

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA**

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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

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

**Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND**

**Thursday, February 19, 2026
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 411**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2582
RELATING TO HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS.**

House Bill 2582 amends the membership and responsibilities of the Public Land Trust Working Group (PLTWG), established under Act 226, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022, and continues its work to account for the public land trust inventory and public land trust revenues. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure and offers the following comments.

The Department recognizes the importance of the PLTWG's mandate and appreciates the bill's continued focus on improving the completeness and transparency of the public land trust inventory and related financial reporting. The Department has actively participated in the Working Group's efforts and remains committed to supporting this work moving forward.

The PLTWG Interim Report emphasized the importance of independent technical and professional expertise to assist the Working Group in fulfilling its responsibilities. The Department acknowledges that adequate resources and support will be important to ensuring the timely completion of the work contemplated by this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2582 WITH AMENDMENTS

Relating to Hawaiian Affairs

House Committee on Water and Land

Hawai'i State Capitol

February 19, 2026

9:00 AM

Room 411

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

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 with amendments** to limit the PLTWG to nine members, inclusive of four designated OHA seats and provide specific guidelines for the appointment of the designated “community member” seat.

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 \$78.9 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 by the Department of Land and Natural Resources and agency accounting policies and practices that prevented the ready accounting requested in Act 226.¹ To assist the PLTWG in resolving these issues, the PLTWG suggested retaining third-party professionals and

¹ See [PLTWorkingGroupInterimReportandOHASupplement_FINAL_12-24-2024-0.pdf](#).

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 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 and respectfully requests the following amendments to align this bill with the needs and practical restraints of the PLTWG.

PLTWG Composition

Currently the PLTWG is comprised of six members—three appointed by OHA and three appointed by the Governor—providing proportional representation of both OHA and the State. HB2582 proposes to significantly alter this balance by allocating four seats to OHA, two to the senate, two to the House, two to the Governor, and an eleventh seat to a community member selected by the other PLTWG members. This structure would reduce OHA's representation from parity (3 of 6 members) to a minority position (4 of 11 members).

In addition, expanding the working group to eleven members would likely prove unwieldy from an operational standpoint. The PLTWG's mandate requires sustained technical analysis, coordination across agencies, and timely consensus on complex financial and land-inventory matters. A smaller composition promotes efficiency, accountability, and the ability to deliberate and act within the timelines contemplated by the legislature. For these reasons, OHA recommends limiting the working group to nine members while maintaining balanced representation among appointing authorities.

OHA also believes the designated community member should possess qualifications directly responsive to the PLTWG's core responsibilities. Because the working group must evaluate executive-branch accounting methodologies and help establish a fair, transparent, and uniform formula for calculating OHA's 20% pro rata share of income and proceeds from the public land trust, financial and auditing expertise—coupled with Native Hawaiian expertise and demonstrated community commitment—are essential to the success of the group's work.

Accordingly, OHA suggests the following language amendments beginning at page 16 line 3:

- (3) [~~Two~~] One member[s] of the senate appointed by the senate president;
- (4) [~~Two~~] One member[s] of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives
- (5) One non-governmental community member selected by the members appointed pursuant to paragraphs (1) through (4), provided that the community member shall

have the following qualifications:

(A) Experience in financial accounting or auditing;

(B) Experience in complex negotiations;

(B) Expertise in Native Hawaiian history, governance, and legal
entitlements; and

(C) Demonstrated commitment to the Native Hawaiian community.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to present testimony.

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/19/2026 8:03:00 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am a member of the Public Land Trust Working Group appointed by OHA. I submit this testimony to join in OHA's testimony of support of HB 2582 but with important recommended amendments on HB 2582 Relating to Hawaiian Affairs.



February 19, 2026

TESTIMONY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS
To the House Committee on Water and Land
In Support of

HB2582 – RELATING TO HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

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

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs **supports** HB2852 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 3,000 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 66th Annual Convention in Keauhou, Hawai‘i, in the malama of Welehu and the rising of Mōhala, this 1st 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 1st day of November 2025, at the 66th Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Keauhou, Hawai‘i.



DreanaLee Kalili

DreanaLee Kalili, President



Ko`olau Foundation

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

February 18, 2026

To: Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
& Members of the Committee on Water & Land

From: Mahealani Cypher, President

Re: H.B. 2582 – Relating to Hawaiian Affairs – SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice chair Morikawa, and Committee Members:

The Ko`olau Foundation supports H.B. 2582, which amends the membership and kuleana of the Public Land Trust Working Group and spells out requirements for various reports.

However, we respectfully ask that this bill be amended to ensure that membership of this panel include at least one-half of the voting members represent the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA).

This public land trust working group was established to ensure that OHA receives its fair share of revenues from Hawaiian crown and government lands. It's important that the intended recipient of these revenues – OHA – have a meaningful seat and voice at the table of decision-makers regarding the Public Land Trust.

Our sole Hawaiian government agency has a heavy and challenging amount of responsibilities to fulfill for a large number of Native Hawaiians who are the designated beneficiaries of these trust land revenues. There are so many needs, and so much time has passed with OHA receiving far less than the required percentage of revenues from use of these Hawaiian lands.

We urge all of you to do what is pono by passing out this important legislation.

Mahalo for considering our mana`o.

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 11:17:55 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Strongly Support

2582 HB RELATING TO HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS.

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 7:00:43 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

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

The Hawai‘i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro rata portion of income derived from the PLT and designates OHA to administer those funds on their behalf.

The PLT is comprised primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow. These lands were ceded to the United States by the unlawful Republic of Hawai‘i without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians, and eventually transferred to the State of Hawai‘i through the 1959 Admissions Act.

Despite moral and legal claims made over decades, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, about 5% of the proceeds identified in the 2016 financial review, and an amount that falls painfully short (of the 20% of public land trust revenues it is **owed under the Hawai‘i Constitution and state law. See Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) §10-13.5**).

Specifically, a 2016 financial analysis found revenue sources that suggest that OHA should receive between \$35 and \$80 million annually, depending on the revenue streams included. This shortfall directly limits OHA’s ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana, which is particularly concerning during this time of cuts to critical, federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This bill would help advance justice for OHA’s Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by directing the PLTWG to hire third-party professionals, and ensure completion of the work set forth in Act 226.

While the legislature has the authority and duty to immediately raise the annual amount transferred to OHA 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.

At the same time, I respectfully request that you ensure that OHA has a representative voice on the PLTWG by amending the bill so that OHA retains four of nine designated seats, with the ninth seat (designated for a community member) to be elected by the other eight members.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kelli Soileau

Kaneohe, Oahu

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 7:01:03 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ahia Dye	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

The Hawai‘i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro rata portion of income derived from the PLT and designates OHA to administer those funds on their behalf.

