

**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA  
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2026**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

S.B. NO. 3247, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, RELATING TO HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 25, 2026      **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 325

**TESTIFIER(S):** Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or  
Alyssa-Marie Y.H. Kau, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) provides the following comments on this bill.

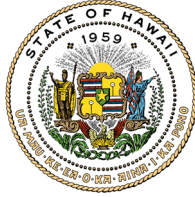
The purpose of this bill is to establish a Royal Mausoleum Working Group (Working Group) within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to develop recommendations regarding the long-term stewardship, governance, and management structure of the Royal Mausoleum, also known as Mauna 'Ala.

Section 2(a) establishes the Working Group within DLNR and provides that it shall consist of seven members. Page 2, lines 10-13. The House Committee on Water and Land amended the bill to provide for seven voting members without specifying the manner of selection. The absence of an identified appointing authority or selection process may create uncertainty regarding how the working group is to be constituted and implemented. This Committee may wish to consider clarifying this aspect to ensure the timely formation and operation of the Working Group.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

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

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

**LATE**

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

Before the House Committee on  
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Wednesday, March 25, 2026  
2:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 3247, SENATE DRAFT 1, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senate Bill 3247, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1 establishes a temporary Royal Mausoleum Working Group within the Department of Land and Natural Resources; requires the Royal Mausoleum Working Group to submit reports to the Legislature; and sunsets the working group on 12/31/2027. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) provides the following comments.**

The Department's Division of State Parks (State Parks) has been working with the Ali'i Trusts since at least 2005 to more systematically care for all the structures at Mauna 'Ala and the surrounding landscape. These initial efforts were also supported by Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs. These collaborations, most resulting from ongoing discussions at meetings and inspections at Mauna 'Ala, continued until 2014 when a Memorandum of Understanding was finalized to define the respective responsibilities of the Department and the following Ali'i Trusts: Lunalilo Trust; Queen Lili'uokalani Trust; the Queen's Health Systems; the Estate of Bernice Pauahi Bishop; the Charles Reed Bishop Trust; and the Abigail K. K. Kawānanakoa Foundation. The Caretaker at the time, William (Uncle Bill) Maioho, played a major role in initiating these collective efforts and guiding them through.

The Memorandum sets out the primary responsibilities of the Trusts, mostly over the tombs and crypts of their benefactors. State Parks is responsible for the grounds and other structures. Over the last 21 years, these joint efforts have made a significant difference in preserving these irreplaceable structures and their setting.

Given the Memorandum's ongoing role in guiding Mauna 'Ala's stewardship, the Department respectfully requests that the bill's proposed working group include at least one (1) member representing the abovementioned Ali'i Trusts and one (1) member from the Department. These perspectives are key to assisting with developing long-term management plans as well as advising on repairs and maintenance at Mauna 'Ala.

The Department appreciates the continued discussions and interest in ensuring long-term stewardship of Mauna 'Ala.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**LATE**



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 3247 SD1 HD1**  
RELATING TO HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

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

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

Malaki 25, 2026

2:00 PM

Lumi 325

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

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS SB3247 SD1 HD1**, which would establish a temporary Royal Mausoleum Working Group within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to ensure respectful stewardship, preservation, and appropriate management of Mauna‘ala.<sup>1</sup>

Mauna‘ala (also known as the Royal Mausoleum State Monument) is a uniquely sacred wahi pana and the final resting place of Hawaiian royalty, including ali‘i from the Kamehameha and Kalākaua dynasties. Historically, the care of Mauna‘ala has been understood as a sacred lineal kuleana (responsibility), rooted in traditions that pre-date the State of Hawai‘i. Since 1865, many of the Mauna‘ala kahu (curators) have been descendants of High Chief Ho‘olulu and Hoapili, who were entrusted by Kamehameha I with the care of his remains, and whose descendants were later entrusted by the Kamehameha line to serve as kahu of Mauna‘ala.

In 2024, DLNR’s selection of a new Mauna‘ala curator generated significant concern across the lāhui because the appointment was viewed as a departure from long-standing cultural practice. At the time, leaders of the royal societies and the

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<sup>1</sup> The spelling *Mauna‘ala* is used here as a single word, reflecting historical orthography found in Hawaiian language newspapers.

Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs requested to be included in the selection process to provide their vital cultural and historical insight but were ultimately left out.

The continuity of the care of Mauna‘ala is a deeply sacred and important trust responsibility to Native Hawaiians, and it requires cultural ‘ike (knowledge) of mo‘okū‘auhau (genealogy), protocol, and a spiritual kuleana that is transmitted intergenerationally and cannot be replicated through standard state management processes alone.

Establishing a Royal Mausoleum Working Group that includes representation from the ali‘i trusts, royal societies, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, and lineal descendants, is a culturally appropriate mechanism to help ensure that the continuity of care and cultural protocol are meaningfully considered in stewardship and decision-making for Mauna‘ala going forward.

**OHA supports the purposes of the working group but is concerned with limiting its membership to seven individuals.** In light of the HD1 amendments, which shift the working group’s role to providing recommendations to the Legislature rather than exercising a decision-making authority, OHA no longer sees a need for such a restriction. To ensure meaningful and inclusive input, all key stakeholders should have equal opportunity to participate in shaping the future stewardship of Mauna‘ala. **Accordingly, OHA urges the inclusion of representatives from each royal society, ali‘i trusts, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and relevant lineal descendants.**

As the constitutionally established entity charged with protecting and promoting the rights of Native Hawaiians, OHA brings extensive experience engaging with diverse Native Hawaiian communities, organizations, and state agencies through its advocacy efforts to help ensure the protection of wahi pana and iwi kūpuna. OHA’s participation would serve to augment the foundational perspectives of ali‘i trusts, royal societies, lineal descendants, and other cultural practitioners by providing a broad trust and consultation framework to support the culturally grounded stewardship of Mauna‘ala.

