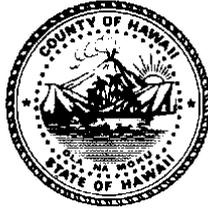


**C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.**  
*Mayor*



**William V. Brillhante, Jr.**  
*Managing Director*

**Merrick Nishimoto**  
*Deputy Managing Director*

## *County of Hawai'i ~ Office of the Mayor*

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Testimony of  
**C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.**  
Mayor, County of Hawai'i

Before the Senate Committees on  
**Economic Development and Tourism**  
Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

**Water, Land, Culture and the Arts**  
Senator Chris Lee, Chair  
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

**Thursday, February 19, 2026, 1:02 p.m.**  
State Capitol Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**Senate Bill 2001**  
**Relating to the Banyan Drive Community Development District**

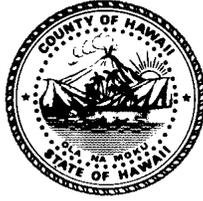
Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committees,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 2001, which establishes the Banyan Drive Community Development District and the Banyan Drive Community Development District Special Fund. Specifies the powers and duties of the Hawai'i Community Development Authority as it relates to the new development district.

Banyan Drive serves as a key gateway to Hilo and is of significant cultural and economic importance. However, the area faces ongoing challenges with infrastructure, safety, and underutilization. This measure establishes a redevelopment framework through the Hawai'i Community Development Authority, aligning with our urgency to emphasize cultural preservation and support responsible redevelopment.

Senate Bill 2001 presents a real opportunity to revitalize Banyan Drive, and we appreciate the committee's consideration of this measure and the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support.

C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.  
*Mayor*



Benson Medina  
*Director*

William V. Brillhante, Jr.  
*Managing Director*

Dennis Lin  
*Deputy Director*

## DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

25 Aupuni Street, Room 1301 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-4252  
(808) 961-8366 • Fax (808) 935-1205  
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February 19, 2026

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS;  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

Thursday, February 19, 2026  
1:02 PM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 229

### TESTIMONY ON

SB2001 Relating to the Banyan Drive Community Development District

Aloha Chairs DeCoite, Lee, Vice Chairs Wakai, Inouye, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Benson Medina, and I serve as the Director of the Department of Research and Development for the County of Hawai'i. I write today in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2001**, which would establish the **Banyan Drive Community Development District and the Banyan Drive Community Development District Special Fund** under the Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA), along with a dedicated special fund to support long-term planning, stewardship, and revitalization.

HB 2616 represents a rare and meaningful opportunity to align **economic development, cultural and historic preservation**, and **community enrichment** in one of Hawai'i Island's most iconic and historically significant corridors.

The Banyan Drive area is not only a place of scenic beauty and visitor appeal — it is also a space of cultural memory and community identity. For decades, this corridor has held great potential, yet it has faced persistent challenges related to long-term investment, coordinated planning, infrastructure needs, and stewardship responsibilities.

This bill provides a structure that can finally move the area forward in a way that is both **strategic and values-driven**.

From an economic development perspective, a thoughtfully revitalized Banyan Drive can:

- Expand opportunities for **local job creation** and workforce participation
- Strengthen the visitor economy through a **higher-quality visitor experience**
- Support local entrepreneurs and small businesses tied to cultural, hospitality, and recreation sectors

- Increase the attractiveness of Hilo as a destination for **responsible, place-based tourism**

At the same time, SB 2001 supports what matters most to our residents — that redevelopment must protect and uplift the cultural and historic significance of the area. The bill's approach creates an opportunity to balance **cultural enrichment, community uses, and economic activities**, rather than prioritizing one at the expense of the others.

This is the kind of long-term planning Hawai'i Island needs: development that strengthens our economy while honoring place, preserving history, and ensuring community access and benefit.

For these reasons, the County of Hawai'i Department of Research and Development respectfully urges the Committee to pass SB 2001.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your leadership on this important measure.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

**Benson Medina**  
Director, Department of Research and Development  
County of Hawai'i



**HAWAII COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

547 Queen Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Telephone: (808) 594-0300 Fax: (808) 587-0299  
Web site: <http://dbedt.hawaii.gov/hcda/>

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR

STERLING HIGA  
CHAIRPERSON

CRAIG K. NAKAMOTO  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Statement of  
**CRAIG K. NAKAMOTO**  
**Executive Director**  
Hawai'i Community Development Authority  
before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM**  
and the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

Thursday, February 19, 2026  
1:02 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**SB 2001**  
**RELATING TO THE BANYAN DRIVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT.**

Chairperson DeCoite, Chairperson Lee, Vice Chairperson Wakai, Vice  
Chairperson Inouye, and members of the Committees:

The Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA) **supports** SB 2001 with  
comments. Last year, HCDA commenced a multi-year effort to develop a community-  
driven master plan for the Waiākea Peninsula in Hilo, Hawai'i. This reflects the  
Legislature's intent to initiate plans for the purpose of redeveloping the State lands in  
the Waiākea Peninsula as enabled by an appropriation in Act 230, Session Laws of  
Hawai'i, 2024. HCDA is invested in this planning process, especially in anticipation of a  
bill passing the legislature this session that will establish the district within the HCDA.  
HCDA's comments for the committee's consideration, are as follows:

1. Adopt a simplified name for the proposed community development district  
by replacing all references to "Banyan Drive" with "Waiākea." HCDA understands the  
importance of nā inoa, or place names, in elevating history, promoting cultural  
awareness, and educating communities. HCDA's other community development  
districts have geographic place names in 'Olelo Hawai'i, including Kaka'ako, Kalaeloa,  
He'eia, and Pūlehunui. The name of this district should reflect its geographic location

and also strengthen a sense of place in the community. HCDA also understands that some names may not always be culturally appropriate or desirable. The history of important place names within the district, such as Makaokū or Banyan Drive, should be thoroughly studied and vetted through research and community processes. Appropriate methods to recognize the history and relative importance of these names can be addressed in a cultural landscape or historic preservation plan, which should be developed with input from the community, the State Historic Preservation Division, and other stakeholders as the district is revitalized.

2. Align the proposed district to be consistent with the organizational structure of HCDA's other districts by deleting Lines 4 to 13, on Page 3 of SB 2001. In HCDA's existing community development districts, the composition and jurisdiction of the authority members are established as a subset of the general authority board in § 206E-3, HRS. Each community development district is not established as a separate agency, but the voting membership of each community development district is limited to a subset of the authority that includes the designated resident and small business representatives of that community.

