

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

Before the Senate Committees on
WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
and
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Thursday, February 19, 2026
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 3173
RELATING TO CULTURAL EDUCATION

Senate Bill 3173 proposes to establish a Cultural Training Pilot Program within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to be administered by the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR) for all commercial use permit (CUP) holders and applicants operating in Lahaina Harbor and requires these CUP holders and applicants to complete cultural training from a DOBOR partner organization identified by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) specializing in Native Hawaiian culture and place-based history. **The Department appreciates the intent of this measure and offers recommended amendments.**

The Department recognizes the historical and cultural significance of Lahaina, as well as the benefits in educating CUP holders to ensure that all CUP holders possess a foundational understanding of Native Hawaiian place-based history and stewardship responsibilities, particularly as wildfire recovery efforts are still underway, thereby fostering an informed and respectful commercial environment in Lahaina Harbor and surrounding ocean areas.

The Department offers the following items that the Committee may wish to address:

- The Department agrees that OHA should be the entity to identify the training partner organization. However, the Department recommends that full administration of the training pilot program be placed under OHA's authority as well, as the subject matter

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

expert. The Department's role should be limited to verifying a valid certificate of completion when a CUP holder or applicant submits permit paperwork.

- For the purpose of verifying compliance, the Committee may want to clarify who "commercial use permit holders and applicants" encompasses, such as the company owner, company management, and/or employees (office staff and crew).
- Finally, the Committee may want to clarify if the training certification is a one-time or recurring requirement, such as once within six months of establishment of the pilot program or upon CUP renewal as well.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 8:32:19 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Councilmember Tamara Paltin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair and members,

My name is Tamara Paltin and I am writing in strong support of SB3173. It is rare to be able to support such a win-win bill for Lahaina that supports stewardship, education and respectful rebuilding. Cultural training for commercial operators in Lahaina Harbor has the potential to bridge a gap that has been growing for many years, it is a pathway for folks to begin to understand where each side is coming from and work in a productive way to bridge the gap for the future of our town to heal and move forward. Please support SB 3173 so we can learn from one another and support the culture that is unique to Lahaina, unique to Hawaii and move forward respectfully and share this knowledge with our visitors as appropriate.

Mahalo for your service to our community and the opportunity to submit testimony.

Tamara Paltin - Councilm ember West Maui



Testimony of **Lahaina Strong**
Before the Senate Committees on
Water & Land & Hawaiian Affairs

In Consideration of Senate Bill No. 3173
RELATING TO CULTURAL EDUCATION

Aloha Chair Lee, Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the committees,

We are submitting this testimony on behalf of Lahaina Strong in strong support of SB3173.

SB3173 establishes a Cultural Training Pilot Program within the Department of Land and Natural Resources, to be administered by the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR), requiring all commercial use permit holders operating in Lahaina Harbor to undergo cultural training in partnership with an organization identified by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs that is grounded in Native Hawaiian culture and place-based history.

As a community that has endured profound loss and transformation since the August 8, 2023 fires, we believe this measure represents a meaningful step forward for Lahaina's recovery and future.

Though Lahaina Harbor was once hustling and bustling with commercial activity, we must not forget that it sits within a place of deep history, culture, and spiritual significance. That comes with a kuleana that we shouldn't take lightly. We need to be mindful of how we let commercial operations come back into Lahaina, and this is a great step in the right direction.

This bill is a great come together bill.

By requiring cultural training for commercial operators:

- We strengthen stewardship and kuleana.
- We ensure that those who benefit economically from Lahaina Harbor understand the history and cultural significance of the place.
- We create a shared baseline of respect and responsibility.

The partnership with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs ensures that the training is guided by Native Hawaiian voices and grounded in authentic, place-based 'ike. This is critical. Education must be led by those with genealogical and cultural ties to Lahaina.

This measure is a win-win.

It supports commercial operators by giving them deeper understanding and connection to the place where they work. At the same time, it supports the community by fostering cultural awareness, respectful practices, and stronger relationships between industry and residents.

As Lahaina rebuilds, we have an opportunity to reset and do better — to ensure that economic activity aligns with cultural preservation and community values. SB3173 helps create that alignment.

We urge you to pass SB3173 and support this pilot program as a model for how we can move forward together — rooted in culture, guided by history, and committed to a more respectful and resilient future for Lahaina.

Me ke aloha nui,

Paele Kiakona, Jordan Ruidas, Courtney Lazo

On behalf of Lahaina Strong

TRILOGY



TESTIMONY OF TRILOGY EXCURSIONS IN OPPOSITION TO SB3173 AS WRITTEN

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, Chair Richards, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Committees on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts and Hawaiian Affairs:

My name is Denver Coon, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of my family's business Trilogy Excursions (Trilogy). Trilogy has operated from Lahaina Harbor for fifty-four years and has deep roots in the West Maui community. Our company was founded and grew in Lahaina, and our commitment to cultural respect and community relationships is foundational to who we are.