For the above reasons, OHA respectfully urges the committee to **PASS SB3247 SD1 HD1**. We appreciate the careful consideration of our comments.

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

**RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.**  
Meia o Ke Kalana o Maui

**J. KAPONO‘AI MOLITAU**  
Po‘o o Ka ‘Oihana Kumuwaiwai ‘Ōiwi

**KEKAI ROBINSON**  
Hope Po‘o o Ka ‘Oihana Kumuwaiwai ‘Ōiwi



**KA ‘OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI ‘ŌIWI**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ‘ŌIWI RESOURCES**  
KE KALANA O MAUI, COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAI‘I 96793  
pūnaewele: [www.mauicounty.gov](http://www.mauicounty.gov) leka uila: [oiwi@co.maui.hi.us](mailto:oiwi@co.maui.hi.us)

**TO:** Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair  
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

**FROM:** Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor  
John Kapono‘ai Molitau, Director of ‘Ōiwi Resources

**DATE:** March 24, 2026

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF SB3247 SD1 HD1 – RELATING TO HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS.**

Aloha kākou:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this measure, SB3247 SD1 HD1, which establishes a temporary Royal Mausoleum Working Group within the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Requires the Royal Mausoleum Working Group to submit reports to the Legislature. Sunsets the working group on 12/31/2027. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

We **SUPPORT** this measure for the following reasons:

1. Mauna ‘Ala is among the most sacred wahi pana in Hawai‘i. As the final resting place of the ali‘i of the Kamehameha and Kalākaua dynasties and other high chiefs, it embodies the mana of leadership, genealogy, and the enduring cultural practice of mālama iwi kūpuna. Stewardship of such a site requires more than routine land management; it requires governance rooted in Hawaiian values, protocol, and ‘ike kupuna.
2. Mauna ‘Ala warrants a permanent, culturally authoritative body. Establishing a Royal Mausoleum Commission with policy-making authority ensures that decisions affecting the site are guided by those with genealogical ties, cultural responsibility, and institutional knowledge, rather than being treated as ancillary to broader land management functions. A permanent, culturally grounded commission provides continuity, accountability, and respect that cannot be achieved through temporary or advisory arrangements alone.

Thank you for your commitment to honoring Hawai‘i’s ali‘i, ancestors, and the cultural foundations.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor  
John Kapono'ai Molitau, Director of 'Ōiwi Resources  
County of Maui Testimony Support for SB3247 SD1 HD1



## ROYAL ORDER OF KAMEHAMEHA I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

SENATE BILL 3247 SD1 HD1 RELATING TO HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Wednesday, March 25, 2026, 2:00 PM

Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the Committee.

On behalf of Ali'i Sir Alike Desha, Ali'i Nui of the Royal Order of Kamehameha I, Ali'i Sir Arthur Aiu, Ali'i Aimoku of Moku O Hawai'i Chapter 1, and the entire Royal Order, the Royal Order of Kamehameha I is in STRONG SUPPORT of Senate Bill 3247 SD1 HD1 Relating to Hawaiian Affairs and specifically to establishing a temporary Royal Mausoleum Working Group within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

The Royal Order of Kamehameha I was established by King Kamehameha V in 1865 to honor his grandfather King Kamehameha I. Today, the organization continues to guard, maintain, and preserve the rituals and the memory of the ruling Chiefs of Hawai'i.

When established, the Royal Mausoleum Working Group would assist to develop and implement policy for the preservation, operation, and outreach of Mauna 'Ala in consultation with Native Hawaiian organizations including the Royal Order. This would go a long way to establishing proper protocols governing access by visitors, researchers and practitioners, ceremonial and ritual practices, curation and interment of remains, and for the selection of an official *Kahu* to ensure continuity of traditional practices. This will raise

the level of collaboration on such an important historical and cultural matter with the aim of being *pono*.

In summary, SB 3247 SD1 HD1 represents a thoughtful, culturally grounded approach to honoring and safeguarding one of Hawai'i's most sacred cultural sites. By creating an inclusive and knowledgeable Working Group positioned to guide Mauna 'Ala policy, this measure strengthens both cultural preservation and community stewardship for future generations.

For these reasons, the Royal Order of Kamehameha I respectfully urges the Committee to PASS SB 3247 SD1 HD1.

Mahalo.

Ali'i Sir Keith Ridley

Kaka'olelo, Chapter 1



P.O. Box 8637, Honolulu, HI 96830 808.468.1686 [www.mgfhawaii.org](http://www.mgfhawaii.org)

TESTIMONY OF THE MOANALUA GARDENS FOUNDATION  
To the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

March 25, 2026  
**In Support of**

**SB 3247 SD1 - RELATING TO HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the committees:

The Moanalua Gardens Foundation (MGF) **supports SB 3247 SD1**, which establishes a working group to develop a management plan for Mauna ‘Ala and requires the working group submit that plan to the legislature before the 2027 legislative session.

Mauna ‘Ala is a profoundly sacred place for Native Hawaiian, and to our organization as well. MGF Hawai‘i was once housed on the Damon Estate in Moanalua, which was once owned by Kamehameha V while he was Prince Lot. In fact, we honor his legacy every year, with The Prince Lot Hula Festival that is in its 49<sup>th</sup> year. Of course we want to see this sacred place cared for properly.