The PLT is comprised primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow. These lands were ceded to the United States by the unlawful Republic of Hawai‘i without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians, and eventually transferred to the State of Hawai‘i through the 1959 Admissions Act.

Despite moral and legal claims made over decades, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that falls painfully short of the 20% of public land trust revenues it is owed under the Hawai‘i Constitution and state law. See Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) §10-13.5.

Specifically, a 2016 financial analysis found revenue sources that suggest that OHA should receive between \$35 and \$80 million annually, depending on the revenue streams included. This shortfall directly limits OHA’s ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana, which is particularly concerning during this time of cuts to critical, federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This bill would help advance justice for OHA's Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by directing the PLTWG to hire third-party professionals, and ensure completion of the work set forth in Act 226.

While the legislature has the authority and duty to immediately raise the annual amount transferred to OHA 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.

At the same time, I respectfully request that you ensure that OHA has a representative voice on the PLTWG by amending the bill so that OHA retains four of nine designated seats, with the ninth seat (designated for a community member) to be elected by the other eight members.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 7:09:53 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lu Ann Mahiki Lankford-Faborito	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Absolute support for amounts way over due the OHA to support our Lahui. Ensuring they receive funds due.

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 7:26:27 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Thomas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

The Hawai‘i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro rata portion of income derived from the PLT and designates OHA to administer those funds on their behalf.

The PLT is comprised primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow. These lands were ceded to the United States by the unlawful Republic of Hawai‘i without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians, and eventually transferred to the State of Hawai‘i through the 1959 Admissions Act.

Despite moral and legal claims made over decades, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that falls painfully short of the 20% of public land trust revenues it is owed under the Hawai‘i Constitution and state law. See Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) §10-13.5.

Specifically, a 2016 financial analysis found revenue sources that suggest that OHA should receive between \$35 and \$80 million annually, depending on the revenue streams included. This shortfall directly limits OHA’s ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana, which is particularly concerning during this time of cuts to critical, federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This bill would help advance justice for OHA's Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by directing the PLTWG to hire third-party professionals, and ensure completion of the work set forth in Act 226.

While the legislature has the authority and duty to immediately raise the annual amount transferred to OHA 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.

At the same time, I respectfully request that you ensure that OHA has a representative voice on the PLTWG by amending the bill so that OHA retains four of nine designated seats, with the ninth seat (designated for a community member) to be elected by the other eight members.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Michael Thomas

Kamuela, Hawaii

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 7:29:42 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
muhtadia rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

The Hawai'i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro rata portion of income derived from the PLT and designates OHA to administer those funds on their behalf.

A 2016 financial analysis found revenue sources that suggest that OHA should receive between \$35 and \$80 million annually, depending on the revenue streams included. This shortfall directly limits OHA's ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana, which is particularly concerning during this time of cuts to critical, federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This bill would help advance justice for OHA's Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by directing the PLTWG to hire third-party professionals, and ensure completion of the work set forth in Act 226.

I respectfully request that you ensure that OHA has a representative voice on the PLTWG by amending the bill so that OHA retains four of nine designated seats, with the ninth seat (designated for a community member) to be elected by the other eight members.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 8:06:45 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sage-Lee Medeiros-Garcia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

The Hawai'i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro rata portion of income derived from the PLT and designates OHA to administer those funds on their behalf.

The PLT is comprised primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow. These lands were ceded to the United States by the unlawful Republic of Hawai'i without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians, and eventually transferred to the State of Hawai'i through the 1959 Admissions Act.

Despite moral and legal claims made over decades, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that falls painfully short of the 20% of public land trust revenues it is owed under the Hawai‘i Constitution and state law. See Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) §10-13.5.

Specifically, a 2016 financial analysis found revenue sources that suggest that OHA should receive between \$35 and \$80 million annually, depending on the revenue streams included. This shortfall directly limits OHA’s ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana, which is particularly concerning during this time of cuts to critical, federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This bill would help advance justice for OHA’s Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by directing the PLTWG to hire third-party professionals, and ensure completion of the work set forth in Act 226.

While the legislature has the authority and duty to immediately raise the annual amount transferred to OHA 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.

At the same time, I respectfully request that you ensure that OHA has a representative voice on the PLTWG by amending the bill so that OHA retains four of nine designated seats, with the ninth seat (designated for a community member) to be elected by the other eight members.

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

Sage-Lee M. Medeiros-Garcia

Wai‘anae, Hawai‘i

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 8:45:27 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

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

The Hawai‘i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro rata portion of income derived from the PLT and designates OHA to administer those funds on their behalf.

The PLT is comprised primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow. These lands were ceded to the United States by the unlawful Republic of Hawai‘i without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians, and eventually transferred to the State of Hawai‘i through the 1959 Admissions Act.

Despite moral and legal claims made over decades, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that falls far short of the 20% of public land trust revenues it is owed under the Hawai‘i Constitution and state law. See Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) §10-13.5.

Specifically, a 2016 financial analysis found revenue sources that suggest that OHA should receive between \$35 and \$80 million annually, depending on the revenue streams included. This shortfall directly limits OHA’s ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana, which is particularly concerning during this time of cuts to critical, federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This bill would help advance justice for OHA’s Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by directing the PLTWG to hire third-party professionals, and ensure completion of the work set forth in Act 226.

While the legislature has the authority and duty to immediately raise the annual amount transferred to OHA 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.

At the same time, I respectfully request that you ensure that OHA has a representative voice on the PLTWG by amending the bill so that OHA retains four of nine designated seats, with the ninth seat (designated for a community member) to be elected by the other eight members.

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

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Na‘u nō,

Lisette Puanani Akamine

Kahalu‘u, O‘ahu

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 8:45:35 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kealani Makaiwi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Relating to the Public Land Trust and the Public Land Trust Working Group

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

My name is Kealani Makaiwi, and I am writing to express my strong support for HB2582, which would help ensure that Native Hawaiian beneficiaries receive their rightful share of revenues generated from the Public Land Trust (PLT) by fully supporting the work of the Public Land Trust Working Group (PLTWG).

The Hawai‘i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro rata portion of income derived from the PLT and designates the [Office of Hawaiian Affairs](#) (OHA) to administer those funds on their behalf. This constitutional mandate is clear and longstanding.

The PLT is comprised primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom. These lands were ceded to the United States by the unlawful Republic of Hawai‘i without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians, and later transferred to the State of Hawai‘i through the 1959 Admissions Act. The revenues derived from these lands carry both legal and moral obligations.