Trilogy supports the goal of cultural education and recognizes the importance of ensuring that operators understand the cultural and historic significance of Lahaina. Lahaina served as the capital of the Hawaiian Kingdom and remains one of the most culturally significant places in Hawai'i. The historic site of Moku'ula, located directly across from Lahaina Harbor, is a sacred and central part of that history. We fully acknowledge the responsibility that comes with operating in such a place and the importance of ensuring that all who work in the harbor understand its cultural and historical significance. For decades, Trilogy has worked with Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners, community leaders, and educators to ensure that our crews understand place-based history, cultural protocols, and their responsibility as ocean stewards. Cultural education is not new to our operations and is something we take seriously.

However, while we appreciate the intent of SB3173, we have serious concerns with the bill as drafted and respectfully request clarification and amendment before it moves forward.

First, SB3173 makes completion of a specific cultural training course a condition of permit issuance and continued operation rather than establishing a voluntary or flexible compliance program. Conditioning the ability to operate on participation in a single course without clear implementation standards creates uncertainty and operational risk for long established operators. We believe that cultural education is most effective when it is collaborative, place based, and values driven rather than mandatory in a way that could disrupt lawful operations. We urge the Legislature to consider a voluntary or phased compliance framework during the pilot period.

Second, the bill does not clearly define who is required to complete the training. It is unclear whether the requirement applies only to permit holders, to management personnel, to vessel captains, or to every employee including new hires, seasonal crew, or temporary staff. This lack of clarity creates significant compliance and enforcement challenges. Clear statutory guidance is essential before any mandatory requirement is imposed.

Third, the bill does not address how often the required classes will be offered or whether training will be available in a timely manner for new employees. It is also unclear whether an employee who has not yet completed the course would be prohibited from working. Without guaranteed and frequent access to training, operators could face workforce shortages through no fault of their own, particularly during peak seasons. This uncertainty undermines operational stability.

Fourth, the bill does not recognize that many operators already provide cultural education through Native Hawaiian practitioners, community organizations, and internal training programs tailored to their operations and guests. The bill does not allow for recognition of equivalent training or for operator led programs that could be reviewed and approved by the appropriate agencies. Trilogy

TRIOLOGY



respectfully requests flexibility to allow existing and alternative cultural education programs to satisfy any training requirement.

Finally, we are concerned about the bill's impact on post fire recovery in Lahaina. During the August 2023 fires, we lost a vessel in Lahaina Harbor and immediately shifted from operations to supporting residents, visitors, and first responders in the days and weeks that followed. After nearly two and a half years of displacement, operators are only now beginning to resume activity in the harbor. The bill includes no transition period or accommodation for those returning to operation, and without clear language allowing continued operations while training is completed, it could be interpreted to require suspension until certification is obtained. Imposing new mandatory requirements at this stage of recovery risks undermining economic stability and workforce retention in Lahaina Harbor.

Trilogy Excursions stands ready to work collaboratively with the Legislature, DLNR, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to design a cultural education program that is effective, respectful, and workable. We support the intent of SB3173 but cannot support the bill as currently drafted due to its breadth, ambiguity, and potential unintended consequences.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Denver S. Coon', written over a horizontal line.

Denver S. Coon
Owner, Trilogy Excursions



[COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS](#)

Senator Chris Lee, Chair

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

[COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS](#)

Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Chair

Senator Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO S.B. 3173

Aloha Chairs Lee & Richards, Vice Chairs Inouye & Lamosao, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Antoinette "Toni Marie" Davis, submitting testimony on behalf of the Activities & Attractions Association of Hawai'i, Inc., **in opposition to S.B. 3173.**

Our membership **supports, embraces, and respects Hawaiian culture**, and we **encourage cultural incorporation** in our members' products and practices. Cultural education matters, and many operators already prioritize respectful, sustainable experiences rooted in place and community.

That said, **S.B. 3173 is premature and misaligned with current conditions at Lahaina Harbor.** The bill would establish a DOBOR-administered cultural training pilot and require permit holders and applicants at Lahaina Harbor to submit a **certificate of completion** with their commercial use permit applications. It would also require existing permit holders to complete the course within **six months** of the pilot's establishment. Advancing these new compliance requirements **before the harbor is fully reopened for commercial activity** is inappropriate and risks slowing recovery.

DOBOR's limited time and resources should be focused on what Lahaina urgently needs: **restoring the harbor to a haven for boating** and supporting the return of safe operations for ocean users and businesses. Many vessels and livelihoods were lost, and many businesses have been devastated by this tragedy. This was not caused by tourism—it was caused by **hurricane winds and above ground power lines.** State should not punish an industry that is critical to local jobs and stability.