Since the transfer of Mauna‘ala to the state in 1967, cultural practitioners, ali‘i trusts, and Native Hawaiian organizations have raised concerns about state management of this sacred site. The proposed working group includes representatives from these organizations to include stakeholder voices in proper management. Furthermore, requiring that a plan be submitted ahead of the 2027 legislative session establishes a clear timeline for action and accountability, and encourages timely selection of members, meaningful stakeholder engagement, and steady progress toward a long-term stewardship and management plan for Mauna ‘Ala.

The Moanalua Gardens Foundation (MGF) was Founded in 1970 to preserve and perpetuate the history, native culture, and environment of Hawai‘i through education, stewardship and our kuleana in Kamananui and Kamaniki valleys, known more broadly as Moanalua Valley. As part of the original Damon estate, sold in 2008, we maintain our kuleana in Moanalua Valley through an MOA relationship with The Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The Moanalua Gardens Foundation urges the committee **to pass SB 3247 SD1**. Mahalo for your attention and consideration.

*Me ke aloha,*  
  
Ian Keali‘i Custino  
Executive Director  
Moanalua Gardens Foundation  
[ian@mgfhawaii.org](mailto:ian@mgfhawaii.org)



March 25, 2026

TESTIMONY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS  
To the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs  
In Support of

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**SB 3247 SD1 - RELATING TO HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the committee:

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs submits testimony in **support** of SB 3247 SD1 HD1, which establishes a working group to develop a management plan for Mauna 'Ala and requires the working group submit that plan to the legislature before the 2027 legislative session.

Our connection to this place is profound as the founder of our Hawaiian Civic Club movement, Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole rests here. Further, members of our O'ahu Hawaiian Civic Clubs clean and care for the chapel on a monthly basis. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs is one of a handful of organizations with direct cultural and familial ties to Mauna 'Ala, committed to honoring, preserving, and advocating for the respectful stewardship of this sacred site.

Since the transfer of Mauna'ala to the state in 1967, cultural practitioners, ali'i trusts, and Native Hawaiian organizations have consistently raised concerns about state management decisions and the integration of traditional practices in the care and access of the site. The working group proposed by SB3247 includes representatives from these stakeholders, including the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, to ensure decisions about Mauna 'Ala management incorporate Native Hawaiian perspectives.

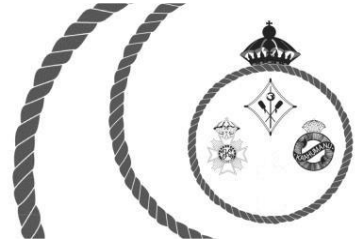
Requiring submission of a management plan ahead of the 2027 legislative session establishes a clear timeline for action and accountability. This deadline encourages timely appointment of members, meaningful stakeholder engagement, and steady progress toward a long-term stewardship and management plan for Mauna 'Ala.

Founded by Prince Kūhiō in 1918, the Hawaiian Civic Club movement is the oldest Native Hawaiian community-based advocacy movement. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs is a

not-for-profit confederation of 60 individual and autonomous Hawaiian Civic Clubs and 3,500 members located across Hawai'i and across the continental United States.

We appreciate your favorable consideration of this measure.

*Aha Hipu'u*



P.O. Box 283157  
Honolulu, HI 96828

March 24, 2026

**IN SUPPORT OF S.B. No. 3247, S.D.1, H.D.1, RELATING TO HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS,  
WITH AMENDMENTS**

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair  
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair  
Members, Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

**Hearing:** March 25, 2026, 2:00 P.M.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of S.B. No. 3247, S.D.1, H.D.1,  
Relating to Hawaiian Affairs, with amendments offered herein.

My name is Leimomi Khan, and I am the Chairperson of the ‘Aha Hipu‘u—comprised of the Royal Hawaiian Benevolent Societies: the Royal Order of Kamehameha I, Chapter I; ‘Ahahui Ka‘ahumanu; and Hale O Nā Ali‘i O Hawai‘i. Collectively, we support S.B. No. 3247, S.D.1, H.D.1, Relating to Hawaiian Affairs, with amendments offered herein.

At the outset, we appreciate the thoughtful revisions made by the House Water and Land Committee to the bill, as reflected in S.B. No. 3247, S.D.1, H.D.1. The responsibilities of the proposed working group are now more clearly defined and appropriately scoped. We especially appreciate that the measure affirms the working group’s role to review, evaluate, and provide recommendations.

We also recognize that the current draft reduces the working group membership and does not yet specify representation. While we understand the intent to allow flexibility, we respectfully emphasize that composition is central to the credibility, balance, and cultural integrity of this effort.

Accordingly, we offer the following recommendations:

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## 1. Working Group Composition

We recommend a working group of eleven individuals and organizations with demonstrated kuleana, cultural expertise, and genealogical connection to Mauna‘ala. Each of the following would be represented by one member:

- Royal Order of Kamehameha I, Chapter I
- ‘Ahahui Ka‘ahumanu
- Hale O Nā Ali‘i O Hawai‘i
- Daughters and Sons of Hawaiian Warriors–Mamakakaua
- Kōmike Mālama Mauna‘ala
- Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs
- One lineal descendant of the Kamehameha dynasty
- One lineal descendant of the Kalākaua dynasty
- One lineal descendant of High Chief Ho‘olulu
- Department of Land and Natural Resources
- Office of Hawaiian Affairs

While this expands the membership beyond seven, the cultural significance and responsibility of Mauna‘ala warrant inclusive, balanced, and ‘ike-based representation to ensure trust and meaningful outcomes.

