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

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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

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

Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

Monday, February 23, 2026
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2361, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE KANEOHE BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL

House Bill 2361, House Draft 1 requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to provide administrative support to the Kaneohe Bay Regional Council (Council); requires the chairperson of the Council to be selected by the voting members from among all voting and nonvoting members on an annual and rotating basis; and requires the Council to meet quarterly. **The Department supports this bill and offers the following comments.**

The Council was established to serve as a community-based advisory body to the Department on the management, use, and protection of Kaneohe Bay. The Council provides a vital forum for stakeholder input, coordinating the perspectives of residents, cultural practitioners, environmental groups, fishers, and commercial operators to guide implementation of the Kaneohe Bay Master Plan and ensure the Bay's sustainable use.

The Department supports this measure because it strengthens the Council's capacity to fulfill its advisory role. Providing administrative support will improve meeting coordination and record-keeping, ensuring consistent stakeholder engagement. The annual rotating chair system will promote balanced leadership and diverse representation, while the quarterly meeting requirement will maintain regular communication between the Department and the community on issues vital to the stewardship of Kaneohe Bay. These changes align with the Department's commitment to collaborative and transparent management of Hawaii's natural and cultural resources.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



Ko`olau Foundation

P. O. Box 4749 / 46-005 Kawa St., #205
Kane`ohe, HI 96744

February 23, 2026

To: Rep. Chris Todd, Chair
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
& Members of the Finance Committee

From: Mahealani Cypher, President

Re: H.B. 2361, Relating to the Kaneohe Bay Regional Council – SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members:

The Ko`olau Foundation supports H.B.2361, H.D.1, which calls for the chairperson of the council to be rotated among non-voting members, requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to provide administrative support, and requires quarterly meetings of the council.

We think this offers a great opportunity to build leadership among our public-private partnerships, enabling potential chairs to gain experience leading this regional council in its guidance on management of Kane`ohe Bay.

A potential concern might be that some voting members of this council may not be willing to serve as chairperson; however, this can be worked out among the remaining members.

We urge all of you to act favorably by passing this bill out of committee.

Mahalo for considering our mana`o.



KO'OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

February 23, 2026

To: Rep. Chris Todd, Chair
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
And Members of the House Finance Committee

From: Charles Naumu, President
Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club

Re: H. B. 2361, H. D. 1 – Relating to the Kaneohe Bay Regional Council – In Support

Aloha Chair Todd and Members of the Committee:

The Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club strongly supports H.B. 2361, H.D.1, relating to the Kaneohe Bay Regional Council. This bill would change the chairperson of the council so that it is rotated among the voting members of the council instead of the representative from the Department of Land and Natural Resources. It would also require quarterly meetings of this body, and require DLNR to provide administrative support.

Our organization has been actively monitoring the management of our bay and encourages full community engagement and partnership with the State of Hawai'i to ensure wise policies are adopted to support the Kaneohe Bay Regional Master Plan.

We urge you to add your support by passing this bill.

Mahalo.

The Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club was established in 1937 and is a not-for-profit community organization dedicated to preserving and perpetuating the history, heritage and culture of Native Hawaiians. One of the largest of the Hawaiian Civic Clubs, its membership is open to people of Hawaiian ancestry and those who are "Hawaiian at heart".

HB-2361-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2026 4:32:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Comment

I strongly support to ADD members from Ko'olau Poko Hawaiian Civic Club - Aha Moku Advisory Committee members.

2361 HB RELATING TO THE KANEOHE BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL.