

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
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FIRST DEPUTY
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AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
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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
FINANCE**

**Thursday, February 26, 2026
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2584, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE PUBLIC LAND TRUST**

House Bill 2584, House Draft 1 proposes to temporarily increase the total amount of public land trust revenues transferred to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), while reaffirming the State's constitutional obligation to the twenty percent pro rata share. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) has concerns and offers the following comments.**

The Department notes that it currently contributes twenty percent of all income and proceeds derived from the public land trust to OHA.

At this measure's hearing before the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs, OHA noted that the Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) maintains a Carry Forward Trust Holding Account (CFTHA) for public land trust revenues collected in excess of OHA's current annual allocation of \$21.5 million. The CFTHA is used to collect excess quarterly payments to OHA and to make up any shortfall in payments due to OHA. Per OHA, this account currently carries a cash balance of approximately \$55.5 million. The Department emphasizes that while it does not administer the CFTHA, it does not object to the release of these funds to OHA, provided that it is legally permissible to do so, and would not negatively affect the ability of the CFTHA to cover any foreseeable shortfalls in payments to OHA.

However, the Department maintains its position that it is premature to temporarily increase OHA's annual pro rate share of public land trust revenues. Act 226, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022 created the Public Land Trust Working Group tasked with accounting for all ceded lands in the public trust inventory, all income and proceeds from the public land trust, and subsequently determining the twenty percent pro rata share due to OHA annually. The Department is actively participating in the Working Group and believes that it should be allowed

to finish its work determining the pro rata share owed to OHA, rather than increasing it by an unspecified annual amount as prescribed by this measure.

The Department further notes that the Working Group previously sought funding to complete its statutory work. Given the substantial balance currently maintained in the CFTHA, that account could readily accommodate funding necessary to complete the Working Group's analysis and recommendations.

An increase in annual revenue share to OHA that is uninformed by the work intended to be completed by the Working Group may have a negative impact on all programs that are supported by revenues derived from the public land trust. Potentially, contributing programs will operate at net negative, diminishing the ability for the State to deliver services to the public while at the same time increasing the need for the impacted programs to supplement with general funds.

The Department also notes that revenues collected by its divisions support watershed protection, preservation of cultural and historical sites and public recreational resources. In addition, the Department provides lands to other agencies to support a variety of agricultural, educational, transportation and affordable housing projects, often at the expense of generating revenue to support its own programs. These collective efforts significantly contribute to the betterment of Native Hawaiians and the general public.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 2584 HD1
RELATING TO THE PUBLIC LAND TRUST

Ke Kōmike Hale o ka ‘Oihana ‘Imi Kālā
(House Committee on Finance)

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

Pepeluali 26, 2026

2:00PM

Lumi 308

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HB2584 HD1, as a temporary but necessary step toward ensuring that Native Hawaiians receive a fair annual share of the income and proceeds from the Public Land Trust (PLT). These funds are essential for the OHA Board of Trustees to address the many pressing needs facing the Native Hawaiian community.

OHA also specifically asks that the interim PLT transfer amount be set at \$53 million annually. Significantly, the amount necessary to fund the difference between the current annual payment amount of \$21.5 million and the proposed two-year annual payment amount of \$53 million is already set aside and available in the State’s “carry forward” account.¹ The money in this account reflects payments that state agencies would have made to OHA based upon the 20% mandate absent the existing \$21.5 million “cap” on annual payment amounts.

The Hawai‘i Admission Act, Public Law 86-3, and the Hawai‘i State Constitution, Art. XII § 4, established the PLT for five purposes including the betterment of the conditions of Native Hawaiians. The PLT consists of nearly 1.3 million acres of government and crown land of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, seized as part of the unlawful overthrow of the Kingdom without compensation to or consent by the Hawaiian people. The Hawai‘i State Constitution entrusts OHA with the responsibility to manage and administer Public Land Trust funds set aside for Native Hawaiian beneficiaries, which state law reaffirms as a 20% pro rata share of all funds from the Trust.

¹ There is currently \$55 million available in the “Overpayment Collections to OHA-Ceded Lands (T-955)” account to help fund any temporary two-year increase, in addition to receipts generated through ongoing productive use of the PLT

OHA's Pro Rata Share

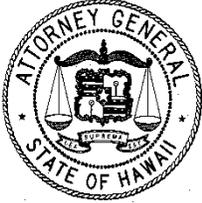
In 2006, OHA and the State agreed to an interim annual payment of \$15.1 million, which was intended to remain in place “until further action is taken by the legislature.” Act 178 (2006) § 2. In 2022, the legislature finally increased this amount to \$21.5 million through Act 226 (2022).

Despite the long-overdue increase in 2022, OHA's research shows that this \$21.5 million annual amount still woefully underrepresents the income that the State generates from the PLT and Native Hawaiians' share thereof. OHA's analysis of a financial review of Fiscal Year 2016 agency data estimated 20% of PLT receipts to be nearly \$80 million as the amount owed to OHA based on historical revenue sources transferred and awarded to OHA (from a total collection of \$394,322,163).

PLT revenue is OHA's primary source of funding for programs, grants, and services that address long-standing disparities affecting Native Hawaiians and deliver broad community benefit. OHA has consistently invested these funds in effective, innovative, and award-winning programs and services, that address systemic challenges faced by Native Hawaiians.

Given the historical context of the PLT, reduced federal funding for Native Hawaiian programs, and the State's trust obligations, increasing the annual PLT transfer amount is both fair and necessary—even on a temporary basis.

Accordingly, OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** HB2584 HD1 and add language specifying a temporary annual payment amount of \$53 million to better reflect the 20% pro rata share due annually to OHA. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2026**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 2584, H.D. 1, RELATING TO THE PUBLIC LAND TRUST.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

DATE: Thursday, February 26 , 2026 **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 308

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Craig Iha, Deputy Attorney General, or
Alyssa Couchie, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Todd and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney general provides the following comments.

This bill requires that, notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the annual amount of income and proceeds from the public land trust transferred to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) "shall not be less than the amount necessary to satisfy the twenty per cent pro rata share required under article XII, section 6, of the Hawaii State Constitution." The bill also increases the required transfer to an unspecified dollar amount, "or such greater amount as may be necessary to effectuate the twenty per cent pro rata share required by the Hawaii State Constitution." The bill would take effect on July 1, 3000, and be repealed on June 30, 2028.

Constitutional basis for the public land trust

Article XII, section 4, of the Hawai'i State Constitution defines the corpus of the public land trust as the lands granted to the State by section 5(b) of the Admission Act, excluding "available lands" under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, which "shall be held by the State as a public trust for native Hawaiians and the general public." These lands are comprised of the public, government, and Crown lands that the Republic of Hawaii seized upon the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom, and later ceded to the United States upon annexation in 1898. *See Office of Hawaiian Affairs v. State*, 96 Hawai'i 388, 389-90 (2001).

Section 5(f) of the Admission Act requires lands in the public land trust to be used for one of five purposes: (1) public schools and other public educational institutions; (2) the betterment of the conditions of native Hawaiians; (3) the development of farm and home ownership; (4) the making of public improvements; and (5) the provision of lands for public use.

Article XII, section 6, of the Hawai'i State Constitution states in part:

The board of trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs shall exercise power as provided by law: to manage and administer the proceeds from the sale or other disposition of the lands, natural resources, minerals and income derived from whatever sources for native Hawaiians and Hawaiians, including all income and proceeds from that pro rata portion of the trust referred to in section 4 of this article for native Hawaiians;

Notably, neither the Admission Act nor the Hawai'i State Constitution specifies the amount, percentage, or nature of the income or proceeds from the public land trust that must be transferred to OHA. In fact, both the State Constitution and Admission Act are silent on how receipts from the public land trust must or should be apportioned to support any of the five trust purposes. And, the Hawai'i Supreme Court has held that the Legislature determines how the State satisfies the provisions of article XII, section 6. See, e.g., *Office of Hawaiian Affairs v. Yamasaki*, 69 Haw. 154 (1987).

