



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

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

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

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 24, 2026

**TIME:** 1:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 224

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

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Chair Richards 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 The bill would take effect on July 1, 3000, and be repealed on June 30, 2028.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.

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  
MANAGEMENT  
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE  
FIRST DEPUTY  
CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER  
AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
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ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

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

**Before the Senate Committee on  
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Tuesday, March 24, 2026  
1:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**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.

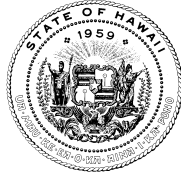
An increase in annual revenue share to OHA that is uninformed by the work intended to be completed by the Working Group may have a negative impact on all programs that are supported by revenues derived from the public land trust. Potentially, contributing programs will operate at net negative, diminishing 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.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII  
*Ke Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina 'o  
Hawai'i*

SYLVIA J. LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII  
*Ka Hope Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina  
'o Hawai'i*



KALI WATSON  
CHAIRPERSON, HHC  
*Ka Luna Ho'okele*

KATIE L. LAMBERT  
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIR  
*Ka Hope Luna Ho'okele*

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS  
*Ka 'Oihana 'Āina Ho'opulapula Hawai'i*

P. O. BOX 1879  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF KALI WATSON, CHAIR  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION  
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN  
AFFAIRS  
ON MARCH 24, 2026 AT 1:00PM IN CR 224

**HB2584, HD1, RELATING TO THE PUBLIC LAND TRUST**

March 24, 2026

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

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) strongly **supports** this bill which 1) temporarily increases the total amount of public land trust revenues transferred to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, while reaffirming the State's obligation to the twenty per cent pro rata share pursuant to the Hawaii State Constitution and 2) repeals 6/30/2028.

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. These funds are integral to the social, economic, and cultural betterment of OHA's shared beneficiaries with DHHL. To date, partnerships between DHHL and OHA have been project based. However, dedicated and consistent funding beyond the proposed temporary increase would allow for both agencies to work in tandem for long-term projects and programs. Specifically, DHHL and OHA would be able to explore and execute more development projects and financing options for our shared beneficiaries. As a fourth branch of government in the State, the proper and consistent public land trust revenues would allow OHA to unlock their full potential of empowerment for OHA and DHHL's shared beneficiaries, as well as Hawai'i as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**

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



**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**

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

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

March 23, 2026

TESTIMONY OF KIPUKAI KUALII  
COUNCIL VICE CHAIR, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL  
ON  
HB 2584, HD 1, RELATING TO THE PUBLIC LAND TRUST  
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Tuesday, March 24, 2026  
1:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 224  
Via Videoconference

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

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 2584, HD 1, Relating to the Public Land Trust. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Kaua'i County Council.

HB 2584, HD 1, ensures that Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) receive their fair share of State of Hawai'i revenues from the public land trust. While temporary, raising the current \$21.5 million cap on payments to OHA is an intermediary step towards greater justice for Native Hawaiians. I respectfully ask that the Committee set the annual payment at \$50 million, which more accurately reflects OHA's twenty percent (20%) share due under State law.

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

This measure is not just about funding; it is also about fairness and justice. The public land trust consists primarily of crown and government lands that were seized during the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom, ceded to the United States by the Republic of Hawai'i without the consent of, or compensation to, Native Hawaiians, and transferred to the State of Hawai'i through the Admissions Act. Native Hawaiians have legal as well as moral claims, not only to income, but also to governance over these lands. Despite these claims, OHA receives only \$21.5 million

Chair Richards and Members of the Committee  
Re: Testimony in Strong Support of SB 2584, HD 1  
March 23, 2026  
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per year compared to an estimated \$80 million that a 2016 OHA financial review showed were due to OHA nearly a decade ago.

It is for these important reasons that I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB 2584, HD 1, to help bring annual payments to OHA from the public land trust closer to \$80 million, and at least to \$50 million, as this amount is already available in the State's carry over trust account to meet the State's constitutional obligations to Native Hawaiians.

*Mahalo* for your commitment and thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB 2584, HD 1. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via email to [cokcouncil@kauai.gov](mailto:cokcouncil@kauai.gov).

Sincerely,

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

KIPUKAI KUALITI  
Council Vice Chair, Kaua'i County Council

RM:sf



**Hawai'i State Senate**  
**Committee on Hawaiian Affairs**  
HB2584 – Relating to the Public Land Trust

**RE: Strong support of HB2584, HD1**

March 24, 2026

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

The Hawaiian Council writes in **strong support of HB2584, HD1**, which temporarily increases the amount of revenues from the Public Land Trust (PLT) transferred to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to support statewide programs serving Native Hawaiians.