Despite decades of advocacy and clear constitutional and statutory direction, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually—an amount that falls significantly short of the 20% share of PLT revenues owed under the Hawai‘i State Constitution and state law, including Hawai‘i Revised Statutes §10-13.5. A 2016 financial analysis identified revenue sources indicating that OHA should be receiving between \$35 million and \$80 million annually, depending on the

revenue streams included. This persistent shortfall severely limits OHA's ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana, especially at a time when critical federally funded Native Hawaiian programs are facing reductions.

HB2582 advances justice and accountability by directing the PLTWG to hire independent, third-party professionals and to complete the work set forth in Act 226. While the Legislature has both the authority and responsibility to immediately increase the annual amount transferred to OHA based on publicly available data, supporting the PLTWG with the necessary resources is a critical and constructive pathway to resolving long-standing disputes regarding revenues and lands that may otherwise delay legislative action.

At the same time, I respectfully request that the Committee ensure meaningful Native Hawaiian beneficiary representation by amending the bill so that OHA retains four of the nine designated seats on the PLTWG, with the ninth seat—designated for a community member—to be elected by the other eight members. This structure would help ensure balance, trust, and accountability in the Working Group's deliberations.

As a Native Hawaiian beneficiary and a voter, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB2582 and to ensure that the Public Land Trust Working Group has both the authority and the resources necessary to fulfill its mandate. Doing so is an important step toward honoring constitutional commitments and advancing justice for Native Hawaiians.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Kealani Makaiwi

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 9:10:21 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Uilani Naipo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 9:16:30 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lawrence Sanoria	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the legislature of the State of Hawaii: By LAW, the OHA, who represents the Hawaiian people, will receive 20% of the revenues from the public land trust every year. That has not happened in any year that I can remember. And the question is why we have to beg for what is rightfully owed to us. You guys go through this yearly ritual pretending to be forthcoming with the shared revenue and every year it falls short of where it needs to be. Meanwhile, the state hoards millions in unspent funds, case in point, the money allocated for vacant state positions which has been somewhat difficult to fill because of lack of hiring. Mismanagement of public funds creates a climate of mistrust in government and it should not be that way. Ask yourselves this question next time this bill comes up for a vote. Who is above the law? I am surprised that OHA has not sued the State because it has failed to fulfill its end of the bargain. I would like to think that the State of Hawaii would care for it's native population in a more responsible manner. No one is above the law. Remember that when voting to approve the manini amount of revenues to the HAWAIIAN people. Mahalo nui loa.

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 9:23:07 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Shaw	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2582, to ensure that Native Hawaiian beneficiaries receive their rightful share of revenues generated from the public land trust (PLT) through full support of the Public Land Trust Working Group (PLTWG), lands the rightfully belong to the Nation of Hawai'i and were taken unlawfully by the United States.

The Hawai'i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro rata portion of income derived from the PLT and designates OHA to administer those funds on their behalf. This is not nearly enough for required restitution and access to even just a sliver of it allows OHA to position Hawaiians better to restore our national rights to self governance.

The PLT is comprised primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow. These lands were ceded to the United States by the unlawful Republic of Hawai'i without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians, and eventually transferred to the State of Hawai'i through the 1959 Admissions Act.

Despite moral and legal claims made over decades, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that falls painfully short of the 20% of public land trust revenues it is owed under the Hawai'i Constitution and state law. See Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) §10-13.5.

Specifically, a 2016 financial analysis found revenue sources that suggest that OHA should receive between \$35 and \$80 million annually, depending on the revenue streams included. This shortfall directly limits OHA's ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana, which is particularly concerning during this time of cuts to critical, federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This bill would help advance justice for OHA's Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by directing the PLTWG to hire third-party professionals, and ensure completion of the work set forth in Act 226.

While the legislature has the authority and duty to immediately raise the annual amount transferred to OHA 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.

At the same time, I respectfully request that you ensure that OHA has a representative voice on the PLTWG by amending the bill so that OHA retains four of nine designated seats, with the ninth seat (designated for a community member) to be elected by the other eight members.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Noel Shaw

Kalawahine, O'ahu

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 9:40:24 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

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

Now I could follow with this:

The Hawai'i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro rata portion of income derived from the PLT and designates OHA to administer those funds on their behalf.....blah blah blah ad nauseum. Really, I'd like to summarize with this:

As Hawaiian, I say it's simple - follow the laws, your laws that were set up by the State and stop jerking us around. By the by, we're the biggest voting block and more of us will be voting in the immediate years to come. Now back to the previous snore scripted response.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 10:22:57 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rae Leong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2582, 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 Hawaii State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro rata portion of income derived from the PLT and designates OHA to administer those funds on our behalf.

The PLT is comprised primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow. These lands were ceded to the United States by the unlawful Republic of Hawaii without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians, and eventually transferred to the State of Hawaii through the 1959 Admissions Act.

Despite moral and legal claims made over decades, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that falls painfully short of the 20% of public land trust revenues it is owed under the Hawaii Constitution and state law. See Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) 10-13.5.

Specifically, a 2016 financial analysis found revenue sources that suggest that OHA should receive between \$35 and \$80 million annually, depending on the revenue streams included. This shortfall directly limits OHA's ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana, which is particularly concerning during this time of cuts to critical, federally funded Native Hawaiian Programs.

This bill would help advance justice for OHA's Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by directing the PLTWG to hire third-party professionals, and ensure completion of the work set forth in Act 226.

While the legislature has the authority and duty to immediately raise the annual amount transferred to OHA 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.

At the same time, I respectfully request that you ensure that OHA has a representative voice on the PLTWG by amending the bill so that OHA retains four of nine designated seats, with the ninth seat (designated for a community member) to be elected by the other eight members.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Rae Leong

Kaneohe, Oahu

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 10:31:15 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

The Hawai‘i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro rata portion of income derived from the PLT and designates OHA to administer those funds on their behalf.

The PLT is comprised primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow. These lands were ceded to the United States by the unlawful Republic of Hawai‘i without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians, and eventually transferred to the State of Hawai‘i through the 1959 Admissions Act.

Despite moral and legal claims made over decades, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that falls painfully short of the 20% of public land trust revenues it is owed under the Hawai‘i Constitution and state law. See Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) §10-13.5.

Specifically, a 2016 financial analysis found revenue sources that suggest that OHA should receive between \$35 and \$80 million annually, depending on the revenue streams included. This shortfall directly limits OHA’s ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana, which is particularly concerning during this time of cuts to critical, federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This bill would help advance justice for OHA’s Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by directing the PLTWG to hire third-party professionals, and ensure completion of the work set forth in Act 226.

While the legislature has the authority and duty to immediately raise the annual amount transferred to OHA 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.