Current transfer requirement

In 2006, the Legislature enacted Act 178, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2006 (Act 178), as an interim measure to set the annual amount of OHA's pro rata share of income and proceeds from the lands of the public land trust. It set the amount at \$15.1 million annually, to be disbursed in quarterly payments of \$3.775 million and until modified by further legislation.

In 2022, the Legislature enacted Act 226, SLH 2022 (Act 226), which amended Act 178 to set OHA's pro rata share at \$21.5 million annually. Act 226 also created the Public Land Trust Working Group, comprised of three members appointed by the Governor and three appointed by OHA. One purpose of the working group is to "determine the twenty per cent pro rata share of income and proceeds from the public

land trust due annually to the office of Hawaiian affairs. . . ." Act 226 at section 3, page 510. The group's work is ongoing.

Concerns with section 2 of the bill

Determining what must be transferred to OHA from the public land trust—whether twenty percent or some other measurement—involves resolving issues such as the amount, percentage, and nature of the income or proceeds from the public land trust intended to accomplish the five purposes of section 5(f). Therefore, a requirement that OHA receive at least the "twenty per cent pro rata share required by the Hawaii State Constitution," without specific additional standards, would be impossible to comply with, especially when the working group has yet to complete its analysis and findings. We therefore recommend amending section 2 of the bill by deleting subsection (a) on page 3, lines 13 to 18. We also recommend amending subsection (b) by deleting the wording at page 4, lines 2-4, that reads: ", or such greater amount as may be necessary to effectuate the twenty per cent pro rata share required by the Hawaii State Constitution."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 5:23:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamahana Kealoha	Sacred Mauna Kea Hui	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2584_HD1, to ensure Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) receive their fair share of state revenues from the public land trust. While temporary, raising the current \$21.5 million cap on payment to OHA is an intermediary step towards greater justice for Native Hawaiians.

I respectfully ask that the Committee set the annual payment at \$50 million, which more accurately reflects OHA's 20% share due under law.

OHA carries a large kuleana to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians. OHA has a proven track record of investing in strategic, innovative, and award-winning programs and services that advance systemic solutions to challenges faced by Hawaiians and other Hawai'i residents.

As a snapshot, OHA-funded programs and services have launched small businesses; moved families off the streets; sent students to college; empowered grassroots groups to steward natural resources; and increased capacity of Hawaiian language charter schools to serve their surrounding communities. Without full funding, OHA's ability to fulfill its critical kuleana is compromised.

This bill is not just about funding; it's also about fairness and justice. The public land trust consists primarily of crown and government lands that were seized during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

Native Hawaiians have legal as well as moral claims not only to income, but to governance over these lands. Despite these claims, OHA receives only \$21.5 million per year compared to an estimated \$80 million that a 2016 OHA financial review showed were due to OHA nearly a decade ago.

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584_HD1 to help bring annual payments to OHA from the public land trust closer to \$80 million, and at least \$50 million, as this amount is already available in the state's carry over account.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Brannon Kamahana Kealoha

brannonk@hawaii.edu

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 10:43:14 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Surratt	Kauai Kokua Realty, Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill. Hawaiians have been cheated out of funds due to them for decades and are ever increasingly unable to afford to own a home here on Kauai or anywhere in the state.

We desperately need funding to build more homes . Homeownership has build proven to improve quality of life in multiple ways.

Mahalo,

Carol Surratt

Principal Broker



Purple Mai'a Foundation

Testimony in Strong Support of HB2582

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

On behalf of Purple Mai'a Foundation, I am writing to express our strong support for HB2582, which advances the work of the Public Land Trust Working Group (PLTWG) to ensure Native Hawaiian beneficiaries receive their rightful share of revenues generated from the Public Land Trust (PLT).

Purple Mai'a is committed to building economic self-determination and long-term resilience for Hawai'i's communities. The Public Land Trust represents a significant source of public wealth derived primarily from Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands. The Hawai'i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro rata portion of revenues from these lands, with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) designated to administer those funds on behalf of beneficiaries.

Despite this constitutional mandate, OHA continues to receive \$21.5 million annually — an amount widely understood to fall short of 20 percent of PLT revenues as contemplated under the Hawai'i Constitution and Hawai'i Revised Statutes §10-13.5. Independent financial analyses have suggested that actual annual revenues attributable to OHA could be substantially higher, limiting OHA's ability to fulfill its constitutional kuleana.

HB2582 strengthens the PLTWG's capacity by directing the hiring of qualified third-party professionals to complete the revenue and land inventory work outlined in Act 226. This is a necessary and pragmatic step toward transparency, accountability, and resolution of longstanding disputes regarding PLT revenues.

Ensuring that OHA's Native Hawaiian beneficiaries receive their rightful share of trust revenues is both a legal obligation and a matter of fundamental equity.

Purple Mai'a respectfully urges the Committee to pass HB2582 and provide the PLTWG with the tools necessary to fulfill its mandate.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Keoni DeFranco
Managing Director, Purple Mai'a Foundation
Waimānalo, O'ahu

Keoni DeFranco



ACTS OF REPENTANCE TASK FORCE

HAWAI'I DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Mailing Address: 1350 Hunakai Street, Honolulu, HI 96816

February 25, 2026

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

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

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

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

This bill is not just about funding: it's also about fairness and justice. The public land trust consists primarily of crown and government lands that were seized during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom. Native Hawaiians have legal as well as moral claims – not only to income, but also to governance over these lands. Despite these claims, **OHA receives only \$21.5 million per year compared to the estimated \$80 million that a 2016 audit showed was due to OHA under state law.**

I urge the committee to pass HB2584 to help bring OHA's funding closer to \$80 million per year.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Rev. Amy C. Wake, Chair

Hawai'i District United Methodist Church Acts of Repentance Task Force

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 5:16:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2584_HD1, to ensure Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) receive their fair share of state revenues from the public land trust. While temporary, raising the current \$21.5 million cap on payment to OHA is an intermediary step towards greater justice for Native Hawaiians.

I respectfully ask that the Committee set the annual payment at \$50 million, which more accurately reflects OHA's 20% share due under law.

OHA carries a large kuleana to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians. OHA has a proven track record of investing in strategic, innovative, and award-winning programs and services that advance systemic solutions to challenges faced by Hawaiians and other Hawai'i residents.

As a snapshot, OHA-funded programs and services have launched small businesses; moved families off the streets; sent students to college; empowered grassroots groups to steward natural resources; and increased capacity of Hawaiian language charter schools to serve their surrounding communities. Without full funding, OHA's ability to fulfill its critical kuleana is compromised.

This bill is not just about funding; it's also about fairness and justice. The public land trust consists primarily of crown and government lands that were seized during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

Native Hawaiians have legal as well as moral claims not only to income, but to governance over these lands. Despite these claims, OHA receives only \$21.5 million per year compared to an estimated \$80 million that a 2016 OHA financial review showed were due to OHA nearly a decade ago.

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584_HD1 to help bring annual payments to OHA from the public land trust closer to \$80 million, and at least \$50 million, as this amount is already available in the state's carry over account.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Aric Alike Kimo Andrade

702-449-9939

aandradefirefighter@yahoo.com

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 5:25:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ardena Sanoe Saarinen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2584_HD1, to ensure Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) receive their fair share of state revenues from the public land trust. While temporary, raising the current \$21.5 million cap on payment to OHA is an intermediary step towards greater justice for Native Hawaiians until a complete and accurate inventory of public lands & revenue has been established.

I respectfully ask that the Committee set the annual payment to at least \$50 million, which more accurately reflects OHA’s 20% share due under law.

OHA carries a large kuleana to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians. OHA has a proven track record of investing in strategic, innovative, and award-winning programs and services that advance systemic solutions to challenges faced by Hawaiians and other Hawai’i residents.