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

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

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

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

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

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

These funds support critical programs in:

**HAWAIIANS ADVANCING HAWAI'I**

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

For Kanaka 'Ōiwi, the impacts of land dispossession are not confined to history—they are lived realities today. HB2584, HD1, represents a meaningful step toward restoring balance, honoring trust obligations, and ensuring that Native Hawaiians have the resources needed to remain, grow, and prosper in Hawai'i.

For these reasons, the Hawaiian Council respectfully urges this Committee to **PASS HB2584, HD1**.

Mahalo for your commitment to justice for Native Hawaiians.

Me ke aloha 'āina,

**Kūhiō Lewis**

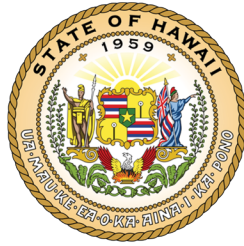
CEO, Hawaiian Council

**HAWAIIANS ADVANCING HAWAI'I**

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

Phone: (808) 594-1860

**OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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

March 23, 2026

**TESTIMONY OF OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS (OHA)  
TRUSTEE AT-LARGE, BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA  
In Strong Support of HB2584 HD1**

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

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

My name is Brickwood Galuteria, OHA Trustee At-Large; and I submit this testimony in strong support of HB2584 HD1, which takes a necessary step toward ensuring that Native Hawaiians receive their fair and lawful share of revenues from the Public Land Trust (PLT). Why does this bill matter? For years, OHA has received only \$21.5 million per year from the Public Land Trust—far below the \$35 to \$80 million that a 2016 OHA-funded financial review determined was due. This shortfall is documented, acknowledged, and measurable; it has real consequences for Native Hawaiian families and communities.

HB2584 HD1 proposes a temporary two-year increase in OHA's annual PLT revenue while the Public Land Trust Working Group (PLTWG) completes its work. OHA respectfully requests that this temporary increase be set at \$50 million per year, an amount already available in the State's carry-forward trust account. These funds have been identified by the State as owed to OHA but were never paid out because of the statutory \$21.5 million cap. This bill is not only reasonable but also overdue.

Let's examine the legal and historical foundation of this matter. The nearly 1.3 million acres in the Public Land Trust consists primarily of Hawaiian Kingdom crown and government lands seized during the illegal overthrow, ceded to the United States without the consent of Native Hawaiians, and transferred to the State through the Admissions Act. The Hawai'i State Constitution guarantees Native Hawaiians a pro-rata share of the revenues from these lands. State law—HRS §10-13.5—affirms that this share is 20%. The State's trust obligation is clear, and it is ongoing. OHA is mandated as the recipient of these shares.

Testimony of OHA Trustee At-Large, Brickwood Galuteria

Page 2

HB2584 HD1

While this bill provides temporary relief, the long-term solution requires structural reform. We must see a fully government-wide acceptance of a legitimate, authoritative Public Land Trust inventory and a certified, consistent reporting system used by all parties across the bureaucracy. Without these foundational tools, disputes will continue, transparency will suffer, and Native Hawaiian beneficiaries will remain vulnerable to inconsistent accounting and political delay. HB2584 HD1 helps bridge the gap while that larger work continues.

Meanwhile, OHA continues to deliver—launching small businesses, moving families into stable housing, sending students to college, strengthening Hawaiian language schools, and empowering community stewardship of our ‘āina. These are not abstract programs; they are lifelines. Chronic underfunding limits OHA’s ability to meet the needs of its beneficiaries and fulfill its constitutional mandate.

While HB2584 HD1 does not resolve the full PLT revenue question, it is the work of the PLTWG. It does, however, ensure that, during this period of review, Native Hawaiians are not further harmed by a cap that everyone acknowledges is too low. A temporary increase to \$50 million is both justified and immediately achievable.

As an OHA beneficiary, a voter, and someone who has spent a lifetime advocating for fairness for our people, I respectfully urge this Committee to pass HB2584 HD1 and move us closer to the justice that Native Hawaiians have been promised for generations. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Me ke aloha,

Brickwood Galuteria, Trustee At-Large

BG:lad



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai

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

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

Malaki 24, 2026

1:00 PM

Lumi 224

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

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HB2584 HD1, as a temporary but necessary step toward ensuring that Native Hawaiians receive closer to the pro rata share of public land revenues promised by the Hawai‘i State Constitution, Art. XII, § 6, and enshrined in law as twenty percent, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) § 10-13.5. Full and fair funding of OHA’s pro rata share of public land trust (PLT) revenues is essential for the legislature to advance justice long delayed for Native Hawaiians, and to enable 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 \$49 million annually as this amount is currently available in the state's carry forward trust account and thus will not affect other state budget priorities.<sup>1</sup>**