These are largely **local, resident-owned or resident-operated businesses**—stakeholders who have long been part of the culture and community. Their earnings circulate in Hawai'i's economy, supporting families and workers. They do not need more rules and hoops on top of an already fragile recovery that has stretched out multiple years.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to **oppose S.B. 3173** and instead prioritize unity, rebuilding, harbor safety, and getting people back to work—so residents and visitors alike can again enjoy Hawai'i's ocean, reefs, and marine life in a respectful, sustainable way.

Mahalo for your time, consideration, and the opportunity to testify.

Toni Marie Davis/Executive Director

Activities & Attractions Association of Hawaii, Inc.

Statewide 501 (c) (6) not-for-profit Trade Association

PO Box 598, Makawao, Hawaii 96768

(808)871-7947

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 10:00:14 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zachary LaPrade	Testifying for Quicksilver Charters	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

We respectfully oppose SB3173.

We respect the intent behind SB3173 and recognize the importance of Native Hawaiian culture and place-based history in Lahaina Harbor. The goal of education and cultural awareness is one we share. However, the issue is more complicated than simply adding another requirement to commercial operators.

Lahaina Harbor commercial operators are already part of one of the most heavily regulated industries in the State of Hawai‘i. We operate under DLNR, DOBOR, Coast Guard, insurance, safety, and environmental compliance requirements. Adding another mandatory certification layer — tied to our ability to obtain or maintain a commercial use permit — creates additional regulatory burden on an industry that is already highly scrutinized and tightly controlled.

This bill makes cultural training a condition of doing business in Lahaina Harbor. While we fully support cultural education and respect for Native Hawaiian history, mandating a state-required certification through a specific partner organization adds cost, administrative complexity, and potential delays to an already difficult permitting environment.

Operators in Lahaina are still recovering economically. Imposing new requirements now — even under the label of a “pilot program” — increases uncertainty and operational friction at a time when stability and predictability are critical.

If the Legislature believes cultural training is beneficial, it should be offered voluntarily or integrated into existing permit processes without creating an additional standalone compliance hurdle.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to defer or reject SB3173.

Mahalo.



MAUI
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

LATE

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE &
THE ARTS AND THE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 224
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026 AT 1:15 P.M.**

To The Honorable Senator Chris Lee, Chair
The Honorable Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Water, Land, Culture & the Arts

To The Honorable Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Chair
The Honorable Senator Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

OPPOSE SB3173 RELATING TO CULTURAL EDUCATION

The Maui Chamber of Commerce recognizes the importance of cultural and historical education. However, we respectfully oppose this bill as it is too broad, and we would like to see more work done with stakeholders prior to a new program being piloted and mandated.

We believe stakeholders should be contacted and surveyed first to determine the level of need/interest, understand how many already have cultural and historical training/education programs in place, whether the information is appropriate for their particular tours, and if they already have a cultural adviser they work with regularly.

Further, we are concerned that this pilot program would be mandatory. The requirement for all existing and prospective commercial use permit holders to complete cultural training introduces new compliance obligations. While cultural education is valuable, the implementation details, such as training duration, scheduling, costs, and administrative processes, will significantly affect businesses. These requirements could add operational burdens, particularly for small businesses already facing workforce shortages and financial pressures.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our concerns and ask that this bill be deferred.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.



Ko`olau Foundation

P. O. Box 4749 / 46-005 Kawa St., #205
Kane`ohe, HI 96744

LATE

February 18, 2026

To: Sen. Chris Lee, Chair
Sen. Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair
& Members of the Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

Sen. Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Chair
Sen. Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair
& Members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

From: Mahealani Cypher, President

Re: S.B. 3173 – Relating to Cultural Education – SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Committee Members:

The Ko`olau Foundation supports S.B. 3173, which establishes a Cultural Training Pilot Program within the Department of Land and Natural Resources to help educate all commercial use permit holders operating in Lahaina Harbor, and also requires all existing commercial use permit holders to undergo cultural training.

We think this is a good idea, but we urge your committee to consider amending the bill to suggest that the program may be expanded statewide, so that all harbors which service commercial fishing permit holders, can benefit from this education program.

A potential concern might be the expectation that this training program will result in 100% improvement in cooperation and awareness, among permit holders, to appreciate the need for and reasons that Hawaiian values of resource sustainability are worthy. That's unlikely, but our hope is that it will at least raise awareness and appreciation for better understanding among commercial fishing interests.

We urge all of you to act favorably by passing this bill out of committee.

Mahalo for considering our mana`o.

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 11:47:59 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

3173 SB RELATING TO CULTURAL EDUCATION.

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 10:30:33 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
M. Leilani DeMello	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I KĀKO‘O this bill.