At the same time, I respectfully request that you ensure that OHA has a representative voice on the PLTWG by amending the bill so that OHA retains four of nine designated seats, with the ninth seat (designated for a community member) to be elected by the other eight members.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 10:40:21 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawaiohawaiki Anakalea-Kila	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

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

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

The Hawai‘i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro rata portion of income derived from the PLT and designates OHA to administer those funds on their behalf.

The PLT is comprised primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow. These lands were ceded to the United States by the unlawful Republic of Hawai‘i without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians, and eventually transferred to the State of Hawai‘i through the 1959 Admissions Act.

Despite moral and legal claims made over decades, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that falls painfully short of the 20% of public land trust revenues it is owed under the Hawai‘i Constitution and state law. See Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) §10-13.5.

Specifically, a 2016 financial analysis found revenue sources that suggest that OHA should receive between \$35 and \$80 million annually, depending on the revenue streams included. This shortfall directly limits OHA’s ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana, which is particularly concerning during this time of cuts to critical, federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This bill would help advance justice for OHA's Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by directing the PLTWG to hire third-party professionals, and ensure completion of the work set forth in Act 226.

While the legislature has the authority and duty to immediately raise the annual amount transferred to OHA 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.

At the same time, I respectfully request that you ensure that OHA has a representative voice on the PLTWG by amending the bill so that OHA retains four of nine designated seats, with the ninth seat (designated for a community member) to be elected by the other eight members.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kawaiohawaiki Anakalea-Kila

Honolulu, Hawai'i

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 1:28:30 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaeralee-Tiare Manosa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

The Hawai‘i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro rata portion of income derived from the PLT and designates OHA to administer those funds on their behalf.

The PLT is comprised primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow. These lands were ceded to the United States by the unlawful Republic of Hawai‘i without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians, and eventually transferred to the State of Hawai‘i through the 1959 Admissions Act.

Despite moral and legal claims made over decades, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that falls painfully short of the 20% of public land trust revenues it is owed under the Hawai‘i Constitution and state law. See Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) §10-13.5.

Specifically, a 2016 financial analysis found revenue sources that suggest that OHA should receive between \$35 and \$80 million annually, depending on the revenue streams included. This shortfall directly limits OHA’s ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana, which is particularly concerning during this time of cuts to critical, federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This bill would help advance justice for OHA's Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by directing the PLTWG to hire third-party professionals, and ensure completion of the work set forth in Act 226.

While the legislature has the authority and duty to immediately raise the annual amount transferred to OHA 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.

At the same time, I respectfully request that you ensure that OHA has a representative voice on the PLTWG by amending the bill so that OHA retains four of nine designated seats, with the ninth seat (designated for a community member) to be elected by the other eight members.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Shaeralee-Tiare Manosa

Molokai, Hawai'i

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 2:28:01 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aric Andrade	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

The Hawai‘i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro rata portion of income derived from the PLT and designates OHA to administer those funds on their behalf.

The PLT is comprised primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow. These lands were ceded to the United States by the unlawful Republic of Hawai‘i without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians, and eventually transferred to the State of Hawai‘i through the 1959 Admissions Act.

Despite moral and legal claims made over decades, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that falls painfully short of the 20% of public land trust revenues it is owed under the Hawai‘i Constitution and state law. See Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) §10-13.5.

Specifically, a 2016 financial analysis found revenue sources that suggest that OHA should receive between \$35 and \$80 million annually, depending on the revenue streams included. This shortfall directly limits OHA’s ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana, which is particularly concerning during this time of cuts to critical, federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This bill would help advance justice for OHA's Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by directing the PLTWG to hire third-party professionals, and ensure completion of the work set forth in Act 226.

While the legislature has the authority and duty to immediately raise the annual amount transferred to OHA 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.

At the same time, I respectfully request that you ensure that OHA has a representative voice on the PLTWG by amending the bill so that OHA retains four of nine designated seats, with the ninth seat (designated for a community member) to be elected by the other eight members.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Aric Kimo Alike Andrade

Haleiwa, Hawaii

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 6:11:09 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taffi Wise	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2582!

Mahalo piha,

Taff Wise, PhD

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 6:32:15 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
P Hauoli'ipo Wright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

The Hawai'i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro rata portion of income derived from the PLT and designates OHA to administer those funds on their behalf.

The PLT is comprised primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow. These lands were ceded to the United States by the unlawful Republic of Hawai'i without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians, and eventually transferred to the State of Hawai'i through the 1959 Admissions Act.

Despite moral and legal claims made over decades, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that falls painfully short of the 20% of public land trust revenues it is owed under the Hawai'i Constitution and state law. See Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) §10-13.5.

Specifically, a 2016 financial analysis found revenue sources that suggest that OHA should receive between \$35 and \$80 million annually, depending on the revenue streams included. This shortfall directly limits OHA's ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana, which is particularly concerning during this time of cuts to critical, federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This bill would help advance justice for OHA's Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by directing the PLTWG to hire third-party professionals, and ensure completion of the work set forth in Act 226.

While the legislature has the authority and duty to immediately raise the annual amount transferred to OHA 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.

At the same time, I respectfully request that you ensure that OHA has a representative voice on the PLTWG by amending the bill so that OHA retains four of nine designated seats, with the ninth seat (designated for a community member) to be elected by the other eight members.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

- P. Hau'oli ipo Wright (Kea'au / Moku o Keawe)

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 6:54:11 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean Spencer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2582, to ensure that Native Hawaiian beneficiaries receive their rightful share of revenues generated from the public land trust.

Stop screwing Hawaiians and give us our rightful share of PLT revenue.

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 7:22:44 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am a Native Hawaiian beneficiary and long-time community advocate. I write in **strong support of H.B. 2582**. Passage of H.B.2582 is in the best interest of Native Hawaiians and the State.

The Hawai'i State Constitution guarantees that Native Hawaiians receive a pro-rata share of the income and proceeds from the Public Land Trust, yet OHA currently receives only **\$21.5 million annually**, far below the amount identified in prior financial reviews. This longstanding shortfall limits OHA's ability to provide critical resources in housing, education, health, cultural preservation, and economic stability for our people.

H.B. 2582 is an important step forward because it gives the Public Land Trust Working Group the professional capacity and clear timelines needed to complete the land inventory and revenue audit required by Act 226. Independent, third-party expertise will help resolve decades of dispute, provide updated and credible data to the Legislature, and remove barriers to raising the cap so that Native Hawaiian beneficiaries finally receive what the law already requires.

I respectfully request one amendment: that OHA retain **four of the nine voting seats** on the working group to ensure that the voices of the trust's beneficiaries are not diluted.

This measure is about fulfilling the State's constitutional obligation and restoring justice for our lāhui.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 2582.