In SB 2001, the proposed community development district is established on Page 2, lines 14 to 21 and continues to Page 3, lines 1 to 3. The composition and jurisdiction of the authority members is established on Page 8, line 10 thru Page 19, line 21, which amends § 206E-3, HRS.

As such, the language on Page 3, Lines 4 to 13, which establishes a separate Banyan Drive redevelopment agency, conflicts with these other provisions and is unnecessary.

3. Replace references to the "chairperson of the Banyan Drive redevelopment agency" with "the chairperson of the Banyan Drive Hawai'i Redevelopment Agency, County of Hawai'i or designee." The Banyan Drive Hawai'i Redevelopment Agency (BDHRA) was created in 2016 by the County of Hawai'i pursuant to the Urban Renewal Law, § 53, HRS, to redevelop the Banyan Drive Peninsula. HCDA suggests that the BDHRA chairperson or designee should have an

ex-officio position on the Authority and be eligible to vote on matters affecting this district. Among the relevant references that would need to be changed include:

- Page 8, lines 19 to 20;
- Page 11, lines 5 to 6;
- Page 17, lines 14-15;
- Page 17, lines 20 to 21, continuing to page 18, lines 1 to 3; and
- Page 18, lines 13 to 14.

4. Add new subsection (c) after Page 5, line 7 which adds provisions for a community advisory committee that is selected by the authority and includes at least one lineal or cultural descendant with ties to the Waiākea ahupua'a that is selected with input from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Specific proposed language is as follows:

**(c) The authority shall establish a community advisory committee to provide guidance and assure effective citizen participation in the redevelopment of the district. The community advisory committee shall consist of community stakeholders that are selected by the authority and include at least one lineal or cultural descendant with ties to the Waiākea ahupua'a that is selected with input from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.**

The HCDA is undergoing a master planning process for the Waiakea peninsula that will result in a community master plan. The community master plan will shape the future of the area. We suggest that the lineal or cultural descendants have a place on the community advisory committee that we are forming for the master planning effort. Having lineal or cultural descendants on a community advisory committee will be more impactful on the future of the Waiakea peninsula than if they were serving on the authority. In addition, HCDA's board already includes a cultural specialist, who provides guidance to the Authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA  
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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 Senate Committees on  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM  
AND  
WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

**Thursday, February 19, 2026  
1:02 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 2001  
RELATING TO THE BANYAN DRIVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

Senate Bill 2001 proposes to establish the Banyan Dive Community Development District and the Banyan Drive Community Development District Special Fund. It also specifies the powers and duties of the Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA) as it relates to the new development district. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates and supports this measure.**

The Department recognizes that the Waiakea peninsula area, which includes Banyan Drive, is underutilized, but has an exceptional potential for revitalization. Further, the Department acknowledges the frustration over the current state of the area and recognizes the need for and importance of revitalizing and redeveloping the area. The Department notes that it is actively working with HCDA on a master plan for the proposed development district.

As a majority of the lands within the proposed development district are owned by the State, the Department supports this measure due to its potential to address significant costs associated with the redevelopment of the area and appreciates that this measure incorporates comments we provided on a similar measure last session.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.  
*Mayor*

William V. Brilhante, Jr.  
*Managing Director*

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**County of Hawai'i**  
**PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

Jeffrey W. Darrow  
*Director*

Michelle S. Ahn  
*Deputy Director*

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February 18, 2026

Testimony of  
Jeffrey W. Darrow  
Director, County of Hawai'i, Department of Planning  
before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM**  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

Thursday, February 19, 2026

1:02 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of

**SENATE BILL NO. 2001**

**RELATING TO THE BANYAN DRIVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism.

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Water, Land, Culture and the Arts.

The County of Hawai'i Planning Department respectfully submits testimony in strong support of SB2001, which establishes the Banyan Drive Community Development District and creates a clear framework to advance coordinated, long-term revitalization for the Waiakea peninsula area, including Banyan Drive.

SB2001 recognizes Banyan Drive's exceptional opportunity, given its proximity to the cruise ship terminal, Merrie Monarch Festival sites, and Hilo town, and enables a focused redevelopment approach through the Hawai'i Community Development Authority that supports compatible hotel, commercial, public, and cultural uses.

The bill establishes district boundaries, including lands makai to the ocean and Moku Ola (Coconut Island), and designates the redevelopment agency to guide implementation.

Finally, SB2001 appropriates \$2,000,000 for FY 2026–2027 to support HCDA implementation activities, including rulemaking and environmental review.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**TESTIMONY WITH COMMENTS ON SENATE BILL 2001**

RELATING TO THE BANYAN DRIVE COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ka Wai, ‘Āina, a me ka Mo‘omeheu a me nā Hana No‘eau  
(Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Culture and the Arts)

Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ka Ho‘omohala Waiwai a me ka ‘Oihana Ho‘okipa Malihini  
(Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism)

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

Pepeluali 19, 2026

1:02PM

Lumi 229

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Aloha e Chair Lee, Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committees:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) provides **COMMENTS** on SB2001, which will create a new Banyan Drive Community Development District (District) within the Hawai‘i Community Development Authority (HCDA), and establish a special fund “to improve and safeguard the cultural, economic, and social value of this vital area.” As part of the creation of the District, the bill also proposes the Banyan Drive-Makaokū Redevelopment Agency (Agency) that will have authority to engage in “planning, design, and construction activities within and outside the district.” OHA respectfully recommends amendments to be included as a member of the HCDA with jurisdiction over the District and Agency, inclusion of the lineal descendant member as done with HB2616, and for the governor to appoint the cultural specialist and lineal descendant members to the Agency after consulting with OHA.

OHA’s Constitutional and Statutory Mandates

There are several constitutional and statutory provisions that warrant OHA’s inclusion in the new District, and that support OHA having a role in the nomination of the District’s cultural specialist and lineal descendant authority members.

First, to carry out the requirements of the Hawai‘i Admission Act, Art. XII Sec. 4 of the Hawai‘i State Constitution makes clear that the Public Land Trust must be administered for the betterment of the conditions of native Hawaiians and for the general public. Meanwhile, under Art. XII Secs. 5 and 6, OHA was “created and charged with managing proceeds derived from the [Public Land Trust],”<sup>1</sup> and to otherwise formulate policy relating to native Hawaiian and Hawaiian affairs. Accordingly, OHA has a constitutional interest in ensuring that the state upholds its fiduciary obligations under the Public Land Trust, including by acting with prudence and due diligence in making its trust corpus productive and maximizing its benefits for the Trust’s Native Hawaiian and public beneficiaries.

