



**Hawai'i State Senate**  
**Committee on Hawaiian Affairs**  
HB2582, HD2 – Relating to Hawaiian Affairs

**RE: Strong support of HB2582, HD2**

March 24, 2026

Aloha Honorable Chair Richards, Honorable Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaiian Council writes in **strong support of HB2582, HD2**, which temporarily increases the amount of revenues from the Public Land Trust (PLT) transferred to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to support statewide programs serving Native Hawaiians.

At its core, this bill is about fairness, and the State's obligation to uphold its fiduciary responsibility to Native Hawaiian beneficiaries.

The Public Land Trust consists of nearly 1.3 million acres of lands, much of which were crown and government lands taken during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom. These lands were never intended to be used without benefit to Native Hawaiians. The Hawai'i State Constitution is clear: Native Hawaiians are entitled to a pro-rata share of revenues derived from these lands, and OHA is the entity designated to administer those funds on their behalf.

Yet, for decades, this obligation has not been fully met.

The current statutory cap of \$21.5 million annually significantly underrepresents the actual revenues generated from the Public Land Trust. This is not simply a policy gap—it is a matter of equity and trust. When the State underfunds OHA, it is effectively withholding resources that were meant to benefit people who have already endured generations of loss and displacement.

Today, Native Hawaiians continue to experience some of the highest rates of housing insecurity, displacement, and economic hardship in Hawai'i. Many families are being forced to leave their ancestral homeland in search of affordable living and opportunity elsewhere. This ongoing displacement is not accidental—it is the result of systemic inequities that this body has the power and responsibility to address.

Ensuring that OHA receives its fair share of Public Land Trust revenues is one of the most direct and immediate ways the State can begin to correct historical injustices and invest in long-term solutions.

**HAWAIIANS ADVANCING HAWAI'I**

91-1270 Kinoiki Street, Building 1, Kapolei, HI 96707

[info@hawaiiancouncil.org](mailto:info@hawaiiancouncil.org)

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These funds support critical programs in:

- Housing stability
- Education and workforce development
- Community-based stewardship of 'āina

By increasing the transfer of PLT revenues, the State is not creating a new obligation—it is fulfilling an existing one.

At a time when the cost of living continues to rise and federal funding remains uncertain, it is more important than ever that the Legislature act decisively to uphold its commitments. Failure to do so perpetuates the very inequities that continue to push Native Hawaiians out of Hawai'i.

To deny OHA its constitutionally mandated share is to deny Native Hawaiians the ability to thrive in their own homeland.

For Kanaka 'Ōiwi, the impacts of land dispossession are not confined to history—they are lived realities today. HB2582, HD2, represents a meaningful step toward restoring balance, honoring trust obligations, and ensuring that Native Hawaiians have the resources needed to remain, grow, and prosper in Hawai'i.

For these reasons, the Hawaiian Council respectfully urges this Committee to **PASS HB2582, HD2.**

Mahalo for your commitment to justice for Native Hawaiians.

Me ke aloha 'āina,

**Kūhiō Lewis**

CEO, Hawaiian Council

**HAWAIIANS ADVANCING HAWAI'I**

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**Brickwood Galuteria**  
*Chair of Beneficiary Advocacy*  
*& Empowerment Committee*  
*Trustee, At-Large*

Phone: (808) 594-1860

**OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200  
Honolulu, HI 96817

March 23, 2026

**TESTIMONY OF OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS (OHA)  
TRUSTEE AT-LARGE, BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA  
In Strong Support of HB2582 HD2**

Aloha Chair Richards, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

Mahalo nui for setting this important measure for hearing and for your steadfast commitment to justice for our Native Hawaiian beneficiaries.

My name is Brickwood Galuteria, Trustee At-Large, of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA); and I submit this testimony in strong, unequivocal support of HB2582 HD2. This bill is essential to ensuring that Native Hawaiians receive their rightful, pro-rata share of revenues generated from the Public Land Trust.

As this Committee knows, the Hawai'i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a fair share of the income and proceeds from the Public Land Trust. OHA was established to administer those funds on behalf of our Native Hawaiians. These land - Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands - were seized during the illegal overthrow, ceded to the United States without the consent of Native Hawaiians, and later transferred to the State of Hawai'i through the Admissions Act. The Constitution is not ambiguous. The law is not ambiguous. Native Hawaiians are owed 20% of the income and proceeds from these lands.

Today, OHA receives only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that does not reflect the truth of what is owed. A 2016 financial analysis identified approximately \$35 million in uncontested revenue and nearly \$80 million when historically disputed streams are included. This persistent shortfall directly limits OHA's ability to fulfill its constitutional kuleana, especially now as federally funded Native Hawaiian programs face deep and painful cuts. In 2022, the Legislature enacted Act 226, creating the Public Land Trust Working Group (PLTWG) to finally bring clarity to three long-standing obligations:

- Account for all ceded lands in the Public Land Trust
- Account for all income and proceeds derived from those lands
- Ensure that OHA receives the 20% share mandated by law

To truly attain these goals and obligations, we must see a fully government-wide acceptance of a legitimate, authoritative Public Land Trust inventory and a certified, consistent reporting system used by all parties across the bureaucracy. Without these foundational tools, disputes will continue, transparency will suffer, and Native Hawaiian beneficiaries will remain vulnerable to inconsistent accounting and political delay. This bill helps bridge the gap while that larger work continues.

HB2582 HD2 strengthens the PLTWG's ability to complete this work with integrity, transparency, and credibility. This bill:

- Authorizes OHA to procure independent third-party financial experts on behalf of the PLTWG
- Expands PLTWG membership to include representatives from both the Legislature and the community
- Requires that all members possess relevant background and expertise to ensure confidence in the final report

These improvements are not only reasonable, but they are also necessary. While the Legislature already has the authority to increase OHA's annual PLT revenue based on publicly available data, the strengthened capacity of the PLTWG will help resolve remaining disputes that may otherwise delay legislative action. This bill is not about politics. It is about justice. It is about honoring the Constitution. It is about fulfilling a promise made to our kūpuna and owed to our keiki.

As an OHA beneficiary, voter, and someone who has spent a lifetime advocating for fairness for our people, I respectfully urge this Committee to pass HB2582 HD2. This measure provides the PLTWG with the tools, expertise, and structure needed to finally fulfill its mandate and advance long-overdue justice for Native Hawaiians.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify and for your continued commitment to this work.

Me ke aloha,

Brickwood Galuteria  
Trustee, Trustee At-Large

BG:lad



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2582 HD2**  
RELATING TO HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

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

Malaki 24, 2026

1:00 PM

Lumi 224

Aloha e Chair Richards, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

Mahalo for hearing this bill to advance the vital work of the Public Lands Trust Working Group (“PLTWG”). The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) submits this testimony in **SUPPORT of HB2582 HD2**. This bill reflects amendments previously requested to ensure OHA’s voice is not diminished in relationship to the State of Hawai‘i and that reporting deadlines are realistic given the delays that may arise in procuring third party professionals to assist with completing the work of the PLTWG.

It is well recognized that the State of Hawai‘i is paying OHA only a small fraction of the annual public land trust revenues, and not the full 20% pro rata share to which OHA is entitled under law. Currently, OHA receives \$21.5 million per year. A 2016 audit commissioned by OHA at its own expense determined that the amount due to OHA *at that time* was \$80 million.

Act 226, enacted in 2022, established the PLTWG to rectify this situation and directed the PLTWG to:

- (1) Account for all ceded lands in the public land trust inventory;
- (2) Account for all income and proceeds from the public land trust; and
- (3) Subsequently determine the twenty per cent pro rata share of income and proceeds from the public land trust due annually to [OHA] for the betterment of the conditions of Native Hawaiians.

Act 226, § 3.

In its 2024 Interim Report to the Legislature and OHA Supplement, the PLTWG members identified certain gaps in the Public Land Trust Inventory System (PLTIS) used

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by the Department of Land and Natural Resources and agency accounting policies and practices that prevented the ready accounting requested in Act 226.<sup>1</sup> To assist the PLTWG in resolving these issues, the PLTWG suggested retaining third-party professionals and introduced legislation in 2025 requesting a \$1 million appropriation to retain qualified accounting and auditing expertise. See HB1358 (2005). The requested appropriation was informed by the cost of OHA's 2016 financial review of public land trust receipts conducted by a respected accounting and auditing firm.

HB2582 HD2 builds upon this history and efforts of the PLTWG to fulfill its mandate. OHA appreciates the intent of this bill to ensure completion of the important tasks set forth in Act 226 with appropriate expertise, including through hiring of third party professionals, and expansion of involvement of the legislature which holds ultimate decision-making authority on setting OHA's pro rata share. **Importantly, OHA supports having legislative representatives be added as non-voting members, to ensure that OHA's voice is not diminished in decisions of the PLTWG, and that all members have relevant expertise.** OHA also supports the revised timelines to ensure that third party professionals can be hired and contribute to the PLTWG's work.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to present testimony.