Me ka ha'aha'a,
Leimomi Khan

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 7:39:05 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steve Goo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

The Hawai‘i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro rata portion of income derived from the PLT and designates OHA to administer those funds on their behalf.

The PLT is comprised primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow. These lands were ceded to the United States by the unlawful Republic of Hawai‘i without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians, and eventually transferred to the State of Hawai‘i through the 1959 Admissions Act.

Despite moral and legal claims made over decades, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that falls painfully short of the 20% of public land trust revenues it is owed under the Hawai‘i Constitution and state law. See Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) §10-13.5.

Specifically, a 2016 financial analysis found revenue sources that suggest that OHA should receive between \$35 and \$80 million annually, depending on the revenue streams included. This shortfall directly limits OHA’s ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana, which is particularly concerning during this time of cuts to critical, federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This bill would help advance justice for OHA’s Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by directing the PLTWG to hire third-party professionals, and ensure completion of the work set forth in Act 226.

While the legislature has the authority and duty to immediately raise the annual amount transferred to OHA 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.

At the same time, I respectfully request that you ensure that OHA has a representative voice on the PLTWG by amending the bill so that OHA retains four of nine designated seats, with the ninth seat (designated for a community member) to be elected by the other eight members.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Steve Goo

Honolulu, Oahu

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 8:03:08 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosanna 'Anolani Alegado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

The Hawai'i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro rata portion of income derived from the PLT and designates OHA to administer those funds on their behalf.

The PLT comprises primarily Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow. These lands were ceded to the United States by the unlawful Republic of Hawai'i without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians, and eventually transferred to the State of Hawai'i through the 1959 Admissions Act.

Despite moral and legal claims made over decades, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that falls painfully short of the 20% of public land trust revenues it is owed under the Hawai'i Constitution and state law. See Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) §10-13.5.

Specifically, a 2016 financial analysis identified revenue sources indicating that OHA should receive between \$35 and \$80 million annually, depending on the revenue streams included. This shortfall directly limits OHA's ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana, which is particularly concerning during this time of cuts to critical, federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This bill would help advance justice for OHA's Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by directing the PLTWG to hire third-party professionals, and ensure completion of the work set forth in Act 226.

While the legislature has the authority and duty to immediately raise the annual amount transferred to OHA 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.

At the same time, I respectfully request that you ensure that OHA has a representative voice on the PLTWG by amending the bill so that OHA retains four of nine designated seats, with the ninth seat (designated for a community member) to be elected by the other eight members.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Rosie Alegado,

Kahalu'u, Ko'olaupoko. O'ahu

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 8:14:28 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

****Testimony in STRONG Support of HB2582**** ****Relating to Hawaiian Affairs (Public Land Trust Working Group)****

**** Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee, Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2582. I have already testified publicly on multiple OHA package bills this session, including the companion PLT funding measure that passed with technical amendments. HB2582 is the critical next step: it strengthens the Public Land Trust Working Group (created by Act 226, SLH 2022) so we finally get real answers and real money for Native Hawaiian beneficiaries.**

Key Highlights of HB2582 - Expands OHA's role with

****4 appointed members**** on the Working Group and gives OHA authority to provide administrative support + hire a third-party consultant.

- Requires ****4 timed public reports**** to the Legislature: – Aug 1, 2027 (financial accounting) – Dec 1, 2027 (PLT inventory) – June 1, 2028 (preliminary findings) – Oct 1, 2028 (final report + proposed legislation)

- Mandates full accounting of ****all ceded lands**** and ****all income & proceeds**** so the ****exact 20% pro rata share**** owed to OHA can be calculated and delivered.

The Numbers the State Must Face (Same Data We Used on the Previous Bill) ****State of Hawai'i Ceded Land Revenue (Total PLT Gross Revenues)**** = ****\$394.3 million annually**** (2015-2016 independent financial review – still the official benchmark used by OHA and the Legislature in 2026)

****20% of \$394.3 million = \$78.9 million****

****This is OHA's constitutionally mandated annual share**** under Article XII, Section 6 of the Hawai'i State Constitution and HRS §10-13.5.

****Current amount OHA actually receives**** = ****Only \$21.5 million per year**** (the interim fixed payment)

****Annual Shortfall** = ****\$57.4 million**** every single year (\$78.9M – \$21.5M)**

That is ****\$57.4 million**** in housing, scholarships, small business grants, homelessness programs, language immersion, and land stewardship that Native Hawaiian beneficiaries are being denied right now.

What is the State hiding? Incomplete inventories, self-reported (unaudited) numbers, and decades of creative accounting that keep the full 20% out of OHA's hands. HB2582 forces transparency with deadlines and third-party validation. This bill builds directly on the momentum from the PLT funding bill we already helped pass.

Together they deliver both the ****money**** and the ****proof**** that the full constitutional share must flow to OHA. I urge you to pass HB2582 without weakening amendments. Native Hawaiians have waited long enough.

Mahalo nui loa for your kuleana.

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

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 8:32:10 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theodora Furtado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

The Hawai‘i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro rata portion of income derived from the PLT and designates OHA to administer those funds on their behalf.

The PLT is comprised primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow. These lands were ceded to the United States by the unlawful Republic of Hawai‘i without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians, and eventually transferred to the State of Hawai‘i through the 1959 Admissions Act.

Despite moral and legal claims made over decades, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that falls painfully short of the 20% of public land trust revenues it is owed under the Hawai‘i Constitution and state law. See Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) §10-13.5.

Specifically, a 2016 financial analysis found revenue sources that suggest that OHA should receive between \$35 and \$80 million annually, depending on the revenue streams included. This shortfall directly limits OHA’s ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana, which is particularly concerning during this time of cuts to critical, federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This bill would help advance justice for OHA’s Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by directing the PLTWG to hire third-party professionals, and ensure completion of the work set forth in Act 226.

While the legislature has the authority and duty to immediately raise the annual amount transferred to OHA 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.

At the same time, I respectfully request that you ensure that OHA has a representative voice on the PLTWG by amending the bill so that OHA retains four of nine designated seats, with the ninth seat (designated for a community member) to be elected by the other eight members.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

TheodoraFurtado

Honolulu, Oahu

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 9:34:01 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melanie Akeo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

The Hawai‘i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro rata portion of income derived from the PLT and designates OHA to administer those funds on their behalf.

The PLT is comprised primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow. These lands were ceded to the United States by the unlawful Republic of Hawai‘i without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians, and eventually transferred to the State of Hawai‘i through the 1959 Admissions Act.

Despite moral and legal claims made over decades, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that falls painfully short of the 20% of public land trust revenues it is owed under the Hawai‘i Constitution and state law. See Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) §10-13.5.

