

# OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS  
DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of  
**MARY ALICE EVANS**  
Director, Office of Planning  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**  
Thursday, February 25, 2021  
11:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of  
**HB 433, HD 1**  
**RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Finance Committee:

The Office of Planning (OP) offers the following **comments** on HB 433, HD1. This bill seeks to address a climate change mitigation impact fee on every customer who rents, leases, or utilizes a rental motor vehicle, and establishes the climate change mitigation special fund. The bill specifies that the impact fees collected shall be deposited to the credit of the general fund; provided that beginning July 1, 2024, the impact fees shall be deposited to the credit of the climate change mitigation special fund, which shall be administered by the DLNR for the purposes of: “climate change mitigation; environmental management and planning; environmental conservation; management and protection of natural resources and ecosystems; environmental awareness and education; and sustainable tourism practices.”

The Office of Planning notes that “climate change mitigation” is defined by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) as “the human intervention to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>1</sup>”

The State of Hawai‘i has a strong foundation of greenhouse gas reduction policies through statutory targets to: establish a greenhouse gas emissions cap to match 1990 emissions levels by 2020; achieve a 100% Renewable Portfolio Standard by 2045; and achieve a Zero Emissions Clean Economy by 2045.

Like HB 433, there are many policy proposals before the State Legislature this Legislative Session proposing various forms of green or climate financing, including: carbon offsets, carbon taxes, green fees, surcharges on fossil fueled vehicles, and proposed increased barrel taxes.

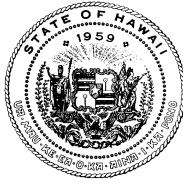
While these policy proposals are needed to protect Hawai‘i’s vulnerable ecosystems, scarce land, and natural resources for a sustainable and climate resilient future; the Office of Planning recommends a more collaborative, inclusive, and holistic planning and development of Hawai‘i’s green financing to include all public, private, and non-governmental stakeholders.

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<sup>1</sup> The International Organization of Standards (ISO Guide 84:2020) “Guidelines for Addressing Climate Change in Standards.”

Climate change mitigation will require a multi-agency approach throughout the State of Hawai'i, inclusive of multiple state agencies' work toward: sustainable agriculture, sustainable land use and community development, conservation, clean energy, environmental health, and clean transportation

The potential funds collected by the proposed "climate change mitigation special fund" may likely be needed for more than one state agency to achieve our state's many climate change mitigative and sustainability statutory targets and goals.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB0433\_HD1  
RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION**

**REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR  
REPRESENTATIVE TY J.K. CULLEN, VICE CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Hearing Date: 2/25/2021

Room Number: Via Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure creates a revenue stream and is therefore unlikely to impact the  
2 priorities identified in the Governor's Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's  
3 (Department) appropriations and personnel priorities.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department recognizes that the changing climate is a worldwide  
5 environmental health problem that directly impacts the health and safety of Hawaii's people,  
6 communities, and natural environment. Potential human health effects resulting from climate change are  
7 broad reaching and include dangers from increased natural disasters and flooding, changing vector-borne  
8 infectious diseases and food related infections, as well as impacts on mental health and well-being. Our  
9 natural environment is also affected by climate change, with negative impacts on air and water quality,  
10 changing conditions at sites with chemical contamination and disruption of shorelines and beaches.

11 Mitigation measures will help Hawaii adapt to the effects of climate change and help keep our citizens  
12 safe and healthy, but these efforts require funding. A climate change mitigation impact fee on rental cars  
13 will provide a revenue source for aggressive climate change mitigation measures as well as help off-set  
14 the impact of tourism on Hawaii's natural environment. It is important to note that climate change  
15 mitigation extends beyond the listed potential uses of the special fund and it may be a valuable to the  
16 extend the scope of the designated goals. Overall, climate change mitigation measures will help protect  
17 the health of Hawaii's people and natural environment.

18 **Offered Amendments:** None

19 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

ROBERT YU  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 433, H.D. 1

**February 25, 2021**  
**11:00 a.m.**  
**Via Videoconference**

RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on House Bill (H.B.) No. 433, H.D. 1.

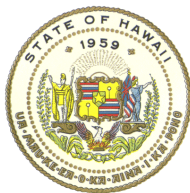
H.B. No. 433, H.D. 1, assesses a Climate Change Mitigation Impact Fee (Impact Fee) of an unspecified amount per day on every customer who rents, leases, or utilizes a rental motor vehicle; establishes the Climate Change Mitigation Special Fund (Special Fund) to be utilized by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) for various climate change mitigation and environmental conservation activities; specifies that the Impact Fee will be collected beginning on July 1, 2022, and will be deposited into the general fund, provided that on July 1, 2024, the Impact Fees shall be deposited into the Special Fund; and provides that the revenues for the Special Fund shall consist of Impact Fees, legislative appropriations, gifts, and donations.

