



**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, RELATING TO THE PUBLIC LAND TRUST.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

**DATE:** Thursday, February 12, 2026      **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 325

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

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Chair Tarnas 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 The bill would take effect on July 1, 2026, and be repealed on June 30, 2028.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 twenty percent of the income and proceeds from the public land trust, 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.



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

Ke Kōmike Hale o ka Ho‘okolokolo a me ke Kuleana Hawai‘i  
(House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs)

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

Pepeluali 12, 2026

2:00PM

Lumi 325

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Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

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

The Hawai‘i Admission Act and the Hawai‘i State Constitution established the PLT for the betterment of the conditions of native Hawaiians and for the general public. The PLT consists of over one million acres of government and crown land of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, seized as part of the Kingdom’s unlawful overthrow without compensation to or consent by the Hawaiian people. The Hawai‘i State Constitution entrusts OHA with the responsibility to manage and administer Public Land Trust funds set aside for Native Hawaiians, which state law reaffirms as a 20% pro rata share of all funds from the Trust.

**OHA’s Pro Rata Share**

In 2006, OHA and the State agreed to an interim annual payment of \$15.1 million, which was intended to remain in place “until further action is taken by the legislature.” This amount was subsequently increased to \$21.5 million through Act 226 of the 2022 Regular Session of the State Legislature.

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

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

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

Accordingly, OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** HB2584. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this critical issue.

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

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

DAWN N.S. CHANG  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT  
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE  
FIRST DEPUTY  
CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER  
AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES  
ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

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

**Before the House Committee on  
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Thursday, February 12, 2026  
2:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

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

House Bill 2584 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) opposes this measure for the reasons provided below.**

The Department opposes this measure as the proposed increased revenue amount to be transferred to OHA remains undetermined, thus it is unclear what the actual impact would be to the Department. Nevertheless, any payments made in excess of the fixed annual payment of \$21.5 million, established by legislative mandate via Act 226, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022, could greatly impede the Department's ability to adequately fund its natural, cultural, historical and recreational resource management and protection programs. In addition to increasing OHA's pro rata share of public land trust revenues, Act 226 created the Public Land Trust Working Group which was 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 amount as prescribed by this measure.

The revenues collected by the Department's Land Division cover the entire annual operating budget for the Land Division, the Department's Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands, and the Department's Dam Safety and Mineral Resources Programs. In addition, the revenues fund over 80 Department staff positions, including 5 positions within the Commission on Water Resource Management, and provide funding support to the Division of State Parks and various resource protection programs administered by the Division of Forestry and Wildlife such as the protection

of threatened and endangered species, removal of invasive species, wildland firefighting and lifeguard services.

Revenues collected by other divisions have supported watershed protection, preservation of cultural and historical sites and public recreational resources. In addition, the Department has provided lands to other agencies in support of 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 have contributed significantly to the betterment of Native Hawaiians as well as the general public, in excess of the revenues paid to OHA.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



## **TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF H.B. 2584**

Relating to the Public Land Trust

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Keoni DeFranco, and I serve as Managing Director of 'Āina Foundry at Purple Mai'a. I am testifying in strong support of H.B. 2584 on behalf of Purple Mai'a.

Purple Mai'a is a Native Hawaiian–led nonprofit organization focused on building pathways into technology, entrepreneurship, and 'āina-based economic development for our communities. Our work spans digital workforce training, cooperative development, food systems innovation, and place-based technology solutions that strengthen local ownership and self-determination.

We see every day how critical stable, flexible funding is for Native Hawaiian–serving programs.

Over the past several years, Native Hawaiian families and organizations have faced compounding pressures: rising cost of living, housing insecurity, climate impacts, and uncertainty in federal funding streams. In this environment, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs has played an essential role in sustaining community-serving initiatives, filling gaps when other systems are delayed or reduced.

H.B. 2584 provides short-term stability by temporarily increasing the annual transfer from the Public Land Trust to OHA, while reaffirming the State's constitutional obligation to the twenty percent pro rata share under Article XII, Section 6. This approach is both responsible and necessary. It does not alter the long-term structure of the trust; rather, it ensures that Native Hawaiian-serving programs have the capacity to continue operating during a period of transition and fiscal uncertainty.

At Purple Mai'a, we work with Native Hawaiian youth, entrepreneurs, cultural practitioners, and community leaders who are building real solutions on the ground. When OHA is adequately resourced, it strengthens the entire ecosystem of Native Hawaiian innovation and leadership. It allows organizations like ours to focus on delivering impact instead of navigating instability.

We respectfully urge this committee to pass H.B. 2584 and help ensure that the constitutional intent of the Public Land Trust translates into meaningful, timely support for Native Hawaiian communities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Keoni DeFranco

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:45:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nakoolani Warrington	Kupuna for the Moopuna	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2584**

We, Kūpuna for the Mo‘opuna, a hui of Hawaiian Homes Commission Act kūpuna beneficiary farmers from Pana‘ewa, Hawai‘i, **testify in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2584.**

HB 2584 will help ensure that Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs receive their fair share of state revenues from the public land trust. OHA receives only \$21.5 million per year compared to the estimated \$80 million that a 2016 audit showed was due to OHA under state law.

**SUPPORT and PASS HB 2584** to help bring OHA’s funding closer to \$80 million per year.

Mahalo.