Specifically, a 2016 financial analysis found revenue sources that suggest that OHA should receive between \$35 and \$80 million annually, depending on the revenue streams included. This shortfall directly limits OHA’s ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana, which is particularly concerning during this time of cuts to critical, federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This bill would help advance justice for OHA's Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by directing the PLTWG to hire third-party professionals, and ensure completion of the work set forth in Act 226.

While the legislature has the authority and duty to immediately raise the annual amount transferred to OHA 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.

At the same time, I respectfully request that you ensure that OHA has a representative voice on the PLTWG by amending the bill so that OHA retains four of nine designated seats, with the ninth seat (designated for a community member) to be elected by the other eight members.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Melanie Akeo

Makakilo, Hawai'i

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 9:46:52 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

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

The Hawai‘i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro rata portion of income derived from the PLT and designates OHA to administer those funds on their behalf.

The PLT is comprised primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow. These lands were ceded to the United States by the unlawful Republic of Hawai‘i without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians, and eventually transferred to the State of Hawai‘i through the 1959 Admissions Act.

Despite moral and legal claims made over decades, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that falls painfully short of the 20% of public land trust revenues it is owed under the Hawai‘i Constitution and state law. See Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) §10-13.5.

Specifically, a 2016 financial analysis found revenue sources that suggest that OHA should receive between \$35 and \$80 million annually, depending on the revenue streams included. This shortfall directly limits OHA’s ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana, which is particularly concerning during this time of cuts to critical, federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This bill would help advance justice for OHA's Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by directing the PLTWG to hire third-party professionals, and ensure completion of the work set forth in Act 226.

While the legislature has the authority and duty to immediately raise the annual amount transferred to OHA 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.

At the same time, I respectfully request that you ensure that OHA has a representative voice on the PLTWG by amending the bill so that OHA retains four of nine designated seats, with the ninth seat (designated for a community member) to be elected by the other eight members.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Makaiwa kanui

Mauna Hu'ihu'i, 'Ōla'a, Hawai'i

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 9:53:53 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Hanohano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing to express my support for HB2582, 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 pro rata portion of income derived from the PLT and designates OHA to administer those funds on their behalf.

The PLT is comprised primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow. These lands were ceded to the United States by the unlawful Republic of Hawai‘i without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians, and eventually transferred to the State of Hawai‘i through the 1959 Admissions Act.

Despite moral and legal claims made over decades, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that falls painfully short of the 20% of public land trust revenues it is owed under the Hawai‘i Constitution and state law. See Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) §10-13.5.

A 2016 financial analysis found revenue sources that suggest that OHA should receive between \$35 and \$80 million annually, depending on the revenue streams included. This shortfall directly limits OHA’s ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana, which is particularly concerning during this time of cuts to critical, federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This bill would help advance justice for OHA’s Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by directing the PLTWG to hire third-party professionals, and ensure completion of the work set forth in Act 226.

While the legislature has the authority and duty to immediately raise the annual amount transferred to OHA 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.

At the same time, I respectfully request that you ensure that OHA has a representative voice on the PLTWG by amending the bill so that OHA retains four of nine designated seats, with the ninth seat (designated for a community member) to be elected by the other eight members.

As a beneficiary and voter, I urge the Committee to pass HB2582 and ensure that the PLTWG has the resources and authority necessary to fulfill its mandate.

Mahalo for your time.

Paul Hanohano

Kaneohe, Oahu

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 10:01:45 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

support

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT

RELATING TO HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Public Land Trust Working Group; OHA; Public Land Trust

Hearing: House Committee on Water & Land (WAL)

Date: February 19, 2026

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

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

The Hawai'i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro rata portion of income derived from the public land trust and designates the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to administer those funds on their behalf. This constitutional mandate is further reflected in state law, including Hawai'i Revised Statutes §10-13.5.

The PLT is comprised primarily of lands formerly held by the Hawaiian Kingdom, crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow. These lands were ceded to the United States by the unlawful Republic of Hawai'i without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians, and eventually transferred to the State of Hawai'i through the 1959 Admissions Act. These lands form the foundation of the trust corpus from which revenues are generated and owed, in part, to OHA's Native Hawaiian beneficiaries.

Despite decades of discussion and multiple legislative efforts, OHA currently receives a fixed annual amount of \$21.5 million, which does not reflect a completed or transparent accounting of twenty percent (20%) of all public land trust revenues, as required by the Constitution and state law.

A 2016 financial analysis identified revenue sources suggesting that OHA's annual share could range between \$35 million and \$80 million, depending on which public land trust revenue streams are included. The absence of a definitive inventory and standardized accounting methodology has contributed to this ongoing shortfall, which directly limits OHA's ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana, particularly at a time when federally funded Native Hawaiian programs face increasing instability and cuts.

This bill would help advance accountability and fairness by strengthening the PLTWG, authorizing the engagement of qualified third-party professionals, and ensuring completion of the work set forth in Act 226, SLH 2022. These steps are necessary to resolve long-standing disputes regarding land status, revenue inclusion, and financial reporting practices.

While the Legislature retains the authority to increase the annual amount transferred to OHA based on existing data, the PLTWG's work supported by independent expertise is a critical pathway to resolving outstanding questions that have delayed legislative action for years.

At the same time, I respectfully request that the Committee ensure that OHA maintains a representative voice on the PLTWG by retaining four of the nine designated seats, with the ninth seat, reserved for a community member, selected by the other eight members. Given OHA's constitutional role, meaningful participation is essential to the Working Group's credibility and effectiveness.

As a Native Hawaiian beneficiary and a voter, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass this measure and ensure that the PLTWG has the resources, authority, and representation necessary to fulfill its mandate.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully,
Camille Kahakukaalani Naluai-Rios

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 11:03:26 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hihina Ahsing	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

The Hawai‘i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro rata portion of income derived from the PLT and designates OHA to administer those funds on their behalf.

The PLT is comprised primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow. These lands were ceded to the United States by the unlawful Republic of Hawai‘i without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians, and eventually transferred to the State of Hawai‘i through the 1959 Admissions Act.

Despite moral and legal claims made over decades, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that falls painfully short of the 20% of public land trust revenues it is owed under the Hawai‘i Constitution and state law. See Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) §10-13.5.

Specifically, a 2016 financial analysis found revenue sources that suggest that OHA should receive between \$35 and \$80 million annually, depending on the revenue streams included. This shortfall directly limits OHA’s ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana, which is particularly concerning during this time of cuts to critical, federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This bill would help advance justice for OHA's Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by directing the PLTWG to hire third-party professionals, and ensure completion of the work set forth in Act 226.

While the legislature has the authority and duty to immediately raise the annual amount transferred to OHA 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.