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<sup>1</sup> See [PLTWorkingGroupInterimReportandOHASupplement\\_FINAL\\_12-24-2024-0.pdf](#).



March 24, 2026

TESTIMONY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

To the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

In Support of

**HB2582 HD 2 – RELATING TO HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Aloha Chair Richards, Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the committee:

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs **supports** HB2852 HD2 Relating to Hawaiian Affairs which seeks to amend the membership of the public land trust working group and to require four reports from the working group with an accounting of lands and proceeds from those lands to establish the annual pro rata amount due to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs has advocated for several years for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to receive its constitutionally required twenty percent pro rata share of public land trust (PLT) proceeds to serve Native Hawaiian beneficiaries. To date, a full accounting of PLT proceeds has not been produced. The public land trust working group was created by Act 226, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2022 with the purpose of accounting for all ceded lands in the PLT, accounting for the proceeds generated from the PLT, and establishing the twenty percent pro rata share due to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. The working group has struggled to accomplish this mission without necessary fiscal support and dedicated staff and consultants to help effectuate its work.

The Association adopted its Resolution 2025-84 “REQUESTING THE STATE OF HAWAII TO FULFILL ITS CONSTITUTIONAL PROMISE AND OBLIGATION TO NATIVE HAWAIIANS TO FUND THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS WITH TWENTY PERCENT OF PUBLIC LAND TRUST INCOME AND PROCEEDS” at our 2025 convention in Keauhou, Hawai‘i. HB2582 provides the support necessary for the PLT working group to effectuate its mission by expanding its membership, and providing an allocation of funds for staff and consultants to gather information and prepare reports with and for the working group. The inclusion of deliverable deadlines incentivizes accuracy and expediency not only the working group but all state and county ceded land owners and users.

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 3,500 members located across Hawai'i and across the continental United States.

We appreciate your favorable consideration of this bill.

# ***ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS***

## ***A RESOLUTION***

NO. 2025 - 84

### **REQUESTING THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I TO FULFILL ITS CONSTITUTIONAL PROMISE AND OBLIGATION TO NATIVE HAWAIIANS TO FUND THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS WITH TWENTY PERCENT OF PUBLIC LAND TRUST INCOME AND PROCEEDS**

WHEREAS, the Hawai‘i Admission Act section 5(b) stipulates that lands granted to the State of Hawai‘i as part of its admission as a State are to be held as a public trust for five purposes, including “the betterment of the conditions of native Hawaiians, as defined in the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, as amended”; and

WHEREAS, Article XII, section 4 of the Hawai‘i State Constitution affirms that the lands granted by Section 5(b) of the Admission Act shall be held by the State as a public trust for native Hawaiians and the general public.; and

WHEREAS, Article XII, section 5 of the Hawai‘i State Constitution creates the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) and establishes a Board of Trustees to “hold title to all the real and personal property now or hereafter set aside or conveyed to it which shall be held in trust for native Hawaiians and Hawaiians”; and

WHEREAS, Article XII, section 6 of the Hawai‘i State Constitution mandates that OHA’s board of trustees shall manage and administer “income and proceeds from the pro rata portion of the public land trust” among other sources, for the betterment of native Hawaiians and Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes section 10-13.5 stipulates that OHA shall receive “twenty per cent of all funds derived from the public land trust” as its pro rata share to expend for the betterment of the conditions of native Hawaiians and Hawaiians (hereinafter Native Hawaiians); and

WHEREAS, the Hawai‘i State Legislature derived the twenty per cent pro rata share for OHA from the Admissions Act’s narrow trust purpose of “the betterment of the conditions of native Hawaiians, as defined in the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920”; and

WHEREAS, the 1978 Hawai‘i Constitutional Convention expanded OHA’s mandate to serve not only “native Hawaiians” but all Hawaiians of aboriginal descent, greatly enlarging OHA’s beneficiary base without increasing its share of trust revenues, thereby making twenty

per cent the constitutional minimum and underscoring that true equity requires a greater share to fulfill OHA's obligations; and

WHEREAS, the genesis and source of the State's public land trust responsibility to Native Hawaiians is the illegal overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, the transfer of approximately 1,800,000 acres of crown, government, and public lands to the United States without the consent of and without compensation to the native Hawaiian people or their sovereign government, and the eventual transfer of the lands to the State under the Admissions Act; and

WHEREAS, OHA has never received the twenty percent of public land trust revenue allocated to it under the Hawai'i State Constitution and Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 10, impairing its ability to meet its mandates; and

WHEREAS, Act 15, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2012, was enacted to address past-due amounts, which accumulated during the period between November 7, 1978, up to and including June 30, 2012, of income and proceeds from the public land trust owed to OHA by implementing an agreement between the State of Hawai'i and OHA for the state to convey certain lands in Kakaako valued at approximately \$200,000,000 to OHA; and

WHEREAS, Act 15, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2012 did not address the State's constitutional obligations relating to OHA's twenty per cent pro rata share of the income and proceeds from the public land trust generated after June 30, 2012; and

WHEREAS, a 2015-2016 financial review initiated by OHA found that the minimum amount of total gross receipts from sources that OHA has historically claimed due as part of its pro rata share of public land trust revenue was approximately \$394,322,163 in the fiscal year 2015-2016; and

WHEREAS, twenty percent of \$394,322,163 is approximately \$78,900,000; and

WHEREAS, despite the 2015-2016 audit and subsequent public land trust legislation passed in 2021, OHA continue to receive only \$21.5 million annually, a small portion of the \$78.9 million estimated due in 2016; and

WHEREAS, in Act 226, Session Laws Hawaii 2022, the Hawai'i State Legislature created the public lands trust working group (PLTWG) to:

- (1) Account for all ceded lands in the public lands trust inventory;
- (2) Account for all income and proceeds derived from the public land trust; and
- (3) Subsequently determine the twenty per cent pro rata share of income and proceeds from the public land trust annually to the office of Hawaiian affairs [(OHA)] for the betterment of the conditions of native Hawaiians.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Keauhou, Hawai‘i, in the malama of Welehu and the rising of Mōhala, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of November 2025, requesting the State of Hawai‘i to fulfill its constitutional promise and obligation to Native Hawaiians to fund the Office of Hawaiian Affairs with twenty percent of public land trust income and proceeds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs acknowledges and affirms that to ensure that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs receives its pro rata twenty percent share of public land trust income and proceeds an inventory and audit of public land trust lands and income is necessary as set forth in Act 226, Session Laws Hawaii 2022, creating the PLTWG; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs supports the request made by the PLTWG, comprised of representatives from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the Department of Land and Natural Resources, for a fiscal appropriation of state general funds to complete the necessary inventory and audit using independent third-party professionals qualified in land inventory and public income audit best practices and procedures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Chairs of the Senate Committees on Ways and Means, Chairs of the House Committees on Finance, as well as the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, President of the State Senate, Speaker of the State House of Representatives, Chair of the State Senate subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the State House subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and all County Mayors.

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted in the malama of Welehu and the rising of Mōhala, on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of November 2025, at the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Keauhou, Hawai‘i.

*DreanaLee Kalili*

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DreanaLee Kalili, President



**HB-2582-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 4:53:55 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mike Nakachi	Testifying for Moana Ohana	Support	In Person

Comments:

Strong support for HB2582 HD2, long overdue, Beneficiaries of Hawaii need this to move forward for the needs of the Kanaka Maoli. Mahalo, Mike Nakachi. Moana Ohana



# ACTS OF REPENTANCE TASK FORCE

## HAWAI'I DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Mailing Address: 1350 Hunakai Street, Honolulu, HI 96816

March 23, 2026

Chair Richards, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,  
Mahalo for setting this important measure for hearing.

My name is Rev. Amy C. Wake, and I am writing to express my strong support for HB2584, to ensure that Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) receive their fair share of state revenues from the public land trust.

The United Methodist Church has recognized its participation in the overthrow of the nation of Hawaii with great remorse. We stand with Native Hawaiians who are asking for the restoration of lands to the indigenous people of Hawai'i and an end to historic colonial attitudes towards its land and people. Crown and government land governance, resources and income is a major issue not just for Native Hawaiians but for all who seek justice.

The Hawai'i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a fair, pro-rata portion of income derived from the public land trust and established the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to administer those funds on their behalf. The public land trust is comprised primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow, ceded to the United States by the Republic of Hawai'i without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians, and transferred to the State of Hawai'i through the Admissions Act.

Despite moral and legal claims, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that falls painfully short of the 20% of public land trust revenues owed under the Hawai'i Constitution and state law. Specifically, a 2016 financial analysis found revenue sources that support OHA receiving between \$35 and \$80 million, depending on the revenue streams included. This shortfall directly limits OHA's ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana – and even more so during a time of critical cuts to federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This bill would help advance justice for OHA's Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by authorizing OHA to hire third party professionals on behalf of the PLTWG. While the legislature has the authority and duty to immediately raise the amount transferred to OHA annually based on publicly available data, directing the PLTWG to hire third party professionals is a critical pathway to resolve disputes around revenues and lands that may discourage the legislature from immediately taking this step. Guaranteeing involvement by legislative representatives and a community member with relevant background and

expertise will also help advance the PLTWG's important work and ensure legislative confidence in the final report.