Mahalo,

M. Leilani DeMello

‘Ōla‘a, Puna, Hawai‘i

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 5:35:21 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christy Shaver	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Christy Shaver**, and I am a Lahaina community member. I am writing in strong support of SB3173.

Lahaina Harbor is not just a place of business — it is a place of deep cultural, historical, and spiritual significance. As our community continues to rebuild after the August 8, 2023 fires, we have an opportunity to move forward in a way that honors the ‘ike, history, and people of Lahaina.

SB3173 would establish a Cultural Training Pilot Program within the Department of Land and Natural Resources, administered by the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation, requiring commercial use permit holders operating in Lahaina Harbor to complete cultural training developed in partnership with an organization identified by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

I believe this is a win-win for our community.

Requiring cultural training ensures that those who operate commercially in our harbor understand the history and significance of the place where they work. It helps build stewardship, shared kuleana, and stronger relationships between commercial operators and the local community.

This bill represents a coming together — aligning economic activity with cultural preservation and respect. As Lahaina rebuilds, we must do better than before. Education and cultural awareness are essential steps in that process.

Please support SB3173 and help ensure Lahaina’s future is rooted in respect, responsibility, and community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 5:37:26 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pahnelopi mckenzie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB3173.

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This bill represents a coming together — aligning economic activity with cultural preservation and respect. As Lahaina rebuilds, we must do better than before. Education and cultural awareness are essential steps in that process.

Please support SB3173 and help ensure Lahaina’s future is rooted in respect, responsibility, and community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Pahnelopi McKenzie

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 5:53:28 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keila Paahana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Lahaina community member and I support SB3173

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 5:58:22 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cybil Moran	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, as a Lahaina resident I stand in strong support of this bill to help the community by making any commercial boaters take a cultural training. Lahaina is more than a place for visitors to have their vacation, it is rooted deeply in the Hawaiian culture. Please, let's show our folks that we care about Lahaina. mahalo nui loa

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 6:03:28 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
curtis hanthorn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Support for SB3173 – Cultural Training for Lahaina Harbor

Aloha Chairs and Members of the Committee,

My name is Curtis Hanthorn, and I am a Lahaina community member. I am writing in strong support of SB3173.

Lahaina Harbor is not just a place of business — it is a place of deep cultural, historical, and spiritual significance. As our community continues to rebuild after the August 8, 2023 fires, we have an opportunity to move forward in a way that honors the ‘ike, history, and people of Lahaina.

SB3173 would establish a Cultural Training Pilot Program within the Department of Land and Natural Resources, administered by the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation, requiring commercial use permit holders operating in Lahaina Harbor to complete cultural training developed in partnership with an organization identified by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

I believe this is a win-win for our community.

Requiring cultural training ensures that those who operate commercially in our harbor understand the history and significance of the place where they work. It helps build stewardship, shared kuleana, and stronger relationships between commercial operators and the local community.

This bill represents a coming together — aligning economic activity with cultural preservation and respect. As Lahaina rebuilds, we must do better than before. Education and cultural awareness are essential steps in that process.

Please support SB3173 and help ensure Lahaina’s future is rooted in respect, responsibility, and community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 6:09:11 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lexi Kinoshita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Lexi Kinoshita**, and I am a Lahaina community member. I am writing in strong support of SB3173.

Lahaina Harbor is not just a place of business — it is a place of deep cultural, historical, and spiritual significance. As our community continues to rebuild after the August 8, 2023 fires, we have an opportunity to move forward in a way that honors the ‘ike, history, and people of Lahaina.

SB3173 would establish a Cultural Training Pilot Program within the Department of Land and Natural Resources, administered by the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation, requiring commercial use permit holders operating in Lahaina Harbor to complete cultural training developed in partnership with an organization identified by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

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This bill represents a coming together — aligning economic activity with cultural preservation and respect. As Lahaina rebuilds, we must do better than before. Education and cultural awareness are essential steps in that process.

Please support SB3173 and help ensure Lahaina's future is rooted in respect, responsibility, and community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 6:12:38 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Audrey Tanodra	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As kanaka Maoli it is imperative that proper cultural training be implemented at Lahaina Harbor for all operations. I support this measure for SB3173. Mahalo!

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 6:15:20 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kēhau Lucas and I am a Maui community member. I am writing in strong support of SB3173.

Lahaina Harbor is not just a place of business — it is a place of deep cultural, historical, and spiritual significance. As our community continues to rebuild after the August 8, 2023 fires, we have an opportunity to move forward in a way that honors the ‘ike, history, and people of Lahaina.