Insofar as the new District is made up of Public Land Trust Lands, OHA is willing and able to assist the HCDA in fulfilling the state’s Public Land Trust obligations, by serving as a member of the HCDA with jurisdiction over the District.<sup>2</sup>

Second, the bulk of the land managed held by the state, including land in the District, is former government or crown land that was unlawfully seized in 1893 and then “ceded” by the Republic of Hawai‘i to the United States in 1898, “without the consent of or compensation to the Native Hawaiian people of Hawaii or their sovereign government[.]”<sup>3</sup> Given that Native Hawaiians have never relinquished their claims to this “ceded” land corpus, and that “ceded” land may eventually serve as a land base for a Native Hawaiian self-governing entity, OHA has long sought to ensure that the state does not alienate “ceded” land, and that it also maintains these lands to ensure the corpus’ viability and availability for the future lāhui, consistent with its constitutional and moral obligations.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Office of Hawaiian Affairs v. State of Hawai‘i, 96 Hawai‘i at 401, 31 P.3d at 914.

<sup>2</sup> See also HRS § 10-1 (b) (“It shall be the duty and responsibility of all state departments and instrumentalities of state government providing services and programs which affect native Hawaiians and Hawaiians to actively work toward the goals of this chapter and to cooperate with and assist wherever possible the office of Hawaiian affairs.”), 10-3 (OHA’s statutory duties include “[a]ssessing the policies and practices of other agencies impacting on native Hawaiians and Hawaiians, and conducting advocacy efforts for native Hawaiians and Hawaiians.”).

<sup>3</sup> P.L. 103-150 (1993).

<sup>4</sup> Haw. Const. Art. XI Sec. 1; Haw Const. Art. XII Sec. 4; Ching v. Case, 145 Hawai‘i 148 (2008)

Accordingly, with much of the new District also made up of “ceded” land, providing OHA with a seat on the HCDA that has jurisdiction over the District will also ensure that Native Hawaiian claims and interests in the District’s “ceded” land and on adjoining “ceded” land are not unnecessarily compromised, including lack of attention to the maintenance of its environmental, cultural, economic, and other values.

Proponents of the bill, including those who are already actively planning the redevelopment for this area<sup>5</sup>, are already communicating their intentions through their developed plans and intentions for longer lease terms (e.g. 99 year leases with rollovers) as it positively impacts their ability to secure financing. While OHA understands that the purported purpose of longer leases is to provide prospective lessees with additional flexibility in securing financing for the development of state lands, OHA cannot support such a proposal. OHA is opposed to the leases of longer terms, such as 99-year leases, for public lands, which would include Public Land Trust lands as well as “ceded” lands, taken through the unlawful overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom, and to which Native Hawaiians maintain unrelinquished claims. The extremely long-term multi-generational leases proposed by such 99-year leases may inhibit multiple future generations from ensuring the best and most appropriate use of public lands and Public Land Trust lands; the lack of transparency and accountability mechanisms included under HRS Chapter 171 for these lands within the District exacerbates such concerns. In addition, extremely long leases of public lands by private entities may inadvertently create a sense of entitlement on the part of lessees that has led and may continue to lead to the alienation of public lands, including “ceded” lands. OHA objects to the sale or alienation of “ceded” lands except in limited circumstances, and has significant concerns over any proposal that may facilitate the diminution of the “ceded” lands corpus.

Finally, OHA has a statutory duty to “[a]ssess the policies and practices of other agencies impacting on native Hawaiians and Hawaiians, and conducting advocacy efforts for native Hawaiians and Hawaiians.”<sup>6</sup> This includes maintaining physical, spiritual, and cultural connections to ‘āina, which does not simply translate to “land,” but reflects a deeper familial relationship between people and the living systems that surround us - as embodied in the Hawaiian origin story connecting the birth of humans with kalo (taro).

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<sup>5</sup> The County of Hawai‘i established the “Banyan Drive Hawai‘i Redevelopment Agency” as a board or commission. County of Hawai‘i, Banyan Drive Hawai‘i Redevelopment Agency, <https://www.hawaiicounty.gov/our-county/boards-and-commissions/boards-and-commissions-listings/banyan-drive-hawaii-redevelopment> (last accessed Feb. 17, 2026).

<sup>6</sup> HRS § 10-3.

Accordingly, OHA has continuously endeavored to advance its beneficiaries interests' in maintaining the integrity of and Hawaiian connections to 'āina and to uplift the cultural significance of wahi pana throughout our islands.

### Including a Makaokū Lineal Descendant as an Agency Voting Member is Critical to Honor Place & Redevelopment Success

As reflected in the 'ōlelo noeau, "Ua hilo 'ia ke aho a ke aloha"<sup>7</sup> ("Braided with the cords of love), the 'āina of Hilo carries a beloved history and cultural significance that should be thoughtfully uplifted in any redevelopment of the District. The bill itself recognizes the District as an "area of significant cultural and historical importance" and appropriately seeks to "promote cultural activities" and preserve and protect "Hawaiian archaeological, historic, and cultural sites." Such recognition and guidance are particularly salient when viewed alongside the more recent experiences of nearby Hawaiian homestead communities, which have borne disproportionate environmental and social impacts over time. The construction of the Hilo airport, which divided long-standing community connections, and the subsequent industrialization of surrounding areas continue to shape lived experiences today. A redevelopment approach that acknowledges this history offers an opportunity not only to honor place, but also to move forward in a way that is more balanced, restorative, and responsive to community well-being.

OHA appreciates the inclusion of the a cultural specialist, and also recommends the inclusion of a Makaokū lineal descendant<sup>8</sup> member as part of the Agency as included with HB2616. The inclusion of this Makaokū lineal descendant is critical to ensuring the cultural integrity vision of this bill, and OHA believes that these provisions can be strengthened by allowing OHA to assist in nominating these individuals. OHA brings demonstrated expertise in recruitment, evaluation, and nomination of candidates to state board and commissions through its existing kuleana to nominate candidates for the Island Burial Councils.<sup>9</sup> Notably, because the OHA Board of Trustees is governed by HRS chapter 92, Hawai'i's Sunshine Law, all candidates nominated by OHA must be

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<sup>7</sup> Historic Hawai'i Foundation Story Map, available at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/b378b80d74054f51816d820581905ba4> (December 10, 2021).

<sup>8</sup> "Makaokū" is the recognized traditional name for this area as defined with the bill to establish the District. *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> See HRS § 6E-43.5.

confirmed at a publicly noticed meeting - ensuring transparency and meaningful opportunities for community input.