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HO`OMANA PONO, LLC  
***Mamua Kānaka***

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**ATTENTION:**

**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair  
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair,  
Rep. Member of the Committee

February 10, 2026

Re: **HB2584 RELATING TO PUBLIC LAND TRUST**

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Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs!

We SUPPORT the intent of this Bill.

However, we do NOT believe that this bill goes far enough. We got it. It's an **ELECTION YEAR**, and as "par usual" politicians bring out "**shiny objects**" to distract native Hawaiians from our mission to finally get this State and its Agencies that are MANDATED to act for the "Betterment of native Hawaiians", the Supreme Law of Hawaii says:

*(f) The lands granted to the State of Hawaii by subsection (b) of this section and public lands retained by the United States under subsections (c) and (d) and later conveyed to the State under subsection (e), **together with the proceeds from the sale or other disposition of any such lands and the income therefrom, shall be held by said State as a public trust for the support of the public schools and other public educational institutions, for the betterment of the conditions of native Hawaiians, as defined in the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, as amended, for the development of farm and home ownership on as widespread a basis as possible for the making of public improvements, and for the provision of lands for public use. Such lands, proceeds, and income shall be managed and disposed of for one or more of the foregoing purposes in such manner as the constitution and laws of said State may provide, and their use for any other object shall constitute a breach of trust for which suit may be brought by the United States. The schools and other educational institutions supported, in whole or in part out of such public trust shall forever remain under the***

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HO`OMANA PONO, LLC  
***Mamua Kānaka***

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*exclusive control of said State; and no part of the proceeds or income from the lands granted under this Act shall be used for the support of any sectarian or denominational school, college, or university. See Admissions Act of 1959 §5(f).*

What is also MANDATED by the Hawaii Constitution is that:

***Thirty percent of the state receipts derived from the leasing of cultivated sugarcane lands under any provision of law or from water licenses shall be transferred to the native Hawaiian rehabilitation fund, section 213 of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920...There shall be no ceiling established for the aggregate amount transferred into the native Hawaiian rehabilitation fund.***

Then there is this:

*The "pro rata" portion for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) is legally established as **20% of all funds derived from the Public Land Trust (PLT)**, a requirement codified in Hawaii Revised Statutes §10-13.5.*

Yet, while law dictates a 20% share, OHA has historically received much less. For many years, the state paid a "**temporary**" annual amount of **\$15.1 million**.

OHA has argued that 20% of the actual revenue generated by the 1.4 million acres of trust land should be roughly **\$78.9 million annually**, making the current \$21.5 million payment a significant underpayment. **WE AGREE!**

So, why are we talking in terms of half measures, that only keeps native Hawaiians constantly begging for the State to fulfill its Fiduciary duty to native Hawaiians.

The age-old saying:

***"Stand down Hawaiians for the Greater Good of everyone else!"***

Is tired and worn out. We waited long enough. We are tired of waiting for what is rightfully ours.

Therefore, Ho`omana Pono, LLC STRONGLY requests that this Committee amend this bill to require that

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# HO`OMANA PONO, LLC

## ***Mamua Kānaka***

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1. *Thirty percent of the state receipts derived from the leasing of cultivated sugarcane lands under any provision of law or from water licenses shall be transferred to the native Hawaiian rehabilitation fund; and*
2. *The "pro rata" portion for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) is legally established as **20% of all funds derived from the Public Land Trust (PLT)**, a requirement codified in Hawaii Revised Statutes §10-13.5.*

In other words, follow the laws that are already in the books. Pay what you have long promised to pay.

It's time for the State to "Stand Down for the greater good of Hawaiians!"

Since the State has NOT disproven OHA's past estimate that the Ceded Lands Revenue is approximately \$78.9 million annually, then **AMEND** this bill to mandate that the **MINIMUM** of the Pro Rata share shall be \$78.9 million.

Please **AMEND** this bill to reflect that the State will comply with the law as cited above.

Please remove the word(s) "Temporary" and make this law PERMANENT! Aloha!

*De Mont Kalai Manaole*

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De MONT Kalai Manaole, Co-Manager  
Ho`omana Pono, LLC  
86-044 Hoaha St.  
Wai`anae, HI 96792  
Phone: (808) 726-5753  
Email: [hoomanaponollc96792@gmail.com](mailto:hoomanaponollc96792@gmail.com)



**Ko'olauloa  
HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB**

**P.O. Box 532  
Hau'ula, Hawaii 96717**

**Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe,  
and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:**

**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.**

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

**As a snapshot, OHA-funded programs and services have launched small businesses, moved families off the streets, sent students to college, empowered grassroots groups to steward natural resources, and increased the capacity of Hawaiian language charter schools to serve their surrounding communities.**

**Without full funding, OHA's ability to fulfill its critical kuleana is compromised. This bill is not just about funding: it's also about fairness and justice. The public land trust consists primarily of crown and government lands that were seized during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom. Native Hawaiians have legal as well as moral claims – not only to income, but also to governance over these lands. Despite these claims, OHA receives only \$21.5 million per year compared to the estimated \$80 million that a 2016 audit showed was due to OHA under state law.**

**As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584 to help bring OHA's funding closer to \$80 million per year.**

**Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

***Raynae M. Fonoimoana***

**Hau'ula, Oahu**

**February 11, 2026**



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

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February 11, 2026

Testimony of the Kalihi-Palama Hawaiian Civic Club  
In Strong Support of HB 2584

Relating to the Public Land Trust

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

The Kalihi-Palama Hawaiian Civic Club submits testimony in strong support of HB 2584.