Background on Legal Obligations

The question of the pro rata share of PLT revenues owed to Native Hawaiian through OHA as a trust vehicle for their rights and interests is a story of long delayed justice. The Hawai‘i Admission Act, Public Law 86-3, established the PLT for five trust purposes including the betterment of the conditions of native Hawaiians. The PLT

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<sup>1</sup> 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. See Department of Budget and Finance Annual Report on Administratively Established Accounts and Funds (Dec. 1, 2025) at p. 4, [DC61 .pdf](#).

consists of nearly 1.3 million acres most of which are government and crown land of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, seized as part of the unlawful overthrow of the Kingdom, ceded to the United States without compensation to or consent by the Hawaiian people, and later transferred to the State of Hawai‘i. However, as of 1978, none of the PLT revenues had been directed towards the betterment of native Hawaiians.

During the 1978 Constitutional Convention, the people of Hawai‘i voted to establish OHA to receive a pro rata (proportionate) share of PLT revenues, Art. XII, § 6, to manage and administer on behalf of Hawaiian beneficiaries. Art. XII, § 5. The people of Hawaii also made clear and elevated native Hawaiians as a specific class of PLT beneficiaries with independent legal rights in the land trust. Art. XII, § 4. In 1980, state law affirmed the “pro rata” share due to Native Hawaiians through OHA is twenty percent of all revenues from the PLT, HRS § 10-13.5, as reflective of Native Hawaiians historical and moral claims to crown and government lands.<sup>2</sup>

### **OHA’s Pro Rata Share**

After years of underpayment, 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. After years of inaction around the question of annual payments, the legislature finally increased this amount to \$21.5 million through Act 226 (2022).

**Despite the long-overdue 2022 increase, OHA’s research shows that the \$21.5 million amount transferred to OHA annually still falls woefully short of the actual pro rata amount due under law.** Specifically, an OHA-funded financial review of 2016 agency receipts determined that OHA’s annual share is \$35 million—including only those revenues the State has admitted it owes—and \$80 million when all revenues are considered (from a total collection of \$394,322,163). Therefore, significant underfunding of OHA continues, with the difference between revenues generated and transferred to OHA only increasing over the past ten years since the financial review was completed.

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<sup>2</sup> In addition to advocating for a pro rata share of PLT revenue, OHA has a paramount interest and longstanding commitment to preserving the corpus of crown and government lands until a resolution of Native Hawaiians’ unrelinquished claims to these lands, including sovereignty and governance over a land base. *See, e.g., OHA v. Hous. & Cmty. Dev. Corp.*, 177 P.3d 884, 902 (Haw. 2008).

As mentioned above, OHA is requesting that this Committee set the two year temporary increase payments at \$49 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 \$49 million is already set aside and available in the State's "carry forward" account. The money in this account reflects payments that state agencies would have made to OHA based upon the twenty percent mandate absent the existing \$21.5 million "cap" on annual payment amounts.

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, which 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 \$49 million to better reflect the twenty percent pro rata share due annually to OHA. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



March 24, 2026

TESTIMONY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS  
To the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
In Support of

**HB2584 HD 1– RELATING TO THE PUBLIC LAND TRUST**

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

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs **supports** HB2584 HD1 Relating to Hawaiian Affairs which seeks to temporarily increase proceeds from Public Land Trust revenues to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs while affirming the State’s commitment to the constitutionally required twenty-percent pro-rata share.

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs has advocated for several years for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to receive its constitutionally required twenty percent pro rata share of public land trust (PLT) proceeds to serve Native Hawaiian beneficiaries. To date, a full accounting of PLT proceeds has not been produced and the constitutionally required pro-rata share has not been delivered to OHA.

The Association adopted its Resolution 2025-84 “REQUESTING THE STATE OF HAWAII TO FULFILL ITS CONSTITUTIONAL PROMISE AND OBLIGATION TO NATIVE HAWAIIANS TO FUND THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS WITH TWENTY PERCENT OF PUBLIC LAND TRUST INCOME AND PROCEEDS” at our 2025 convention in Keauhou, Hawai‘i. HB2584 provides a temporary increase in funding from PLT proceeds to serve OHA constituents while the Public Land Trust Working Group continues its work accounting for PLT lands inventory and revenues to determine the pro-rata share due to OHA.

Founded by Prince Kūhiō in 1918, the Hawaiian Civic Club movement is the oldest Native Hawaiian community-based advocacy movement. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs is a not-for-profit organization that is a confederation of 61 individual and autonomous Hawaiian Civic Clubs and 3,500 members located across Hawai‘i and across the continental United States.

We appreciate your favorable consideration of this bill.