As a snapshot, OHA-funded programs and services have launched small businesses; moved families off the streets; sent students to college; empowered grassroots groups to steward natural resources; and increased capacity of Hawaiian language charter schools to serve their surrounding communities. Without full funding, OHA’s ability to fulfill its critical kuleana is compromised.

This bill is not just about funding; it’s also about fairness and justice. The public land trust consists primarily of crown and government lands that were seized during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

Native Hawaiians have legal as well as moral claims not only to income, but to governance over these lands. Despite these claims, OHA receives only \$21.5 million per year compared to an estimated \$80 million that a 2016 OHA financial review showed were due to OHA nearly a decade ago.

As an immediate ‘ohana member to many OHA beneficiaries and a registered voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584_HD1 until a full and complete inventory of Public Land Trust revenue is finalized - to help bring annual payments to OHA from the public land trust closer to \$80 million, and at least \$50 million, as this amount is already available in the state’s carry over account.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide written testimony.

Ardena Sanoë Saarinen
ardena@hawaii.edu

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 5:33:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2584_HD1, to ensure Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) receive their fair share of state revenues from the public land trust. While temporary, raising the current \$21.5 million cap on payment to OHA is an intermediary step towards greater justice for Native Hawaiians.

I respectfully ask that the Committee set the annual payment at \$50 million, which more accurately reflects OHA's 20% share due under law.

OHA carries a large kuleana to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians. OHA has a proven track record of investing in strategic, innovative, and award-winning programs and services that advance systemic solutions to challenges faced by Hawaiians and other Hawai'i residents.

As a snapshot, OHA-funded programs and services have launched small businesses; moved families off the streets; sent students to college; empowered grassroots groups to steward natural resources; and increased capacity of Hawaiian language charter schools to serve their surrounding communities. Without full funding, OHA's ability to fulfill its critical kuleana is compromised.

This bill is not just about funding; it's also about fairness and justice. The public land trust consists primarily of crown and government lands that were seized during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

Native Hawaiians have legal as well as moral claims not only to income, but to governance over these lands. Despite these claims, OHA receives only \$21.5 million per year compared to an estimated \$80 million that a 2016 OHA financial review showed were due to OHA nearly a decade ago.

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584_HD1 to help bring annual payments to OHA from the public land trust closer to \$80 million, and at least \$50 million, as this amount is already available in the state's carry over account.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Noel Shaw, Kalāwahine

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 5:34:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2584_HD1, to ensure Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) receive their fair share of state revenues from the public land trust. While temporary, raising the current \$21.5 million cap on payment to OHA is an intermediary step towards greater justice for Native Hawaiians.

I respectfully ask that the Committee set the annual payment at \$50 million, which more accurately reflects OHA's 20% share due under law.

This bill is not just about funding: it's also about fairness and justice. The public land trust consists primarily of crown and government lands that were seized during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

Do what's right.

Mahalo,

Brad of Waianae

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 6:14:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MARSHA H BOLSON	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi and House Finance Committee members;

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2584_HD1. As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass this bill and to set the annual payments to OHA from the public land trust at a minimum of \$50 million, which more accurately reflects OHA's 20% funding share due under law.

OHA-funded programs and services have supported thousands of Native Hawaiians by launching small businesses; moving families off the streets; sending students to college; empowering grassroots groups to steward natural resources; and increasing capacity of Hawaiian language charter schools to serve their surrounding communities.

With full funding, OHA, alongside the Hawaiian Council, the Ali'i Trusts, and many small nonprofit organizations, can fulfill their critical missions to uplift and advance Hawaii's indigenous people.

E'o and Malama Pono for your continued support.
Marsha H. Bolson

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 6:24:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha nui e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2584_HD1, to ensure Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) receive their fair share of state revenues from the public land trust.

While temporary, raising the current \$21.5 million cap on payment to OHA is an intermediary step towards greater justice for Native Hawaiians.

I respectfully ask that the Committee set the annual payment at \$50 million, which more accurately reflects OHA's 20% share due under law.

OHA carries a large kuleana to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians. OHA-funded programs and services have launched small businesses; moved families off the streets; sent students to college; empowered grassroots groups to steward natural resources; and increased capacity of Hawaiian language charter schools to serve their surrounding communities.

Without full funding, OHA's ability to fulfill its critical kuleana is compromised.

However, this bill is not just about funding: it's also about fairness and justice. The public land trust consists primarily of crown and government lands that were seized during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

Native Hawaiians have legal as well as moral claims - not only to income, but to governance over these lands. Despite these claims, OHA receives only \$21.5 million per year compared to an estimated \$80 million that a 2016 OHA-funded financial review showed were due to OHA nearly a decade ago.

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584_HD1 to help bring annual payments to OHA from the public land trust closer to \$80 million, and at least \$50 million, as this amount is already available in the state's carry over account.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Lisette Puanani Akamine

Kahalu'u, O'ahu

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 6:32:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Walter Kawikaka'iulani Aipa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2584_HD1, to ensure Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) receive their fair share of state revenues from the public land trust. While temporary, raising the current \$21.5 million cap on payment to OHA is an intermediary step towards greater justice for Native Hawaiians.

I respectfully ask that the Committee set the annual payment at \$50 million, which more accurately reflects OHA's 20% share due under law.

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

This bill is not just about funding: it's also about fairness and justice. The public land trust consists primarily of crown and government lands that were seized during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom. As a Native Hawaiian with a deep understanding of our history, I view this ongoing economic violence towards my people in the United States political and legal system as a continuation of that oppression. It has to stop. We must acknowledge and uphold the law that they set forth and are not following.

The legal system of the United States has long recognized the inherent sovereignty of indigenous groups, classifying them as "domestic dependent nations," a principle established in the landmark case of Cherokee Nation v. Georgia (1831). Furthermore, the Hawai'i State Constitution explicitly dictates that specific lands "shall be held by the State as a public trust for native Hawaiians and the general public", while also pledging protection for all rights customarily and traditionally exercised by the descendants of native Hawaiians. The failure to fully fund OHA's 20% share is a clear failure to uphold these fundamental legal obligations.

Despite the constitutional guarantee, OHA receives only \$21.5 million per year compared to an estimated \$80 million that a 2016 OHA financial review showed were due to OHA nearly a decade ago.

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584_HD1 to help bring annual payments to OHA from the public land trust closer to \$80 million, and at least \$50 million, as this amount is already available in the state's carry over account.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kawika Aipa

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 6:55:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2584_HD1, to ensure Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) receive their fair share of state revenues from the public land trust. While temporary, raising the current \$21.5 million cap on payment to OHA is an intermediary step towards greater justice for Native Hawaiians.

I respectfully ask that the Committee set the annual payment at \$50 million, which more accurately reflects OHA's 20% share due under law.

OHA carries a large kuleana to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians. OHA has a proven track record of investing in strategic, innovative, and award-winning programs and services that advance systemic solutions to challenges faced by Hawaiians and other Hawai'i residents.

As a snapshot, OHA-funded programs and services have launched small businesses; moved families off the streets; sent students to college; empowered grassroots groups to steward natural resources; and increased capacity of Hawaiian language charter schools to serve their surrounding communities. Without full funding, OHA's ability to fulfill its critical kuleana is compromised.

This bill is not just about funding: it's also about fairness and justice. The public land trust consists primarily of crown and government lands that were seized during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

Native Hawaiians have legal as well as moral claims not only to income, but to governance over these lands. Despite these claims, OHA receives only \$21.5 million per year compared to an estimated \$80 million that a 2016 OHA financial review showed were due to OHA nearly a decade ago.

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584_HD1 to help bring annual payments to OHA from the public land trust closer to \$80 million, and at least \$50 million, as this amount is already available in the state's carry over account.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Steve Goo
stevegoo1@gmail.com

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 7:09:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Crystal Branco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

[Testimony in support of HB2584 HD1](#)

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 7:18:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2584_HD1, to ensure Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) receive their fair share of state revenues from the public land trust. While temporary, raising the current \$21.5 million cap on payment to OHA is an intermediary step towards greater justice for Native Hawaiians.