Article XII of the Hawai'i State Constitution establishes the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and affirms that Native Hawaiians are beneficiaries of the public land trust. Hawai'i Revised Statutes §10-13.5 implements this constitutional obligation by requiring that twenty percent of all funds derived from the public land trust be expended by OHA for the betterment of the conditions of Native Hawaiians.

This statutory requirement is clear. However, longstanding disputes have complicated its implementation. Disputes over revenue calculation, land inventory, and accounting have persisted across administrations and legislative sessions.

This has created uncertainty and delayed the transfer of OHA's share.

HB 2584 provides interim fiscal stability while the Public Land Trust Working Group completes its review.

The measure does not resolve historical accounting questions or replace the State's obligation under HRS §10-13.5, but it takes a practical step to ensure continuity of funding for Native Hawaiian beneficiaries.

The Public Land Trust carries a legal responsibility. Compliance with statutory requirements strengthens the integrity of the trust relationship and reinforces public confidence in the State's administration of trust assets.

For these reasons, the Kalihi-Palama Hawaiian Civic Club respectfully urges this Committee to pass HB 2584 and ensure timely and reliable funding for Native Hawaiian beneficiaries.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cedric Duarte, President  
Kalihi-Palama Hawaiian Civic Club



# ACTS OF REPENTANCE TASK FORCE

## HAWAI'I DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Mailing Address: 1350 Hunakai Street, Honolulu, HI 96816

February 11, 2026

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and 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.

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Rev. Amy C. Wake, Chair

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

Testimony of Nā Alaka‘i o ‘Ahahui o Hawai‘i  
Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs and Finance Committees  
Wednesday, February 11, 2026  
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Re: In STRONG SUPPORT of HB2584-PUBLIC LANDS & OHA AS A TRUST TO  
BENEFIT KANAKA HAWAI‘I!**

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

We are the alaka‘i of ‘Ahahui o Hawai‘i (“the Hui”), an organization of law student advocates at the William S. Richardson School of Law. For over 50 years, the Hui has advocated for Native Hawaiian justice in all areas of law, especially those affecting Native Hawaiian communities, traditional and customary practices, resource management, and environmental protection.

We STRONGLY SUPPORT 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.

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

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As OHA beneficiaries and voters, we urge the committee to pass HB2584 to help bring OHA’s funding closer to \$80 million per year.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide this testimony.

Aloha ‘Āina!

Nā Alaka‘i o ‘Ahahui o Hawai‘i

Nā Alaka‘i:

- Kyle K. Moriguchi (‘26)
- Bronson Gonzales (‘26)
- Lenei Sousa Naipo (‘27)
- Derek Kamakanaaloha Soong (‘27)
- Ka‘ohi Gomera (‘27)
- Kyson Kainalu James-Foree (‘27)
- Justice Kaeo Castroverde-Moniz (‘27)
- Taecia Kukui Akana (‘28)
- Kalāmanamana Harman (‘28)
- Sonny Dryden Kuehuikapono Seto Myers (‘28)
- Kiana Kekoa (‘28)

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:02:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kylie Alohilani Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

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.

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

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As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584 to help bring OHA's funding closer to \$80 million per year.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Alohilani Wong

Kalaheo, Kauai

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:06:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sherri-Anne Kamaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2584! This minimum of what Native Hawaiians deserve.

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:16:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Theodora Furtado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

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As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584 to help bring OHA's funding closer to \$80 million per year.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Theodora Furtado

Honolulu, Oahu

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:19:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Victor Kapua'ala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

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.

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

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

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584 to help bring OHA's funding closer to \$80 million per year.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Victor Kapua'ala

Wailuku, Maui

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:20:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**\*\*Testimony in Strong Support of HB2584\*\***

**\*\*Relating to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs\*\***

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

I strongly support HB2584, which temporarily increases the total annual amount of public land trust revenues transferred to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) for fiscal years 2026-2028 to ensure the full 20% pro rata share mandated by Article XII, Section 6 of the Hawaii State Constitution. This measure overrides any conflicting laws to guarantee a minimum transfer that meets this constitutional obligation, providing stability amid federal funding uncertainties, economic instability, and rising costs—effective July 1, 2026, with repeal on June 30, 2028. OHA bears a profound kuleana to uplift Native Hawaiians through innovative programs that drive systemic change. For instance, OHA-funded initiatives have launched small businesses, housed families experiencing homelessness, funded scholarships for higher education, empowered community groups in natural resource stewardship, and bolstered Hawaiian language immersion schools to serve broader communities.

These efforts not only benefit Native Hawaiians but strengthen all of Hawaii. Without adequate funding, OHA's capacity to fulfill this role is severely hampered. This bill is fundamentally about fairness and justice. The public land trust comprises lands seized during the illegal 1893 overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom, to which Native Hawaiians hold legal and moral claims—not just to revenues, but to governance. Yet, OHA currently receives only \$21.5 million annually from the trust, far below the estimated \$78.9 million due based on a 2015-2016 independent financial review of \$394.3 million in total trust revenues (20% pro rata share). This chronic underfunding—representing just 3.8% instead of 20%—shortchanges Native Hawaiian programs and perpetuates inequities.

The **\*\*real 20% pro rata share\*\*** that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) is constitutionally entitled to from Hawaii's Public Land Trust (PLT) revenues—also known as ceded lands revenues—stems from Article XII, Section 6 of the Hawaii State Constitution, which requires the state to transfer 20% of the income and proceeds from these trust lands to OHA for the betterment of Native Hawaiians.