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## 2. Responsibilities

We agree with the responsibilities assigned in S.B. No. 3247, S.D.1, H.D.1, but respectfully request that Section 2(c) be revised to read:

The working group shall review, evaluate, and make recommendations to:

- (1) Determine a process for the selection of the curator of Mauna‘ala;
  - (2) Determine whether any existing long-term plans for the proper protection and management of Mauna‘ala require revision;
  - (3) Determine whether the Department of Land and Natural Resources is the appropriate steward for Mauna‘ala or whether a co-management agreement would be more appropriate; and
  - (4) Address other matters that the working group deems necessary.
- 

## Conclusion

The ‘Aha Hipu‘u stands in support of this measure as an important step toward strengthening the stewardship of Mauna‘ala. With the amendments offered above, we believe the bill can more fully reflect the ‘ike, kuleana, and voices of the lāhui it is intended to serve.

Mahalo for your leadership and for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

**Leimomi Khan**  
Chair, 'Aha Hipu'u

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# Kamehameha Schools®

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Date: March 26, 2026

Where: Conference Room 325

## TESTIMONY

Kēhau Abad

Vice President, Uluhiwa

### **RE: SB3247, SD1, HD1, Relating to Hawaiian Affairs**

Aloha e ka Luna Ho‘omaluku Tarnas, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omaluku Poepoe, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike.

Kamehameha Schools appreciates this opportunity to **support SB3247, SD1, HD1**.

Kamehameha Schools cares deeply about the stewardship of Mauna ‘Ala, a most sacred wahi kapu housing the iwi of our Hawaiian Kingdom’s ruling sovereigns and their closest ‘ohana. The kuleana to mālama and kia‘i Mauna ‘Ala demands the highest standards from all who are entrusted with this sacred responsibility.

Our commitment to work with our lāhui and state partners to ensure that Mauna ‘Ala receives the care it deserves remains steadfast. We support the intent of the bill to establish a working group dedicated to the protection and management of Mauna ‘Ala and appreciate the wisdom of the Legislature in considering its composition and the need to balance diverse perspectives. Should we be considered, we welcome the opportunity to serve on the working group to help mālama this special place.

Founded in 1887 through the Will of Ke Ali‘i Bernice Pauahi Pākī Bishop, Ke Kula ‘o Kamehameha is a private, educational, charitable trust committed to empowering Native Hawaiians in perpetuity by improving the well-being of our people through education. We envision our haumāna, strong in E Ola!, grounded in Hawaiian and Christian values, succeeding in post-secondary education and contributing through ‘ōiwi leadership to a thriving and self-determined lāhui.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2026

TESTIMONY S.B. 3247, SD 1, HD 2  
House Judiciary & Committee Hearing  
Wednesday, March 25, 2026  
Conf.Rm. 325

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair  
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Rep. Della Au Belatti	Rep. Gregg Takayama
Rep. Mark J. Hashem	Rep. Elle Cochran
Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa	Rep. Diamond Garcia
Rep. Jackson D. Sayama	Rep. Garner M. Shimizu

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee.  
My name is Quentin Kūhiō Kawānanakoa and I'm testifying in Support of  
S.B. 3247, SD 1, HD 1, on behalf of the Royal House of Kawanakoa.

This Bill passed out of the House Water and Land Committee with meaningful  
amendments to enhance the effectiveness of the "working group" established by the  
Senate. The working group's purpose is to report back to the Legislature on ways to  
improve the cultural, traditional and spiritual elements necessary to care for Mauna 'Ala  
from a Native Hawaiian perspective. Valuable testimony was given at the prior hearings  
to implement this purpose.

(See testimony and rationale appended below regarding "Native Hawaiian World View.")

**Amendments clarifying areas the Working Group should focus discussion.**

**1. Determine a process for the selection of the caretaker at Mauna 'Ala.**

The impetus for this legislation was to improve the selection process for the Caretaker  
position at Mauna 'Ala. The greatest concern was that Native Hawaiian Stakeholders  
were not consulted on traditional, cultural and spiritual understandings regarding  
necessary criteria to fulfill the functions and responsibilities of the caretaker.

**2. Develop a long-term plan for proper protection and management of Mauna 'Ala.**

The working group should review, assess and make recommendations to ensure that long-  
term plans of Mauna 'Ala align with Native Hawaiian traditional, cultural and spiritual  
concerns.

**3. Determine if the department of land and natural resources is the proper steward for Mauna ‘Ala or if a co-management agreement would be more appropriate.**

This discussion would help ascertain other options to achieve the intent of implementing Native Hawaiian ethos at Mauna ‘Ala without impacting complicated administrative and legal concerns under the current stewardship.

**4. Address other matters that the working group deems necessary.**

This catch-all clause would give additional flexibility to discuss and make recommendations regarding unforeseen issues impacting Native Hawaiian traditional, cultural and spiritual concerns at Mauna ‘Ala.