HCDA has also pledged their commitment to ensuring a community driven planning process, and their stated purpose is "to establish community development plans." However, HCDA's recommendation adopted earlier this week in HB2616 removed lineal descendant from voting members to place these important representatives in f a community advisory council. This dilutes their role, and runs counter to HCDA's commitment to a community driven plan. The best community driven process for this District will involve appropriate representation by Native Hawaiian communities who know this area best, are most impacted by this redevelopment, and reside in the neighboring communities. Building off of the unique nature of these lands being "ceded" lands, and the rich history of this place, OHA reiterates its support for the inclusion of the cultural specialist and lineal descendant as voting members of the Agency.

Accordingly, should the Committee choose to advance this measure, OHA recommends including the following amendments to 1) allow OHA to serve as a member of the HCDA with jurisdiction over the District and 2) for the governor to appoint the cultural specialist and lineal descendant members after consulting with OHA.

To accomplish the proposed amendments OHA respectfully recommends:

(1) Amending the language beginning at page 10 line 15 to read as follows:

"All members except the director of finance; director of transportation; county directors of planning or planning and permitting; director of business, economic development, and tourism; chairperson of the board of land and natural resources; the two experts on transit-oriented developed appointed by the president of the senate and speaker of the house of representatives, respectively; the chairpersons of the respective senate and house of representatives standing committees having jurisdiction over transportation; the

chairpersons of the respective senate and house of representatives standing committees having jurisdiction over housing; or where relevant, their respective designees; [~~and~~] the chairperson of the Banyan Drive redevelopment agency; [~~7~~] administrator of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; and the cultural specialists and lineal descendant member, shall be appointed by the governor pursuant to section 26-34."

(2) Amending the language beginning on page 11, line 13, to read as follows:

"The president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives shall each submit a list of six nominees for each district to the governor to fill the two district representative position for each community development district[~~7~~], with the exception of the cultural specialist and lineal descendant members. For the cultural specialist and lineal descendant members, the governor shall appoint these members following consultation with the office of Hawaiian affairs, and shall consider any recommendations submitted by the office of Hawaiian affairs."

(3) Amending the language starting at page 17 line 19 to read:

community development district; and

"(K) The chairperson of the office of Hawaiian affairs, or the chairperson's designee; and

(L) A lineal descendant of the Makaokū area.”

For the reasons stated above, OHA respectfully provides these comments and urges this committee to incorporate our recommended amendments if it chooses to move forward with SB2001.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-2001**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 11:38:10 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoeuluwehianuhea Case	Testifying for Na Wai Ho'ola Nui La'au Lapa'au Foundation/Truth for the People	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

SB2001 – Relating to the Hawai'i Community Development Authority and the Waiākea Peninsula Community Development Plan

Submitted by: Kanoeuluwehianuhea Case

Position: OPPOSE SB2001

Aloha Aloha Chair Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair Senator Lorraine Inouye and members of the Committee in Water, Land, Culture and the Arts,

My name is Kanoeuluwehianuhea Case, Co-founder of Na Wai Ho'ola Nui La'au Lapa'au Foundation in collaboration with Waiākea Ahupua'a Crown Land Heirs, Keaukaha Action Network and Truth For the People grassroots initiative standing in protection of Aloha 'Āina to protect our "Natural resources" otherwise known to Kanaka as our Na Akua, elemental beings from invasive developments. O Mauna A Wakea no ku'u Mauna, 'O Waimea Moku 'O Keawe mai au.

I come before you again, submitting this testimony in strong opposition of SB2001 to ensure that the Waiākea Peninsula Community Development Plan meaningfully recognizes and protects the rights, participation, and authority of Lineal Descendants connected to Makaokū .

I offer this testimony as a Lineal Descendant of Moku O Keawe, My Mo'okuauhau from my Paternal Grandfather Donald Case Sr, I am a Descendant of 'Awini Valley whose Kūpuna stood guard to protect our King Kamehameha. My Paternal Grandmother Alma Iwalani (Keomalū) Case is a descendant of Waipi'o and Waimanu Valley, we are descendants of Kekuhaupi'o, fierce Warrior who trained Kamehameha.

From my Maternal side, I am a Descendant of Keawenuiaumi, Keawe'īkekahiali'ioakamoku, Ke'eamoku, and Kalokuokamaile and Maka'aka Kamakaeheikuli, the firstborn son of Keōua Kalanikupuapa'īkalaninui Ahilapalapa, elder half-brother of Kamehameha I, through the line that preserves the House of Keōua Nui.

My mo'okū'auhau continues through the generations of Oakua, Kehenui Ma'ele, Oakua J.W. Ma'ele, Iwalani Keaweamaahi, Kikiona Ma'ele, Beke Kaleimoku, James Ka'ale Akamu, Rebecca Ma'ele, leading to my great-grandmother Margaret Akamu and my grandfather Daniel Pajimola Sr. Of my grandmother Theresa Keala (Kahakua) Pajimola, I am a descendant of Hilei in tje District of Ka'u, My keiki are descendants of Kāwā in Ka'u, Napoleon and Auld Ohana.

I say their names to honor them in every breath and every step as I live this earthly existence in the knowing that I will return in their presence upon departure to our spiritual realm. Yes I will speak this, time on this earth is temporary. And so, what is it worth advocating for lineal descendants to be included in deliberations if we do not honor them all and say their names out loud in deepest respect and sacredness of who they are, thus who I come from. It is because they live through us And that is why I am here today, To honor the voices of our Kūpuna which is what we ask of you today. We are not asking for your support, we are not demanding your support, I am merely here to be a reminder that we still matter, in everything involving our Hawai'i. Because it is our home, and we deserve a say in decisions to be had. Though we ultimately know, the committee Chairs will have the last say so I kindly ask you today to please Honor the voices of our Kūpuna and make the decision which you will be able to feel at peace with.

I stand here today as a Lineal Descendant of Moku O Keawe and in solidarity with Lineal Descendants of Maka'okū, Wāiakea Ahupua'a Crown Land Heirs, Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners & community advocates, with deep ties to Hawai'i Island, who have worked closely with grassroots organizations, service providers, and the legislative processes to uplift the voices of those most impacted by state-led proposed development.

The Lineal Descendants are the original Stewards of Makaokū.