I respectfully ask that the Committee set the annual payment at \$50 million, which more accurately reflects OHA's 20% share due under law.

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As a snapshot, OHA-funded programs and services have launched small businesses; moved families off the streets; sent students to college; empowered grassroots groups to steward natural resources; and increased capacity of Hawaiian language charter schools to serve their surrounding communities. Without full funding, OHA's ability to fulfill its critical kuleana is compromised.

This bill is not just about funding: it's also about fairness and justice. The public land trust consists primarily of crown and government lands that were seized during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

Native Hawaiians have legal as well as moral claims not only to income, but to governance over these lands. Despite these claims, OHA receives only \$21.5 million per year compared to an estimated \$80 million that a 2016 OHA financial review showed were due to OHA nearly a decade ago.

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584_HD1 to help bring annual payments to OHA from the public land trust closer to \$80 million, and at least \$50 million, as this amount is already available in the state's carry over account.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Maxine Akee

makee808@gmail.com

253-961-5933

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 7:30:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2584_HD1, to ensure Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) receive their fair share of state revenues from the public land trust. While temporary, raising the current \$21.5 million cap on payment to OHA is an intermediary step towards greater justice for Native Hawaiians.

I respectfully ask that the Committee set the annual payment at \$50 million, which more accurately reflects OHA's 20% share due under law.

OHA carries a large kuleana to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians. OHA has a proven track record of investing in strategic, innovative, and award-winning programs and services that advance systemic solutions to challenges faced by Hawaiians and other Hawai'i residents.

As a snapshot, OHA-funded programs and services have launched small businesses; moved families off the streets; sent students to college; empowered grassroots groups to steward natural resources; and increased capacity of Hawaiian language charter schools to serve their surrounding communities. Without full funding, OHA's ability to fulfill its critical kuleana is compromised.

This bill is not just about funding; it's also about fairness and justice. The public land trust consists primarily of crown and government lands that were seized during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

Native Hawaiians have legal as well as moral claims not only to income, but to governance over these lands. Despite these claims, OHA receives only \$21.5 million per year compared to an estimated \$80 million that a 2016 OHA financial review showed were due to OHA nearly a decade ago.

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584_HD1 to help bring annual payments to OHA from the public land trust closer to \$80 million, and at least \$50 million, as this amount is already available in the state's carry over account.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 7:51:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heather McVay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support!

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 8:23:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelei Tancayo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2584_HD1, to ensure Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) receive their fair share of state revenues from the public land trust. While temporary, raising the current \$21.5 million cap on payment to OHA is an intermediary step towards greater justice for Native Hawaiians.

I respectfully ask that the Committee set the annual payment at \$50 million, which more accurately reflects OHA's 20% share due under law.

OHA carries a large kuleana to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians. OHA has a proven track record of investing in strategic, innovative, and award-winning programs and services that advance systemic solutions to challenges faced by Hawaiians and other Hawai'i residents.

As a snapshot, OHA-funded programs and services have launched small businesses; moved families off the streets; sent students to college; empowered grassroots groups to steward natural resources; and increased capacity of Hawaiian language charter schools to serve their surrounding communities. Without full funding, OHA's ability to fulfill its critical kuleana is compromised.

This bill is not just about funding; it's also about fairness and justice. The public land trust consists primarily of crown and government lands that were seized during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

Native Hawaiians have legal as well as moral claims not only to income, but to governance over these lands. Despite these claims, OHA receives only \$21.5 million per year compared to an estimated \$80 million that a 2016 OHA financial review showed were due to OHA nearly a decade ago.

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584_HD1 to help bring annual payments to OHA from the public land trust closer to \$80 million, and at least \$50 million, as this amount is already available in the state's carry over account.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Michelei Tancayo

Lahaina, Maui

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 8:41:08 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tiare lawrence	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2584_HD1 to ensure Native Hawaiian beneficiaries receive their fair share of revenues from the public land trust. Raising the current \$21.5 million cap is an important step toward justice, and I respectfully urge the Committee to set the annual payment at \$50 million to better reflect what is owed under law.

As a beneficiary, I see firsthand the impact OHA has in our communities — supporting families, strengthening education, empowering stewardship of our natural resources, and creating opportunities for our people to thrive. OHA carries a deep kuleana, and without adequate funding, its ability to serve our lāhui is limited.

This measure is about fairness. These lands were taken during the illegal overthrow, and Native Hawaiians have both legal and moral claims to the revenues they generate. I urge you to pass HB2584_HD1 and move payments closer to what is rightfully owed, starting with at least \$50 million.

Mahalo

Tiare Lawrence

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:02:06 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ikaika Dwight	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Are you fricken kidding me?! As if the state doesn't gouge every aspect of our lives you guys want to withhold lawful funds from OHA PLT too? You guys are unreal and I really have no clue how you guys remain in office because I vote every chance there is and I never vote democrat and neither does anyone I know. Thank God we're moving forward with voter ID because this is bullsh**. OHA and the Republican Party are the only ones doing anything for the Hawaiian people and the people of Hawai'i. They aren't filled by greed and corruption like the rest of you. While I'm slightly off topic stop voting to give yourselves raises! That's pilau and corrupt by definition. Anyways change the tides in a show of good faith and give OHA the money they're entitled to. I speak for many when I say we're sick of your haole ways. You work for us not the other way around and you guys get plenty money already. You just don't know how to budget it because you like build disaster projects instead. Give OHA the funds, at least then we will know it's being used for the betterment of the people and not for your lavish spending habits, vacations, and materialistic agendas. Fricken democrats are running this state into the ground.

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:39:13 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2584_HD1, to ensure Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) receive their fair share of state revenues from the public land trust. While temporary, raising the current \$21.5 million cap on payment to OHA is an intermediary step towards greater justice for Native Hawaiians.

I respectfully ask that the Committee set the annual payment at \$50 million, which more accurately reflects OHA's 20% share due under law.

OHA carries a large kuleana to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians. OHA has a proven track record of investing in strategic, innovative, and award-winning programs and services that advance systemic solutions to challenges faced by Hawaiians and other Hawai'i residents.

As a snapshot, OHA-funded programs and services have launched small businesses; moved families off the streets; sent students to college; empowered grassroots groups to steward natural resources; and increased capacity of Hawaiian language charter schools to serve their surrounding communities. Without full funding, OHA's ability to fulfill its critical kuleana is compromised.

This bill is not just about funding: it's also about fairness and justice. The public land trust consists primarily of crown and government lands that were seized during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

Native Hawaiians have legal as well as moral claims not only to income, but to governance over these lands. Despite these claims, OHA receives only \$21.5 million per year compared to an estimated \$80 million that a 2016 OHA financial review showed were due to OHA nearly a decade ago.

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584_HD1 to help bring annual payments to OHA from the public land trust closer to \$80 million, and at least \$50 million, as this amount is already available in the state's carry over account.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Brenten Kanoa Yamane
brentenyamane@gmail.com

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 12:01:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

2584 HB RELATING TO THE PUBLIC LAND TRUST.

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 3:08:11 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2584_HD1, to ensure Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) receive their fair share of state revenues from the public land trust. While temporary, raising the current \$21.5 million cap on payment to OHA is an intermediary step towards greater justice for Native Hawaiians.

I respectfully ask that the Committee set the annual payment at \$50 million, which more accurately reflects OHA's 20% share due under law.

OHA carries a large kuleana to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians. OHA has a proven track record of investing in strategic, innovative, and award-winning programs and services that advance systemic solutions to challenges faced by Hawaiians and other Hawai'i residents.

As a snapshot, OHA-funded programs and services have launched small businesses; moved families off the streets; sent students to college; empowered grassroots groups to steward natural resources; and increased capacity of Hawaiian language charter schools to serve their surrounding communities. Without full funding, OHA's ability to fulfill its critical kuleana is compromised.