SB3173 would establish a Cultural Training Pilot Program within the Department of Land and Natural Resources, administered by the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation, requiring commercial use permit holders operating in Lahaina Harbor to complete cultural training developed in partnership with an organization identified by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

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This bill represents a coming together — aligning economic activity with cultural preservation and respect. As Lahaina rebuilds, we must do better than before. Education and cultural awareness are essential steps in that process.

Please support SB3173 and help ensure Lahaina's future is rooted in respect, responsibility, and community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha 'āina,

J Kēhau Lucas

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 6:44:10 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
De Andre Makakoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Members of the Committee,

My name is De Andre Makakoa. I am a Lahaina fire survivor, father, filmmaker, and community organizer. I strongly support SB3173.

Lahaina Harbor is not just infrastructure. It is a living cultural space with generational memory, ancestral presence, and deep spiritual significance. For our people, that harbor is tied to identity, livelihood, and history that existed long before commercial permits, tourism, or state management systems.

After August 8, 2023, our community was forced to confront what happens when decision making ignores ‘ike, place based knowledge, and local voices. As we rebuild Lahaina, we carry a responsibility to do things differently. We cannot rebuild the same systems that disconnected commerce from culture and access from accountability.

SB3173 is a practical and meaningful step forward. Requiring commercial operators in Lahaina Harbor to complete cultural training ensures that those benefiting economically from this place understand where they are, whose place it is, and what responsibilities come with operating there. Education builds awareness. Awareness builds respect. Respect builds better behavior and stronger relationships between operators and the community.

This is not anti business. This is pro responsibility. It aligns economic activity with cultural stewardship and shared kuleana. It creates a standard that says if you profit from Lahaina, you must also honor Lahaina.

As we rebuild, we have a rare opportunity to set new foundations rooted in respect, responsibility, and ‘ike kupuna. SB3173 helps move us in that direction.

Please support this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 6:49:33 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
alyssa kuwana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Members of the Committee,

My name is Alyssa Kuwana, and I am a Lahaina community member. I am writing in strong support of SB3173.

Lahaina Harbor is not just a place of business — it is a place of deep cultural, historical, and spiritual significance. As our community continues to rebuild after the August 8, 2023 fires, we have an opportunity to move forward in a way that honors the ‘ike, history, and people of Lahaina.

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Please support SB3173 and help ensure Lahaina's future is rooted in respect, responsibility, and community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 7:12:43 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Autumn Ness	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Fully Support

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 7:49:13 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jade Bystrom	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support for SB3173 – Cultural Training for Lahaina Harbor

Aloha Chairs and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jade Bystrom, and I am a Lahaina community member. I lost my home, car and job in the Lahaina fires on 08/08/2023 but most importantly my community. I am writing in strong support of SB3173.

Lahaina Harbor is not just a place of business — it is a place of deep cultural, historical, and spiritual significance. As our community continues to rebuild after the August 8, 2023 fires, we have an opportunity to move forward in a way that honors the ‘ike, history, and people of Lahaina.

SB3173 would establish a Cultural Training Pilot Program within the Department of Land and Natural Resources, administered by the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation, requiring commercial use permit holders operating in Lahaina Harbor to complete cultural training developed in partnership with an organization identified by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

I believe this is a win-win for our community.

Requiring cultural training ensures that those who operate commercially in our harbor understand the history and significance of the place where they work. It helps build stewardship,

shared kuleana, and stronger relationships between commercial operators and the local community.

This bill represents a coming together — aligning economic activity with cultural preservation and respect. As Lahaina rebuilds, we must do better than before. Education and cultural awareness are essential steps in that process.

Please support SB3173 and help ensure Lahaina's future is rooted in respect, responsibility, and community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Jade

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 8:03:11 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kazuo Flores	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kazuo Flores and I am a Lahaina community member. I am writing in strong support of SB3173.

Lahaina Harbor is not just a place of business — it is a place of deep cultural, historical, and spiritual significance. As our community continues to rebuild after the August 8, 2023 fires, we have an opportunity to move forward in a way that honors the ‘ike, history, and people of Lahaina.

SB3173 would establish a Cultural Training Pilot Program within the Department of Land and Natural Resources, administered by the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation, requiring commercial use permit holders operating in Lahaina Harbor to complete cultural training developed in partnership with an organization identified by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

I believe this is a win-win for our community.

Requiring cultural training ensures that those who operate commercially in our harbor understand the history and significance of the place where they work. It helps build stewardship, shared kuleana, and stronger relationships between commercial operators and the local community.

This bill represents a coming together — aligning economic activity with cultural preservation and respect. As Lahaina rebuilds, we must do better than before. Education and cultural awareness are essential steps in that process.

Please support SB3173 and help ensure Lahaina’s future is rooted in respect, responsibility, and community.