I respectfully urge the Committee to **pass HB2582 HD2** and ensure the PLTWG has the resources and authority necessary to fulfill its mandate.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Rev. Amy C. Wake, Chair

Hawai'i Acts of Repentance Task Force, The United Methodist Church

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



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

TESTIMONY OF THE MOANALUA GARDENS FOUNDATION  
To the House Committee on Education  
March 24, 2026  
**In Support of**

**HB2582 HD 2 – RELATING TO HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Aloha Chair Richards, Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the committee:

The Moanalua Gardens Foundation (MGF) **supports HB2852 HD2** Relating to Hawaiian Affairs which seeks to amend the membership of the public land trust working group and to require four reports from the working group with an accounting of lands and proceeds from those lands to establish the annual pro rata amount due to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. To date, a full accounting of PLT proceeds has not been produced.

MGF Hawai'i supports OHA's right to receive its constitutionally required twenty percent pro rata share of public land trust (PLT) proceeds to serve Native Hawaiian beneficiaries. The public land trust working group was created by Act 226, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022 with the purpose of accounting for all ceded lands in the PLT, accounting for the proceeds generated from the PLT, and establishing the twenty percent pro rata share due to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. The working group has struggled to accomplish this mission without necessary fiscal support and dedicated staff and consultants to help effectuate its work.

HB2582 provides the support necessary for the PLT working group to fulfill its mission by expanding its membership and providing an allocation of funds for staff and consultants to gather information and prepare reports with and for the working group. The inclusion of deliverable deadlines incentivizes accuracy and expediency not only the working group but all state and county ceded landowners and users.

The Moanalua Gardens Foundation (MGF) was Founded in 1970 to preserve and perpetuate the history, native culture, and environment of Hawai'i through education, stewardship and our kuleana in Kamananui and Kamaniki valleys, known more broadly as Moanalua Valley. As part of the original Damon estate, sold in 2008, we maintain our kuleana in Moanalua Valley through an MOA relationship with The Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The Moanalua Gardens Foundation urges the committee **to pass HB2582 HD 2**. Mahalo for your attention and consideration.

*Me ke aloha,*  
  
Ian Keani Custino  
Executive Director  
Moanalua Gardens Foundation  
ian@mgfhawaii.org



Aloha e Chair Richards, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

On behalf of Purple Mai'a Foundation and the communities we serve across Hawai'i, I am writing in strong support of HB2582 HD2. Our work is rooted in uplifting Native Hawaiian communities through education, technology, and pathways to economic self-determination. Central to that vision is ensuring that Native Hawaiians receive what is rightfully owed through the Public Land Trust.

The State carries a clear constitutional obligation to ensure that Native Hawaiians receive a fair, pro-rata share of the revenues generated from these lands, administered through the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Yet today, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, far below what is owed. Multiple analyses have shown that the actual share due is significantly higher, with estimates ranging from \$35 to \$80 million depending on the revenue streams considered. This gap represents lost opportunities for housing, education, 'āina restoration, and economic development in our communities, especially at a time when federal resources are becoming increasingly uncertain.

At Purple Mai'a, we see firsthand the need for sustained investment in Native Hawaiian communities. The need is great as we have crossed the threshold of more than 50% of Native Hawaiians now living outside of Hawai'i due to unaffordability. Whether through workforce development, 'āina-based programs, or building pathways into technology and cooperative ownership, the ability to scale and sustain this work is directly tied to whether Native Hawaiian-serving institutions are properly resourced.

HB2582 HD2 is a meaningful step forward. By strengthening the Public Land Trust Working Group and allowing for the engagement of third-party professionals, this bill helps move us closer to clarity, accountability, and ultimately, justice. It creates a pathway to resolve longstanding disputes around revenue streams and land classifications that have delayed action for far too long. Ensuring the inclusion of legislative representatives and community expertise is also critical to maintaining trust and transparency in this process.

While we believe the Legislature has both the authority and responsibility to act now based on existing data, this measure is an important mechanism to advance the conversation and remove barriers to doing what is pono.

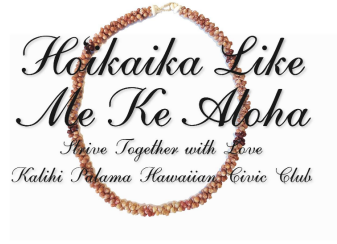
We respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB2582 HD2 and to continue taking bold steps toward fulfilling the State's constitutional and moral obligations to Native Hawaiian beneficiaries.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Keoni DeFranco

Managing Director, Purple Mai'a Foundation

*Keoni DeFranco*



[www.kalihipalama.org](http://www.kalihipalama.org)

March 19, 2026

Testimony in Support of HB2582 HD2 – Relating to the Public Land Trust

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

On behalf of the Kalihi Pālama Hawaiian Civic Club, I submit testimony in strong support of HB2582 HD2.

Our mission is to advocate for the welfare of Native Hawaiians and to perpetuate our cultural traditions. A key part of this mission is ensuring the State fulfills its constitutional trust obligations for the public land trust.

This measure addresses longstanding gaps in the inventory and financial reporting of Public Land Trust lands.

Current systems rely on incomplete, self-reported data, making it difficult to ensure Native Hawaiians receive their rightful pro rata share of trust revenues.

HB2582 HD2 strengthens the Public Land Trust Working Group and requires clear reporting, evaluation, and recommendations to improve transparency and accountability.

For our community in Kalihi Pālama, where many Native Hawaiian families face challenges in housing, health, and economic stability, proper stewardship of the Public Land Trust is essential.

We respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB2582 HD2.

Respectfully submitted,

Cedric Duarte, President  
Kalihi-Palama Hawaiian Civic Club



## SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

March 24, 2026

1:00 PM

Conference Room 224

### In **SUPPORT** of **HB2582 HD2**: RELATING TO THE PUBLIC LAND TRUST

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

On behalf of our more than 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **strongly SUPPORTS** HB2582 HD2. This measure will help to build the foundation for a fairer, more accurate understanding of the State's financial obligations to the native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Public Land Trust, and boost our overall ability to build a sustainable and truly hopeful future for all of Hawai'i nei.

As our islands reckon with the ever-growing impacts of climate destabilization, from extreme weather events and disasters, to supply chain disruptions and increasing instabilities in global food and energy production, to the national and global economic impacts associated with these phenomena, it is clear that we must prioritize self-sufficiency, sustainable water and land use practices, and community connections and cohesion, as paramount to the survival and well-being of our children, grandchildren, and future generations.

Fortunately, climate scientists and cultural experts agree that the key to building such future resilience can be found in the island-scale science, knowledge, practices, and perspectives ingrained in Native Hawaiian culture and worldview. This cultural foundation, while impaired by generations of injustice and living historical traumas, continues to be kept alive by institutions such as the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), which has significantly invested and continues to invest in a wide range of critical programs, as well as policy advocacy, that seek to represent and uplift the interests of Native Hawaiians.

By setting a stronger foundation for a fair assessment of what Public Land Trust revenues should be transferred to OHA as native Hawaiians' pro rata share, this measure will take the first steps towards helping OHA significantly expand its vital work. OHA's increased capacity to provide highly leveraged grants, community education and awareness raising, and mission-driven advocacy would in turn help to promote and advance the much-needed, widespread pivots in our collective relationships to 'āina, wai, and each other – consistent with Native Hawaiian science and worldview – that may be our best, last chance at creating a livable, hopeful future here in our islands.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club respectfully but strongly urges the Committee to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-2582-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 11:19:51 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I respectfully submit testimony in **strong support of HB2582 HD2.**

This measure is both timely and necessary to uphold the State of Hawai‘i’s constitutional trust obligations to Native Hawaiians.

The history outlined in this bill clearly demonstrates a longstanding challenge: the State has never maintained a complete and accurate inventory of public land trust lands, nor a fully reliable accounting of revenues derived from those lands. As noted in the measure, even early inventories fell “woefully short” of identifying all public trust lands, and current systems continue to rely heavily on incomplete, self-reported data .

This lack of clarity has had real consequences. The Hawai‘i State Constitution guarantees that Native Hawaiians are entitled to a pro rata share of revenues from the public land trust, codified as twenty percent under HRS §10-13.5. Yet, without a complete inventory and accurate accounting, it is impossible to ensure that this constitutional obligation is being fully met.

HB2582 HD2 takes an important step forward by strengthening the work of the Public Land Trust Working Group. Specifically, the bill:

- Expands responsibilities to address both **financial reporting and accounting** and the **public land trust inventory**,
- Requires a series of **structured interim and final reports**, culminating in recommendations and proposed legislation, and
- Allows for **independent third-party evaluation and support**, including coordination with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs .

These provisions are critical. The bill acknowledges that current systems contain gaps, including missing parcels, inconsistent classification of ceded lands, and incomplete reporting of encumbrances such as leases and easements . Without resolving these issues, the State cannot fulfill its responsibility as contained in the Hawai‘i State Constitution.