The appropriate place name, Makaokū, also known by the state-led proposed development called Waiākea Peninsula, is not merely a redevelopment area. Maka'okū is honored as kūpuna, an 'āina rich with cultural history, genealogy, and ongoing stewardship amongst the Lineal Descendants of Maka'okū known as Waiākea Ahupua'a Crown Land Heirs. This predates the Hawai'i State Legislature Act 153, session laws of Hawai'i 1976 codified in chapter 206E-3 of the Hawai'i revised statutes establishment of the Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA) and the State of Hawai'i itself.

While SB2001 seeks to advance planning and redevelopment goals, this proposed bill fails to honor the Lineal Descendants of Maka'okū as the original stewards of the designated Crown Lands in which the HCDA has proposed.

Lineal Descendants:

- Maintain genealogical ties to the 'āina
- Carry kuleana to protect cultural resources
- Hold 'ike that cannot be replicated through consultants or advisory groups

Any state-led redevelopment plan that does not formally include Lineal Descendants of Maka'okū in decision-making risks repeating historic patterns, generational trauma of exclusion and harm. I strongly oppose SB2001.

Laulima i ka hāpai Pōhaku. Many hands carry the stones.

Mahalo,

Kanoeuluwehianuhea Case

Moku O Keawe

Ko‘u Keiki:

Elijah Kahakua Pereira

Emma Kauaheikala‘ipiliaumoe Pereira

HāloaOkawakuikupu‘uakaokalaninuiakeaokaile‘a Pereira

Founder of Na Wai Ho'ola Nui La'au Lapa'au Foundation/ Co-Founder Kuha‘o Kawaaauhau Case

In collaboration with:

Waiākea Ahupua‘a Crown Land Heirs Keaukaha Action Network, and Truth For the People grassroots initiative

**SB-2001**

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 3:46:06 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:02:00 PM

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

Comments:

oppose

**SB-2001**

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 3:26:03 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:02:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose.

**SB-2001**

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 9:01:43 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:02:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mar Ortaleza	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Oppose SB2001

SB2001 – Relating to the Hawai‘i Community Development Authority and the Waiākea Peninsula Community Development Plan

Submitted by: Mar Ortaleza

Position: OPPOSE SB2001

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

I, Mar Ortaleza, am submitting this testimony in strong opposition of SB2001 to ensure that the Waiākea Peninsula Community Development Plan meaningfully recognizes and protects the rights, participation, and authority of Lineal Descendants connected to Makaokū .

I offer this testimony in solidarity with Lineal Descendants of Maka’oKū, cultural practitioners & community advocates, with deep ties to Hawai‘i Island, who have worked closely with grassroots organizations, service providers, and the legislative processes to uplift the voices of those most impacted by state-led proposed development.

The Lineal Descendants are the original Stewards of Makaokū.

The appropriate place name, Makaokū, also known by the state-led proposed development called Waiākea Peninsula, is not merely a redevelopment area. Maka'oKū is honored as kūpuna, an 'āina rich with cultural history, genealogy, and ongoing stewardship amongst the Lineal Descendants of Maka'oKū known as Waiākea Ahupua'a Crown Land Heirs. This predates the Hawai'i State Legislature Act 153, session laws of Hawai'i 1976 codified in chapter 206E-3 of the Hawai'i revised statutes establishment of the Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA) and the State of Hawai'i itself.

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Any state-led redevelopment plan that does not formally include Lineal Descendants of Maka'oKū in decision-making risks repeating historic patterns, generational trauma of exclusion and harm. I strongly oppose SB2001.

Laulima i ka hāpai Pōhaku. Many hands carry the stones.

Mar Ortaleza

**SB-2001**

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 10:33:18 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:02:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lux xzymhr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Oppose SB2001

SB2001 – Relating to the Hawai‘i Community Development Authority and the Waiākea Peninsula Community Development Plan

Submitted by: lux Xzymhr

Position: OPPOSE SB2001

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

I, Lux xzymhr, am submitting this testimony in strong opposition of SB2001 to ensure that the Waiākea Peninsula Community Development Plan meaningfully recognizes and protects the rights, participation, and authority of Lineal Descendants connected to Makaokū .

I offer this testimony in solidarity with Lineal Descendants of Maka’oKū, cultural practitioners & community advocates, with deep ties to Hawai‘i Island, who have worked closely with grassroots organizations, service providers, and the legislative processes to uplift the voices of those most impacted by state-led proposed development.

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Laulima i ka hāpai Pōhaku. Many hands carry the stones.

Lux Xzymhr

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**SB-2001**

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 9:08:50 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:02:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Wai'ala Ahn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to SB 2001 this bill does NOT include lineal descendents in the redevelopment of Makaok (aka Banyan Drive) in downtown Hilo. Taking into consideration the native stewards of this place, their vast knowledge of history, mo'olelo, and best practices that best care take these places and their inherit kuleana to the land and sea in these densely developed places deeply needing it rightfully stewards. As a native Hawaiian, a native to this island, a native practioner, mother and steward I urge to oppose this bill and prioritize native lineal descendants and their knowledge in any potential or future development or "progress".

Mahalo,

Wai'ala Ahn

**SB-2001**

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 8:01:40 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Seb Choe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in opposition to SB2001, primarily because it does **not** included lineal descendents of Makaokū in the decisionmaking group for the redevelopment of Banyan Drive. For too long, the architectural character of Hilo has not adequately addressed the history of this area as an important place for Native Hawaiians, and any bill concerning its redevelopment should include measures to ensure that *all* perspectives are represented at the table, not just some of them.

There is an alternative bill, House Bill HB2616, which **does** include lineal descendents, which I urge you all to consider.

Mahalo nui for your consideration,  
Seb Choe  
Kaloko, Kona, Moku o Keawe

**SB-2001**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 6:57:52 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:02:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ekini Lindsey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

I, Ekini Lindsey, is in strong opposition to SB2001, I submit this testimony to ensure the Waiākea Peninsula Community Development Plan recognizes the rights and authority of Makaokū's Lineal Descendants. As stewards of designated Crown Lands, their role is crucial in protecting cultural resources and addressing historical injustices. I urge the committee to prioritize their participation and authority in this matter. I strongly encourage opposition to this measure.

**SB-2001**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 8:03:18 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:02:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**STRONG STRONG SUPPORT!!! WE NEED THIS URGENTLY!!!**

**LATE**

Submitted by: Bec Jimenez-Ward  
Position: OPPOSE SB2001

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

I, Bec Jimenez-Ward, am submitting this testimony in **strong opposition** of SB2001 to ensure that the Waiākea Peninsula Community Development Plan meaningfully recognizes and protects the rights, participation, and authority of Lineal Descendants connected to Makaokū.