### ### Key Numbers and Details -

#### \*\*Estimated Annual Total PLT Revenues (Basis for 20%):\*\*

The most widely cited figure comes from an independent financial review for FY 2015-2016, which estimated gross revenues from PLT sources at approximately **\*\*\$394.3 million\*\*** (or sometimes rounded to \$394 million). This includes various state agency receipts (e.g., from lands, leases, airports, hospitals, etc., though disputes exist over inclusions like airport revenues).  
- 20% of \$394.3 million = **\*\*\$78.9 million\*\*** annually (often cited as ~\$78.9 million or \$78 million in OHA materials and legislative bills).

- **\*\*Current Amount OHA Actually Receives\*\***: As of the latest updates (including post-2022 Act 226 adjustments, still in effect through at least FY 2025-2026 and referenced in 2026 bills), OHA receives an

**\*\*interim fixed annual payment of \$21.5 million\*\*** from PLT revenues. This is a legislatively capped amount (increased from the prior \$15.1 million cap set in 2006), and it's adjusted for inflation in some contexts but remains far below the full entitlement. - This represents roughly 3.8–5% of the estimated total revenues, not the full 20%.

- **\*\*Discrepancy / Shortfall\*\***:

The state owes an estimated **\*\*\$57.4 million\*\*** more per year (\$78.9M minus \$21.5M) based on the 2015-2016 baseline. This gap has persisted for decades due to ongoing disputes over what counts as "gross revenues" and what sources are included (e.g., some state agencies argue certain revenues like airport fees or hospital patient services shouldn't be fully counted or are restricted). A Public Land Trust Working Group (established in 2022) continues to review inventory, accounting, and the exact pro rata share, but no major update has changed the \$78.9M figure in recent legislative references (2025–2026 bills like HB2584, SB3307/SB3308, and OHA statements still use it).

### Context and Ongoing Issues - The \$78.9M figure is from 2015-2016 data and hasn't been officially updated in public sources for recent years (e.g., no new comprehensive audit superseding it as of 2026 references). Total PLT revenues may have changed due to inflation, new leases, or economic factors, but OHA and advocates consistently push for the full \$78.9M (or adjusted equivalent) as the benchmark. - Bills like HB2584 (2026 session) aim to temporarily boost transfers to better approach the constitutional 20% while a working group develops long-term solutions. - These are **\*\*not taxpayer general funds\*\***—they're revenues from the trust lands themselves (former Crown and Government lands of the Hawaiian Kingdom, held in trust post-overthrow and statehood). If you're testifying or advocating (e.g., on bills like HB2584), these numbers are the standard ones used by OHA: full entitlement **\*\*~\$78.9 million/year\*\***, current receipt **\*\*\$21.5 million/year\*\***.

As an OHA beneficiary, voter, and advocate for Hawaiian sovereignty, I urge the Committee to pass HB2584 to align funding closer to the \$78.9 million owed annually, honoring our constitutional and moral duties.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/@theXXXfiles> Venmo @Presidentbillionaire CashApp \$ShelbyBillionaire

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:29:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michele-ann K Akana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

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.

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

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

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584 to help bring OHA's funding closer to \$80 million per year.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Michele Akana

Waimānalo, O‘ahu

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:37:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

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.

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

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

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584 to help bring OHA's funding closer to \$80 million per year.

It's hard not to get somewhat emotionally charged on this issue since it has been going on for awhile and especially since we have participated within the framework of the law.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:56:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Abner Nakihei Jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

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.

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

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As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584 to help bring OHA's funding closer to \$80 million per year.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Abner Nakihei Jr

Villages of Leialii (Hawaiian Homelands Lahaina) Lahaina, Maui

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:06:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Monica Morris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

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.

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

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As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Monica Morris, Honolulu, Hawaii



**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:09:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lea Kamakawiwoole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

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.

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As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584 to help bring OHA's funding closer to \$80 million per year.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Lea Kamakawiwoole



**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:28:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lahela Kahe'e Gomez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

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.

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As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584 to help bring OHA's funding closer to \$80 million per year.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Lahela Kahe'e Gomez

Ewa Beach, O'ahu

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:35:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori Poaipuni	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

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As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584 to help bring OHA's funding closer to \$80 million per year.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Loriann Poaipuni  
Waiehu, Maui

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:47:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

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.

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As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584 to help bring OHA's funding closer to \$80 million per year.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kawika Aipa

Wai'anae, O'ahu

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 10:41:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kimeona Kane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Kimeona Kane of Waimānalo in strong support of this direction. Follow the law, do what is right. There are no more excuses to not being able to actually do so. It is a must.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to share my opinion.

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 10:43:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jotis Russell-Christian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

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.

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As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584 to help bring OHA's funding closer to \$80 million per year.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Jotis Russell-Christian

Kapahulu, O'ahu

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 11:14:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Samantha Puluole-Mitchell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

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.

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

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As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584 to help bring OHA's funding closer to \$80 million per year.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kamaile

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 11:24:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aloha McGuffie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of H.B. 2584 - Support**

Relating to the Public Land Trust

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

I write in strong support of H.B. 2584, which temporarily increases the amount of Public Land Trust revenues transferred to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) while reaffirming the State’s constitutional obligation under Article XII, Section 6 of the Hawai‘i State Constitution.