**Amendment reduces the working group to 7 members from 17.**

**1. Possible recommendation for bringing the number of members from 7 to 14.**

1. Royal Order of Kamehameha
2. ‘Aha Ka‘ahumanu
3. Hale O Nā Ali‘i O Hawai‘i
4. Daughters and Sons of Hawaiian Warriors
5. Kamehameha Schools
6. Queens Health Center
7. Queen Lili‘uokalani Trust
8. Lunalilo Trust
9. Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs
10. A lineal descendant of the Kamehameha Dynasty
11. A lineal descendant of the Kalākaua Dynasty
12. A lineal descendant of the Ho‘olulu Kahu Family
13. Department of Hawaiian Affairs
14. Office of Hawaiian Affairs

This recommendation offers a broad selection of organizations that represent specific stakeholder groups and/or have a special expertise regarding Mauna ‘Ala.

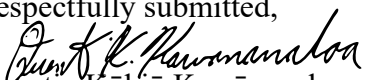
**2. Possible recommendation to keep the members of the working group at 7.**

1. ‘Aha Hipu‘u
2. Kōmike Mālama Mauna ‘Ala
3. Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs
4. A lineal descendant of the Kamehameha Dynasty
5. A lineal descendant of the Kalākaua Dynasty
6. A lineal descendant of the Ho‘olulu Kahu Family
7. Office of Hawaiian Affairs

This recommendation offers similar broad representation of the various stakeholder groups and expertise by compressing some of the Native Hawaiian stakeholder groups into their established umbrella organizations. For instance, Kōmike Mālama Mauna ‘Ala is an umbrella group with four of the Ali‘i Trusts. The ‘Aha Hipu‘u is currently an umbrella group of three Royal Societies.

Hopefully, these selected members would represent the perspective, knowledge and kuleana of as many of the long-standing Native Hawaiian Stakeholders as possible and create efficiencies in the working group.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Quentin Kūhiō Kawānanakoa

## Appendix

My name is Quent Kūhiō Kawānanakoa and I am testifying on behalf of the Royal House of Kawānanakoa. My connection with Mauna 'Ala is familia as many of my ancestors are buried in the Kalākaua Mausoleum at Mauna 'Ala.

Prince David La'amea Kahalepouli Kinoiki Kawānanakoa established the Royal House of Kawānanakoa and was the last named heir to the Kingdom of Hawaii. His wife was Princess Abigail Wahi'ika'ahu'ula Campbell Kawānanakoa. Prince David and Princess Abigail are both interred in the Kalākaua Mausoleum and are respectively my Great-Grandfather and Great-Grandmother. His brothers, Prince Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole and Prince Edward Keli'iahonui are my Great-Grand Uncles and are also interred in the Kalākaua Mausolium. I also note the presence of numerous other relatives steeped in antiquity that rest within Mauna 'Ala.

It is imperative we all remember that Mauna 'Ala is the paramount "Burial Grounds" of the Native Hawaiian people. It is the "piko," which in Hawaiian means "umbilical cord" – a tether that binds us to the ancestors, to the land, and to the beginning of life. But "piko" also means "navel" or "center" of things—like the top of a mountain, a gathering place, or points connecting mind, body, and spirit, representing balance and lineage across past, present, and future. Indeed, Mauna 'Ala is both an umbilical cord and a navel. It is the story of Hawaii's cultural and spiritual past as it flows into the present and eventually into the future. Mauna 'Ala is also the core of Hawaiian cosmology, which retains – and allows us to express – the "ike" of our collective Hawaiian experience.

"Ike" is the equivalent of our Native Hawaiian World View. Through this cultural lens, Native Hawaiians perceive and understand the world in which we live. The concept of "ike" pools together all the mores that Native Hawaiians have honed over the course of millennia, ultimately defining our understanding of the Hawaiian lifeforce. "Ike" is the knowledge that we are Hawaiian.

Mauna 'Ala can become the exemplar of Hawaii uniting in 'ike. Mauna 'Ala offers a unique point of cohesion of cultural knowledge and spiritual understanding. At once a site of repose, of regeneration and of reverence, it is both a foundation and a pinnacle of the Native Hawaiian World View.

This is the reason that we, Native Hawaiians and all of Hawaii's citizens, must collaborate in finding a harmonious way forward – as distinct cultures living together and respecting each other, embracing our similarities while honoring our differences.

SB 3247 SD1 provides the means to achieve a joint goal of cooperation and guidance, for the nurturing of Mauna 'Ala as a site of preserved and living history. SB 3247 SD1 creates a working group of Hawaiian cultural experts, sharing their 'ike to carve constructive paths forward for Mauna 'Ala. Bringing together a range of important perspectives and expertise, this working group will assist in perpetuating the lifeforce of Hawaii's host culture at Mauna 'Ala. By establishing this working group, SB 3247 SD1 will define, raise and uphold the essence of the Hawaiian World View for all the people of Hawaii.

And as the motto of the State of Hawaii and the Hawaiian World View are virtually the same:

Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka 'Āina I Ka Pono.

The Life of the Land will be Perpetuated in Righteousness.



*DAUGHTERS AND SONS OF THE HAWAIIAN WARRIORS*

*(Mamakakaua)*

*Honolulu, Hawaii*

**P.O. Box 1285  
Honolulu, HI 96807**

**SB 3247 SD1 HD1, RELATING TO HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS:  
Establishes a Temporary Royal Mausoleum Working Group Within the  
Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)**

**House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs**

**Wednesday, March 25, 2026, 2:00pm  
Conference Room 325, State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street**

Aloha Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Committee.

I am Coline Aiu, Kuhina Nui of Daughters and Sons of the Hawaiian Warriors-Māmakakaua (DSHW-Māmakakaua), a little-known genealogical society whose origin began during the Hawaiian monarchy. We have attached information at the end of our testimony to provide you a deeper understanding of our identity as a Hawaiian Royal Society.