**In addition to my own testimony, I submit the signatures of 109 individuals who signed a petition (included below) indicating their strong opposition to SB2001.**

I offer this testimony in solidarity with Lineal Descendants of Maka’oKū, cultural practitioners & community advocates, with deep ties to Hawai’i Island, who have worked closely with grassroots organizations, service providers, and the legislative processes to uplift the voices of those most impacted by state-led proposed development.

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Laulima i ka hāpai Pōhaku. Many hands carry the stones.  
Bec Jimenez-Ward

petition\_signatures\_jobs\_491002691\_20260212170926

<b>Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Postal Code</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Signed On</b>
<b>Rebecca Ward</b>	Hilo	HI	96720	United States	2026-01-30
<b>Bong Bong Ortaleza</b>	Pāhoā	HI	96778	United States	2026-01-31
<b>Seb Choe</b>	Kailua Kona	HI	96740	United States	2026-01-31
<b>Mar Ortaleza</b>	Hilo	HI	96720	United States	2026-01-31
<b>Dana Keawe</b>	pahoa	HI	96778	United States	2026-02-01
<b>Terri Napeahi</b>	Hilo	HI	96720	United States	2026-02-01
<b>David Evett</b>	Kailua-Kona	HI	96740	United States	2026-02-01
<b>Dea Rackley</b>	Pāhoā	HI	96778	United States	2026-02-02
<b>Allan Leite</b>	Hilo	HI	96720	United States	2026-02-02
<b>Leona Leialoha</b>	Hilo	HI	96720	United States	2026-02-02
<b>Kahaka Patolo</b>	Pearl City	HI	96816	United States	2026-02-02
<b>Yvonne Kahikina</b>	Keaau	HI	96720	United States	2026-02-02
<b>Kaanela Napeahi-Helenihi</b>	Hilo	HI	96720	United States	2026-02-02
<b>Nivan Agres</b>	Hilo	HI	96720	United States	2026-02-02
<b>Mathew Crowell</b>	Keaau	HI	6268	United States	2026-02-02
<b>Tara Rojas</b>	'Ewa Beach	HI	96706	United States	2026-02-02
<b>Willie Robello</b>	Honolulu	HI	96826	United States	2026-02-02
<b>Keone Smith</b>	Hana	HI	96713	United States	2026-02-02
<b>Jacelyn Auna</b>	Hilo	HI	96720	United States	2026-02-02
<b>Roseann Camp</b>	Lahaina	HI	96761	United States	2026-02-02
<b>Kristie Oshiro</b>	Hilo	HI	96720	United States	2026-02-02
<b>Davonne Pacheco</b>	Colorado Springs	CO	80922	United States	2026-02-02
<b>Eileen Rodrigues</b>	Pepeekeo	HI	96783	United States	2026-02-02
<b>Kale H Lehan</b>	Keaau	HI	96749	United States	2026-02-02
<b>Steven Kosches</b>	Keaau	HI	96749	United States	2026-02-02
<b>Kiana Manu</b>	Ewa Beach	HI	96706	United States	2026-02-02
<b>Rose Adare</b>	Keaau	HI	96749	United States	2026-02-02
<b>Vincent Zamora</b>	Pāhoā	HI	96778	United States	2026-02-02
<b>Kathleen Starr</b>	Rockwell	NC	28138	United States	2026-02-02

<b>Keahonui Hillen</b>	Pāhoa	HI	96778	United States	2026-02-02
<b>Mathew Jones</b>	Pahoa	HI	96778	United States	2026-02-02
<b>Catherine czerepak</b>	Hilo	HI	96720	United States	2026-02-02
<b>Kami Carter</b>	Hilo	HI	96720	United States	2026-02-02
<b>Lily Raabe</b>	Portland	OR	97214	United States	2026-02-02
<b>Paul Ellenburg</b>	Hilo	HI	96720	United States	2026-02-02
<b>Robert Gentzel</b>	Pāhoa	HI	96778	United States	2026-02-02
<b>Cheryl Kuilipule</b>	Mountain View	HI	96771	United States	2026-02-02
<b>David Dolph</b>	Wisconsin Rapids	WI	54494	United States	2026-02-03
<b>Mikilani Young</b>	Van Nuys	CA	91409	United States	2026-02-03
<b>Chris Wong</b>	Honolulu	HI	96817	United States	2026-02-03
<b>Pono Kealoha</b>	Honolulu	HI	96817	United States	2026-02-03
<b>Junko Nozawa</b>	Hilo	HI	96720	United States	2026-02-03
<b>Danielle Marriott</b>	Haleiwa	HI	96712	United States	2026-02-03
<b>Chedza Nasim</b>	Kailua-Kona	HI	96740	United States	2026-02-03
<b>Koko Johnson</b>	Kaunakakai	HI	96748	United States	2026-02-03
<b>Allison Shiozaki</b>	Mountain View	HI	96771	United States	2026-02-03
<b>Eliora Green</b>	Troy	OH	45373	United States	2026-02-03
<b>Kawehi Mahi-Roberts</b>	Hilo	HI	96720	United States	2026-02-03
<b>Aly Dove</b>	Kona	HI	28035	United States	2026-02-03
<b>Cadence Feeley</b>	Ocean View	HI	96704	United States	2026-02-03
<b>Keani Kahui</b>	Makawao	HI	96768	United States	2026-02-03
<b>Renate Gregory</b>	Honolulu	HI	96822	United States	2026-02-03
<b>Ellen Zanetos</b>	Hilo	HI	96720	United States	2026-02-03
<b>Patricia kroh</b>	Pāhoa	HI	96778	United States	2026-02-03
<b>Kanoeuluwehianuhea Case</b>	Hilo	HI	96720	United States	2026-02-03
<b>Luana Keakealani</b>	Waimea	HI	96743	United States	2026-02-03
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<b>Moana Chavez</b>	Kailua Kona	HI	96740	United States	2026-02-03
<b>Tiger Lily Tolleson</b>	Gresham	OR	97080	United States	2026-02-03
<b>kade hanson</b>	Holualoa	HI	96725	United States	2026-02-03
<b>Rachel Aragon</b>	Pahoa	HI	96778	United States	2026-02-03
<b>Kalena Stevens</b>	Kailua kona	HI	96740	United States	2026-02-03
<b>Shannon Rudolph</b>	Hilo	HI	96720	United States	2026-02-03
<b>Monique Ortiz</b>	Hilo	HI	96720	United States	2026-02-03
<b>Gregory Baker</b>	Pāhoa	HI	96778	United States	2026-02-03
<b>Nancy sellers</b>	Dawson Springs	KY	42408	United States	2026-02-03
<b>Catherine Velasquez</b>	Kula	HI	96779	United States	2026-02-03
<b>sam lee</b>	Keaau	HI	96749	United States	2026-02-03
<b>Matt Johnston</b>	Hilo	HI	96720	United States	2026-02-04
<b>Mariana m</b>	Kurtistown	HI	96760	United States	2026-02-04
<b>Kye Harford</b>	Honolulu	HI	96813	United States	2026-02-04
<b>Luna Shiva Animisha</b>	Hilo	HI	96720	United States	2026-02-04
<b>Priscilla May</b>	Kailua	HI	96734	United States	2026-02-04
<b>Dawn McSwain</b>	Hilo	HI	96720	United States	2026-02-04
<b>Donna Pabre</b>	Ocean View	HI	96737	United States	2026-02-04
<b>C conda</b>	Pāhoa	HI	96778	United States	2026-02-04
<b>Arnes Aragon</b>	Waimanalo	HI	96795	United States	2026-02-04
<b>Megan Seeley</b>	Honolulu	HI	96816	United States	2026-02-04
<b>Mohammad reza Bayat</b>	Zanjan			Iran	2026-02-05
<b>Maria Lopez</b>	Somerton	AZ	85350	United States	2026-02-06
<b>cynthia massa</b>	Hilo	HI	96720	United States	2026-02-06
<b>ken burch</b>	anahola	HI	96703	United States	2026-02-06
<b>Marion Imig</b>	Pahoa	HI	96778	United States	2026-02-06
<b>Adalina Doud</b>	Waianae	HI	96792	United States	2026-02-07
<b>Zoe M</b>	Hilo	HI	96720	United States	2026-02-07