This bill is not just about funding: it's also about fairness and justice. The public land trust consists primarily of crown and government lands that were seized during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

Native Hawaiians have legal as well as moral claims not only to income, but to governance over these lands. Despite these claims, OHA receives only \$21.5 million per year compared to an estimated \$80 million that a 2016 OHA financial review showed were due to OHA nearly a decade ago.

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584_HD1 to help bring annual payments to OHA from the public land trust closer to \$80 million, and at least \$50 million, as this amount is already available in the state's carry over account.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Pauleen H Wright

808.268.9974/hauoli.ipo@gmail.com

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 6:14:36 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaimo Muhlestein	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2584 HD1, to ensure Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) receive their PONO share of state revenues from the public land trust. While temporary, raising the current \$21.5 million cap on payment to OHA to achieve PONO for the indigenous people of these islands of Hawaii nei.

I respectfully ask that the Committee set the annual payment at \$50 million, which more accurately reflects OHA’s 20% share due under law.

OHA carries an extreme large kuleana to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians. OHA has a proven track record of investing in strategic, innovative, and award-winning programs and services that advance systemic solutions to challenges faced by Hawaiians and other Hawai‘i residents.

As a snapshot, OHA-funded programs and services have launched small businesses; moved families off the streets; sent students to college; empowered grassroots groups to steward natural resources; and increased the capacity of Hawaiian language charter and kaiapuni public schools to serve their surrounding communities. Without full funding, OHA’s ability to fulfill its critical kuleana is compromised.

This bill is not just about funding: it’s also about PONO. The public land trust consists primarily of crown and government lands that were seized in 1893 at the time of the illegal overthrow of

our Recognized Hawaiian Kingdom of which is a part of other recognized nations, including the United States.

Native Hawaiians have legal as well as moral claims not only to income, but to governance over these lands. Despite these claims, OHA receives only \$21.5 million per year compared to an estimated \$80 million that a 2016 OHA financial review showed were due to OHA nearly a decade ago.

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584HD1 to help bring annual payments to OHA from the public land trust closer to \$80 million, and at least \$50 million, as this amount is already available in the state's carry over account.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaimo Muhlestein

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 6:37:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support HB2584 HD1 that ensures us Native Hawaiians, via OHA, receive our fair share of the State Revenues from the public land trust. \$21.5MM is to low and until the State provides an accurate accounting of actual revenue being generated on the PLT, OHA should get \$50MM.

Why we gotta ask for what we are entitled to? Nuff said!!

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 6:49:20 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jayna Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2584_HD1, to ensure Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) receive their fair share of state revenues from the public land trust. While temporary, raising the current \$21.5 million cap on payment to OHA is an intermediary step towards greater justice for Native Hawaiians.

I respectfully ask that the Committee set the annual payment at \$50 million, which more accurately reflects OHA’s 20% share due under law.

OHA carries a large kuleana to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians. OHA has a proven track record of investing in strategic, innovative, and award-winning programs and services that advance systemic solutions to challenges faced by Hawaiians and other Hawai’i residents.

As a snapshot, OHA-funded programs and services have launched small businesses; moved families off the streets; sent students to college; empowered grassroots groups to steward natural resources; and increased capacity of Hawaiian language charter schools to serve their surrounding communities. Without full funding, OHA’s ability to fulfill its critical kuleana is compromised.

This bill is not just about funding: it’s also about fairness and justice. The public land trust consists primarily of crown and government lands that were seized during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

Native Hawaiians have legal as well as moral claims not only to income, but to governance over these lands. Despite these claims, OHA receives only \$21.5 million per year compared to an estimated \$80 million that a 2016 OHA financial review showed were due to OHA nearly a decade ago.

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584_HD1 to help bring annual payments to OHA from the public land trust closer to \$80 million, and at least \$50 million, as this amount is already available in the state's carry over account.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Jayna Perry

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 7:12:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2584_HD1, to ensure Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) receive their fair share of state revenues from the public land trust. While temporary, raising the current \$21.5 million cap on payment to OHA is an intermediary step towards greater justice for Native Hawaiians.

I respectfully ask that the Committee set the annual payment at \$50 million, which more accurately reflects OHA's 20% share due under law.

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This bill is not just about funding: it's also about fairness and justice. The public land trust consists primarily of crown and government lands that were seized during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

Native Hawaiians have legal as well as moral claims not only to income, but to governance over these lands. Despite these claims, OHA receives only \$21.5 million per year compared to an estimated \$80 million that a 2016 OHA financial review showed were due to OHA nearly a decade ago.

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584_HD1 to help bring annual payments to OHA from the public land trust closer to \$80 million, and at least \$50 million, as this amount is already available in the state's carry over account.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

John W. Kaohelaulii
PO Box 684
Anahola, HI. 96703

Subject: HB2584 HD1

Aloha House,

I am writing in support of HB2584 HD1, which seeks to increase funding for the beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. This measure is crucial for honoring the State of Hawai'i's commitment to native Hawaiians and addressing the ongoing needs of our communities.

Native Hawaiians have faced significant challenges, and adequate funding is essential to support programs that foster cultural preservation, education, health, and economic development. Strengthening these initiatives will empower our people and help restore the vitality of our culture and traditions.

Increased funding will not only benefit native Hawaiians but will also contribute to the overall well-being of the entire state. We must invest in our communities to create a sustainable and prosperous future for all residents of Hawai'i. I urge you to support HB2584 HD1 and help pave the way for a brighter future for our beneficiaries. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha and Mahalo,

John W. Kaohelaulii

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 7:33:51 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chai Blair-Stahn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chai Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2584_HD1, to ensure Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) receive their fair share of state revenues from the public land trust. While temporary, raising the current \$21.5 million cap on payment to OHA is an intermediary step towards greater justice for Native Hawaiians.

I respectfully ask that the Committee set the annual payment at \$50 million, which more accurately reflects OHA's 20% share due under law.

OHA carries a large kuleana to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians. OHA has a proven track record of investing in strategic, innovative, and award-winning programs and services that advance systemic solutions to challenges faced by Hawaiians and other Hawai'i residents.

As a snapshot, OHA-funded programs and services have launched small businesses; moved families off the streets; sent students to college; empowered grassroots groups to steward natural resources; and increased capacity of Hawaiian language charter schools to serve their surrounding communities. Without full funding, OHA's ability to fulfill its critical kuleana is compromised.

This bill is not just about funding: it's also about fairness and justice. The public land trust consists primarily of crown and government lands that were seized during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

Native Hawaiians have legal as well as moral claims not only to income, but to governance over these lands. Despite these claims, OHA receives only \$21.5 million per year compared to an estimated \$80 million that a 2016 OHA financial review showed were due to OHA nearly a decade ago.

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584_HD1 to help bring annual payments to OHA from the public land trust closer to \$80 million, and at least \$50 million, as this amount is already available in the state's carry over account.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Chai Blair-Stahn

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 7:40:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keone Oldroyd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

How much longer are we going to shirk our constitutional responsibilities? Look, if OHA isn't the best place for the 20%, then the other departments at least need to start actually accounting for how much of their spending goes to Native Hawaiian issues. We can't just pretend or hope we're in compliance.

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 7:58:53 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Kaiwi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2584_HD1, to ensure Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) receive their fair share of state revenues from the public land trust. While temporary, raising the current \$21.5 million cap on payment to OHA is an intermediary step towards greater justice for Native Hawaiians.

I respectfully ask that the Committee set the annual payment at \$50 million, which more accurately reflects OHA's 20% share due under law.

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 8:34:16 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hello Chair Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Hawai'i House Committee on Finance,

My name is Nanea Lo, and I submit testimony in strong support of HB2584 HD1 to ensure Native Hawaiian beneficiaries receive their fair and lawful share of revenues from the Public Land Trust (PLT).