The DSHW-Māmakakaua opposes SB 3247 SD1 HD1 and its companion HB 2460 amended to establish a temporary Royal Mausoleum Working Group within DLNR with seven (7) voting members. The controversy over the DLNR hire is the central argument for the establishment of this bill, expressly to address “concerns . . . from Native Hawaiian organizations, the Ali‘i trusts, and cultural descendants” (section 1, ¶1, lines 13-14) since 2024.

The DLNR comments offered on March 17, 2026 at the Committee on Water and Land hearing, (page 1, ¶2, lines 8-9), recognize the importance and knowledge of the caretaker (Kahu):

**“The caretaker at the time, William (Uncle Bill) Maioho played a major role in initiating these collective efforts and guiding them through.”**

DLNR described their past working relationship with the caretaker (Kahu) on the physical stewardship management of Mauna ‘Ala (page 2, ¶1, lines 2-4):

“Over the last 21 years, these joint efforts have made a significant difference in preserving these irreplaceable structures and their setting.”

These comments refer to Uncle Bill’s role in finalizing the 2014 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing the responsibilities of: 1) the **Trusts**, mostly over the tombs and crypts of their benefactors; 2) the **Division of State Parks**, over the grounds and other structures—including Hale Ho‘olulu (the caretaker’s cottage) and the restrooms; and 3) **DLNR**, for the management, budget, and reporting to the Legislature, Governor and any other interested bodies.

Historically, DLNR’s role is to maintain consistent communication with the caretaker (Kahu). The caretaker (Kahu) were knowledgeable, accountable, and committed to the sanctity of Mauna ‘Ala and its traditional protocols.

It was the caretaker’s (Kahu) customary responsibility to ensure the respectful stewardship, preservation, and appropriate management of the Royal Mausoleum, or Mauna ‘Ala, in accordance with Hawaiian cultural traditions and values.

The proposed bill transfers these responsibilities to a new temporary working group that is within the DLNR and accountable to the Legislature. The DSHW-Māmakakaua opposes this because the establishment of such a working group institutes and formalizes the State’s oversight on the spiritual, historical, and cultural stewardship of Mauna ‘Ala.

The real problem is that in 2024 the DLNR selection panel **did not follow the traditional and proven process** when hiring the current curator to replace the vacancy left by Kai Maioho.

Before any new legislation is introduced or any amendments made to existing Hawai‘i Revised Statutes concerning Mauna ‘Ala, **the honored and sanctified position of Kahu at Mauna ‘Ala must be restored.**

### **History of Curator Selection 2023-Present:**

#### **1. State of Hawai‘i Executive Branch Job Announcement for Royal Mausoleum Curator**

Non-Civil Service position

Job Number EX10022.

Opening Date: 11/27/2023

Closing Date: 12/15/2023

On November 27, 2023, the State of Hawai‘i Executive Branch posted the above announcement for the **Royal Mausoleum Curator position**. The Position Description contained the following sections:

1. Duties Summary
2. Recommended Qualifications
3. Knowledge of
4. Skills/Abilities
5. Other Information

DSHW noted in our letter on February 2nd, 2024 after reviewing the above position description, qualification of the highest regarding cultural knowledge, protocols and practices, including language, should be the priority in selecting the Curator.

Letters were submitted from Feb 2024 – May 2024 from Hawaiian Royal Societies, Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, and OHA in opposition to the selection process. Letters from DSHW-Māmakakaua continued through July 2024.

#### **2. DLNR Public Announcement of New Curator (May 13, 2024)**

- a. Letters follow from community

#### **3. Senator Lorraine Inouye informational gathering (May 28, 2024)**

- a. Community associations and community concerns
- b. Testimony available on Hawai‘i State Senate YouTube

4. **DLNR News Release – DLNR Creating Culturally Focused Position at Mauna ‘Ala (June 4, 2024)**
  - a. Establishing a second position to “work together with the current curator”
  - b. With a focus on “culturally centered duties” (page 2)
5. **DSHW–Māmakakaua letter to Governor Green (July 27, 2024)**
6. **Senate Bill 3247 (January 28, 2026 )**
  - a. Testimony available online and in our packet provided with oral testimony
7. **Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture & the Arts (February 10, 2026)**
  - a. Testimony included
8. **House of Representatives Committee on Water & Land (March 17, 2026)**
  - a. Testimony included
9. **House of Representatives Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs (March 25, 2026)**

There has been continuous community backlash from the 2024 selection of the caretaker (Kahu) without any sufficient follow-up or resolution. Under DLNR’s delay in resolving the dilemma of the at-will position selection process, DSHW-Māmakakaua has been denied access to Mauna ‘Ala on two occasions, obstructing our traditional customary rights. We feel the Hawai‘i Supreme Court Kap‘akai O Ka ‘Āina vs the Land Use Commission (2000) should be considered, in light of this violation, a resolution that is outside the Hawai‘i State Legislature and this temporary working group.

The working group will “determine a process for the selection of the curator of Mauna ‘Ala” (section 2, §c1). Is the assumption that there will be no longer one Kahu position, but multiple non-civil service positions – the curator being one of them? The union opposed this; the expense is unnecessary; the sanctity of the Kahu position is compromised. Furthermore, how does the working group’s process determination align or not with the Hawai‘i Supreme Court’s Kapa‘akai legal framework?