Mahalo

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 9:23:10 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cristina Holt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Lee, Chair Richards, Vice Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Committees,

I am submitting testimony in support of SB 3173.

Lahaina is not just a harbor. It is a place of profound historical and cultural significance to Native Hawaiians, and it is a community that has endured unimaginable loss. The people operating commercial businesses in those waters should understand where they are and what that place means. That is not too much to ask.

This bill does something simple and respectful. It requires commercial permit holders at Lahaina harbor to complete a cultural training course developed in partnership with an OHA-identified organization that specializes in Native Hawaiian culture and place-based history. No one is being shut out. No permits are being denied. People are just being asked to learn before they operate.

When you know the history of a place, you treat it differently. That matters for Lahaina now more than ever.

I urge the committees to pass SB 3173.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 9:26:04 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsey Mapa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support the establishment of a cultural training pilot program to better educate commercial operators in Lahaina Harbor. It is so important that we move forward with respect and honor the cultural significance of the land and sea that we live on. Please support SB 3173. Mahalo!

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 9:36:26 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Esther Arvizu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Members of the Committee,

My name is Esther Arvizu and I am a Lahaina community member. I am writing in strong support of SB3173.

Lahaina Harbor is not just a place of business — it is a place of deep cultural, historical, and spiritual significance. As our community continues to rebuild after the August 8, 2023 fires, we have an opportunity to move forward in a way that honors the ‘ike, history, and people of Lahaina.

SB3173 would establish a Cultural Training Pilot Program within the Department of Land and Natural Resources, administered by the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation, requiring commercial use permit holders operating in Lahaina Harbor to complete cultural training developed in partnership with an organization identified by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

I believe this is a win-win for our community.

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This bill represents a coming together — aligning economic activity with cultural preservation and respect. As Lahaina rebuilds, we must do better than before. Education and cultural awareness are essential steps in that process.

Please support SB3173 and help ensure Lahaina’s future is rooted in respect, responsibility, and community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 5:14:57 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aviva Libitsky	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Members of the Committee,

My name is Aviva Libitsky and I am a Lahaina community member. I am writing in strong support of SB3173.

Lahaina Harbor is not just a place of business — it is a place of deep cultural, historical, and spiritual significance. As our community continues to rebuild after the August 8, 2023 fires, we have an opportunity to move forward in a way that honors the ‘ike, history, and people of Lahaina.

SB3173 would establish a Cultural Training Pilot Program within the Department of Land and Natural Resources, administered by the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation, requiring commercial use permit holders operating in Lahaina Harbor to complete cultural training developed in partnership with an organization identified by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

I believe this is a win-win for our community.

Requiring cultural training ensures that those who operate commercially in our harbor understand the history and significance of the place where they work. It helps build stewardship, shared kuleana, and stronger relationships between commercial operators and the local community.

This bill represents a coming together — aligning economic activity with cultural preservation and respect. As Lahaina rebuilds, we must do better than before. Education and cultural awareness are essential steps in that process.

Please support SB3173 and help ensure Lahaina's future is rooted in respect, responsibility, and community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Aviva Libitsky

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 6:47:27 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicki Tedesco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nicki Tedesco and I am a Lahaina community member. I am writing in strong support of SB3173.

Lahaina Harbor is not just a place of business — it is a place of deep cultural, historical, and spiritual significance. As our community continues to rebuild after the August 8, 2023 fires, we have an opportunity to move forward in a way that honors the ‘ike, history, and people of Lahaina.

SB3173 would establish a Cultural Training Pilot Program within the Department of Land and Natural Resources, administered by the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation, requiring commercial use permit holders operating in Lahaina Harbor to complete cultural training developed in partnership with an organization identified by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

I believe this is a win-win for our community.

Requiring cultural training ensures that those who operate commercially in our harbor understand the history and significance of the place where they work. It helps build stewardship, shared kuleana, and stronger relationships between commercial operators and the local community.

This bill represents a coming together — aligning economic activity with cultural preservation and respect. As Lahaina rebuilds, we must do better than before. Education and cultural awareness are essential steps in that process.

Please support SB3173 and help ensure Lahaina's future is rooted in respect, responsibility, and community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Nicki Tedesco

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 7:11:44 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elexis Kalar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB3173.

In light of the Lahaina fire, it's important for visitors and kama'aina to understand not only why happened but the history of Lahaina and why it is such a special place.

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 7:52:00 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eliza Yoshida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Eliza Yoshida**, and I am a Maui community member with ties to Lahaina. I am writing in strong support of SB3173.

Lahaina Harbor is not just a place of business — it is a place of deep cultural, historical, and spiritual significance. As our community continues to rebuild after the August 8, 2023 fires, we have an opportunity to move forward in a way that honors the ‘ike, history, and people of Lahaina.