<b>Skink Carrero</b>	Hilo	HI	96720	United States	2026-02-07
<b>Cheryl J De Lima</b>	Hilo	HI	96720	United States	2026-02-08
<b>Cynthia Henrie</b>	Haleiwa		96712	United States	2026-02-08
<b>Sara Steiner</b>	Pahoa	HI	96778	United States	2026-02-09
<b>Reza Bahari</b>	Orlando	FL	32825	United States	2026-02-10
<b>Ashlynn Overly</b>	Kailua-Kona	HI	96745	United States	2026-02-10
<b>Pokemaster Selders</b>	Baton Rouge	LA	70816	United States	2026-02-11
<b>Michael Williams</b>	Dolton	IL	60419	United States	2026-02-11
<b>Momi Greene</b>	Kailua Kona	HI	96740	United States	2026-02-12
<b>marsha seeley</b>	pahoa	AL	96778	United States	2026-02-12



*Hawaiian voices for Hawaiian lands!!! They really know how to take care of the Aina 🙏*

C



← Back to petition

heavenly



*This important historic cultural area needs to be maintained appropriately, and entrusted to kānaka maoli.*

Mathew



*Less is more! Keep it con3!!!!*

Willie



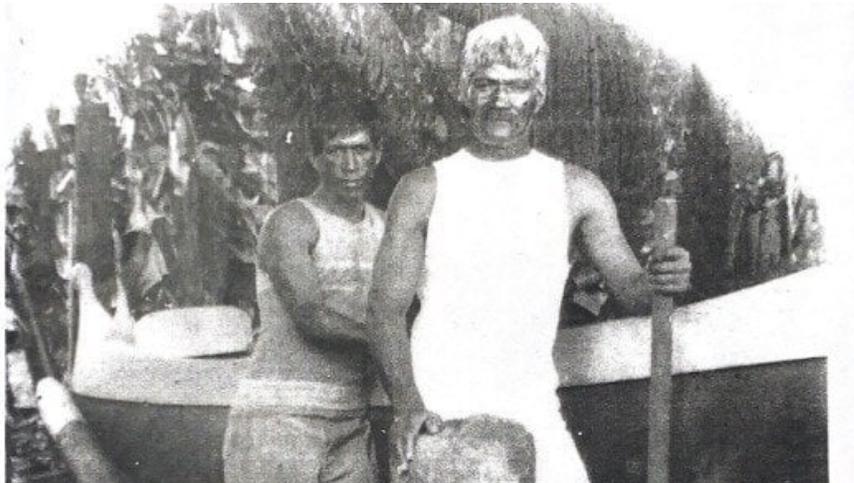
*It is critical that any legislation pertaining to the redevelopment of Banyan Drive / Waiākea Peninsula in Hilo includes lineal descendants in the decision-making process. HB2616 is a watershed opportunity to incorporate place-...  
[Read full comment](#)*

Seb





Here's how your petition looks live. Track signatures, view supporters, and get smart sharing recommendations.

[Go to your dashboard](#)

## Protect Banyan Drive - Makaokū!

Share this petition

103

Verified signatures

Let's get to 200 signatures!

Petitions with 1,000+ supporters are 5x more likely to win!

### Recent signers:

Momi G. • 17 hours ago

Sara S. • 3 days ago

Cynthia H. • 4 days ago

Cheryl D. • 4 days ago

Adalir



Decision Makers:  
Mahina Poepoe +14



5 Supporter Voices



1 Update

# The Issue

## The History and Redevelopment of Banyan Drive- Makaokū

**Makaokū** (commonly called Banyan Drive) is ancestral āina, and has been stewarded by **Lineal Descendants** long before the State of Hawai'i existed. Banyan Drive is up for redevelopment. Currently, **NO Lineal Descendants** have a seat at the table during the planning process. **Makaokū** is storied land. It holds centuries of genealogy, cultural practice, and relationships that require **Lineal Descendant** stewardship, NOT just state oversight.

### Support HB2616- Include Lineal Descendants in the decision-making process!

Any redevelopment of **Makaokū** must formally include **Lineal Descendants** as decision-makers.

Two Bills have been proposed during this current legislative session:

- **HB2616 INCLUDES Lineal Descendants as decision makers. This Bill would:**

- Restore cultural recognition to **Makaokū**
- Protect sacred and historic sites
- Ensure decision-making authority includes **Lineal Descendants** directly connected to the land
- Align development practices with Hawai'i's constitutional and public trust responsibilities
- **SB2001 DOES NOT mention Lineal Descendants in the decision- making process. This Bill:**
  - Fails to honor the **Lineal Descendants** of **Makaokū** as the original stewards of the designated **Crown Lands** in which the HCDA has proposed.
  - Repeats historic patterns of generational trauma, exclusion and harm.