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

## ***A RESOLUTION***

NO. 2025 - 84

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



*DreanaLee Kalili*

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DreanaLee Kalili, President



## SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

March 24, 2026

1:00 PM

Conference Room 224

### In **SUPPORT** of **HB2584 HD1**: RELATING TO THE PUBLIC LAND TRUST

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

On behalf of our more than 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **strongly SUPPORTS** HB2584 HD1. This measure will provide a fairer and more just allocation of Public Land Trust revenues to be set aside for the native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Trust, and thereby bolster our overall ability to build a sustainable and truly hopeful future for all of Hawai'i nei.

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

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

By increasing the total amount of Public Land Trust revenues transferred to OHA as its beneficiaries' pro-rata share, this measure would increase OHA's ability to provide highly leveraged grants, community education and awareness raising, and mission-driven advocacy. This in turn would help to promote and advance the much-needed, widespread pivots in our collective relationships to 'āina, wai, and each other – consistent with Native Hawaiian science and worldview – that may be our best, last chance at creating a livable and hopeful future for our islands.

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



# **ACTS OF REPENTANCE TASK FORCE**

## **HAWAI'I DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Mailing Address: 1350 Hunakai Street, Honolulu, HI 96816

March 23, 2026

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

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.

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Rev. Amy C. Wake, Chair

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

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



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

### **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2584 HD1: RELATING TO THE PUBLIC LAND TRUST**

TO: Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
FROM: Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison, Catholic Charities Hawai'i  
Hearing: Tuesday, March 24, 2026; 1:00 PM; CR 224 and via videoconference

Chair Richards, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members, Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

Catholic Charities Hawai'i **supports HB 2584 HD1**, which temporarily increases the total amount of public land trust revenues to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA).

For 78 years, Catholic Charities Hawai'i has walked alongside individuals and families statewide who are navigating poverty, housing instability, trauma, and other life-altering hardships. Our staff regularly see how financial pressures, behavioral health conditions, and systemic inequities can strain families to the breaking point—too often resulting in homelessness, family separation, involvement in the justice system, and ongoing health issues. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for Hawai'i's most vulnerable residents.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i supports increased funding to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs based on:

- The Legislature recognizes Native Hawaiians as beneficiaries of the public land trust under Article XII of the Hawai'i State Constitution.
- Demand for programs serving Native Hawaiians has increased due to our rising cost of living, economic instability, natural disasters, and reductions or delays in federal funding.
- OHA has increasingly filled gaps during federal funding disruptions and has demonstrated capacity to responsibly deploy resources in coordination with federal, state, and community partners.
- Temporarily increasing the distribution cap helps stabilize services for Native Hawaiian communities while the Public Land Trust Working Group continues to develop longer-term policy and revenue recommendations.

Strengthening Hawaiian families today lays the foundation for healthy keiki, vibrant 'ohana, and more stable communities across our islands.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i respectfully urges the committee to pass this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support. If you have any questions, please contact Shellie Niles, VP of Mission, at (808) 527-4813.



**HB-2584-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 4:57:53 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mike Nakachi	Testifying for Moana Ohana	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai Kakaou, strong support for HB2584 HD1, Make it happen for the beneficiaries of OHA. Mahalo nui, Mike Nakachi. Moana Ohana

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

Mahalo nui for setting this important measure for hearing.

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaimo Muhlestein, Moanalua Valley

**HB-2584-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 11:41:18 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in strong support of H.B. 2584, H.D. 1, which provides a critical and timely step toward fulfilling the State’s constitutional and fiduciary obligations to Native Hawaiians as beneficiaries of the Public Land Trust.

As recognized in the bill, Article XII of the Hawai‘i State Constitution affirms that Native Hawaiians are entitled to a pro rata share of the revenues derived from the Public Land Trust, with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs designated to administer these funds for the betterment of our lāhui . Despite this clear mandate, the full realization of the twenty percent share has remained unresolved for decades.

This measure is especially important now. Native Hawaiian-serving programs are experiencing increased demand due to rising costs of living, economic instability, and reductions or uncertainty in federal funding . At the same time, OHA has consistently demonstrated its ability to responsibly steward resources and respond to community needs, often stepping in to bridge critical funding gaps.

H.B. 2584, H.D. 1 appropriately:

- Reaffirms the State’s obligation to provide no less than the full twenty percent pro rata share of Public Land Trust revenues;
- Temporarily increases funding to OHA during a period of federal uncertainty;
- Allows time for the Public Land Trust Working Group to complete its important work toward long-term solutions.

This balanced approach provides immediate relief and stability while maintaining focus on a permanent resolution grounded in accurate accounting and trust reconciliation.

At its core, this bill is about fairness, trust responsibility, and the well-being of Native Hawaiian communities. Ensuring that OHA receives the resources it is constitutionally entitled to strengthens programs in housing, education, health, and cultural preservation—areas that are vital not only to Native Hawaiians but to the broader fabric of Hawai‘i.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support and passage of H.B. 2584, H.D. 1.