As a matter of general policy, B&F does not support the creation of any special fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work and an

explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. Regarding H.B. No. 433, H.D. 1, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed special fund would be self-sustaining given that no seed funding is provided in FY 22 or FY 23 and it would not receive revenues via Impact Fees until FY 25.

B&F defers to DLNR, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Taxation regarding implementation and funding.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION**  
**COMMISSION**  
POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of**  
**Anukriti Hittle**  
**Coordinator, Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission**

**Co-Chairs:**  
Chair, DLNR  
Director, Office of Planning

**Commissioners:**  
Chair, Senate AEN  
Chair, Senate WTL  
Chair, House EEP  
Chair, House WTH  
Chairperson, HTA  
Chairperson, DOA  
CEO, OHA  
Chairperson, DHHH  
Director, DBEDT  
Director, DOT  
Director, DOH  
Chairperson, DOE  
Director, C+C DPP  
Director, Maui DP  
Director, Hawai'i DP  
Director, Kaua'i DP  
The Adjutant General  
Manager, CZM

**Before the House Committee on**  
**FINANCE**  
**Thursday, February 25, 2021**  
**11:00 am**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 308/Videoconference**

**In support of**  
**HOUSE BILL 433 HD1**  
**RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION**

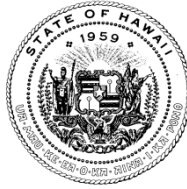
House Bill 433 HD1 proposes to assess a climate change mitigation impact fee on every customer who rents, leases, or utilizes a rental motor vehicle, and establishes the climate change mitigation special fund. **On behalf of the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) I support this measure, and offer the following comments.**

The Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission “recognizes the urgency of climate threats and the need to act quickly. It promotes ambitious, climate-neutral, culturally responsible strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation in a manner that is clean, equitable and resilient.” The Commission, established by Act 32 SLH 2017 to uphold the United States’ pledges under the Paris Agreement, is the coordinating body for policies on climate change mitigation and adaptation for the state. It is a high-level multi-jurisdictional body that guides the priorities of the state’s climate response. Co-chaired by DLNR and Office of Planning, it consists of 20 members—chairs of four legislative committees, and executive department heads at the county and state levels.

The Commission recognizes that ground transportation contributes significantly to Hawai‘i’s share of greenhouse gas emissions. It supports mechanisms to reduce overall vehicle miles traveled, as well as converting all remaining vehicle-based ground transportation to renewable, zero-emission fuels and technologies. This measure addresses this priority of the Commission to help achieve the state’s climate change goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



**TESTIMONY BY:**

JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN  
DEREK J. CHOW  
ROSS M. HIGASHI  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 25, 2021  
11:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Via Videoconference

**H.B. 433, H.D. 1**  
**RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION**

House Committee on Finance

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) offers **comments** on this bill which assesses a climate change mitigation impact fee on every customer who rents, leases, or utilizes a rental motor vehicle.

The DOT appreciates the intent of this bill that will provide funds to help with climate change mitigation. However, any additional fees to on-airport rental car users may decrease rental car transactions. As a result, customers may opt for another mode of transportation, thereby still affecting the climate change this bill is trying to achieve.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**Testimony in Support of H.B. 433 H.D.1, Relating to Climate Change Mitigation**

House Committee on Finance

Submitted by Kupu CEO John Leong, hearing date Feb. 25, 2021

Aloha e Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is John Leong, and I am the Chief Executive Officer and co-founder of Kupu, a statewide youth-focused conservation organization. On behalf of Kupu, I am pleased to testify in **support** of **H.B. 433 H.D.1 Relating to Climate Change Mitigation**. As written, this measure would support the long-term wellbeing of our ‘āina, economy and community by reducing the overuse and undermanagement of Hawai‘i’s previous natural and cultural resources. In particular, Kupu is in strong support of the provisions in §171-B, *Climate change mitigation special fund*, which would provide critically needed funding for natural resource management.

Kupu was established in 2007, in the early stages of the Great Recession. Today we are a statewide organization, developing youth and young adults through hands-on service training in conservation and natural resource management professions. Since 2007 we have trained close to 5,000 youth in conservation, sustainability, and environmental education. Young adults served by Kupu have provided more than 3 million service hours during this time, which included planting over 1 million native plants and removing over 100,000 acres of invasive species. This has created a cumulative \$155+ million in impact for Hawai‘i with a 1:3 cost to benefit ratio. We believe more investment in the green economy - as this bill provides - would enable similar economic benefits to our state, create jobs in related fields, and help diversify our economy.