From a Native Hawaiian perspective, this measure is about more than data systems—it is about **justice, transparency, trust, and enabling programs to uplift the conditions of Native Hawaiians.** The public land trust was established for the benefit of Native Hawaiians, and ensuring its proper management is essential to addressing longstanding inequities.

HB2582 HD2 provides a thoughtful and structured pathway toward:

- **A complete and accurate inventory of trust lands,**
- **Reliable financial reporting,** and
- **Informed policy decisions** grounded in verified data.

I respectfully urge this Committee to pass HB2582 HD2. Doing so affirms the State's commitment to its constitutional responsibilities and to the wellbeing of the Native Hawaiian people.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and mahalo Senator Richards for hearing this bill.

**HB-2582-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 10:33:46 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Maile H. Requilman-Ka`opua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Richards,

I kindly urge you to schedule both HB2582 HD2 and HB2584 HD1 for a hearing. These measures go to the heart of the state’s obligations under the public land trust—an obligation owed to the hundreds of thousands of Native Hawaiian beneficiaries served by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA). For decades, those beneficiaries have been deprived of the full measure of services, funding, and programming that would have been possible had the spirit and letter of public land trust laws been honored.

The Hawai‘i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro-rata share of the public land trust revenue, and HRS section 10-13.5 recognizes that share as 20%. Yet OHA, the constitutionally identified body to administer these funds for the betterment of Native Hawaiians, only receives \$21.5 million annually, far below the \$80 million estimated in 2016. The result is not abstract; it is borne daily by beneficiaries in the form of under-resourced programs, deferred opportunities, and unmet community needs.

HB2582 HD2 and HB2584 HD1 advances justice for OHA’s Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by strengthening the Public Land Trust Working Group and increasing OHA’s annual PLT revenue closer to the 20% it is owed. The bills reflect meaningful concessions by OHA and the Native Hawaiian community. Rather than insisting on the full 20% immediately owed, they are willing to accept a reduced amount for a limited two-year period to begin addressing years of severely underfunded revenue payments.

To deny a hearing on this proposal would not simply maintain the status quo—it would compound a longstanding injustice. I call on the Senate Hawaiian Affairs Committee, a body entrusted with advancing the wellbeing of Native Hawaiians, to at minimum set these bills for a full public hearing. Beneficiaries should have the opportunity to share directly how these funding

gaps have affected their lives, their families, and their communities—and why this course correction matters now.

I urge you to do what is right: schedule for HB2582 HD2 and HB2584 HD1 for a hearing on March 24, listen to the voices of those impacted, and support a path forward that honors the state's commitments.

Mahalo nui,

Maile H. Requilman-Kaopua

Waimanalo, Oahu

**HB-2582-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 7:18:00 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**\*\*Testimony in Strong Support of HB2582 HD2\*\* \*\*Relating to Hawaiian Affairs\*\***

Aloha Chair Senator Tim Richards, Vice Chair, and esteemed members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

E komo mai, aloha nui. My name is Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM, Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I., Chairman of the Ohana Unity Party ([www.Ohanaunityparty.com](http://www.Ohanaunityparty.com)). As the number one testifier and supporter on the record for justice in our public land trust kuleana—having advocated relentlessly before committees to uplift our lāhui—I stand firmly in support of HB2582 HD2 and urge this Committee to pass it forward with unwavering commitment.

Aloha especially to you, Chair Richards—mahalo piha for your leadership last year in championing and passing SB1249, Duke Pia's Law, which created the Agricultural Enforcement Pilot Program to shield our kama'āina farmers and take a real bite out of rural crime, just like McGruff the Crime Dog warned: "Take a bite out of crime!" We can—and must—do the same this year for our sacred 'āina: take a firm, decisive bite out of decades of incomplete inventories, unaudited self-reported revenues, and the massive shortfalls that have deprived Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of their rightful share.

This bill confronts hard facts in black and white, straight from the historical and legislative record: - Public Law 103-150 acknowledges that approximately **\*\*1,800,000 acres\*\*** of crown, government, and public lands of the Kingdom of Hawaii were ceded without consent or compensation to the Native Hawaiian people or their sovereign government.

- The initial 1981 land inventory by the Department of Land and Natural Resources listed only **\*\*1,271,652 acres\*\***—woefully short of a complete accounting.

- A 2015-2016 independent financial review identified minimum gross receipts from historically claimed public land trust sources at **\*\*\$394,322,163\*\*** in FY 2015-2016; twenty percent of that gross amount is approximately **\*\*\$78,900,000\*\***

—yet interim annual payments to fulfill the constitutional 20% pro rata share (mandated under Article XII, Section 6 of the Hawaii State Constitution and HRS §10-13.5) were fixed at

**\*\*\$15,100,000\*\*** under Act 178 (2006), later increased modestly to **\*\*\$21,500,000\*\*** under Act 226 (2022).

- No new independent financial review has occurred since 2015-2016 (which cost **\*\*\$145,404\*\***), and self-reported data for annual Act 178 accounting remains unaudited.

- The public land trust information system (developed under Act 54, 2011, at a final cost of **\*\*\$340,382\*\***) relies on self-reporting, with gaps including many parcels lacking tax map key numbers (especially submerged lands), federal-jurisdiction lands excluded, counties not reporting revenues, and "rule of thumb" methods (e.g., >50% ceded categorizing a parcel as ceded) unverified for impact on the 20% calculation.

These numbers reveal a profound breach: our ‘āina, the sustaining mother who nourishes all, has been inventoried incompletely, revenues tracked unreliably, and the mandated 20% share chronically under-delivered—leaving Native Hawaiian beneficiaries without the full resources for health, education, housing, cultural perpetuation, and self-sufficiency. HB2582 HD2 mends this frayed lei by:

- Expanding working group membership with balanced expertise (financial/accounting, Native Hawaiian history/governance/legal entitlements, community commitment) and adding legislative/community voices.

- Mandating independent third-party professionals to rigorously assess inventory accuracy, revenue reporting completeness, gaps across agencies (federal/state/county), parcel trust status, encumbrance reporting, and submerged lands inclusion—then recommend concrete improvements.

- Requiring four detailed reports to the Legislature: first interim on financial reporting by August 1, 2027; second on inventory by December 1, 2027; third with preliminary findings/recommendations by June 1, 2028; final with proposed legislation by October 1, 2028. - Authorizing administrative support coordinated with a third-party consultant to ensure the working group fulfills its kuleana: complete ceded lands accounting, full income/proceeds tracking, and precise determination of the annual 20% share for the betterment of Native Hawaiians. This is ponokea—righteous restoration—like returning wai to a parched stream so our lāhui can thrive.

The Ohana Unity Party stands united. I urge you, Chair Richards and Committee members, to honor your trust obligations by passing HB2582 HD2 out with a strong recommendation. Let us take that bite out of injustice together—protect our ‘āina, deliver transparency, and secure justice long overdue.

Mahalo nui loa for your aloha for Hawaiian affairs and for hearing this testimony from your top supporter. I am available for questions or oral testimony.

A hui hou, me ke aloha,

Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I. Chairman,  
Ohana Unity Party

**HB-2582-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 12:24:21 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Richards, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

Mahalo nui for setting this important measure for hearing.

I am submitting this testimony to express my strong support for HB2582 HD2 to ensure that Native Hawaiian beneficiaries receive their rightful share of revenues generated from the public land trust through full support of the Public Land Trust Working Group (PLTWG).

The Hawai'i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a fair, pro-rata portion of income derived from the public land trust and established the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to administer those funds on their behalf. The public land trust is comprised primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow, ceded to the United States by the Republic of Hawai'i without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians, and transferred to the State of Hawai'i through the Admissions Act.

Despite moral and legal claims, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that falls painfully short of the 20% of public land trust revenues owed under the Hawai'i Constitution and state law. Specifically, a 2016 financial analysis found revenue sources that support OHA receiving between \$35 and \$80 million, depending on the revenue streams included. This shortfall directly limits OHA's ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana – and even more so during a time of critical cuts to federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This bill would help advance justice for OHA's Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by authorizing OHA to hire third party professionals on behalf of the PLTWG. While the legislature has the

authority and duty to immediately raise the amount transferred to OHA annually based on publicly available data, directing the PLTWG to hire third party professionals is a critical pathway to resolve disputes around revenues and lands that may discourage the legislature from immediately taking this step. Guaranteeing involvement by legislative representatives and a community member with relevant background and expertise will also help advance the PLTWG's important work and ensure legislative confidence in the final report.

As an OHA beneficiary and voter, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB2582 HD2 and ensure the PLTWG has the resources and authority necessary to fulfill its mandate.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Aric Alike Kimo Andrade

702-449-9939

**HB-2582-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 12:37:34 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lu Ann Mahiki Lankford-Faborito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

suupport

## **Testimony in Support of HB2582 HD2 and HB2584 HD1**

**To:** Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

**Chair:** Senator Tim Richards

**Vice Chair:** Senator Rachele Lamosao

**Members:** Senator Les Ihara Jr., Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Senator Samantha DeCorte

**From:** R. Kana'iaupuni Gomes

**Date:** March 20, 2026

**Re: Strong Support for HB2582 HD2 and HB2584 HD1**

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

My name is R. Kana'iaupuni Gomes, and I am a Native Hawaiian and a Kumu Hula, submitting this testimony in strong support of HB2582 HD2 and HB2584 HD1.