At the same time, I respectfully request that you ensure that OHA has a representative voice on the PLTWG by amending the bill so that OHA retains four of nine designated seats, with the ninth seat (designated for a community member) to be elected by the other eight members.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hihina Ahsing

Honolulu, O'ahu

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 11:14:52 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bradford Baang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2582, to ensure that Native Hawaiian beneficiaries receive their rightful share of revenues generated from the public land trust (PLT).

Despite moral and legal claims made over decades, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that falls painfully short of the 20% of public land trust revenues it is owed under the Hawai‘i Constitution and state law

In violation of the Hawai‘i State Constitution that guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro rata portion of income derived from the PLT, the State must morally meet its commitment.

Mahalo,

Brad of Waianae

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 11:23:44 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Howard McPherson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

I was born in Honolulu in 1954. My family is originally from Hilo. I have lived here all my life. Having lived through and witnessed enormous changes to our community, I strongly support HB2582 and respectfully request that you pass it without delay and send it the Governor's desk as soon as possible. I feel it is absolutely warranted and in the best interests of all Hawai'i's people.

Sincerely,

Howard McPherson

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 12:56:02 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vernon Kapuaala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

The Hawai‘i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro rata portion of income derived from the PLT and designates OHA to administer those funds on their behalf.

The PLT is comprised primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow. These lands were ceded to the United States by the unlawful Republic of Hawai‘i without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians, and eventually transferred to the State of Hawai‘i through the 1959 Admissions Act.

Despite moral and legal claims made over decades, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that falls painfully short of the 20% of public land trust revenues it is owed under the Hawai‘i Constitution and state law. See Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) §10-13.5.

Specifically, a 2016 financial analysis found revenue sources that suggest that OHA should receive between \$35 and \$80 million annually, depending on the revenue streams included. This shortfall directly limits OHA’s ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana, which is particularly concerning during this time of cuts to critical, federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This bill would help advance justice for OHA’s Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by directing the PLTWG to hire third-party professionals, and ensure completion of the work set forth in Act 226.

While the legislature has the authority and duty to immediately raise the annual amount transferred to OHA 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.

At the same time, I respectfully request that you ensure that OHA has a representative voice on the PLTWG by amending the bill so that OHA retains four of nine designated seats, with the ninth seat (designated for a community member) to be elected by the other eight members.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Vernon Kapua'ala

Waikapū, Maui

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 1:25:39 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brenten Kanoa Yamane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

The Hawai‘i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro rata portion of income derived from the PLT and designates OHA to administer those funds on their behalf.

The PLT is comprised primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow. These lands were ceded to the United States by the unlawful Republic of Hawai‘i without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians, and eventually transferred to the State of Hawai‘i through the 1959 Admissions Act.

Despite moral and legal claims made over decades, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that falls painfully short of the 20% of public land trust revenues it is owed under the Hawai‘i Constitution and state law. See Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) §10-13.5.

Specifically, a 2016 financial analysis found revenue sources that suggest that OHA should receive between \$35 and \$80 million annually, depending on the revenue streams included. This shortfall directly limits OHA’s ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana, which is particularly concerning during this time of cuts to critical, federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This bill would help advance justice for OHA’s Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by directing the PLTWG to hire third-party professionals, and ensure completion of the work set forth in Act 226.

While the legislature has the authority and duty to immediately raise the annual amount transferred to OHA 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.

At the same time, I respectfully request that you ensure that OHA has a representative voice on the PLTWG by amending the bill so that OHA retains four of nine designated seats, with the ninth seat (designated for a community member) to be elected by the other eight members.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Brenten Kanoa Yamane

Kapolei, O'ahu

Brentenyamane@gmail.com

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 1:39:58 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in strong support of **HB2582** with ammendments.

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 1:42:09 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Nanea Lo and I'm a beneficiary of OHA and lineal descendant of these lands. I submit testimony in strong support of HB2582, relating to Hawaiian Affairs.

The Hawai'i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro rata portion of the revenues derived from the Public Land Trust (PLT) and designates the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to administer those funds on behalf of Native Hawaiian beneficiaries. The nearly 1.3 million acres that comprise the PLT are primarily Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands that were seized during the illegal overthrow and later transferred to the State of Hawai'i through the 1959 Admissions Act.

Despite clear constitutional and statutory mandates, OHA currently receives only \$21.5 million annually — a fraction of the 20% share required under state law (HRS §10-13.5). A 2016 financial review identified revenue streams suggesting that OHA should receive between \$35 million and \$80 million per year. Yet, OHA continues to receive roughly five percent of identified proceeds. This chronic underfunding directly limits OHA's ability to provide programs, grants, loans, research, and advocacy that uplift Native Hawaiians across our state.

In 2022, Act 226 established the Public Land Trust Working Group (PLTWG) to account for all ceded lands in the PLT, account for all income and proceeds generated from those lands, and ensure that OHA receives its full 20% share. HB2582 strengthens this effort by directing the PLTWG to contract third-party professionals to assist with land inventory and receipts audits, establishing clear deadlines for interim and final reports, and providing administrative support through OHA.

While the Legislature has the authority and duty to immediately raise the annual transfer amount based on publicly available data, this bill provides an important pathway toward resolving long-standing disputes and correcting misconceptions regarding PLT revenues. Updated audits and independent review will help provide clarity, transparency, and accountability.

At the same time, I respectfully request that the Committee amend HB2582 to ensure that OHA's voting power on the PLTWG is not diluted. OHA should retain four of the nine designated seats, with the ninth seat — designated for a community member — elected by the other eight

members. Maintaining strong OHA representation is essential to ensuring that beneficiary interests remain centered in this process.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB2582 with amendments to strengthen OHA's representation and ensure that Native Hawaiian beneficiaries finally receive their rightful share of Public Land Trust revenues.

me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo, 96826

Sierra Club of Hawai'i Member

Hawai'i Workers Center Board Member

Honolulu Tenants Union Member

350 Hawai'i Member

Carbon Cashback Hawai'i Member

Hawai'i Tax Fairness Coalition Member

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 1:55:15 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hailama VKK Farden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Hailama V.K.K. Farden, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB 2582. I support this bill because it represents a necessary and long-overdue step toward fulfilling the State of Hawai‘i’s constitutional and statutory obligations to Native Hawaiians with respect to the public land trust.

For over a century, there has never been a truly comprehensive inventory of all lands that were once under the Hawaiian Kingdom and are now held in the public land trust. Many people refer to these as “ceded lands.” These lands were acquired under circumstances that Native Hawaiians did not consent to, and they are lands for which the State has a contractual and constitutional obligation to account and to provide a pro rata share of revenues to beneficiaries under Hawai‘i Revised Statutes §10-13.5. HB 2582 builds on the work authorized by Act 226 of 2022 by strengthening the Public Land Trust Working Group, expanding its membership, and empowering it to work with independent professionals to help resolve fundamental questions about land inventory and revenue accounting that have persisted for decades.