As outlined in the bill, Native Hawaiians are beneficiaries of the Public Land Trust, and the State has a fiduciary duty to ensure that twenty percent of all income and proceeds derived from the trust are transferred to OHA for the betterment of the conditions of Native Hawaiians

This obligation is constitutional and must be upheld consistently and transparently.

H.B. 2584 recognizes the significant pressures currently facing Native Hawaiian communities. The measure notes increased demand for Native Hawaiian-serving programs due to economic instability, rising costs of living, natural disasters, and uncertainty in federal funding. During federal shutdowns and funding disruptions, OHA has played an essential role in bridging gaps and maintaining services.

This bill provides a responsible and temporary adjustment. For fiscal years beginning July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028, it increases the total annual transfer from the Public Land Trust to OHA, while maintaining the constitutional twenty percent pro rata share and including a repeal date of June 30, 2028.

The temporary nature of the increase ensures near-term stability while allowing the Legislature to consider long-term recommendations from the Public Land Trust Working Group.

H.B. 2584 strengthens—not weakens—the State’s trust responsibility. It provides necessary stability to Native Hawaiian-serving programs during a period of uncertainty and reinforces the State’s constitutional and fiduciary commitments.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee to pass H.B. 2584.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha McGuffie

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 11:31:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alexander K.D. McNicoll	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

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.

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

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

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584 to help bring OHA's funding closer to \$80 million per year.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Mr. Alexander McNicoll

Nānākuli, O'ahu

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 1:38:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brenten Kanoa Yamane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

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.

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As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584 to help bring OHA's funding closer to \$80 million per year.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Brenten Yamane  
Kapolei, O'ahu  
brentenyamane@gmail.com

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 1:42:49 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 5:32:20 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

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.

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

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

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584 to help bring OHA's funding closer to \$80 million per year.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

- Pauleen Hau'oli ipo Wright

Kea'au/Moku o Keawe

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 5:53:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keiko Gonzalez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

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.

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

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

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584 to help bring OHA's funding closer to \$80 million per year.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Me ke aloha,

Keiko Gonzalez

He'eia, O'ahu

Aloha nui kākou e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

Please accept this written testimony in **strong support of HB2584**.

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. Fire your accountants if they are unable or unwilling to do their job with competence!

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. Shame!

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 HB2584.

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**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 8:07:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ku Kahakalau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

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.

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

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

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584 to help bring OHA's funding closer to \$80 million per year.

Me ka pono,

Kū Kahakalau, Ph.D.

Waipi'o Valley

Hawai'i Island



**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 8:48:10 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 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 Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

My name is Aric Kimo Alike Andrade, and I am from Hale‘iwa, O‘ahu. I write in strong support of HB2584 to ensure that Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) receive their fair and lawful share of revenues from the public land trust.

As a beneficiary and as someone rooted in our North Shore community, I understand how critical OHA’s work is for strengthening our people and our lāhui. OHA carries a profound kuleana to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians. Through strategic and innovative investments, OHA has supported small business development, helped families transition out of homelessness, expanded educational opportunities for our youth, empowered grassroots organizations to mālama ‘āina, and strengthened Hawaiian language immersion and charter schools that serve communities across our islands. These programs create long-term, systemic change. Without full and consistent funding, OHA’s ability to fulfill this mission is significantly compromised.

This bill is not just about funding — it is about fairness, accountability, and justice. The public land trust consists primarily of crown and government lands taken during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom. Native Hawaiians have both legal and moral claims to the revenues generated from these lands. Yet OHA currently receives only \$21.5 million annually, while a 2016 state audit estimated that approximately \$80 million per year is owed under existing law.

For the State to uphold its trust responsibility, it must ensure that OHA receives a level of funding that reflects what is due. Passing HB2584 is an important step toward restoring fairness and honoring that obligation.

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter from Hale‘iwa, I respectfully urge you to pass HB2584.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Me ke aloha,

Aric Kimo Alike Andrade  
Hale‘iwa, O‘ahu



**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 8:59:25 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Taffi Wise	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

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.

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 9:06:22 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Thomas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

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.

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

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

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584 to help bring OHA's funding closer to \$80 million per year.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Michael Thomas

Kamuela, Hawaii

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 9:15:59 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brieanah Gouveia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

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.

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

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

As a Kama'āina OHA supporter and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584 to help bring OHA's funding closer to \$80 million per year.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 9:16:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm a lineal descendant of these lands in the Hawaiian Kingdom, and I strongly support HB2584.

The public land trust (PLT) is comprised primarily of former Hawaiian Kingdom and government lands—lands that were seized following the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom and are now held in trust by the fake State of Hawai'i. Both the Hawai'i State Constitution and state law are clear: Native Hawaiians are entitled to a fair, pro rata share of the income and proceeds from these lands, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) is the entity designated to administer these funds for the betterment of Native Hawaiians.

Since 1980, §HRS 10-13.5 has entitled OHA to 20% of all PLT revenues. Yet despite this long-standing statutory mandate, OHA currently receives only \$21.5 million per year—roughly 5% of PLT revenues. This amount falls far short of what is legally owed. An OHA-funded financial review of fiscal year 2016 determined that OHA was due approximately \$35 million annually from uncontested revenue streams alone. When revenue streams historically contested by the state are included, OHA believes the amount owed should be closer to \$80 million per year.