These measures are critical to advancing long-delayed justice for Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the public land trust by strengthening the Public Land Trust Working Group (HB2582) and increasing the public land trust revenues transferred to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (HB2584), while reaffirming the State's obligation to provide a full twenty per cent pro rata share as recognized in our Constitution and in prior legislation.

As a Native Hawaiian, I understand that these lands and revenues are not abstract figures but are tied to the well-being of our lāhui – our health, housing, education, language, and cultural survival.

As a Kumu Hula, I know firsthand how under-resourced many Hawaiian programs, cultural practitioners, and community organizations remain, despite their central role in preserving 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, traditional practices, and our collective identity.

HB2584 HD1 moves us closer to the true 20% that is owed to Native Hawaiian beneficiaries from the public land trust, and explicitly reaffirms that full twenty per cent share as the State's obligation, not a ceiling or a temporary gesture.

HB2582 HD2 helps ensure more accurate accounting, more accountable decision-making, and a stronger framework for determining and delivering that 20% share going forward, so that our people and future generations are not forced to relitigate the same basic question of equity year after year.

For generations, Native Hawaiians have borne the impacts of the loss and use of our 'āina, while only receiving a fraction of the benefits derived from those lands.

Ensuring that Hawaiians receive the full 20% share from the public land trust is not a special favor; it is a fulfillment of a legal and moral kuleana that has been acknowledged repeatedly in law and policy but not yet fully realized in practice.

## **Respectfully, I Urge You To:**

- Pass HB2582 HD2 and HB2584 HD1 as strong, meaningful measures that move us decisively toward the full 20% share for Hawaiians.
- Reject any amendments that would weaken the commitment to the twenty per cent pro rata share owed to Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the public land trust.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify, and for honoring the State's commitment to ensure Hawaiians truly receive the 20%.

Me ke aloha,

**R. Kana'iaupuni Gomes**

Native Hawaiian

Kumu Hula

**HB-2582-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 1:08:07 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support to INCLUDE OHA TESTIMONY DATED 2/26/26.

2582 HB RELATING TO HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS.

**HB-2582-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 2:33:47 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rae Leong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Richards, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

Mahalo nui for setting this important measure for hearing.

I am submitting this testimony to express my strong support for HB2582 HD2 to ensure that Native Hawaiian beneficiaries receive their rightful share of revenues generated from the public land trust through full support of the Public Land Trust Working Group (PLTWG).

The Hawai'i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a fair, pro-rata portion of income derived from the public land trust and established the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to administer those funds on their behalf. The public land trust is comprised primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow, ceded to the United States by the Republic of Hawai'i without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians, and transferred to the State of Hawai'i through the Admissions Act.

Despite moral and legal claims, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that falls painfully short of the 20% of public land trust revenues owed under the Hawai'i Constitution and state law. Specifically, a 2016 financial analysis found revenue sources that support OHA receiving between \$35 and \$80 million, depending on the revenue streams included. This shortfall directly limits OHA's ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana – and even more so during a time of critical cuts to federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This bill would help advance justice for OHA's Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by authorizing OHA to hire third party professionals on behalf of the PLTWG. While the legislature has the

authority and duty to immediately raise the amount transferred to OHA annually based on publicly available data, directing the PLTWG to hire third party professionals is a critical pathway to resolve disputes around revenues and lands that may discourage the legislature from immediately taking this step. Guaranteeing involvement by legislative representatives and a community member with relevant background and expertise will also help advance the PLTWG's important work and ensure legislative confidence in the final report.

As an OHA beneficiary and voter, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB2582 HD2 and ensure the PLTWG has the resources and authority necessary to fulfill its mandate.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Rae Leong

808-284-2211

Aloha e Chair Richards, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

Mahalo nui for setting this important measure for hearing.

I am submitting this testimony to express my strong support for HB2582 HD2 to ensure that Native Hawaiian beneficiaries receive their rightful share of revenues generated from the public land trust through full support of the Public Land Trust Working Group (PLTWG).

The Hawai'i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a fair, pro-rata portion of income derived from the public land trust and established the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to administer those funds on their behalf. The public land trust is comprised primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow, ceded to the United States by the Republic of Hawai'i without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians, and transferred to the State of Hawai'i through the Admissions Act.

Despite moral and legal claims, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that falls painfully short of the 20% of public land trust revenues owed under the Hawai'i Constitution and state law. Specifically, a 2016 financial analysis found revenue sources that support OHA receiving between \$35 and \$80 million, depending on the revenue streams included. This shortfall directly limits OHA's ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana- and even more so during a time of critical cuts to federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This bill would help advance justice for OHA's Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by authorizing OHA to hire third party professionals on behalf of the PLTWG. While the legislature has the authority and duty to immediately raise the amount transferred to OHA annually based on publicly available data, directing the PLTWG to hire third party professionals is a critical pathway to resolve disputes around revenues and lands that may discourage the legislature from immediately taking this step. Guaranteeing involvement by legislative representatives and a community member with relevant background and expertise will also help advance the PLTWG's important work and ensure legislative confidence in the final report.

As an OHA beneficiary and ensure the PLTWG has the resources and authority necessary to fulfill its mandate.

Mahalo for the opportunity testify,

Sharon Ako  
PO Box 10221  
Lahaina, HI 96761-0221  
808-281-6453  
sspjako@gmail.com

**HB-2582-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 3:17:13 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lisette Akamine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Richards, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

Mahalo nui for setting this important measure for hearing.

I am submitting this testimony to express my strong support for HB2582 HD2 to ensure that Native Hawaiian beneficiaries receive their rightful share of revenues generated from the public land trust through full support of the Public Land Trust Working Group (PLTWG).

The Hawai‘i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a fair, pro-rata portion of income derived from the public land trust and established the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to administer those funds on their behalf.

The public land trust is comprised primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow (1893), ceded to the United States by the Republic of Hawai‘i without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians (1898), and transferred to the State of Hawai‘i through the Admissions Act (1959).

Despite significant and substantial moral and legal claims, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that falls egregiously short of the 20% of public land trust revenues owed under the Hawai‘i Constitution and state law.

Specifically, a 2016 financial analysis suggests that OHA should be receiving between \$35 and \$80 million annually. This shortfall directly limits OHA’s ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana – and even more so during a time of critical cuts to federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This bill would help advance overdue justice for OHA’s Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by authorizing OHA to hire third party professionals on behalf of the PLTWG. While the legislature has the authority and duty to immediately raise the amount transferred to OHA annually based on publicly available data, directing the PLTWG to hire third party professionals is a critical pathway to resolve disputes around revenues and lands that may discourage the legislature from immediately taking this step.

Guaranteeing involvement by legislative representatives and a community member with relevant background and expertise will also help advance the PLTWG's important work and help to ensure legislative confidence in the final report.

As an OHA beneficiary and voter, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB2582 HD2 and ensure the PLTWG has the resources and authority necessary to fulfill its mandate.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Lisette Akamine

Kahalu'u, O'ahu

**HB-2582-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 3:19:02 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
PAUL THOME	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha e Chair Richards, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,**

Mahalo nui for hearing this important measure.

I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of **HB2584 HD1**, which takes a necessary and pragmatic step toward fulfilling the State of Hawai‘i’s constitutional and statutory obligations to Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA).

For decades, OHA’s public land trust (PLT) revenues have been constrained by an artificial **\$21.5 million cap**—a figure that bears little relationship to the **20% pro rata share guaranteed under the Hawai‘i Constitution and affirmed by HRS §10-13.5**. While temporary, the adjustment proposed in HB2584 HD1 is a rational interim remedy that moves OHA closer to compliance with settled law while broader accounting and reconciliation efforts continue. Setting the annual payment at **\$50 million** more accurately reflects OHA’s lawful entitlement and is fully supported by existing funds in the State’s carry-forward trust account.

This measure is not speculative. A 2016 OHA-funded financial review—based on agency-reported revenues—determined that OHA was owed between **\$35 million and \$80 million annually**, depending on which revenue streams are included. Even under the most conservative interpretation, the current payment falls well short of what the State has already acknowledged is due. HB2584 HD1 simply narrows that gap while the Public Land Trust Working Group completes its mandate.

Adequate funding is essential to OHA’s ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana. OHA has consistently demonstrated disciplined stewardship and measurable outcomes—supporting housing stability, small business development, higher education access, natural resource management, and Hawaiian language-based education. Chronic underpayment does not merely delay these benefits; it compounds inequity and undermines the trust responsibility the State owes to Native Hawaiians.

