

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
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

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

**Before the Senate Committee on
WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

**Wednesday, February 18, 2026
1:01 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2692
RELATING TO PUBLIC LAND**

Senate Bill 2692 authorizes the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to acquire, through eminent domain or otherwise, the leasehold interest in parcel (3) 2-1-001:012 currently used as the Grand Naniloa Golf Course, authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board) to approve a new use of the parcel after providing an opportunity for public testimony, and appropriates monies for the Department to acquire the leasehold interest. **The Department strongly supports this measure.**

The Department believes that acquisition of the leasehold interest in the Grand Naniloa parcel is integral to the redevelopment of the Banyan Drive resort area. The Department further notes that it is actively working with the Hawai'i Community Development Authority on a master plan for the area, which includes consideration of the redevelopment of the Grand Naniloa parcel. The master plan effort will include community consultation and will require Board approval prior to implementation, consistent with the intent of this measure.

Further, this measure would appropriate \$270,000 in general funds for the acquisition of the leasehold interest. The Department is grateful for the inclusion of this proposed appropriation. The Department notes that the appropriation is limited to fiscal year 2026-2027 and respectfully requests that it be extended through fiscal year 2027-2028, as acquisition by eminent domain may be necessary, thereby providing the Department with additional time in the event of unforeseen complications.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



**HAWAII COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

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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 WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Wednesday, February 18, 2026
1:01 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

In consideration of
SB 2692
RELATING TO PUBLIC LAND.

Chairperson Lee, Vice Chairperson Inouye and members of the Committee.

The Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA) **supports** SB 2692, which authorizes the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to acquire the leasehold interest in the parcel currently known as the Grand Naniloa Golf Course in Hilo, including by agreement, withdrawal from the DLNR lease, or through eminent domain, and subsequently allow the Board of Land and Natural Resources to approve a new use for the parcel following public testimony.

HCDA is currently preparing a community master plan for the Waiākea area in Hilo, also known as Banyan Drive. The Naniloa Golf Course property is a key component of this planning area, and its acquisition by the State is important for future development that reflects the vision and priorities of the community, including the potential for a cultural center and other public improvements. This planning confirms broad local interest in revitalizing this area in ways that support community, cultural, environmental, and economic goals.

The bill's authorization for DLNR to acquire the golf course property by agreement, withdrawal from the lease, or eminent domain, with fair or just compensation to the lessee, is essential to realizing these community aspirations and

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advancing meaningful redevelopment that benefits Hilo residents and the broader region.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2692

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 8:05:27 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/18/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG STRONG SUPPORT!!! WE NEED TO MAKE BETTER USE OF THE 62.5 ACRES!!!