This chronic underfunding has real and lasting consequences. It shortchanges OHA's ability to fulfill its constitutional responsibilities and undermines programs that directly benefit Native Hawaiians, including innovative community initiatives, individual grants and loans, and essential advocacy and research efforts aimed at addressing systemic inequities.

HB2584 is a necessary and overdue step toward correcting this injustice. By increasing OHA's public land trust revenue to an amount closer to the actual 20% owed under law, this bill moves Hawai'i toward honoring its constitutional and statutory obligations and restoring trust responsibilities that have been neglected for decades.

Kānaka Maoli should not have to continually fight for what the law already guarantees. I urge this committee to pass HB2584 and help ensure fairness, accountability, and justice in the administration of public land trust revenues.

me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo, 96826

Sierra Club of Hawai'i Member

Hawai'i Workers Center Board Member

Honolulu Tenants Union Member

350 Hawai'i Member

Carbon Cashback Hawai'i Member

Hawai'i Tax Fairness Coalition Member

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 9:34:01 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brennah-Czyz Perez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

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.

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

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

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584 to help bring OHA's funding closer to \$80 million per year.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kauahi Perez

Kaimuki, Oahu

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 10:08:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha

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 Hawai'i State Constitution recognizes the Native Hawaiian people's right to a fair, pro rata share of the income and proceeds from the PLT.
- The PLT is comprised primarily of lands seized during the illegal overthrow, and currently held in trust by the State of Hawai'i.
- The state constitution identifies OHA as the body to administer funds from the PLT for the betterment of Native Hawaiians.

Mahalo

John

Hawaii House of Representatives  
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Subject: HB 2584 Relating to the Public Land Trust

Dear Chairman David A. Tarnas and Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe

I support providing the Office of Hawaiian Affairs it's fair share of state revenues as prescribed by paragraph 5f. of the Hawaiian Admissions Act of 1959 and the proposed HB2584.

William L. Kapaku Jr  
DHHL Wait List

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 10:14:27 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keomailani Hanapi Hirata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Keomailani Hanapi Hirata, I am a kupa‘āina from Molokai. I am testifying with the red dirt of our island still on my slippers, carrying the voices of my kūpuna and the keiki waiting for us to get this right.

I am writing in support of HB2584, not because I trust the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), but because **I trust US!** And I know that without the full 20%, not crumbs, not \$21.5 million, our people will continue to be regulated by a government that treats our worth like a budget line item to be minimized.

It is hard when OHA trustees themselves have admitted the agency has lost credibility due to mismanagement and audits with no accountability. It is hard when our own kūpuna on Molokai ask why OHA isn't doing more, and the answer is simply "we don't have enough". Our Hawaiian people are growing, OHA needs to grow too.

This is not about a budget shortfall; this is about a constitutional violation. When the government decides how much a Native Hawaiian is "worth" to invest in, they always lowball us. They always say, "not now." They always tell us to be patient while our people are houseless in their homeland and our kūpuna iwi are disrespected during development & tourism activities.

We need to work together, but working together cannot mean "go along to get along." We, the Native Hawaiian beneficiaries who are not seeing OHA's impact in our daily lives, needs to hold OHA's feet to the fire. But we also need to stop letting the Legislature pit us against each other. Every year, the State collects hundreds of millions from our lands.

We need OHA funded so OHA can stop fighting for its own survival and join the battles alongside communities like ours and advocate for **US!**

Pass HB2584. Not because OHA is perfect. Because justice is not contingent on the recipient's perfection. Because the Hawaiian Kingdom never agreed to this slow, bureaucratic starvation of our people. Because my kūpuna deserve to see their mo'opuna thrive within their homeland.

Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to speak from the heart of Molokai Nui A Hina.



**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 10:25:48 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Kona Russell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

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.

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

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

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584 to help bring OHA's funding closer to \$80 million per year.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

For too long we have been asking for a fair fiscal representation with the monies owed to us. It is time to do what is right for the native hawaiians (even if it is not popular) so that we can continue to live here and not be priced out of paradise.

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 10:33:51 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Pomaika'i Fatongia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

As an OHA beneficiary, this issue is personal to me. I am writing in strong support of HB2584 to ensure Native Hawaiians receive their fair and lawful share of revenues from the public land trust.

OHA carries a profound kuleana to our lāhui. I have seen how OHA's investments create real change — supporting small businesses, helping families regain stability, strengthening education, and empowering communities to care for our resources and culture. When OHA is underfunded, it limits what we can do for our own people.

The public land trust is made up largely of crown and government lands taken during the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom. Native Hawaiians have both a legal and moral claim to the revenues generated from these lands. Yet OHA receives only \$21.5 million annually — far below the approximately \$80 million identified in the 2016 audit as owed under state law. That gap matters. It affects opportunities, services, and futures.

As a beneficiary and a voter, I urge you to pass HB2584 and move closer to what is just and right.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Pōmaika'i Fatongia  
Papakōlea, Honolulu, O'ahu

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 10:40:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J. Kehau Lucas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I write in strong support of HB 2584, a measure that temporarily increases the total amount of public land trust revenues transferred to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) and reaffirms the State’s constitutional obligation to ensure Native Hawaiians receive their full 20% pro rata share of revenues derived from the public land trust.

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## **1. HB 2584 Strengthens Constitutional Compliance With Article XII, Section 6**

The Hawai‘i State Constitution explicitly recognizes Native Hawaiians as beneficiaries of the public land trust and charges OHA with managing and administering their pro rata share of income and proceeds. HB 2584 reinforces this constitutional mandate, ensuring the State fulfills its fiduciary duties.

