewardship is a win-win.

me ka mana, Kau'i Young

LATE

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 8:02:56 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS BILL!

LATE

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 8:09:28 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

This is a good bill, please pass it.

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 8:37:42 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM



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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Committee,

My name is Janine K. Dumaguin and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2218 HD2, which will allow the Land Board to realize the tremendous potential benefits that community organizations can provide in upholding the public trust, and protecting the environmental and cultural foundations of our islands and ways of life.

The Board of Land and Natural Resources is the primary entity tasked with carrying out the state of Hawai‘i’s affirmative, constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina, or to care for the natural and cultural resources of our islands. However, the vast areas of land and waters under its jurisdiction and its own institutional limitations mean the Land Board simply cannot uphold this constitutional obligation on its own. Fortunately, grassroots communities throughout Hawai‘i have long expressed their willingness to partner with the Land Board, to co-manage and steward the lands and waters that they are both intimately familiar with and deeply committed to, as dedicated tenants of their ‘āina. Unfortunately, however, no explicit or consistent legal pathway exists for the Land Board to enter into formal agreements that can facilitate such community partnerships, in furtherance of its and the state’s constitutional duties.

This measure would accordingly establish a clear, explicit, and flexible framework for collaboration, itself developed in partnership between community organizations and the Department of Land and Natural Resources, that could provide transformative benefits to natural and cultural resource management throughout Hawai‘i, for the benefit of the public trust, our ‘āina, and present and future generations.

I do request a friendly amendment to this bill, to remove superfluous 5-year reporting requirement that could create significant administrative burdens for both Department of Land and Natural Resources staff as well as its community partners. Such reporting could arbitrarily limit this measure’s potential benefits, as Department staff may be forced to use their limited time and capacity to prepare these 5-year reports rather than facilitate community partnerships. Notably, “performance and accountability standards” and “reporting processes and requirements” are already required for any community co-management plan entered into under this bill; the frequency and need for an additional review of and reporting on community co-management agreements should therefore be left to the discretion of DLNR and each community-based organization, based on their own unique circumstances and needs.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS this measure, with a friendly amendment removing the reporting requirement found on page 7, lines 15-21.

Sincerely,

Janine K. Dumaguin

LATE

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 8:47:23 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hello Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Committee,

My name is Nanea Lo and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2218 HD2, which will allow the Land Board to realize the tremendous potential benefits that community organizations can provide in upholding the public trust, and protecting the environmental and cultural foundations of our islands and ways of life.

The Board of Land and Natural Resources is the primary entity tasked with carrying out the state of Hawai‘i’s affirmative, constitutional duty to mālama ‘āina, or to care for the natural and cultural resources of our islands. However, the vast areas of land and waters under its jurisdiction and its own institutional limitations mean the Land Board simply cannot uphold this constitutional obligation on its own. Fortunately, grassroots communities throughout Hawai‘i have long expressed their willingness to partner with the Land Board, to co-manage and steward the lands and waters that they are both intimately familiar with and deeply committed to, as dedicated tenants of their ‘āina. Unfortunately, however, no explicit or consistent legal pathway exists for the Land Board to enter into formal agreements that can facilitate such community partnerships, in furtherance of its and the state’s constitutional duties.

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management agreements should therefore be left to the discretion of DLNR and each community-based organization, based on their own unique circumstances and needs.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS this measure, with a friendly amendment removing the reporting requirement found on page 7, lines 15-21.

Me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, 96826

Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Member

Hawai‘i Workers Center Board Member

Clean Elections Hawai‘i Member

Honolulu Tenants Union Member

350 Hawai‘i Member

Carbon Cashback Hawai‘i Member

Hawai‘i Tax Fairness Coalition Member

LATE

HB-2218-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 8:58:14 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/23/2026 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pua'ala Pascua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Committee Members,

I **strongly support** HB2218 HD2 authorizing the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to enter into community co-management agreements with qualified community-based organizations.

I submit this testimony as many communities across the state are *actively demonstrating* the community organizing, cohesion, and resilience needed to respond to natural disasters. These communities, many of whom have multigeneration or ancestral connections to the places in which they reside, as well positioned to care for the places they come from and care about.

The State has an affirmative duty to mālama‘āina, care for the public trust lands and waters of Hawai‘i. Caring for our precious ‘āina (that which feeds us all) requires collective kuleana (responsibility), and as DLNR has long acknowledged, it alone cannot effectively and sustainably manage all the lands and waters within its purview. For decades, grassroots communities throughout Hawai‘i have been supporting and collaborating with DLNR to mālama the places we all love and call home. But while the need and interest in collaborative mālama‘āina continues to grow, no consistent legal pathway exists for DLNR to enter into community co-management agreements. Several different tools do exist (e.g., curatorships, permits, concessions, community-based subsistence fishing areas), but these all vary significantly in form and function, often causing various administrative delays and managerial issues.