At its core, this bill is about **legal compliance, fiscal integrity, and justice**. The public land trust is comprised largely of crown and government lands unlawfully taken following the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom and transferred without the consent or compensation of Native

Hawaiians. The obligation to share revenues derived from these lands is not discretionary. It is a constitutional mandate.

As a beneficiary and a voter, I urge this Committee to pass **HB2584 HD1** and to support an annual PLT payment of **at least \$50 million**—a modest, achievable, and legally sound step toward honoring the State’s trust obligations while longer-term solutions are finalized.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Paul Thome

tkahekili@gmail.com

**HB-2582-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 3:53:51 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelli Soileau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Richards, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

Mahalo nui for setting this important measure for hearing.

I am submitting this testimony to express my strong support for HB2582 HD2 to ensure that Native Hawaiian beneficiaries receive their rightful share of revenues generated from the public land trust through full support of the Public Land Trust Working Group (PLTWG).

The Hawai‘i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a fair, pro-rata portion of income derived from the public land trust and established the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to administer those funds on their behalf. The public land trust is comprised primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow, ceded to the United States by the Republic of Hawai‘i **without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians**, and transferred to the State of Hawai‘i through the Admissions Act.

Despite moral and legal claims, OHA continues to receive **only \$21.5 million annually**, an amount that falls painfully **short of the 20% of public land trust revenues owed under the Hawai‘i Constitution and state law**. Specifically, a 2016 financial analysis found revenue sources that support OHA receiving between \$35 and \$80 million, depending on the revenue streams included. **This shortfall directly limits OHA’s ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana** – and even more so during a time of critical cuts to federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This bill would help advance justice for OHA’s Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by authorizing OHA to hire third party professionals on behalf of the PLTWG. While the legislature has the authority and duty to immediately raise the amount transferred to OHA annually based on publicly available data, directing the PLTWG to hire third party professionals is a critical pathway to resolve disputes around revenues and lands that may discourage the legislature from immediately taking this step. Guaranteeing involvement by legislative representatives and a community member with relevant background and expertise will also help advance the PLTWG’s important work and ensure legislative confidence in the final report.

As a kama‘āina and voter, I respectfully urge the Committee to **pass HB2582 HD2 and ensure the PLTWG has the resources and authority necessary to fulfill its mandate**.

The allocation of funds to OHA has been a point of contention since its inception. Multiple lawsuits and settlements have given many an impression that the state doesn't take the needs of Native Hawaiians seriously or the office that is designated to advocate on their behalf.

I hope the working group can establish move us in a direction that is beneficial for everyone regarding our public lands and their revenues.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Kelli Soileau

Kāneʻohe, Oʻahu

**HB-2582-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 6:24:17 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Julia Estigoy-Kahoonei	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Richards, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

Mahalo nui for setting this important measure for hearing.

I am submitting this testimony to express my strong support for HB2582 HD2 to ensure that Native Hawaiian beneficiaries receive their rightful share of revenues generated from the public land trust through full support of the Public Land Trust Working Group (PLTWG).

The Hawai'i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a fair, pro-rata portion of income derived from the public land trust and established the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to administer those funds on their behalf. The public land trust is comprised primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow, ceded to the United States by the Republic of Hawai'i without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians, and transferred to the State of Hawai'i through the Admissions Act.

Despite moral and legal claims, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that falls painfully short of the 20% of public land trust revenues owed under the Hawai'i Constitution and state law. Specifically, a 2016 financial analysis found revenue sources that support OHA receiving between \$35 and \$80 million, depending on the revenue streams included. This shortfall directly limits OHA's ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana – and even more so during a time of critical cuts to federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This bill would help advance justice for OHA's Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by authorizing OHA to hire third party professionals on behalf of the PLTWG. While the legislature has the

authority and duty to immediately raise the amount transferred to OHA annually based on publicly available data, directing the PLTWG to hire third party professionals is a critical pathway to resolve disputes around revenues and lands that may discourage the legislature from immediately taking this step. Guaranteeing involvement by legislative representatives and a community member with relevant background and expertise will also help advance the PLTWG's important work and ensure legislative confidence in the final report.

As an OHA beneficiary and voter, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB2582 HD2 and ensure the PLTWG has the resources and authority necessary to fulfill its mandate.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Julia Estigoy-Kaho'onei

Moku o Keawe

**HB-2582-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 8:35:45 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kealii Makekau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Pass this bill

**HB-2582-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 9:21:41 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary Moriarty	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Richards, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB2582 HD2.

Native Hawaiian beneficiaries are entitled to a fair share of public land trust revenues, yet OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, far below what is owed. This ongoing shortfall limits OHA’s ability to meet its constitutional responsibility, especially as other Native Hawaiian programs face major funding cuts.

HB2582 HD2 is a practical step forward. It gives the Public Land Trust Working Group the support it needs to bring in outside experts, resolve disputes, and move this long-overdue issue closer to justice.

As an OHA beneficiary and voter, I urge you to pass HB2582 HD2.

Thank you,  
Mary Moriarty

**HB-2582-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 8:48:01 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Von Kaanaana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly urge the committee to support HB2582 HD2 and HB2584 HD1. This is a transfer of state money to state money if we want to get technical. This means Native Hawaiian autonomy as promised by the very premise of 'ceded' crown lands. The state of Hawaii has an outright obligation to fulfill through properly funding OHA as promised as stewards of those lands.

OHA is meant to lead somewhere not maintain a status quo of disenfranchisement. OHA is meant to restore our sovereignty eventually!

**HB-2582-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 10:16:22 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Richards, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

Mahalo nui for setting this important measure for hearing.

I am submitting this testimony to express my strong support for HB2582 HD2 to ensure that Native Hawaiian beneficiaries receive their rightful share of revenues generated from the public land trust through full support of the Public Land Trust Working Group (PLTWG).

The Hawai'i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a fair, pro-rata portion of income derived from the public land trust and established the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to administer those funds on their behalf. The public land trust is comprised primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow, ceded to the United States by the Republic of Hawai'i without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians, and transferred to the State of Hawai'i through the Admissions Act.

Despite moral and legal claims, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that falls painfully short of the 20% of public land trust revenues owed under the Hawai'i Constitution and state law. Specifically, a 2016 financial analysis found revenue sources that support OHA receiving between \$35 and \$80 million, depending on the revenue streams included. This shortfall directly limits OHA's ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana – and even more so during a time of critical cuts to federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This bill would help advance justice for OHA's Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by authorizing OHA to hire third party professionals on behalf of the PLTWG. While the legislature has the

authority and duty to immediately raise the amount transferred to OHA annually based on publicly available data, directing the PLTWG to hire third party professionals is a critical pathway to resolve disputes around revenues and lands that may discourage the legislature from immediately taking this step. Guaranteeing involvement by legislative representatives and a community member with relevant background and expertise will also help advance the PLTWG's important work and ensure legislative confidence in the final report.

As an OHA beneficiary and voter, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB2582 HD2 and ensure the PLTWG has the resources and authority necessary to fulfill its mandate.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros

(808)866-7409

**HB-2582-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 10:17:37 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tiare Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Strong Support of HB2582 HD2

Aloha e Chair Richards, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

Mahalo nui for setting this important measure for hearing.

I am submitting this testimony to express my strong support for HB2582 HD2 to ensure that Native Hawaiian beneficiaries receive their rightful share of revenues generated from the public land trust through full support of the Public Land Trust Working Group (PLTWG).

In 2022, Act 226 created the PLTWG to account for all ceded lands and income in the Public Land Trust (PLT), account for all proceeds, and ensure OHA receives its full 20% share as mandated by law. Decades of disputes have prevented OHA from receiving what is due. HB2582 HD2 would advance this critical work by authorizing OHA to procure third-party financial experts on behalf of the PLTWG, expand membership to include representatives from both the legislature and the community, and mandate that all members have relevant background and expertise.

The Hawai'i State Constitution and HRS § 10-13.5 guarantee Native Hawaiians this 20% pro-rata share. Chronic underfunding violates the state's trust obligations and limits OHA's kuleana to uplift our lāhui. OHA has made a real difference in my 'ohana's life. Through the Mālama Home Improvement Loan, we were able to make critical repairs to keep our home safe for our family. The Mālama Business Loan helped our Native Hawaiian-owned family business grow, and during the government shutdown the OHA food assistance card helped us put food on the table when we needed it most. These programs show why OHA's kuleana is so important to our lāhui.

As an OHA beneficiary and resident of Kaneohe, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB2582 HD2 and give the PLTWG the resources and authority necessary to finally resolve these disputes and deliver justice.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Tiare Smith

Kahalu'u, O'ahu

**HB-2582-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 7:15:04 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Richards, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

Mahalo nui for setting this important measure for hearing.

I am submitting this testimony in support of HB2582 HD2 to ensure that Kānaka Maoli beneficiaries receive their rightful share of revenues generated from the public land trust through full support of the Public Land Trust Working Group (PLTWG).