SB3173 would establish a Cultural Training Pilot Program within the Department of Land and Natural Resources, administered by the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation, requiring commercial use permit holders operating in Lahaina Harbor to complete cultural training developed in partnership with an organization identified by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

I believe this is a win-win for our community.

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This bill represents a coming together — aligning economic activity with cultural preservation and respect. As Lahaina rebuilds, we must do better than before. Education and cultural awareness are essential steps in that process.

Please support SB3173 and help ensure Lahaina’s future is rooted in respect, responsibility, and community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. Liza

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 7:53:49 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
rita lei medina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

AlohaMy name is Rita Lei Medina, a Lahaina resident, and I am writing in strong support of SB3173. The historical and cultural significance of Lahaina Harbor requires more than just commercial oversight; it requires a deep respect for the Native Hawaiian history and place-based knowledge that defines this area. By establishing a Cultural Training Pilot Program for permit holders, this legislation ensures that those who benefit commercially from these waters are also stewards of their heritage. This program is a vital step toward protecting our cultural resources and fostering a community that values education and historical preservation alongside economic activity. As we reset and rebuild our home space of Lahaina town, let this be an important step towards building and stewarding in a pono manner.

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 8:10:02 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelcy Durbin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Kelcy Durbin, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB3173, which proposes the establishment of a mandatory cultural training program within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) for all commercial use permit holders operating in Lahaina Harbor.

Lahaina Harbor is not only a hub for economic activity, but it is also a site of immense historical and cultural significance to the people of Maui and Hawai'i as a whole. The harbor and its surrounding waters are deeply intertwined with Native Hawaiian traditions, stories, and practices that have been passed down through generations. Ensuring that all commercial operators understand and respect this cultural heritage is essential to safeguarding the integrity of Lahaina as a living cultural landscape.

By requiring comprehensive cultural training, SB3173 will foster greater respect and stewardship among those conducting business in the harbor. Such training will help permit holders navigate sensitive areas, interact appropriately with cultural practitioners, and educate visitors about the unique history and traditions of Lahaina. Ultimately, this initiative promotes responsible tourism and strengthens the relationship between the commercial sector and the local community.

I urge you to support SB3173 and help ensure that Lahaina Harbor remains a place where economic opportunity and cultural preservation go hand in hand. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelcy Durbin

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 9:14:34 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Jelley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sara, and I am a Maui community member. I am writing in strong support of SB3173.

Lahaina Harbor is not just a place of business — it is a place of deep cultural, historical, and spiritual significance. As our community continues to rebuild after the August 8, 2023 fires, we have an opportunity to move forward in a way that honors the ‘ike, history, and people of Lahaina.

SB3173 would establish a Cultural Training Pilot Program within the Department of Land and Natural Resources, administered by the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation, requiring commercial use permit holders operating in Lahaina Harbor to complete cultural training developed in partnership with an organization identified by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

I believe this is a win-win for our community.

Requiring cultural training ensures that those who operate commercially in our harbor understand the history and significance of the place where they work. It helps build stewardship, shared kuleana, and stronger relationships between commercial operators and the local community.

This bill represents a coming together — aligning economic activity with cultural preservation and respect. As Lahaina rebuilds, we must do better than before. Education and cultural awareness are essential steps in that process.

Please support SB3173 and help ensure Lahaina's future is rooted in respect, responsibility, and community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 9:24:54 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christian O'Connor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support Bill SB3173 to culturally educate all operators in Lahaina Harbor. I grew up on the Black Coral Diver boats in Lahaina as my Father dove for Maui Divers. In the 60s 70s 80s 90s most Captains were Local and everyone knew each other we all went on each other's boats and we were a close knit community for decades with a great Love and respect for Lahaina her history and culture. Times changed many came from all over seeing dollar signs and business opportunities to cash in on the plethora of tourists in Lahaina that wanted to enjoy the Ocean activities offered at the Lahaina Harbor. Since the Lahaina fires destroyed our Hometown much of our Historic and cultural sites and our Harbor and most of the boats there is a blank slate and an Opportunity to create a more Sustainable environment that is sensitive to our Hawaiian culture history and Kuleana Responsibility for our Lahaina Community and her people. Please support SB3173 lets create a Lahaina we can all thrive in together with respect and kindness .

Mahalo Christian O'Connor

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 9:27:14 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janie Kunin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha All,

Please pass this important legislation, SB3173, in order to educate, maintain, deepen and foster awareness of our beautiful Hawaiian cultural practices. The only meaningful tourism must be rooted in cultural and ecological practices.

Mahalo nui loa,

Janie Kunin

Ha'iku, Maui

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 9:36:47 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha:

I am a Maui resident writing in strong support of SB3173.