We remain opposed to SB 3247 SD1 HD1 and we humbly ask that you consider our request **not to move this bill forward.**

‘O wau nō me ka ha‘aha‘a,  
/s/ Coline Aiu  
Coline Aiu, Kuhina Nui

## WHO ARE THE DAUGHTERS AND SONS OF THE HAWAIIAN WARRIORS-MĀMAKAKAUA

- 1) The Daughters and Sons of the Hawaiian Warriors-Māmakakaua is a genealogical society who were family and friends of the Ali'i.
- 2) They were royalists and patriots who supported and often advised the Ali'i.
- 3) The 'ahu is our main regalia.
- 4) Our 'ahu does not reflect service to or rank within our organization
- 5) The designs on the 'ahu are unique to each wearer's genealogy.
- 6) In the early years, Māmakakaua wore 'ahu fashioned of crepe paper.
- 7) On December 12, 1912, the first formal investiture of officers was celebrated.
- 8) In 1917, the DSHW-Māmakakaua was chartered and registered in the Territory of Hawai'i allowing lawful gatherings.
- 9) Queen Lili'uokalani, Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole and his wife, Princess Elizabeth Kahanu's names are included in the old records of our 'Ahahui.
- 10) Māmakakaua membership genealogies continue to be affirmed to Ali'i, Kahuna, and Warriors who fought with or against Kamehameha I. Most members share fifth and sixth generation lineal relations to the Ali'i and Pūkaua buried at Mauna 'Ala.

## HISTORY OF THE DAUGHTERS AND SONS OF HAWAIIAN WARRIORS- MĀMAKAKAUA WITH MAUNA 'ALA

- 1) The earliest documented tie with Mauna 'Ala is through Naholowa'a (W), the sixth Caretaker prior to 1888.
- 2) Naholowa'a's (W) descendants have remained members of the DSHW-Māmakakaua.
- 3) Fred Beckley Kahea, member of DSHW-Māmakakaua, served as Kahu of Mauna 'Ala after his mother, Maria Kaha'awelani Beckley.
- 4) In 1946, William Bishop Kaiheekai Taylor, a member of the DSHW-Māmakakaua and Fred Kahea's younger cousin, became Curator of the Royal Mausoleum.
- 5) In 1956, Emily Kekahaloa Namau'u Kekaula Taylor, a member of the DSHW-Māmakakaua, succeeded her husband, William Bishop Kaiheekai Taylor, as Kahu of the Royal Mausoleum. She was **NOT** a Ho'olulu descendant.
- 6) In 1961, Iolani Luahine, a member of DSHW-Māmakakaua and legendary dancer, served as Custodian of Mauna 'Ala until 1965. She was **NOT** a Ho'olulu descendant.

- 7) In 1966, Lydia Namahanaikaleleokalani Taylor Maioho, a member of DSHW-Māmakakaua, was named Kahu of Mauna 'Ala and served in this position for 28 years.
- 8) With the support of the DSHW-Māmakakaua's Kuhina Nui Healani Doane, William "Bill" Kaiheekai Maioho, a member of DSHW-Māmakakaua, succeeded his mother, Namahana, upon her retirement and became the 14th Kahu of Mauna 'Ala in 1995.

Nawahineokala'i Lanzilotti ('Ahahui Ka'iulani)  
Testimony in Opposition of SB 3247 SD1 HD 1  
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs  
Wednesday, March 25, 2026 • 2:00 pm

Aloha kākou– Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the Committee.

My name is Nawahineokala'i Lanzilotti–I am testifying on behalf of the Hawaiian Organization 'Ahahui Ka'iulani in **strong opposition** to SB 3247 SD1 HD1.

Our position is twofold: **first**, that even as amended, this bill does not address the outstanding issue of **DLNR's selection process for the current caretaker of Mauna 'Ala** raised by various Hawaiian Royal Societies, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, and OHA beginning in February 2024; **second**, the proposed amendments do not address our concerns, most recently raised to the House Committee on Water & Land, regarding the **lack of necessary processes to responsibly implement the work SB 3247 proposes**.

1. Item (1) “changes the working group membership to seven voting members” down from seventeen (17).

Through what process was this number selected? If anything, five (5) would represent one working hand and the Hawaiian understanding of **laulima**, cooperation. Also, through what process will the final members be selected? Naming a number without providing intention, guidance, or process confuses the purpose of the temporary working group.

2. Item (2), points (A), (B), and (F) of the amendments provided by the House Committee on Water & Land direct the working group to:

(A) Determine the process for the selection of the Curator of Mauna 'Ala

This is a **clear demonstration of overreach** and directly limits customary cultural practices into the selection of the caretaker (Kahu) that were continually followed since the kingdom period between the caretaker (Kahu), involved Royal Societies, and, since 1967, DLNR.

(B) Develop a long-term management plan; and

(F) Submit preliminary and final reports to the Legislature

Nawahineokala'i Lanzilotti ('Ahahui Ka'iulani)  
Testimony in Opposition of SB 3247 SD1 HD 1  
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs  
Wednesday, March 25, 2026 • 2:00 pm

There are no defined processes for how the plan or reports will be reviewed or implemented once submitted. Who will evaluate the reports produced and by what measures?

As stated in our previous testimony, the outstanding problem is the vetting process by which a candidate is deemed qualified to serve in this role. Additionally, the processes and procedures outlined in SB3247 SD1 HD1 demonstrate legislative overreach, are insufficient for the work outlined, and substantially burden Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practice into the stewardship of Mauna 'Ala. SB3247 SD1 HD1 continues to delay resolution of the concerns raised for the last two years about the 2024 Curator vetting process.