The Hawai‘i State Constitution guarantees Kānaka Maoli a fair, pro-rata portion of income derived from the public land trust and established the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to administer those funds on their behalf. The public land trust is comprised primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow, ceded to the United States by the Republic of Hawai‘i without the consent of, or compensation to, Kānaka Maoli, and transferred to the State of Hawai‘i through the Admissions Act.

In spite of moral and legal claims, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, this amount falls short of the 20% of public land trust revenues owed under the Hawai‘i Constitution and state law. A 2016 financial analysis found revenue sources that support OHA receiving between \$35 and \$80 million, depending on the revenue streams included. This shortfall directly limits OHA’s ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana – and even more so during a time of critical cuts to federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This bill would help advance justice for OHA’s Kānaka Maoli beneficiaries by authorizing OHA to hire third party professionals on behalf of the PLTWG. While the legislature has the authority and duty to immediately raise the amount transferred to OHA annually based on publicly available data, directing the PLTWG to hire third party professionals is a critical pathway to resolve disputes around revenues and lands that may discourage the legislature from immediately taking this step. Guaranteeing involvement by legislative representatives and a community member with relevant background and expertise will also help advance the PLTWG’s important work and ensure legislative confidence in the final report.

In a nutshell, OHA's mandate is to advance the education, health, housing, and economics of Kānaka Maoli. I am doing my part to help OHA to fulfill this mandate by submitting this testimony and I urge the Committee to do their part by passing HB2582 HD2 and ensuring the PLTWG has the resources and authority necessary to fulfill its responsibility.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Yours truly

Megaan M. Clark

**HB-2582-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 11:32:09 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

support

**HB-2582-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 4:46:30 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyss Tsukayama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Richards, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

Mahalo nui for setting this important measure for hearing.

I am submitting this testimony to express my strong support for HB2584 HD1, to ensure Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) receive their fair share of state revenues from the public land trust. While temporary, raising the current \$21.5 million cap on payments to OHA is an intermediary step towards greater justice for Native Hawaiians. I respectfully ask that the Committee set the annual payment at \$50 million, which more accurately reflects OHA’s 20% share due under state law.

OHA carries a large kuleana to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians. OHA has a proven track record of investing in strategic, innovative, and award-winning programs and services that advance systemic solutions to challenges faced by Hawaiians and other Hawai‘i residents. As a snapshot, OHA-funded programs and services have launched small businesses; moved families off the streets; sent students to college; empowered grassroots groups to steward natural resources; and increased capacity of Hawaiian language charter schools to serve their surrounding communities. Without full funding, OHA’s ability to fill its critical kuleana is compromised.

This bill is not just about funding; it’s also about fairness and justice. The public land trust consists primarily of crown and government lands that were seized during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom, ceded to the United States by the Republic of Hawai‘i without the consent of or compensation to Native Hawaiians, and transferred to the State of Hawai‘i through the Admissions Act. Native Hawaiians have legal as well as moral claims, not only to income, but also to governance over these lands. Despite these claims, OHA receives only \$21.5 million per year compared to an estimated \$80 million that a 2016 OHA financial review showed were due to OHA nearly a decade ago.

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to **pass HB2584 HD1** to help bring annual payments to OHA from the public land trust closer to \$80 million, and at least to \$50 million, as this amount is already available in the state’s carry over trust account to meet the state’s constitutional obligations to Native Hawaiians.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,  
Alyss Napua Tsukayama

**HB-2582-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 10:17:58 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Peters-Nguyen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is critical to advance the work of OHA benefitting Native Hawaiians. It is mandated by law that OHA receive 20% of proceeds and income from ceded lands. Please move forward to make this happen and **right the wrong** -- no withholding further of funds to sustain and promote the welfare of Native Hawaiians. Mahalo a nui loa for your urgent consideration of this request.

**HB-2582-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 6:08:00 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

I am submitting this testimony in support of HB2582 HD2.

HB2582 will allow OHA to hire 3rd party financial experts to support the work of the Public Land Trust Working Group's work to audit and ensure that OHA receives its 20% of Public Land Trust income. This 20% is mandated by law but I believe this law has been violated by the state of Hawai'i for decades. This bill will further expand PLTWG membership and ensure all PLT members meet minimum qualifications.

The expeditious financial work of the PLTWG is critical to ensure the native Hawaiian people get their share that has been promised by law.

Please approve HB2582 HD2.

Mahalo,

Mark Holst

408-334-4874

mmht1962@gmail.com

Kailua Kona

**HB-2582-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 7:02:57 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kelcy Durbin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members:

I strongly support HB 2582 HD2, which improves the Public Land Trust Working Group’s structure and responsibilities. By requiring four detailed reports to the Legislature—on Act 178 financial reporting, the public land trust inventory, and proposed legislation—this bill increases transparency and oversight of our public land trust. Allowing the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to provide administrative support, with help from a third-party consultant, further ensures informed and collaborative work.

Please pass this important bill. Mahalo for your consideration.

Kelcy Durbin

**HB-2582-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 2:44:41 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Richards, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs.

I am submitting this testimony to express my **strong support** for HB2582 HD2 to ensure that Native Hawaiian beneficiaries receive their rightful share of revenues generated from the public land trust through full support of the Public Land Trust Working Group (PLTWG).

HB2582 HD2 represents an important step toward strengthening the State’s commitment to Native Hawaiian well-being and self-determination. The measure reinforces the State’s trust responsibilities and ensures that resources intended to benefit Native Hawaiians are managed, allocated, and safeguarded in a manner consistent with that kuleana.

This bill is significant for several reasons:

First, it advances accountability and transparency in the stewardship of public trust resources dedicated to Native Hawaiians. Clear structures and expectations help ensure that these resources are used effectively and in alignment with their intended purposes.

Second, HB2582 HD2 supports long-term stability in programs and initiatives that directly impact Native Hawaiian communities. By strengthening the framework around Hawaiian affairs, the bill helps promote continuity, strategic planning, and better outcomes in areas such as housing, education, economic development, and cultural preservation.

Third, the measure affirms the State’s ongoing recognition of its unique relationship with the Native Hawaiian people. This acknowledgment is not only historical but also forward-looking—ensuring that policies and systems evolve to meet present and future needs.

Importantly, this bill also contributes to building trust between the State and the Native Hawaiian community. By clarifying roles, responsibilities, and expectations, HB2582 HD2 helps foster greater confidence that commitments will be honored.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB2582 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



Aloha e Chair Richards, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

I support HB2582 and HB2584

Mahalo nui for setting this important measure for hearing.

Native Hawaiian beneficiaries must receive their rightful share of revenues generated from the public land trust through full support of the Public Land Trust Working Group (PLTWG).

Native Hawaiians deserve a fair, pro-rata portion of income derived from the public land trust and established the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to administer those funds on their behalf.

Despite moral and legal claims, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that falls painfully short of the 20% of public land trust revenues owed under the Hawai'i Constitution and state law. This shortfall directly limits OHA's ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana – and even more so during a time of critical cuts to federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This bill would help advance justice for OHA's Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by authorizing OHA to hire third party professionals on behalf of the Public Land Trust Working Group.

Guaranteeing involvement by legislative representatives and a community member with relevant background and expertise will also help advance the PLTWG's important work and ensure legislative confidence in the final report.

I respectfully urge the Committee to **pass HB2582 HD2** and ensure the PLTWG has the resources and authority necessary to fulfill its mandate.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,  
Lynn Ryan  
Kailua Kona, Hawaii

**HB-2582-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 9:29:51 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairman Richards and Committee Members, Mahalo for scheduling this hearing. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 2582, HD 2. I am currently a member of the Public Land Trust Working Group (PLTWG Membership/Third-Party Professional) appointed by OHA. I am an attorney and have worked to protect the claims and rights of Native Hawaiians for more than 50 years. My legal work has included supporting OHA in its efforts to obtain its constitutionally and statutorily mandated 20% pro rata share of the Public Land Trust income and proceeds.

In 1980, Act 273 of the Hawai‘i Revised Statutes established OHA’s pro rata share of Public Land Trust revenues at 20 percent. **§10-13.5 Use of public land trust proceeds.** Twenty per cent of all funds derived from the public land trust, described in section 10-3, shall be expended by the office, as defined in section 10-2, for the purposes of this chapter.

OHA appointed me several years ago to be a member of the Public Land Trust Working Group and the PLTWG has voted several times to support independent third party audits of the DLNR maintained Public Land Trust Information System and DLNR Act 178 Reporting to the Legislature on the PLT Revenues and request sufficient funding. A long PLTWG Interim Report with an OHA Supplement was submitted to the Legislature as one document on Dec. 26, 2024 examining the constitutional and statutory basis for the 20% of OHA's pro rata share of the PLTWG income and proceeds and the issues with the PLTIS and Act 178 Reports.

Most significantly the agencies all self-report to DLNR and DLNR uses their self-reporting. Audits are very important and will serve the interests of not only Native Hawaiians, but also the general public. Audits play a critical role in ensuring transparency, accuracy, and reliability of financial statements and reporting of land inventories. Another crucial objective of an audit is to identify errors, irregularities, or any inconsistencies or discrepancies within an agency's financial statements and land inventories. Compliance with legal, regulatory, and contractual obligations is vital for state agencies. These audits will help assess whether an agency has complied with relevant laws, regulations, and contractual agreements.