House Bill HB2616 uplifts Lineal Descendants as essential decision-makers. It affirms:  
 Redevelopment can happen without erasure! Ancestral Lands Need Ancestral Voices!

**Strongly Support HB2616 and Strongly Oppose SB2001 & ALL Bills that exclude Lineal Descendants!**

Sign this petition to signify you:

**STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2616 and STRONGLY OPPOSE SB2001!**

*Additional Ways to Take Action:*

1. Click here to read [Bill HB2616](#) and TESTIFY in STRONG SUPPORT when the comment period opens. See the [sample testimony here](#).

 Support now

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**Hui Kūākaʻananuʻu**  
 Petition Starter

**Media inquiries**

**The Decision Makers** ⓘ



**Hawaii House of Representatives,**  
 15 Members



**Mahina Poepoe**  
 Hawaii House of Representatives - District 13



**K. Souza**

Hawaii House of Representatives - District 43



**Kim Iwamoto**

Hawaii House of Representatives - District 25

**+ 12 members**

## Supporter Voices

### Featured Comments



**Mathew**, Pahoia

1 week ago

*"This important historic cultural area needs to be maintained appropriately, and entrusted to kānaka maoli."*

1 Like Report



**Seb**, Kailua Kona

2 weeks ago

Support now

*pu'uhonua of Moku Ola and Kuaka'ananu'u..."*

**Show full text**

1 Like Report



**C**, Holualoa

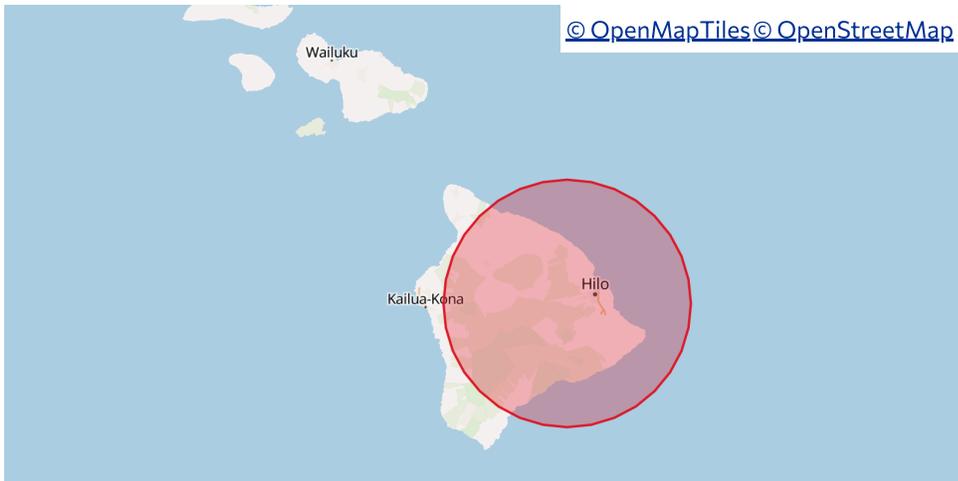
4 days ago

*"Hawaiian voices for Hawaiian lands!!! They really know how to take care of the Aina 🙌"*

0 Likes Report

[View all comments](#)

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## Petition updates

**Post an update**

Keep your supporters engaged with a news update. Every update you post will be sent as a separate email to signers of your petition.

**S HB2616 is Open for Testimonies! Submit Your support!!** New

34 minutes ago • Hui Kūāka'ananu'u, Petition Starter

*Aloha mai Kākou, HB2616 is now open, and we can submit our testimonies in STRONG support. This is a crucial action to ensure our voices are heard! Clic...*

[Read full update](#)

100 supporters!

**LATE**

**SB-2001**

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 4:40:40 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:02:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dana Keawe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY OPPOSE SB2001

Dana Keawe

Moku O Keawe



**SB-2001**

Submitted on: 2/19/2026 6:30:13 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James McCully	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha from Hilo !

I strongly support SB2001 because it accomplishes something essential: it shifts the Waiākea Peninsula from fragmented land management under DLNR to coordinated redevelopment governance under the Hawaii Community Development Authority.

For decades, Banyan Drive has been managed primarily as a series of individual ground leases. However, DLNR is not structured as a redevelopment agency, capital coordinator, or district-scale infrastructure manager. SB2001 corrects that structural limitation.

By placing the district within Chapter 206E:

- The State gains a redevelopment authority.
- A district-wide capital strategy becomes possible.
- Infrastructure can be phased and financed.
- Public realm improvements can be funded.
- Federal aid and bonding authority become usable tools.
- A district improvement and maintenance program can be implemented

This is not a criticism of DLNR. It is recognition that redevelopment requires different institutional tools than conservation and lease administration.

Under DLNR, parcels are managed...Under HCDA, communities can be built.

HB2616 also retains DLNR representation in governance, ensuring that natural and cultural resources remain protected while allowing redevelopment expertise to guide economic renewal. This governance shift:

- Aligns economic development with cultural stewardship

- Allows coordinated infrastructure investment
- Improves accountability
- Creates access to financing tools unavailable under traditional DLNR management

The result is not privatization. It is modernization. The Waiākea Peninsula requires a redevelopment authority, not just a land manager. SB2001 provides that authority.

Hilo wants both economic development and support for recreational, cultural, and sustainable practices. We believe with your support, and the tools available in Ch. 206e we could have it all  
!

I respectfully urge your support.

James McCully

Hilo, Hawaii





February 19, 2026

**SB 2001- Relating to the Banyan Drive-Makaoku Community Development District**

**Chair, Rep. Mark Hashem (D-19)**

**Vice Chair, Rep. Dee Morikawa (D-17)**

Aloha,

I'm writing in support of SB2001.

After decades of fragmented, site-by-site lease management by the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and a lack of coordinated long-term planning, Banyan Drive has effectively become a blighted area.

This is not by any means the fault of the department (DLNR) itself. The agency is tasked with managing an overwhelming array of geographies and assets, and is simply not properly staffed or structured for complex, long-term redevelopment projects. They fulfill their conservation mission nobly and admirably, but areas that need coordinated redevelopment are best served via other mechanisms. SB2001 provides a possible path forward.

The Waiākea Peninsula's redevelopment governance deserves both proper expertise and access to critical resources.

I'd also like to emphasize that the overall process of revitalization be moved forward this session. DLNR should absolutely be involved in order to support their mission of conservation, but proper expertise and authority for long-range redevelopment planning needs to be brought forward, along with proper mechanisms for community input and local stakeholder engagement.

Mahalo,

Nathan Gaddis

Hilo, Hawaii