I currently serve as Administrative Assistant for Research & Evaluation at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), where I support research, and advocacy initiatives focused on Native Hawaiian rights, land, housing, and economic equity. My professional background includes over a decade of community organizing, coalition-building, and justice-centered policy work across Hawai'i. My educational background is in Urban & Regional Planning from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa with a focus on community planning and policy change. My work has consistently centered land stewardship, equitable resource distribution, and strengthening systems that uplift Native Hawaiian communities.

In addition to my professional work, I previously served as the Kona Representative on the O'ahu Island Burial Council and as a Commissioner on the O'ahu Historic Preservation Commission. In these roles, I was entrusted with stewarding cultural and historic resources, reviewing development proposals affecting iwi kūpuna and historic properties, and upholding our collective responsibility to protect ancestral lands. These experiences deepened my understanding of how land governance, revenue allocation, and state accountability directly impact Native Hawaiian rights and cultural survival.

Through more than a decade of community organizing, coalition-building, and justice-centered policy work across Hawai'i, I have seen firsthand how chronic underfunding constrains Native-serving institutions from fully meeting urgent community needs. HB2584 HD1 is a critical step toward correcting that imbalance.

The Hawai'i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro-rata share of Public Land Trust revenues and designates OHA to administer these funds on behalf of beneficiaries. Yet OHA currently receives only \$21.5 million annually—far below the estimated \$35 to \$80 million owed under the law.

The Public Land Trust consists of nearly 1.3 million acres—primarily crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom. An OHA-funded financial review of fiscal year 2016 agency receipts determined that at least \$394,322,163 was generated from the use and rental of PLT lands in that year alone. At that rate of revenue generation, 20% due to OHA would amount to approximately \$80 million annually. Nearly a decade later, OHA still receives only \$21.5 million per year.

HB2584 HD1 would temporarily increase OHA’s PLT revenue for a two-year period, pending a more complete accounting of the amounts due. While the bill does not yet include a specific figure, this hearing is an opportunity to set an amount that more accurately reflects OHA’s 20% share. I respectfully urge the Committee to set the annual payment at no less than **\$50 million**, which is fiscally feasible and better aligned with documented PLT revenues.

There is currently approximately \$55 million available in an account earmarked for “overpayments” to OHA—funds that would have been transferred as part of OHA’s 20% share absent the statutory cap. Allocating at least \$50 million annually during this temporary period is both responsible and just.

OHA has demonstrated a strong track record of investing in housing stability, educational advancement, small business development, cultural preservation, and community-based stewardship. In my roles supporting policy advocacy and previously serving on land and preservation bodies, I have seen how essential these investments are to protecting our people and our places.

This bill is not solely about funding—it is about fairness, constitutional accountability, and restorative justice. Native Hawaiians have both legal and moral claims not only to income generated from these lands, but to governance and stewardship over them.

As a Native Hawaiian professional, former Burial Council member, former Historic Preservation Commissioner, and OHA employee, I strongly urge the Committee to pass HB2584 HD1 and amend the measure to provide no less than \$50 million annually, moving closer to the full 20% share due under the law.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, 96826

Carbon Cashback Hawai‘i Member

Hawai‘i Workers Center Board Member

Honolulu Tenants Union Member

Hawai‘i Tax Fairness Coalition

Clean Elections Hawai‘i Member

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 9:02:42 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gwen Rodrigues	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2584_HD1, to ensure Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) receive their fair share of state revenues from the public land trust. While temporary, raising the current \$21.5 million cap on payment to OHA is an intermediary step towards greater justice for Native Hawaiians.

I respectfully ask that the Committee set the annual payment at \$50 million, which more accurately reflects OHA's 20% share due under law.

OHA carries a large kuleana to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians. OHA has a proven track record of investing in strategic, innovative, and award-winning programs and services that advance systemic solutions to challenges faced by Hawaiians and other Hawai'i residents.

As a snapshot, OHA-funded programs and services have launched small businesses; moved families off the streets; sent students to college; empowered grassroots groups to steward natural resources; and increased capacity of Hawaiian language charter schools to serve their surrounding communities. Without full funding, OHA's ability to fulfill its critical kuleana is compromised.

This bill is not just about funding: it's also about fairness and justice. The public land trust consists primarily of crown and government lands that were seized during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

Native Hawaiians have legal as well as moral claims not only to income, but to governance over these lands. Despite these claims, OHA receives only \$21.5 million per year compared to an estimated \$80 million that a 2016 OHA financial review showed were due to OHA nearly a decade ago.

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584_HD1 to help bring annual payments to OHA from the public land trust closer to \$80 million, and at least \$50 million, as this amount is already available in the state's carry over account.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Gwen MM Rodrigues

565 Kupuna Place

apt 204

Hil, Hawaii 96720

8086403237

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 9:08:16 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kealii Makekau	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Pass this measure! Mahalo

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 10:15:11 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

My name is Tiare Smith, and I am a Native Hawaiian beneficiary of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), residing in Kaneohe, Hawai‘i. I am writing to express my strong support for HB2584 HD1, which would temporarily increase the annual transfer of public land trust (PLT) revenues to OHA for the benefit of Native Hawaiian beneficiaries. This is an important step toward fulfilling the State's constitutional obligation to provide OHA with its rightful 20% pro-rata share.

Currently, OHA receives only \$21.5 million per year from PLT revenues—a fixed amount that is significantly lower than the \$35 to \$80 million estimated to be due under law, based on historical reviews like the 2016 OHA-funded analysis showing at least \$394 million in PLT-generated receipts that year (equating to roughly \$80 million at 20%). This chronic underfunding limits OHA's ability to deliver essential programs and services that uplift Native Hawaiians and strengthen our communities.

HB2584 HD1 offers a temporary two-year increase (for fiscal years 2026–2028) to bring payments closer to the actual 20% due, while a more complete accounting is completed. There is already \$55 million available in the State's overpayment account that could support this adjustment without new burdens on the general fund.

I respectfully urge the Committee to amend the bill to set a more meaningful temporary annual amount—such as \$50 million or higher—to better reflect OHA's legal entitlement and the urgent needs of Native Hawaiians. This would enable OHA to expand its proven, impactful work, including supporting small businesses, addressing homelessness, funding higher education, stewarding natural resources through community-led efforts, and strengthening Hawaiian language immersion schools.

This issue goes beyond dollars—it's about justice, fairness, and honoring the Hawai‘i State Constitution (Article XII), which recognizes Native Hawaiians as beneficiaries of the PLT. These lands largely consist of crown and government lands taken during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom. Native Hawaiians have both legal and moral claims to these resources and their revenues.

As an OHA beneficiary and a concerned resident of Hawai'i, I strongly support passage of HB2584 HD1 with amendments to ensure a substantial temporary increase. Mahalo nui for your consideration and for the opportunity to testify. I urge the Committee to act in the spirit of pono and equity for Native Hawaiians.

Mahalo,

Tiare Smith

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 11:16:44 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2584_HD1, to ensure Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) receive their fair share of state revenues from the public land trust.

Mahalo piha,

Dr. Taffi Wise

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 12:08:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samantha Puluole-Mitchell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2584_HD1, to ensure Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) receive their fair share of state revenues from the public land trust. While temporary, raising the current \$21.5 million cap on payment to OHA is an intermediary step towards greater justice for Native Hawaiians.

I respectfully ask that the Committee set the annual payment at \$50 million, which more accurately reflects OHA's 20% share due under law.

OHA carries a large kuleana to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians. OHA has a proven track record of investing in strategic, innovative, and award-winning programs and services that advance systemic solutions to challenges faced by Hawaiians and other Hawai'i residents.

As a snapshot, OHA-funded programs and services have launched small businesses; moved families off the streets; sent students to college; empowered grassroots groups to steward natural resources; and increased capacity of Hawaiian language charter schools to serve their surrounding communities. Without full funding, OHA's ability to fulfill its critical kuleana is compromised.