Here is the link to the PLTWG report and supplement filed with the Legislature on 12/26/24.

[https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session/measure\\_indiv.aspx?billtype=DC&billnumber=228&year=2025](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=DC&billnumber=228&year=2025)

Mahalo for your attention and consideration of this very important matter.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mel Rapozo, Chair  
KipuKai Kualii, Vice Chair  
Addison Bulosan  
Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.  
Felicia Cowden  
Fern Holland  
Arryl Kaneshiro



**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk  
Lyndon M. Yoshioka, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4188  
Facsimile: (808) 241-6349  
Email: [cokcouncil@kauai.gov](mailto:cokcouncil@kauai.gov)

**Council Services Division**  
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209  
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

March 23, 2026

TESTIMONY OF KIPUKAI KUALII  
COUNCIL VICE CHAIR, KAUA'I COUNTY COUNCIL  
ON  
HB 2582, HD 2, RELATING TO HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Tuesday, March 24, 2026  
1:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 224  
Via Videoconference

*Aloha e* Chair Richards and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 2582, HD 2, Relating to Hawaiian Affairs. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Kaua'i County Council.

HB 2582, HD 2, ensures that Native Hawaiian beneficiaries receive their rightful share of revenues generated from the public land trust through full support of the Public Land Trust Working Group (PLTWG). The Hawai'i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a fair, pro rata portion of income derived from the public land trust and established the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to administer those funds on their behalf. The public land trust is comprised primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the overthrow of the Kingdom, ceded to the United States by the Republic of Hawai'i without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians, and transferred to the State of Hawai'i through the Admissions Act.

Despite moral and legal claims, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that falls painfully short of the twenty percent (20%) of public land trust revenues owed under the Hawai'i Constitution and State law. A 2016 financial analysis found revenue sources that support OHA receiving between \$35 and \$80 million, depending on the revenue streams included. This shortfall directly limits OHA's ability to carry out its constitutional *kuleana*—a shortcoming exacerbated during a time of critical cuts to federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This measure would help advance justice for OHA's Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by authorizing OHA to hire third-party professionals on behalf of the PLTWG. While the legislature has the authority and duty to immediately raise the amount transferred to OHA annually based on publicly available data, directing the PLTWG to hire third-party professionals is a critical pathway to resolve disputes

Chair Richards and Members of the Committee  
Re: Testimony in Strong Support of SB 2582, HD 2  
March 23, 2026  
Page 2

around revenues and lands that may discourage the legislature from immediately taking this step. Guaranteeing involvement by legislative representatives and a community member with relevant background and expertise will also help advance the PLTWG's important work and ensure legislative confidence in the final report.

It is for these important reasons that I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB 2582, HD 2, and ensure the PLTWG has the resources and authority necessary to fulfill its mandate.

*Mahalo* for your commitment and thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB 2582, HD 2. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via email to [cokcouncil@kauai.gov](mailto:cokcouncil@kauai.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kipukai Kualiti".

KIPUKAI KUALITI  
Council Vice Chair, Kaua'i County Council

RM:sf

**HB-2582-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 11:33:00 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ross Isokane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 2582 HD2.

At its core, this measure is about whether the State of Hawai‘i is meeting its fiduciary obligations under the public land trust.

These lands are held in trust for specific purposes, including the betterment of the conditions of Native Hawaiians. That is not symbolic – it is a legal obligation. Yet today, we do not have a complete, independently verified accounting of the lands in the trust or the revenues they generate.

That is a governance failure.

This bill takes a necessary step toward correcting that by requiring independent review and establishing clear reporting. Before we debate outcomes, we should first establish credible facts.

Native Hawaiians remain among those with the least economic and institutional power in our state. If the public land trust is to have meaning, it must function as intended. That begins with transparency and accurate accounting – not estimates or unaudited data.

If we take seriously the idea that public officials are fiduciaries of the people, then we have a duty to know whether we are meeting our obligations. HB2582 HD2 moves us in that direction, and I support it.

Aloha nui kākou e Chair Richards and members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs.

Please accept this written testimony in **strong support of HB 2582 HD2 and HB2584 HD1.**

Since returning to my homeland of Hawai‘i from Kansas in August of 1979, I have devoted my life—first through my chosen profession in education, and since my retirement in 2015 through voluntary service—to advancing the capability and well-being of my kānaka people (referred to by others in English as “Native Hawaiian”). My work in retirement aligns closely with the mission of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and currently includes service as the Kona Moku representative on the O‘ahu Island Burial Council.

More recently, I have been deeply involved in initiatives concerning the area the State refers to as “Kaka‘ako Makai,” including participation in a charrette addressing OHA’s stewardship of ‘āina acquired as part of the \$200 million settlement owed by the State of Hawai‘i in back revenues.

As you might expect, I have for many years taken a keen interest in the State’s obligation to pay OHA its fair and lawful share of revenues from the so-called Public Land Trust (PLT). Year after year, I have watched with continuing dismay as the State appears to engage in a kind of shell game regarding this obligation. Kānaka have yet to receive a clear, transparent, and verifiable accounting of actual annual PLT revenues. Instead, OHA’s 20 percent share is routinely calculated using estimates rather than precise figures. The persistent inability—or unwillingness—to provide accurate accounting creates troubling optics and understandably raises concerns about the underlying intent. The accountants need to be fired if they are unable or unwilling to do their job with competence! As I understand it, **HB2582 HD 2 attempts to address the issues of an incomplete inventory of the ‘āina actually in the PLT and an accurate accounting for their revenues.**

Equally troubling is the practice of offsetting OHA’s PLT share by asserting that agencies such as the University of Hawai‘i system or the Department of Education “serve kānaka,” and so therefore some of their operating costs should be deducted from OHA’s entitlement—despite the fact that kānaka exercise no direct control over those budgets. This practice is indefensible and fundamentally unjust. This is shameful! As I understand it, **HB2584 HD1 attempts to address, on an interim basis, the issue of OHA not having been receiving its fair share of the PLT revenues.**

I am encouraged by the increasing number of non-kānaka allies whose understanding of the historic and ongoing injustices perpetrated against our people continues to deepen. These individuals are not only allies—like us, they are also voters, and they are paying close attention to how the State treats kānaka. We will continue to enlist their support in seeing these issues clearly and fully, helping them to also “remove the cataracts from their eyes.”

**I respectfully urge you to do what is pono and support the passage of HB 2582 HD 2 and HB2584 HD1.**

Mahalo nui loa,

Julian Keikilani Ako

Po‘o Kumu (retired), Kamehameha High School—Kapālama

2024 Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai‘i “Living Treasure”

Voluntary member of several nonprofit boards and councils serving the kānaka people



**HB-2582-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 1:16:12 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leianaikaroselaniomaui SingKeliikoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT HB2582 I feel OHA rightfully should be getting more \$ to support our kanaka maoli better.

**HB-2582-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 1:16:44 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michelei Tancayo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Richards, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

Mahalo nui for setting this important measure for hearing.

I am submitting this testimony to express my strong support for HB2582 HD2 to ensure that Native Hawaiian beneficiaries receive their rightful share of revenues generated from the public land trust through full support of the Public Land Trust Working Group (PLTWG).

The Hawai'i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a fair, pro-rata portion of income derived from the public land trust and established the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to administer those funds on their behalf. The public land trust is comprised primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow, ceded to the United States by the Republic of Hawai'i without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians, and transferred to the State of Hawai'i through the Admissions Act.

Despite moral and legal claims, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that falls painfully short of the 20% of public land trust revenues owed under the Hawai'i Constitution and state law. Specifically, a 2016 financial analysis found revenue sources that support OHA receiving between \$35 and \$80 million, depending on the revenue streams included. This shortfall directly limits OHA's ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana – and even more so during a time of critical cuts to federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This bill would help advance justice for OHA's Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by authorizing OHA to hire third party professionals on behalf of the PLTWG. While the legislature has the

authority and duty to immediately raise the amount transferred to OHA annually based on publicly available data, directing the PLTWG to hire third party professionals is a critical pathway to resolve disputes around revenues and lands that may discourage the legislature from immediately taking this step. Guaranteeing involvement by legislative representatives and a community member with relevant background and expertise will also help advance the PLTWG's important work and ensure legislative confidence in the final report.

As an OHA beneficiary and voter, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB2582 HD2 and ensure the PLTWG has the resources and authority necessary to fulfill its mandate.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Michelei Tancayo

Lahaina Maui

**HB-2582-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 3:56:00 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Senate Committee,

Short and sweet, please support and give Kanaka 'Oiwi their 20% pro- rata share of public land trust revenues.

Mahalo,

MeleLani Llanes

**HB-2582-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 9:31:48 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/24/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Why the decades of song and dance to fulfill a constitutional mandate? This bill should be passed and OHA given its due; the funds the public approved for it.