[\[trackbill.com\]](#)

The Legislature has repeatedly acknowledged this obligation and taken steps toward compliance, including Act 226 (2022), which increased interim annual transfers to OHA and established a working group to improve the accuracy and administration of public land trust revenue calculations.

[\[trackbill.com\]](#)

HB 2584 is a needed continuation of this corrective path.

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## **2. Native Hawaiian-Serving Programs Face Intensifying Need**

The Legislature’s findings recognize that Native Hawaiian-serving programs have experienced dramatically increased demand due to:

- Rising cost of living
- Economic instability
- Natural disasters
- Reductions or delays in federal funding, including programs historically tied to diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives

As these federal supports shrink, OHA increasingly fills the gap—supporting families during federal shutdowns, funding emergency aid, and maintaining vital cultural, educational, and social services.

[\[trackbill.com\]](https://trackbill.com)

Temporarily increasing OHA’s public land trust revenue cap is an evidence-based response to these real, documented pressures.

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### **3. OHA Has Demonstrated Strong Capacity, Accountability, and Multilevel Coordination**

The Legislature notes that OHA has effectively and responsibly deployed resources in partnership with federal, state, county, and community entities.

[\[trackbill.com\]](https://trackbill.com)

This track record provides confidence that additional temporary funding will be used efficiently, transparently, and in ways that directly benefit Native Hawaiian communities during a period of instability in federal funding sources.

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### **4. The Scale of Need Requires Substantive, Not Symbolic, Action**

Hawai‘i’s Native Hawaiian population continues to face severe inequities stemming from the historical and ongoing mismanagement of the public land trust.

Meanwhile, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL)—another trust agency—has a near 30,000-person waitlist for homesteading. Even with a \$600 million appropriation in 2022, DHHL still needs billions more to fulfill its mandate.

[\[civilbeat.org\]](https://civilbeat.org)

This demonstrates two crucial realities:

1. Hawai‘i’s trust obligations remain substantially underfunded.
2. OHA’s increased share under HB 2584 is not excessive—it is essential.

Although HB 2584 does not directly fund DHHL, reinforcing the State’s trust obligations overall helps restore integrity to a system where Native Hawaiian trust beneficiaries have long been under-resourced.

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## **5. HB 2584 Is Time-Limited, Targeted, and Fiscally Responsible**

The bill’s increased transfer cap expires June 30, 2028, ensuring that the measure is a temporary stabilization tool rather than an open-ended commitment.

[\[fastdemocracy.com\]](https://fastdemocracy.com)

This short-term increase helps Hawai‘i navigate a period of national uncertainty—especially regarding federal funding for Native-serving programs—while maintaining legislative flexibility.

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## **6. Supporting HB 2584 Is an Act of Policy Integrity and Justice**

Because the public land trust originates from lands taken from the Hawaiian Kingdom and held in trust “for the betterment of Native Hawaiians,” ensuring fair revenue distribution is not optional—it is a matter of legal compliance and moral responsibility.

[\[trackbill.com\]](https://trackbill.com)

By passing HB 2584, the Legislature:

- Upholds its fiduciary responsibilities
- Addresses urgent community needs during economic uncertainty
- Strengthens Native-serving institutions
- Reinforces the integrity of the public land trust

This measure is aligned with both constitutional duties and the values of fairness, equity, and accountability that Hawai‘i strives to uphold.

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## **REQUESTED ACTION**

For the reasons outlined above, I respectfully urge the committee to PASS HB 2584.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify and for your commitment to fulfilling Hawai'i's trust obligations.

Aloha 'āina,  
J. Kēhau Lucas

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 10:52:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Naomi Tanigawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

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.

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

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

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584 to help bring OHA's funding closer to \$80 million per year.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Naomi Iwalani Tanigawa

O uka Makawao, Maui

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 11:03:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Taecia Kukui Akana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

I am writing to express my 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.

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

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

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584 to help bring OHA's funding closer to \$80 million per year.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Taecia Kukui Akana

Waimānalo Neighborhood Board & Richardson School of Law C/O 28, O'ahu

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 12:12:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha nui e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

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.

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

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

As such, Native Hawaiians have both legal and moral claims – not only to the income generated by these lands, but also to their governance.

Despite these claims, OHA receives only \$21.5 million per year compared to the estimated \$80 million that a 2016 audit showed was due to OHA under state law. Indeed, OHA's current share of PLT revenues is more like 5% than 20%.

It has been 46 years since §HRS 10-13.5 - which stipulates that 20% of PLT revenues would go to OHA on behalf of Native Hawaiians - was codified into law. It is high time that the State of Hawai‘i honor its legal obligation to properly fund the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

As a Native Hawaiian, an OHA beneficiary, and a voter, I respectfully urge the committee to pass HB2584 to help bring OHA’s funding closer to \$80 million per year.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Lisette Puanani Akamine

Kahalu'u, O'ahu

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 12:54:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 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 regarding HB 2584, which addresses the transfer of public land trust revenues to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA). I strongly support this bill, as it recognizes both the historical and ongoing obligations of the State to Native Hawaiians.