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



**HB-2584-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 7:03:26 AM

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

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

Comments:

**\*\*Testimony in Strong Support of HB2584 HD1\*\* \*\*Relating to the Public Land Trust\*\***

Aloha Chair Richards and esteemed members of the Committee,

My name is Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM, Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I., and I serve as Chairman of the Ohana Unity Party ([www.Ohanaunityparty.com](http://www.Ohanaunityparty.com)). I submit this testimony in strong support of HB2584 HD1 and urge the Committee to pass it out with a favorable recommendation. This bill represents a pono, balanced step toward fulfilling the State's sacred constitutional and fiduciary trust obligations to Native Hawaiian beneficiaries.

Article XII, Section 6 of the Hawai'i State Constitution clearly mandates that twenty percent (20%) of all income and proceeds from the public land trust be transferred to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) for the betterment of conditions of Native Hawaiians. Yet, for decades, OHA has received only approximately \$21.5 million annually—an amount woefully short of the true 20% pro rata share, with independent estimates often placing the owed amount significantly higher. HB2584 HD1 provides much-needed temporary relief by increasing annual PLT revenue transfers to OHA for fiscal years beginning July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028, to a level closer to the constitutionally required 20%.

It explicitly reaffirms the State's ongoing obligation to the full 20% share beyond the temporary period and sunsets on June 30, 2028, giving the Public Land Trust Working Group (advanced by companion measures like HB2582 HD1) time to complete its work on accurate inventories, revenue accounting, and durable long-term solutions. The findings in the bill rightly highlight the increased demands on Native Hawaiian-serving programs due to economic instability, rising costs, natural disasters, and federal funding uncertainties—including disruptions to diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. OHA has proven its capacity to responsibly deploy resources in partnership with communities, bridging critical gaps when federal support falters. This temporary increase will provide stability, strengthen essential services in health, education, housing, cultural perpetuation, and economic self-determination, and honor the trust owed to the lāhui without waiving long-term rights.

The Native Hawaiian community, including OHA, has demonstrated good faith through compromise: accepting a phased, temporary boost rather than insisting on immediate full repayment of historical shortfalls. This measure aligns with that spirit and creates a pathway to

justice. The Ohana Unity Party stands united in support. I respectfully urge the Committee to: - Pass HB2584 HD1 out of committee with strong support. - Ensure ample opportunity for beneficiary voices and testimony at this hearing. - Advance the bill swiftly to fulfill constitutional promises and empower Native Hawaiian ohana.

This bill is a vital, overdue step to begin correcting a profound injustice: the State's failure to honor its constitutional trust obligation to Native Hawaiian beneficiaries. Article XII, Section 6 of the Hawai'i State Constitution and HRS §10-13.5 mandate that OHA receive 20% pro rata of all income and proceeds from the Public Land Trust (PLT)—lands sacred to our lāhui, originally seized and now generating substantial revenues through state agencies.

Yet OHA receives only \$21.5 million annually—a fixed interim cap set in 2022 that represents roughly 5% (or less) of what's truly owed. A 2016 independent financial review commissioned by OHA found that PLT lands generated approximately \$394 million in applicable gross revenues that year, entitling OHA to \$78.9–80 million (20% share). Even for uncontested streams, estimates show at least \$35 million due annually. This chronic underfunding—potentially amounting to hundreds of millions in historical shortfalls—has directly screwed Native Hawaiian beneficiaries for decades, starving programs in health, education, housing, cultural perpetuation, and economic development while the State diverts the rest to general funds. HB2584 HD1 provides temporary relief by increasing PLT revenue transfers to OHA for FY 2026–2028 (July 1, 2026–June 30, 2028) to a level closer to the mandated 20%, while reaffirming the State's full, ongoing constitutional obligation.

It sunsets on June 30, 2028, allowing the Public Land Trust Working Group (bolstered by companion HB2582 HD1) time for accurate inventories, audits, and permanent fixes. This compromise accepts a phased increase rather than immediate full repayment—showing good faith from OHA and our community amid federal uncertainties and rising needs. The Ohana Unity Party stands firmly behind this measure. Denying or delaying it would compound the injustice and betray the trust owed to Native Hawaiians. I urge the Committee to:

- Pass HB2584 HD1 out of committee with strong support.
- Ensure full beneficiary testimony at this hearing.
- Advance it swiftly to restore fairness and empower our ohana.

Mahalo nui loa for your kuleana in advancing Hawaiian affairs and for considering this testimony. I am available for questions, further discussion, or to provide oral testimony if permitted.

