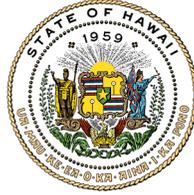


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I  
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ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of  
LEAH LARAMEE  
Climate Change Coordinator on behalf of  
Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission  
Co-Chair Ryan K. P. Kanaka'ole**

**Before the House Committees on  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AND  
TOURISM**

**Thursday, February 12, 2026  
9:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 2618  
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

House Bill 2618 requires the Governor to request, through a bill separate from the budget or supplemental budget, an amount of general funds that approximates the additional revenue generated by any increase to the transient accommodations tax rate and by assessment of the transient accommodations tax on gross rental proceeds derived from cruise fares for certain climate change and tourism destination management projects. **The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) supports this measure.**

The Commission consists of a multi-jurisdictional effort between 20 departments, committees, and counties with the purpose of promoting ambitious, climate-neutral, culturally responsive strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Continuing support for initiatives such as the historic Green Fee requires transparency and accountability. This bill will clarify how monies from the fund are allocated through the legislative process. The Commission respectfully suggests that establishing a special fund would add an additional mechanism to simplify tracking of funds, while providing additional flexibility as project priorities shift over time.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**HB-2618**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:03:36 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ted Bohlen	Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT!



## Care for 'Āina Now Coalition

February 12, 2026

Hawai'i State Legislature  
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection  
House Committee on Tourism

Re: Testimony in **Support** of HB2618, Relating to the Environment

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Tam, Vice Chairs Perruso and Templo, and esteemed members of the committees,

On behalf of our coalition's leadership committee, we are writing in **support** of HB 2618, relating to the environment. This measure advances transparency and accountability in how public revenues connected to environmental protection and visitor management are requested and appropriated, helping ensure that lawmakers and the public can clearly track proposed investments in these critical priorities.

Recent efforts to dedicate funding toward conservation, climate resilience, and responsible tourism represent a significant step forward for Hawai'i's long-term environmental stewardship. These resources are intended to safeguard natural and cultural assets, strengthen communities in the face of climate impacts, and improve visitor experiences—while also helping to close longstanding gaps in conservation funding across the state. For such an ambitious approach to succeed over time, residents must be able to see clearly how funds are proposed, evaluated, and directed toward projects that provide real and measurable benefits for local communities.

HB 2618 helps reinforce that confidence by promoting a more transparent budgeting process and clearer alignment between revenues collected and investments proposed for environmental and destination management purposes. Our coalition believes that openness in fiscal decision-making strengthens public trust, supports effective legislative oversight, and improves the long-term success of conservation and resilience initiatives statewide.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the committees to support HB 2618.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Care for 'Āina Now Coalition Leadership Committee



**HB-2618**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 5:15:41 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB2618 is necessary to ensure that green fee revenues are spent on green projects as intended.