HB 2584 temporarily increases the total amount of public land trust revenues transferred to OHA, while reaffirming the State’s constitutional duty to provide a twenty percent pro rata share of revenues. This measure is a critical step toward honoring the State’s responsibility as outlined in the Hawaii State Constitution, ensuring that Native Hawaiians receive their rightful share of income derived from public lands.

Increasing the revenue allocation to OHA will help address longstanding disparities and support vital programs in education, health, housing, and cultural preservation. It also demonstrates the State’s commitment to upholding justice and equity for Native Hawaiian beneficiaries.

I respectfully urge the Legislature to pass HB 2584 and continue to work toward fulfilling the obligations to Native Hawaiians, as promised in our Constitution. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Kelcy Durbin

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

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.

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

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

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584 to help bring OHA's funding closer to \$80 million per year.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Teave Heen, MSW  
Kawela, Molokai

To House Committee on

Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair

Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Committee Members:

Representative Della Au Belatti

Representative Elle Cochran

Representative Mark. J. Hashem

Representative Kristen Kahaloa

Representative Jackson D. Sayama

Representative Diamon Garcia

Representative Garner M. Shimizu

Testimony in Strong Support of HB2584 / SB3308 – Increasing Public Land Trust Revenues for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs

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

My name is Stacy Helm Crivello, a lifetime resident of Molokai and Kanaka Maoli .and I submit this testimony in **strong support of HB2584 and its companion measure SB3308**, which would increase the share of Public Land Trust (PLT) revenues allocated to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA).

Under existing law and longstanding state obligations, OHA is entitled to a fair share of revenues generated from the Public Land Trust for the benefit of Native Hawaiians. However, OHA currently receives only **\$21.5 million annually** from the PLT—an amount widely understood to be far below what is owed. Multiple estimates and analyses over the years indicate that the State’s obligation is likely **between \$35 million and \$80 million per year**, meaning that Native Hawaiian beneficiaries have been consistently underfunded relative to what the law and trust responsibility require.

HB2584/SB3308 represents an important step toward correcting this imbalance. Increasing OHA’s PLT revenue allocation would:

- **Uphold the State’s trust responsibility** to Native Hawaiians and honor the intent of the Public Land Trust.
- **Provide stable and predictable funding** for programs that support housing, education, health, economic development, and cultural preservation for Native Hawaiian communities.
- **Address decades of underpayment** and move the State closer to fulfilling its legal and moral obligations.
- **Strengthen transparency and fairness** in how revenues generated from ceded lands are distributed.

Testimony HB 2584 (continue)

The Public Land Trust exists, in part, to improve the conditions and well-being of Native Hawaiians. When OHA's share remains far below what is owed, critical services and opportunities for Native Hawaiian beneficiaries are constrained. Increasing this allocation is not a special benefit—it is the fulfillment of a trust obligation embedded in state law and history.

HB2584/SB3308 offers a responsible path forward to ensure that OHA receives a more appropriate and equitable portion of PLT revenues. By supporting this measure, the Legislature affirms its commitment to justice, stewardship, and the well-being of Native Hawaiian communities across our islands.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS HB2584 and SB3308**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony

Sincerely,

Stacy Helm Crivello

[Stacy.c63@gmail.com](mailto:Stacy.c63@gmail.com)

808-658-0346

P O Box 1097, Kaunakakai, HI 96748

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 1:39:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 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**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 6:35:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lionel Ortiz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

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.

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

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

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB2584 to help bring OHA's funding closer to \$80 million per year.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Lionel Ortiz

Kaneohe, Oahu

**HB-2584**

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 9:49:50 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Germaine Meyers	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

To: Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Re: Support for HB2584 – Public Land Trust; Temporary Increase in Funding

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Germaine Meyers. I am a Native Hawaiian beneficiary, a Nānākuli Hawaiian Homestead lessee, and a long-time community advocate.

**I strongly support HB2584** as a necessary, responsible, and constitutionally grounded measure to stabilize Native Hawaiian-serving programs during a period of significant federal funding uncertainty.

Article XII, section 6 of the Hawai‘i State Constitution is clear: Native Hawaiians are beneficiaries of the Public Land Trust, and the State has a fiduciary duty to ensure that twenty per cent of all income and proceeds derived from the Public Land Trust are transferred to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs for the betterment of Native Hawaiians. That obligation is not discretionary, and it is not dependent on federal funding availability.

Despite that constitutional mandate, the interim annual transfer—first set at \$15.1 million and later increased to \$21.5 million under Act 226—continues to fall far short of the actual revenues generated from Public Land Trust assets. OHA’s own financial analysis has shown that a true twenty per cent pro rata share has historically been many times higher than the current interim amount.

At the same time, Native Hawaiian communities are facing compounding pressures: rising costs of living, disaster recovery needs, housing instability, and reductions or uncertainty in federal funding streams that have long supported Native Hawaiian families.

HB2584 does not waive, diminish, or replace the State’s constitutional trust obligations. To the contrary, it reaffirms those obligations while providing a temporary increase that allows Native Hawaiian-serving programs to remain operational and responsive during a transitional period. The bill’s sunset date appropriately preserves legislative oversight and aligns with the ongoing work of the Public Land Trust Working Group to develop durable, long-term solutions.

From a beneficiary perspective, this measure is about continuity, trust integrity, and constitutional compliance. Allowing programs to falter while the State continues to benefit from Public Land Trust revenues would deepen inequities and further erode confidence in the State's role as trustee.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS HB2584**.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this measure.

Ke Akua pū,

Germaine Meyers