A hui hou,

Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I. Chairman,  
Ohana Unity Party [www.Ohanaunityparty.com](http://www.Ohanaunityparty.com) [Presidentbillionaire@gmail.com](mailto:Presidentbillionaire@gmail.com)

**HB-2584-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 12:27:11 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

Mahalo nui for setting this important measure for hearing.

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

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

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

per year compared to an estimated \$80 million that a 2016 OHA financial review showed were due to OHA nearly a decade ago.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Aric Kimo Alike Andrade

702-449-9939

**HB-2584-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 12:38:28 PM

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

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

Comments:

absolute support, way over due

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

**To:** Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

**Chair:** Senator Tim Richards

**Vice Chair:** Senator Rachele Lamosao

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

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

**Date:** March 20, 2026

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

---

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Me ke aloha,

**R. Kana'iaupuni Gomes**

Native Hawaiian

Kumu Hula

**HB-2584-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 1:09:46 PM

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

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

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support INCUDING OHA TESTIMONY 2/12/26

2584 HB RELATING TO THE PUBLIC LAND TRUST.

**HB-2584-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 2:36:30 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

Mahalo nui for setting this important measure for hearing.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Rae Leong

(808) 284-2211

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

Mahalo nui for setting this important measure for hearing.

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

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

**HB-2584-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 3:30:09 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

Mahalo nui for setting this important measure for hearing.

I am submitting this testimony to express my strong support for HB2584 HD1, to ensure Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) receive their fair share of state revenues from the public land trust.

While temporary, raising the current \$21.5 million cap on payments to OHA is an intermediary step towards greater justice for Native Hawaiians. I respectfully ask that the Committee set the annual payment at \$50 million, which more accurately reflects OHA's 20% share due under state law.

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

As a snapshot, OHA-funded programs and services have helped launch small businesses; empowered grassroots groups to steward natural resources; and increased capacity of Hawaiian language charter schools to serve their surrounding communities. Without full funding, OHA's ability to fill its critical kuleana is compromised.

This bill is not just about funding; it's also about fairness and justice delayed.

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

Native Hawaiians have significant legal as well as moral claims, not only to income, but also to the governance of 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 the 20% required by law, and at least to \$50 million, as this amount is already available in the state's carry over trust account to meet the state's constitutional obligations to Native Hawaiians.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Lisette Akamine

Kahalu'u, O'ahu

**HB-2584-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 3:58:22 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

Mahalo nui for setting this important measure for hearing.

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Kelli Soileau

Kāneʻohe, Oʻahu

**HB-2584-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 6:25:21 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

Mahalo nui for setting this important measure for hearing.

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

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

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

per year compared to an estimated \$80 million that a 2016 OHA financial review showed were due to OHA nearly a decade ago.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity

Julia Estigoy-Kaho'onei

Moku o Keawe

**HB-2584-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 9:51:04 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aldene Albinio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of **HB2584 HD1**, which will help ensure that Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) receive their fair share of state revenue from the public land trust. While this is a temporary step, raising the current \$21.5 million cap is an important move toward justice for Native Hawaiians. I respectfully ask the Committee to set the annual payment at **\$50 million**, which more closely reflects the 20% share required under state law.

OHA has an important kuleana to improve the lives of Native Hawaiians. It has a strong track record of supporting effective and meaningful programs. OHA-funded efforts have helped start small businesses, move families out of homelessness, send students to college, support community groups that care for natural resources, and strengthen Hawaiian language charter schools. Without full funding, OHA cannot fully carry out this important work.

This bill is also about fairness and justice. The public land trust comes mostly from crown and government lands of the Hawaiian Kingdom that were taken during the illegal overthrow and later given to the United States without the consent or compensation of Native Hawaiians. These lands were then transferred to the State of Hawai‘i. Native Hawaiians have both legal and moral claims to the income from these lands and to a role in their management. Yet OHA still receives only \$21.5 million each year, even though a 2016 financial review estimated that closer to \$80 million was owed.

As an OHA beneficiary and voter, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass **HB2584 HD1** and increase annual payments to OHA toward \$80 million, and at minimum to **\$50 million**, which is already available in the state’s carryover trust account to meet its constitutional responsibility to Native Hawaiians.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Aldene Albinio

41-706 Kalanianaʻole Highway

Waimanalo, HI 96795

808-728-0418

**HB-2584-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 8:37:31 PM

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

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

Comments:

Pass this bill

**HB-2584-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 10:13:13 PM

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

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

Comments:

Testimony in Strong Support of HB2584 HD1

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

Mahalo nui for setting this important measure for hearing.

I am submitting this testimony to express my strong support for HB2584 HD1 to ensure Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) receive their fair share of state revenues from the public land trust.