Although the bill makes important structural improvements, these efforts cannot and will not be successful without meaningful appropriation. It is imperative that the Legislature commit the necessary funds to support this work. This is not a project that can proceed in a vacuum without resources. Hiring independent third-party professionals with expertise in land inventory, financial audit, and accounting is essential to producing the objective and reliable data that this state has never had. Without investment, the Working Group’s work risks being incomplete, under-funded, and ultimately ineffective.

The Legislature has a responsibility not only to authorize this work but also to provide the appropriation that makes it possible. I strongly urge that HB 2582 be referred to the Committee on Finance (Ways and Means) and receive full and meaningful consideration of the funds required to carry out its objectives. Without legislative commitment to actual funding, this effort will be set up to fail, and Native Hawaiians will continue to be denied a clear and accurate accounting of what is owed under law.

It is imperative that the Hawai‘i State Legislature place an “all-in” genuine effort and contribution toward addressing the state’s obligations under the public land trust. Native

Hawaiians deserve transparency, accountability, and an honest reckoning of the public land trust so that the trust obligations contained in our Constitution and state law are honored in practice and not merely in name.

I respectfully urge you to support HB 2582 and to ensure that the bill is considered with the seriousness it deserves, including clear legislative action on appropriation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Hailama V.K.K. Farden

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 7:11:09 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Bellamy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

The Hawai'i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro rata portion of income derived from the PLT and designates OHA to administer those funds on their behalf.

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 8:54:40 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rain K. Kahula Yong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing to strongly support HB2582, which ensures that Native Hawaiian beneficiaries receive their rightful share of revenues from the public land trust (PLT) through full support of the Public Land Trust Working Group (PLTWG).

The Hawai'i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro rata portion of income from the PLT, administered by OHA. Yet OHA currently receives only \$21.5 million annually, far short of the 20% it is owed. A 2016 financial analysis estimates that OHA should receive between \$35 and \$80 million annually, depending on included revenue streams. This shortfall limits OHA's ability to serve Native Hawaiians, especially amid cuts to federally funded programs.

HB2582 helps advance justice by directing the PLTWG to hire third-party professionals to complete the work set forth in Act 226 and clarify disputes over revenues and lands. I also respectfully request that OHA retain four of nine seats on the PLTWG, with the ninth community seat elected by the other eight members, ensuring Native Hawaiians have a strong voice in these decisions.

As a beneficiary and voter, I urge the Committee to pass HB2582 and provide the PLTWG with the resources and authority needed to fulfill its mandate.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Kahula Yong
'Ewa, O'ahu

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 9:14:06 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

It was brought to my attention that OHA is not receiving the mandated 20% of income on Hawaiian Lands. OHA estimates that this would be approximately \$80 million per year. However, OHA only receives \$21 million. To put this in perspective: 2024 census reports indicate that there are approximately 147,000 People of Hawaiian ethnicity on the Islands while 680,442 on the continent mainland. Therefore OHA's kuleana is for 827,442 Hawaiian people. Even with a projected income of \$80 million from Hawaiian Lands income--this amounts to \$100/person available to benefit each Hawaiian person, which is ridiculously low, but would at least meet the mandated law regarding income to OHA.

The Hawaiian people are a treasure and the heart of the Islands, the heart of Aloha. As sooo many Hawaiians leave the Islands in search of affordable housing and living wage, it is of utmost importance to honor the previous mandate and at least supply those funds to help create the affordable housing and living wage they so desparately need! We cannot lose the heart of the Islands without losing the very reason Hawaii is so special.

Mahalo Nui Loa for your kind consideration and for your assistance in passing HB2582.

With Aloha Nui,

Nancy Knight

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 11:41:10 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pilialoa Callahan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

The Hawai'i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro rata portion of income derived from the PLT and designates OHA to administer those funds on their behalf.

Despite moral and legal claims made over decades, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that falls painfully short of the 20% of public land trust revenues it is owed under the Hawai'i Constitution and state law. See Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) §10-13.5.

Specifically, a 2016 financial analysis found revenue sources that suggest that OHA should receive between \$35 and \$80 million annually, depending on the revenue streams included. This shortfall directly limits OHA's ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana, which is particularly concerning during this time of cuts to critical, federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

This bill would help advance justice for OHA's Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by directing the PLTWG to hire third-party professionals, and ensure completion of the work set forth in Act 226.

While the legislature has the authority and duty to immediately raise the annual amount transferred to OHA 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.

At the same time, I respectfully request that you ensure that OHA has a representative voice on the PLTWG by amending the bill so that OHA retains four of nine designated

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 12:25:40 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Wal Chair and Committee,

I am writing in very strong support for this bill. This is probably my 3rd or 4th year sending testimony regarding this.

From years ago, OHA Chair Hulu Lindsey was trying to procure Kanaka Maoli's fair share of what is owed to OHA.

Please don't let this slip through again. It seems like a small percentage that is owed to Kanaka.

Please support this bill. We've waited a long long time for this.

Mahalo for your time,

Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros,

Hana, Maui Resident

(808)866-7409

HB-2582

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 1:55:58 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/19/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cyd L. Hoffeld	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

The Hawai‘i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro rata portion of income derived from the PLT and designates OHA to administer those funds on their behalf.

The PLT is comprised primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow. **These lands were ceded to the United States by the unlawful Republic of Hawai‘i without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians, and eventually transferred to the State of Hawai‘i through the 1959 Admissions Act.**

Despite moral and legal claims made over decades, OHA continues to receive only \$21.5 million annually, an amount that falls woefully short of the **20% of public land trust revenues** it is **owed** under the Hawai‘i Constitution and state law. See Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) §10-13.5.

Specifically, a 2016 financial analysis found revenue sources that suggest that OHA should receive between \$35 and \$80 million annually, depending on the revenue streams included. This shortfall directly limits OHA’s ability to carry out its constitutional kuleana, which is particularly concerning during this time of cuts to critical, federally funded Native Hawaiian programs.

While the legislature has the authority and duty to immediately raise the annual amount transferred to OHA 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.

At the same time, **I respectfully request that you ensure that OHA has a representative voice on the PLTWG by amending the bill** so that OHA retains four of nine designated seats, with the ninth seat (designated for a community member) to be elected by the other eight members.

As a beneficiary and voter, I respectfully urge the Committee to **strongly support and pass HB2582** and ensure that the PLTWG has the resources and authority necessary to fulfill its mandate.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Cyd L. Hoffeld

Hilo, Hawai'i