Lahaina Harbor is not just a place of business — it is a place of deep cultural, historical, and spiritual significance. As our community continues to rebuild after the August 8, 2023 fires, we have an opportunity to move forward in a way that honors the ‘ike, history, and people of Lahaina.

SB3173 would establish a Cultural Training Pilot Program within the Department of Land and Natural Resources, administered by the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation, requiring commercial use permit holders operating in Lahaina Harbor to complete cultural training developed in partnership with an organization identified by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

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This bill represents a coming together — aligning economic activity with cultural preservation and respect. As Lahaina rebuilds, we must do better than before. Education and cultural awareness are essential steps in that process.

Please support SB3173 and help ensure Lahaina’s future is rooted in respect, responsibility, and community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 10:00:03 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Keefe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Lee & Richards, Vice Chairs Inouye & Lamosao, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Jackie Keefe and I am a Lahaina community member who is **in strong support of SB3173**, which would establish a Cultural Training Pilot Program within the Department of Land and Natural Resources, administered by the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation, *requiring all commercial use permit holders operating in Lahaina Harbor to complete cultural training.*

I have worked as an advocate for fire survivors for over two years now, and I have developed countless relationships with the people who have come to work in Lahaina for FEMA, USACE, and multiple other agencies. Believe me when I tell you that it is impossible to count the number of individuals who have had the opportunity (their words) to experience cultural training from our cultural advisors and called it a "life-changing" experience." Though I have not partaken in the official cultural training, I would include myself in this group because I have had the honor of learning directly from Lahaina's cultural practitioners, and it has significantly deepened my love and appreciation for Lahaina; both what she was, what she is, and what she has the opportunity to become again!

Lahaina Harbor is not just a place of business — it is a place of deep cultural, historical, and spiritual significance. As our community continues to rebuild after the August 8, 2023 fires, we have an opportunity to move forward in a way that honors the ‘ike, history, and people of Lahaina.

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This bill represents a coming together — aligning economic activity with cultural preservation and respect. As Lahaina rebuilds, we must do better than before. Education and cultural awareness are essential steps in that process.

Please pass SB3173 and help ensure Lahaina’s future is rooted in respect, responsibility, and community.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Jackie Keefe, Lahaina

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 10:22:07 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taryn Sa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Taryn Sa**, and I am a Lahaina community member. I am writing in strong support of SB3173.

Lahaina Harbor is not just a place of business — it is a place of deep cultural, historical, and spiritual significance. As our community continues to rebuild after the August 8, 2023 fires, we have an opportunity to move forward in a way that honors the ‘ike, history, and people of Lahaina.

SB3173 would establish a Cultural Training Pilot Program within the Department of Land and Natural Resources, administered by the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation, requiring commercial use permit holders operating in Lahaina Harbor to complete cultural training developed in partnership with an organization identified by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

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This bill represents a coming together — aligning economic activity with cultural preservation and respect. As Lahaina rebuilds, we must do better than before. Education and cultural awareness are essential steps in that process.

Please support SB3173 and help ensure Lahaina's future is rooted in respect, responsibility, and community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 12:53:47 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Kakugawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support for SB3173 – Cultural Training for Lahaina Harbor

Aloha Chairs and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sarah Kakugawa, and I am a Lahaina community member. I am writing in strong support of SB3173.

Lahaina Harbor is not just a place of business — it is a place of deep cultural, historical, and spiritual significance. As our community continues to rebuild after the August 8, 2023 fires, we have an opportunity to move forward in a way that honors the ‘ike, history, and people of Lahaina.

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This bill represents a coming together — aligning economic activity with cultural preservation and respect. As Lahaina rebuilds, we must do better than before. Education and cultural awareness are essential steps in that process.

Please support SB3173 and help ensure Lahaina's future is rooted in respect, responsibility, and community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

Sarah Kakugawa

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 12:54:33 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wayne Phillips	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support SB3173 I am a resident of Lahaina

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 12:58:43 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Don Blair	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB3173. During the ash removal process, Mr. Kapu from Nā'Aikāne o Maui provided cultural training to all contractors that entered the burn area. Anyone working in Lahaina should also receive this training. The history and culture is so vast and ancient, people working in this area should understand how important the area around Lahaina harbor is to the Hawai'ian culture.

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 12:58:47 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dina Edmisson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of SB3173. Any and all support we can provide to our community new and generational about the significance of our local culture and history will enrich all of our lives for residents and visitors alike. It can only be a win-win experience for everyone. There is so much history and culture to learn and share that many people don't know about and everyone who learns benefits. Mahalo nui

LATE

SB-3173

Submitted on: 2/19/2026 9:14:22 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/19/2026 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
robert Petty	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is **Rober Petty**, and I am a Lahaina community member. I am writing in strong support of SB3173.