I do suggest a friendly amendment to this HD2 version, **as the HD1 addition of 5-year reviews is unnecessary** with “performance and accountability standards,” and “reporting processes and requirements” already required for any community co-management plan (Page 7, Lines 13 and 16). **Regular review and reporting of community co-management agreements should be left to the discretion of DLNR and each community-based organization to determine what is best given their own unique circumstances.** However, if your Committee chooses to accept the HD1 amendment and require 5-year reviews via statute, please ensure that these 5-year reviews are *coordinated and led by DLNR*, and not left to community-based organizations to shoulder alone.

Please **PASS** HB2218 HD2 out of your committee with this friendly amendment.

Mahalo nui loa,

Pua'ala Pascua

Kea'au, Hawai'i Island

LATE

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
Monday, March 23, 2026, 1:05 PM

TO: Senator Chris Lee, Chair, Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair and Members of the WLA Committee

RE: HB 2218, HD2 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

FR: Curt Cottrell

Aloha and mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony. HB 2218, HD2 Authorizes the Department of Land and Natural Resources to enter into community co-management agreements and establishes qualifications for eligible community co-managers. Authorizes the disposition of public lands by a community co-management agreement. ***I strongly support and amplify DLNR, KUA and the other community group's testimony in support. I request that the date of enactment be amended to ensure passage this Session.***

The renowned success of the DLNR's Division of State Park's (DSP) on collaborative co-management at Ha'ena State Park with Hui Maka'āinana O Makana is well documented and demonstrates the paradigm shift from top-down government park management to "community lead, government supported" collaboration – and should be encouraged and continued.

After decades of underfunding - DSP has established a robust revenue base primarily derived from out-of-state visitor entrance and parking fees at 10 DSP park units statewide. Prior to increased revenue, the common tool and approach is to conduct a request for proposals or invitation for bid with private sector entities to support fee collection or management with an aggressive percentage base rent to DSP, and a negotiated percentage to the lessee or permittee. This goal during an austere fiscal budget was purely revenue generation vs collaborative management and did not consider community-based partners. However, the current DSP revenue stream now allows for a shift in focus from purely income to enhanced co-management – without adding to the State's personnel costs. Instead, this model creates new community jobs. Hui Maka'āinana O Makana now employs 55 neighboring residents to support park management – funded from their share of the visitor-based parking patronage revenue.

The standard IFB-RFP model still applies to certain park units - such as where there is not an engaged non-profit or community stakeholder or where the fee collection may not be sufficient to support this relationship, but this legislation is intended to solidify current partnerships and to stimulate the creation of new partners. As an example, DSP is working with several community-based partners and a non-profit on Hawaii Island to establish a comparable co-management partnership at Kealakekua Bay State Historical Park. As with Ha'ena, lineal descendants of this moku are engaged.

Back in the day provisions of Chapter 171 HRS were initially crafted primarily to enable straight up exclusive leases, and the proposed amendments will simply add to the flexibility of DLNR to consider and establish community-based co-management leases for a variety of natural and cultural resources. These amendments provide additional and critical legal tools to the tool chest for enabling and sustaining co-management.

Given recent events associated with climate change and flooding, strong collaborative co-management partnerships with engaged community organizations are more pertinent and timelier than ever, making this bill a critical foundation for enabling co-management Statewide.

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

LATE

Aloha pumehana Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Committee Members,

I am a resident of Kahalu‘u O‘ahu and I **strongly support** HB2218 HD2 authorizing the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to enter into community co-management agreements with qualified community-based organizations.

The State has an affirmative duty to mālama ‘āina, care for the public trust lands and waters of Hawai‘i. Caring for our precious ‘āina (that which feeds us all) requires collective kuleana (responsibility), and as DLNR has long acknowledged, it alone cannot effectively and sustainably manage all the lands and waters within its purview. For decades, grassroots communities throughout Hawai‘i have been supporting and collaborating with DLNR to mālama the places we all love and call home. But while the need and interest in collaborative mālama ‘āina continues to grow, no consistent legal pathway exists for DLNR to enter into community co-management agreements. Several different tools do exist (e.g., curatorship, permits, concessions, community-based subsistence fishing areas), but these all vary significantly in form and function, often causing various administrative delays and managerial issues.

I do suggest a friendly amendment to this HD2 version, **as the HD1 addition of 5-year reviews is unnecessary** with “performance and accountability standards,” and “reporting processes and requirements” already required for any community co-management plan (Page 7, Lines 13 and 16). **Regular review and reporting of community co-management agreements should be left to the discretion of DLNR and each community-based organization to determine what is best given their own unique circumstances.** However, if your Committee chooses to accept the HD1 amendment and require 5-year reviews via statute, please ensure that these 5-year reviews are *coordinated and led by DLNR*, and not left to community-based organizations to shoulder alone.

Please **PASS** HB2218 HD2 out of your committee with my friendly amendment.

Mahalo nui loa,

Rosanna ‘Anolani Alegado