This bill is not just about funding: it's also about fairness and justice. The public land trust consists primarily of crown and government lands that were seized during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

Native Hawaiians have legal as well as moral claims not only to income, but to governance over these lands. Despite these claims, OHA receives only \$21.5 million per year compared to an estimated \$80 million that a 2016 OHA financial review showed were due to OHA nearly a decade ago.

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584_HD1 to help bring annual payments to OHA from the public land trust closer to \$80 million, and at least \$50 million, as this amount is already available in the state's carry over account.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

S. Kamaile Puluole-Mitchell

RHONDA KAMAI-KEKELA

Hawaiian Paradise Park, Kea'au, HI



Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am writing in strong support of HB2584_HD1, which seeks to ensure that Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) receive their fair and lawful share of state revenues from the public land trust. While temporary, increasing the current \$21.5 million cap is an essential step toward greater justice for Native Hawaiians.

I respectfully urge the Committee to set the annual payment at **\$50 million**, a figure that more accurately reflects OHA's 20% share under existing law.

OHA carries a significant kuleana to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians. The agency has a proven record of investing in strategic, innovative, and award-winning programs that create systemic, long-term solutions for Hawaiians and other Hawai'i residents.

As a snapshot, OHA-funded initiatives have helped launch small businesses, move families into stable housing, support students in pursuing higher education, empower grassroots groups to steward natural resources, and expand the capacity of Hawaiian language charter schools to serve their communities. Without full funding, OHA's ability to fulfill this critical kuleana is diminished.

This bill is not only about funding—it is about fairness and justice. The public land trust consists largely of crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom. Native Hawaiians have both legal and moral claims not only to income from these lands, but also to governance over them. Despite these longstanding claims, OHA currently receives only \$21.5 million per year, far below the approximately \$80 million that a 2016 OHA financial review estimated was due nearly a decade ago.

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the Committee to pass HB2584_HD1 and move annual payments closer to the \$80 million owed—and at minimum, to \$50 million, which is already available in the state's carryover account.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Rhonda Kamai-Kekela

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'R' followed by a horizontal line that tapers to the right.

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 12:08:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KRISTY PANTIL	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2584_HD1, to ensure Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) receive their fair share of state revenues from the public land trust. While temporary, raising the current \$21.5 million cap on payment to OHA is an intermediary step towards greater justice for Native Hawaiians.

I respectfully ask that the Committee set the annual payment at \$50 million, which more accurately reflects OHA's 20% share due under law.

OHA carries a large kuleana to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians. OHA has a proven track record of investing in strategic, innovative, and award-winning programs and services that advance systemic solutions to challenges faced by Hawaiians and other Hawai'i residents.

As a snapshot, OHA-funded programs and services have launched small businesses; moved families off the streets; sent students to college; empowered grassroots groups to steward natural resources; and increased capacity of Hawaiian language charter schools to serve their surrounding communities. Without full funding, OHA's ability to fulfill its critical kuleana is compromised.

This bill is not just about funding: it's also about fairness and justice. The public land trust consists primarily of crown and government lands that were seized during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

Native Hawaiians have legal as well as moral claims not only to income, but to governance over these lands. Despite these claims, OHA receives only \$21.5 million per year compared to an estimated \$80 million that a 2016 OHA financial review showed were due to OHA nearly a decade ago.

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584_HD1 to help bring annual payments to OHA from the public land trust closer to \$80 million, and at least \$50 million, as this amount is already available in the state's carryover account.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

KRISTY PANTIL | KUUALOHA96789@GMAIL.COM

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 1:55:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF H.B. 2584 (HD1)

RELATING TO THE PUBLIC LAND TRUST

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is **Leimomi Khan**, and I submit this testimony in **strong support of H.B. 2584 (HD1)**.

The path forward is clear and balanced:

- **Pass H.B. 2584 (HD1)** to provide immediate and temporary stability; and
- **Pass and fund H.B. 1358 (HD3)** so the State will finally have the data and accountability structure necessary for full, long-term compliance with its constitutional and fiduciary obligations.

This approach responds to the Attorney General’s concern, supports the Working Group’s mission, and moves Hawai‘i toward a transparent and durable resolution of an issue that has remained unresolved for far too long. Further rationale is provided as follows:

Article XII, Section 6 of the Hawai‘i State Constitution is clear in both its language and its intent: the Office of Hawaiian Affairs is to receive a **twenty per cent pro rata share of the income and proceeds of the Public Land Trust for the betterment of the conditions of Native Hawaiians**. This measure represents a good-faith, temporary step toward stabilizing that constitutional obligation during a period of federal funding uncertainty and increasing community need.

I respectfully acknowledge the concern raised by the Department of the Attorney General that, in the absence of a fully developed and reliable accounting system for Public Land Trust revenues, determining the precise amount necessary to meet the twenty per cent requirement presents operational challenges. That concern is valid. However, it is also important to recognize that the underlying difficulty is not the constitutional standard itself, but the **long-standing lack of a complete, transparent, and trustworthy data and revenue accountability system for the Public Land Trust**.

The Legislature has already taken an important step by establishing the Public Land Trust Working Group. For that effort to succeed, it is essential that the Working Group be provided with the resources necessary to complete its work. For this reason, I also strongly urge passage and funding of **H.B. 1358 (HD3), Relating to the Public Land Trust Working Group**, so that it may hire the professional staff, obtain the technical expertise, and acquire the equipment needed to:

- complete a comprehensive inventory of Public Land Trust lands;
- accurately identify and track revenues derived from those lands;
- standardize accounting methodologies across state agencies; and
- produce a reliable and defensible database for future legislative and administrative action.

Without this infrastructure, full compliance will always be difficult — not because the State’s obligation is unclear, but because the information system needed to implement that obligation has never been completed.

H.B. 2584 (HD1) does not interfere with the Working Group’s mission. Instead, it **provides temporary stability while that work is underway**, ensures continuity of critical programs serving Native Hawaiian communities, and reaffirms — rather than alters — the State’s constitutional trust responsibility. The inclusion of a repeal date appropriately allows the Legislature to revisit the issue once the Working Group has delivered its recommendations.

Native Hawaiian-serving programs are currently facing increased demand due to rising costs of living, disaster recovery needs, and reductions and uncertainty in federal funding. The Office of Hawaiian Affairs has repeatedly demonstrated its ability to responsibly and collaboratively deploy resources to meet these needs. Delaying adequate transfers until a perfect accounting system is in place would continue the historic pattern of underpayment and would shift the burden of the State’s data gaps onto the very beneficiaries the trust is intended to serve.

As a **beneficiary of the Public Land Trust**, I experience the impact of these delays directly. The absence of a complete and accurate revenue system affects the resources available for housing, education, health, cultural preservation, and economic stability for our lāhui.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.

Respectfully submitted,
Leimomi Khan

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 2:08:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mika Mulkey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2584_HD1, to ensure Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) receive their fair share of state revenues from the public land trust. While temporary, raising the current \$21.5 million cap on payment to OHA is an intermediary step towards greater justice for Native Hawaiians.

I respectfully ask that the Committee set the annual payment at \$50 million, which more accurately reflects OHA's 20% share due under law.

OHA carries a large kuleana to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians. OHA has a proven track record of investing in strategic, innovative, and award-winning programs and services that advance systemic solutions to challenges faced by Hawaiians and other Hawai'i residents.

As a snapshot, OHA-funded programs and services have launched small businesses; moved families off the streets; sent students to college; empowered grassroots groups to steward natural resources; and increased capacity of Hawaiian language charter schools to serve their surrounding communities. Without full funding, OHA's ability to fulfill its critical kuleana is compromised.

This bill is not just about funding; it's also about fairness and justice. The public land trust consists primarily of crown and government lands that were seized during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

Native Hawaiians have legal as well as moral claims not only to income, but to governance over these lands. Despite these claims, OHA receives only \$21.5 million per year compared to an estimated \$80 million that a 2016 OHA financial review showed were due to OHA nearly a decade ago.