Currently, OHA receives only \$21.5 million per year — far below the \$35 to \$80 million that a 2016 OHA-funded financial review showed was due under the 20% pro-rata share mandated by the Hawai‘i State Constitution and state law. The nearly 1.3 million acres in the Public Land Trust are primarily ceded lands seized during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom and transferred to the State without consent or compensation to Native Hawaiians.

HB2584 HD1 would provide a temporary 2-year increase in OHA’s public land trust revenue to bring payments closer to the true 20% share while the PLTWG completes its work. OHA is requesting a temporary increase of \$50 million per year — an amount the state has already identified in its carry-forward trust account and can afford right now.

This chronic underfunding limits OHA’s ability to provide programs, grants, loans, research, and advocacy that directly uplift Native Hawaiians. It violates the state’s trust obligations and compromises OHA’s kuleana. This funding matters deeply to my ‘ohana. OHA’s Mālama Home Improvement Loan allowed us to make essential safety repairs on our home. Their Mālama Business Loan supported our Native Hawaiian family business, and the OHA food assistance card helped feed our family during the government shutdown. These programs are lifelines for Native Hawaiian families, but they are threatened by chronic underfunding.

As an OHA beneficiary and voter in Kaneohe, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB2584 HD1 and set the annual payment at \$50 million. This is not just about funding — it is about fairness, justice, and honoring the promises made to our people.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Tiare Smith

Kahalu'u, O'ahu

**HB-2584-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 10:19:37 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

Mahalo nui for setting this important measure for hearing.

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

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

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

per year compared to an estimated \$80 million that a 2016 OHA financial review showed were due to OHA nearly a decade ago.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros

(808)866-7409

**HB-2584-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 7:26:42 AM

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

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

Comments:

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

Mahalo nui for setting this important measure for hearing.

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

OHA carries a large kuleana to better the conditions of Kanaka Maoli. 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. 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, ceded to the United States by the Republic of Hawai‘i without the consent of or compensation to Kanaka Maoli, and transferred to the State of Hawai‘i through the Admissions Act. Kanaka Maoli have legal as well as moral claims, not only to income, but also to governance over ceded lands. OHA currently receives only \$21.5 million per year compared to an estimated \$80 million that a 2016 OHA financial review showed they were due nearly a decade ago.

I urge the committee to pass HB2584 HD1 to help bring annual payments to OHA from the public land trust closer to \$80 million, and at least to \$50 million, an amount that is already available in the state’s carry over trust account, to meet the state’s constitutional obligations to Kanaka Maoli.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Yours truly,

Megaan M. Clark

**HB-2584-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 11:33:14 AM

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

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

Comments:

support

**HB-2584-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 10:23:27 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Diane Peters-Nguyen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai Kakou. I am writing to express my strong support for HB2584 HD1 which provides a much needed temporary increase of \$50 million per year from state funding until the completion of the work of the Public Land Trust Working Group. By withholding the funding OHA is due, the state is in violation of its own laws. Furthermore, this hampers the work OHA does to assist and support Native Hawaiians. With respect, I ask you to move forward this bill. Mahalo a nui loa.

**HB-2584-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 5:49:45 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

This testimony is in support of HB2584 HD1. OHA is vastly underfunded and unable to meet the needs of the native Hawaiians in Hawai'i. OHA should be receiving up to \$80 million per year, but is currently capped at a pittance; one quarter of that amount or \$21.5 million per year.

This measure will allow OHA to receive an additional \$50 million per year for two years while OHA's financial needs are researched by thePublic Land Trust Working Group created by ACT-226 in 2022.

The native Hawaiians have been beaten down by generational racism.

This has lead to alarming statistics for native Hawaiians, including: high rates of incarceration, suicide, homelessness, heart disease, cancer, poverty, substance abuse, and forced exile from their own homeland. For the love of God, we have to do something to make this right!

These problems need to be addressed immediately and we need OHA to get the job done. OHA can't get the job done if they don't have enough money in their budget.

Please award \$71.5 million per year for the next two years to OHA while the PLTWG completes their examination.

Mahalo,

Mark Holst

408-334-4874

Kailua Kona

**HB-2584-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 6:37:12 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carrie Ann Shirota	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in support of HB2584 HD1, Relating to the Public Trust, as a temporary, yet 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: 3/22/2026 7:05:39 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB 2584 HD1, which addresses the critical matter of the State’s financial obligations to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) under the Hawai‘i State Constitution. This bill proposes a temporary increase in the total amount of public land trust revenues transferred to OHA, while also reaffirming the State’s constitutional responsibility to provide a pro rata share—specifically, twenty percent—of the income and proceeds from the public land trust for the benefit of Native Hawaiians.