We humbly ask that the committee **vote against** the passage of SB3247 SD1 HD1.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Mālama pono-



Nawahineokala'i Lanzilotti  
'Ahahui Ka'iulani

**SB-3247-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 2:54:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair and Committee members, aloha

I SUPPORT SB 3247 SD1 HD1 and ask that you do as well.

Cheryl Burghardt

Nuuanu Oahu

**SB-3247-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 6:28:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

3247 SB RELATING TO HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS.

**SB-3247-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 12:02:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in STRONG support of **SB3247 SD1 HD1**.

Mahalo.

**SB-3247-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 1:21:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kea Kala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kakoo

**SB-3247-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 1:49:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cristina Bacchilega	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have been following this bill and its amendments and am honestly surprised that it continues to advance from committee to committee in the face of very important and convincing opposition on the part of the Royal Hawaiian Society that has been consistently and strongly involved in the selection of Kahu at Mauna ‘Ala and the protection and sanctity of Mauna ‘Ala.

I am not Native Hawaiian, but i am a citizen of Hawai‘i who cares about this place, its history, its future. Mauna ‘Ala is one of two places where the Hawaiian flag flies solo. So why would the proposed working group report to the legislature? And why set up this complex process-- involving money and energy better spent on housing and disaster-recovery--when those in the know identify a problem that is self-contained and easily solved **outside legislation?**

In order to support Hawaiians whose kuleana is Mauna ‘Ala coming to an agreement and moving forward, I ask that you do not pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Cristina Bacchilega

**SB-3247-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 7:04:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TERI SAVAIINAEA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB3247 HD1**

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

My name is Teri Kia Savaiinaea, a Wai‘anae resident and kanaka. I respectfully offer my support for SB3247 HD1.

This measure is an important step forward in ensuring that Mauna ‘Ala is cared for with the dignity, cultural grounding, and kuleana it deserves. The establishment of a working group acknowledges that the current structure needs thoughtful review and that decisions moving forward must be done with intention and respect for our iwi kupuna.

While I support this bill, I do have a concern that I ask the Committee to carefully consider—composition and cultural authority matter.

The role of Kahu, especially those with generational kuleana tied to Mauna ‘Ala, should not be implied or left open to interpretation. It should be clearly recognized within this working group. Cultural stewardship is not just advisory—it is foundational.

In addition, the working group should reflect balanced representation from those who carry responsibility to our lāhui, while still allowing space to hear from the broader community. Getting the right voices at the table will determine the success of this effort.

Most importantly, this working group should not become just a process, but lead to clear, actionable outcomes that restore integrity, accountability, and proper stewardship of Mauna ‘Ala.

I support SB3247 HD1 because it creates a path forward—but we must ensure that path is rooted in ‘ike, kuleana, and respect for our kupuna.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,  
Teri Kia Savaiinaea  
Wai‘anae Resident



**SB-3247-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/25/2026 6:16:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaylene Sheldon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB3247 HD1

(With recommendations on composition and Kahu authority)

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

My name is Kauwila Sheldon and I am in strong support of SB3247 HD1 and commend the Committee for advancing this measure to establish a formal structure to guide the stewardship and future management of Mauna Ala.

This bill represents an important step forward. It acknowledges that the current framework is incomplete and that a more intentional, culturally grounded process is needed to move forward in alignment with the dignity of those interred at Mauna Ala.

I particularly support the decision to refine the body to a smaller working group. A group of seven, if properly composed, can be effective, decisive, and capable of producing meaningful recommendations.

However, composition will determine success.

I respectfully offer the following considerations as this measure moves forward:

1. Kahu Representation Must Be Explicit

The role of Kahu-particularly those descended from Ho'olulu-is not advisory in nature, but foundational. This position carries generational responsibility tied directly to the care, protection, and protocol of the Royal Mausoleum.

This bill should clearly ensure that a Kahu of Ho'olulu lineage is included as a defined seat within the group, not left to interpretation or general representation. My ohana 'iwi is unmarked and at Mauna 'Ala, careful knowledge and protocol needs to be guided by a kahu who has lineal knowledge and experience. The original kahu needs to be restored in that position.

This bill should clearly ensure that a Kahu of Ho'olulu lineage is included as a defined seat within the group, not left to interpretation or general representation.

## 2. Balanced Representation Across Key Stakeholders

A strong composition may include:

One representative for Hawaiian civic societies

One representative for burial councils One representative from Ali'i Trusts

Representation from royal lineages (Kamehameha, Kalakaua, Kawanānakoā)

And the guidance of the Kahu as noted above

This does not preclude ALL groups and (stakeholders) from participating in shaping and really just re-affirming

OUR ways.

This structure allows for both cultural legitimacy and functional decision-making.

## 3. Flexibility Beyond the Seven

While the core group is limited to seven, it is important that the process allows for consultation beyond the formal membership, ensuring that voices not seated at the table are still meaningfully engaged.

4. Focus on Outcome, Not Process Alone The working group should be clearly tasked with producing actionable recommendations, including:

A defined process for selecting and affirming Kahu Evaluation of management structures

Long-term stewardship models grounded in Hawaiian protocol

SB3247 HD1 creates a pathway forward. With thoughtful refinement in composition and clarity of purpose, it can become the vehicle that restores alignment and balance.

Mahalo for your time, me kealoha pumehana,

Kauwila Sheldon

**SB-3247-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/25/2026 11:31:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Strong Support SB3247 Sd1 HD1

Dana Keawe

Moku O Keawe