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584_HD1 to help bring annual payments to OHA from the public land trust closer to \$80 million, and at least \$50 million, as this amount is already available in the state's carry over account.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Mika Mulkey

Mountain View, 96771

LATE

Subject: Support for HB2584 HD1 – Public Land Trust Revenues for OHA

Dear Chair and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am writing as a Hawai'i resident to express my strong support for HB2584 HD1, relating to the public land trust.

HB2584 HD1 takes an important step toward fulfilling the State's constitutional and statutory obligations to Native Hawaiian beneficiaries by increasing the share of public land trust revenues distributed to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. While this bill does not yet provide the full twenty percent that many agree is owed, the higher amount moves us meaningfully closer to that benchmark and acknowledges that the current \$21.5 million annual payment is inadequate.legiscan+2

For decades, revenues generated from public land trust (ceded) lands have not fully reached the beneficiaries they are intended to serve. Increasing OHA's share will expand its capacity to fund critical programs in areas such as education, health, housing, and cultural preservation for Native Hawaiians, and it aligns with the State's trust responsibilities under the Hawai'i Constitution and related statutes.oha+1

I respectfully urge you to:

- Pass HB2584 HD1 as a necessary interim correction to underpayment of public land trust revenues to OHA, and
- Continue working toward a durable, data-driven framework that fully realizes the twenty-percent share due to Native Hawaiian beneficiaries from PLT revenues.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB2584 HD1.

Sincerely,
Ryan K. Gomes
Honolulu, Hawaii

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 11:48:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carrie Ann Shirota	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am writing in support of **HB2584 HD1, Relating to the Public Trust**, as a temporary but necessary and morally just step toward ensuring that Native Hawaiians receive a fair annual share of the income and proceeds from the Public Land Trust (PLT).

The Hawai'i State Constitution entrusts OHA with the responsibility to manage and administer Public Land Trust funds set aside for Native Hawaiian beneficiaries. State law reaffirms this as a 20% pro rata share of all funds from the Trust.

OHA has conservatively requested \$53 million dollars a year. This is a drop in the bucket compared to the millions that the State spends incarcerating Native Hawaiians in Hawaii's jails and prisons, and out-of-state/country private for profit prisons on the American continent.

Last year, the State of Hawai'i appropriated \$30 million over a period of two years for the Department of Corrections to continue planning for a new jail to lock up more Native Hawaiians, with full construction costs estimated at over \$1 BILLION dollars.

Over twenty years ago, the State also spent over \$15 million dollars on consultants to build a new Public Safety Complex in Pu'unene Maui. Community opposition to the project, coupled with the lack of water infrastructure, grinded the new carcerl expansion project to a halt.

There are but two examples of the State finding money to invest in projects that harm Native Hawaiians, instead of fulfilling the Constitutional and legislative mandate of what is owed to OHA and ultimately, Native Hawaiians, who never relinquished their rights to the land.

For too long, the State of Hawai'i has issued a check to OHA marked with insufficient funds. It's time for the State of Hawai'i to pay its fair share to OHA, while also working in good faith to resolve related issues through the Working Group.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2584 HD1.

Carrie Ann Shirota, Esq.

Honolulu, Hawai'i

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:47:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2584 HD1

Relating to Hawaiian Affairs

(Submitted for the Record)

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

My name is Kapi‘olani Spencer. I am a Native Hawaiian beneficiary, cultural and lineal descendant of Moku o Keawe, and a community member from Kona, Hawai‘i Island.

I submit this testimony in strong support of HB2584 HD1.

This measure is not about political preference. It is about constitutional compliance.

Article XII, Section 4 of the Hawai‘i State Constitution affirms that a portion of revenues derived from the Public Land Trust — the former Government and Crown Lands of the Hawaiian Kingdom — must be held in trust for the betterment of Native Hawaiians and administered through the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

This is not optional.

It is a fiduciary obligation.

When revenues from ceded lands are undercounted, delayed, or disputed, Native Hawaiian beneficiaries are the ones impacted. Programs for housing, education, health, cultural preservation, and economic development depend on those funds. Incomplete accounting undermines trust — both legally and morally.

The Public Land Trust is rooted in lands once held by the Hawaiian Kingdom for the lāhui. These lands were never intended to become vague revenue streams subject to political negotiation. They carry historical weight and ongoing responsibility.

HB2584 HD1 strengthens transparency, authority, and clarity in determining the full measure of revenues owed. That clarity is essential.

Without accurate accounting, fiduciary duty cannot be fulfilled. Without fiduciary duty, public trust erodes. Without public trust, the Constitution becomes words without enforcement.

As a beneficiary and community advocate, I urge you to advance this bill and ensure it is implemented with strength , not diluted authority.

This is not about confrontation. This is about integrity.

The State has an obligation to honor both the legal framework and the historical context of these lands.

When we talk about the Public Land Trust, we are talking about land once stewarded under Hawaiian governance , land tied to identity, culture, and survival.

Please uphold the constitutional mandate. Please protect the integrity of the trust. Please ensure Native Hawaiian beneficiaries receive what is already owed under law.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Kapi'olani Spencer

Kona, Hawai'i Island

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:54:58 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2584_HD1, to ensure Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) receive their fair share of state revenues from the public land trust. While temporary, raising the current \$21.5 million cap on payment to OHA is an intermediary step towards greater justice for Native Hawaiians.

I respectfully ask that the Committee set the annual payment at \$50 million, which more accurately reflects OHA's 20% share due under law.

OHA carries a large kuleana to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians. OHA has a proven track record of investing in strategic, innovative, and award-winning programs and services that advance systemic solutions to challenges faced by Hawaiians and other Hawai'i residents.

As a snapshot, OHA-funded programs and services have launched small businesses; moved families off the streets; sent students to college; empowered grassroots groups to steward natural resources; and increased capacity of Hawaiian language charter schools to serve their surrounding communities. Without full funding, OHA's ability to fulfill its critical kuleana is compromised.

This bill is not just about funding: it's also about fairness and justice. The public land trust consists primarily of crown and government lands that were seized during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

Native Hawaiians have legal as well as moral claims not only to income, but to governance over these lands. Despite these claims, OHA receives only \$21.5 million per year compared to an estimated \$80 million that a 2016 OHA financial review showed were due to OHA nearly a decade ago.

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584_HD1 to help bring annual payments to OHA from the public land trust closer to \$80 million, and at least \$50 million, as this amount is already available in the state's carry over account.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Vernon Kapua'ala
Waikapū, Maui

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 10:44:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2584_HD1**, to ensure Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) receive their fair share of state revenues from the public land trust. While temporary, raising the current \$21.5 million cap on payment to OHA is an intermediary step towards greater justice for Native Hawaiians.

I respectfully ask that the Committee set the **annual payment at \$80 million, which more accurately reflects OHA's 20% share due under law.**

OHA carries a large kuleana to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians. OHA has a proven track record of investing in strategic, innovative, and award-winning programs and services that advance systemic solutions to challenges faced by Hawaiians and other Hawai'i residents.

As a snapshot, OHA-funded programs and services have launched small businesses; moved families off the streets; sent students to college; empowered grassroots groups to steward natural resources; and increased capacity of Hawaiian language charter schools to serve their surrounding communities. Without full funding, OHA's ability to fulfill its critical kuleana is compromised.

This bill is not just about funding: it's also about fairness and justice. The public land trust consists primarily of crown and government lands that were seized during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

Native Hawaiians have legal as well as moral claims not only to income, but to governance over these lands. **Despite these claims, OHA receives only \$21.5 million per year compared to an estimated \$80 million that a 2016 OHA financial review showed were due to OHA nearly a decade ago.**

As an OHA supporter and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584_HD1 to help bring annual payments to OHA from the public land trust closer to \$80 million, at least \$50 million, as this amount is already available in the state's carry over account.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kelli Soileau

kellisoileau@gmail.com

Kaneohe, O'ahu

HB-2584-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 11:06:20 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

support