For decades, the issue of an adequate and fair share of public land trust revenues for OHA has persisted, impacting the State’s ability to fulfill its legal and moral obligations to Native Hawaiians. By temporarily increasing the amount transferred, HB 2584 HD1 takes an important step toward remedying longstanding underfunding and supporting the programs and services that are vital to the well-being of the Native Hawaiian community.

The bill’s approach not only addresses current funding needs, but also reinforces the State’s ongoing commitment to honoring the trust established by the Constitution. Ensuring that OHA receives its rightful share is essential to advancing equity, justice, and the continued vitality of Native Hawaiian culture and resources.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB 2584 HD1 and demonstrate the State’s dedication to upholding its constitutional promises and supporting the Native Hawaiian people.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kelcy Durbin

**HB-2584-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 2:48:20 AM

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

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

Comments:

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

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

HB2584 HD1 is a critical measure that advances the State’s constitutional and moral obligations regarding the Public Land Trust (PLT) and its beneficiaries, including Native Hawaiians. The bill takes meaningful steps to ensure that revenues derived from ceded lands are properly accounted for, transparently managed, and equitably distributed in accordance with Article XII, Section 6 of the Hawai‘i State Constitution.

For decades, ambiguity and inconsistency in the identification and accounting of PLT revenues have created barriers to full compliance with the State’s trust responsibilities. HB2584 HD1 directly addresses these longstanding challenges by improving clarity, strengthening reporting requirements, and promoting greater accountability across state agencies.

This measure is important for several reasons:

First, it enhances transparency in how revenues from Public Land Trust lands are generated, tracked, and reported. Improved transparency is essential to ensuring that trust beneficiaries—and the public—can clearly understand how these resources are being managed.

Second, the bill supports more accurate and consistent revenue collection. By establishing clearer expectations and processes, HB2584 HD1 helps ensure that all revenues derived from PLT lands are properly identified and included in calculations that determine the Native Hawaiian pro rata share.

Third, this measure strengthens the State’s ability to meet its fiduciary obligations. As trustee of the Public Land Trust, the State has a duty to act with the highest level of care and loyalty to its

beneficiaries. HB2584 HD1 reinforces that duty by providing tools and structure necessary for better compliance and oversight.

Fourth, the bill promotes long-term equity and justice. Ensuring that the full and fair share of PLT revenues is realized and distributed is fundamental to addressing historical inequities and supporting the well-being of Native Hawaiian communities.

Finally, HB2584 HD1 represents a collaborative and forward-looking approach. By improving systems and accountability mechanisms, the bill helps reduce disputes, build trust among stakeholders, and create a more stable and predictable framework for the future.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB2584 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-2584-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 9:56:33 AM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairman Richards and Committee Members, Mahalo for scheduling this hearing. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of **HB 2584, HD 1**. I am currently a member of the Public Land Trust Working Group (PLTWG Membership/Third-Party Professional) appointed by OHA. I am an attorney and have worked to protect the claims and rights of Native Hawaiians for more than 50 years. I was the attorney assigned to the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs at the 1978 Constitutional Convernition. My legal work has included supporting OHA in its efforts to obtain its constitutionally and statutorily mandated 20% pro rata share of the Public Land Trust income and proceeds.

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

Throughout its history since its creation in the 1978 Constitutional Convention and 1978 Election, OHA has not been fairly and accurately paid the 20% that it is due. Currently, OHA receives **only \$21.5 million per year** of public land trust revenues— far below the \$80 million that court decisions and a 2016 OHA financial review showed was due. This sum includes airport revenues, which the state has paid in the past directly from airport revenues or in an equivalent form of general funds, general obligation bonds, or land.

OHA is asking for a temporary increase of \$50 million per year, as there is enough money sitting in the state’s carry forward trust account that the agencies have already paid into! This is an excellent idea. No additional funds are needed. It would be wonderful to see these sitting funds being used to help and lift up our Native Hawaiian community.

Mahalo for your attention to this matter. Sherry Broder

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo nui loa,

Julian Keikilani Ako

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

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

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



**HB-2584-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 1:19:44 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

Mahalo nui for setting this important measure for hearing.

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

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

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

per year compared to an estimated \$80 million that a 2016 OHA financial review showed were due to OHA nearly a decade ago.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Michelei Tancayo

Lahaina Maui





**HB-2584-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 3:35:34 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha

Please support HB2584 HD1 as it seeks to properly fulfill the states obligation to the Native Hawaiian community.

Mahalo

**HB-2584-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 3:57:45 PM

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

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

Comments:

Dear Senate Committee,

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

Mahalo,

MeleLani Llanes

**HB-2584-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 9:33:29 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha e, OHA does critical work that uplifts Hawaiians across the pae'aina. These funds are long overdue and I urge you to pass this legislation.