Kupu is proud of the impact we have made, but our experience also exposes us to the reality of how much more is needed in order to care for our environment and respond to the impacts of climate change that are already happening. While natural resource management is critically needed across our islands, at this time these measures are critically underfunded. Continued underfunding not only jeopardizes our precious, unique ecosystems, but it undermines the very industries that, at present, rely upon Hawai‘i’s natural beauty and environmental quality.

Sincerely,

*John Leong*

John Leong, CEO  
Kupu



**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 5:02:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lea Hong	The Trust for Public Land	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee Members:

The Trust for Public Land supports HB 433, and supports the amendments proposed by Conservation International to establish public-private governance of the special fund to ensure the fund is used for conservation and climate mitigation efforts. We encourage oversight from conservation, climate, and industry experts in the non-profit sectors. Research of over a dozen visitor green fee systems around the world demonstrates that public-private partnership governance models have been effective in ensuring the transparency and effectiveness of visitor green fee programs and their associated revenue uses (Conservation International, 2019).

The Hawai'i State Legislature has been a national and global leader in the fight against climate change and the battle to protect our natural resources. In 2017, Hawai'i was the first state in the nation to enact legislation that implements portions of the Paris agreement. In 2018, Hawai'i also took strong action to protect our ocean resources and fragile marine ecosystems by banning sunscreens with oxybenzone and octinoxate.

As a result of the pandemic, this Legislature and our residents have recognized an essential truth: we cannot disentangle our environment from our economy. If our natural and cultural resources degrade and decline, so does our overall quality of life and the strength of our economy. It is our shared responsibility, both resident and visitor, to ensure the protection and survival of our greatest assets, so that our natural and cultural resources continues to protect and sustain future generations.

Unfortunately, funding for our reefs, forests, beaches, watersheds, and cultural resources have not kept pace with the stresses and impacts on those resources. Hawai'i is running an estimated 40% deficit on its investment in nature (Conservation International, 2018). Without sustained investment, we can expect continued degradation of our precious resources.

The current health crisis has revealed the need to diversify our economy, rebuild a sustainable tourism sector, and create opportunities for "green jobs" to put people back

to work in resilient careers. The Trust for Public Land supports visitor green fee legislation, such as HB433\_HD1 that provides a solution to close the conservation budget gap, increase community resiliency, diversify our economy, and create green jobs.

A visitor "green fee" is widely supported by residents/voters. 75% of polled residents supporting a "visitor green fee" (Ward Research, 2020), this revenue generating mechanism to fund a resilient and green transition forward is a win-win for the community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify

Lea Hong

Hawaiian Islands State Director

The Trust for Public Land

Testimony in **SUPPORT** of:  
**HB433\_HD1 Relating to Climate Change Mitigation**

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Submitted by:  
Dyson Chee  
Advocacy Director, Hawai'i Youth Climate Coalition

FIN Hearing Held  
February 25th, 2021

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members,

My name is Dyson Chee, I am an 18-year-old student living in Ala Moana, and on behalf of the Hawai'i Youth Climate Coalition, I am testifying in **support of HB433\_HD1, Relating to Climate Change Mitigation.**

***I propose an amendment in the bill to establish public private governance of the special fund*** to safeguard the fund towards conservation and climate mitigation efforts. Specifically, I encourage oversight from conservation, climate, and industry experts in the non-profit sectors. Research of over a dozen visitor green fee systems around the world demonstrates that public private partnership governance models have been effective in ensuring the transparency and effectiveness of visitor green fee programs and their associated revenue uses (Conservation International, 2019).

Thanks to the efforts and vision of the Hawai'i State Legislature, Hawai'i has been a national and global leader in the fight against climate change and the battle to protect our natural resources. In 2017, we were the first state in the nation to enact legislation that implements portions of the Paris agreement. In 2018, Hawai'i took strong action to protect our ocean resources and fragile marine ecosystems by banning sunscreens with oxybenzone and octinoxate.

Hawai'i took these strides because we recognized one essential truth: we cannot disentangle our environment from our economy. If our natural resources degrade and decline, so does our overall quality of life and the strength of our economy. ***Nature is our Taj Mahal.*** Visitors rank nature and the ocean as the top two details that make their trip to Hawaii excellent (Hawaii Tourism Authority, 2017). It is our shared responsibility, both resident and visitor, to ensure the protection and survival of our greatest asset, so that our natural resources continues to protect and sustain future generations.

Unfortunately, the current funding for our reefs, forests, beaches, and watersheds has not kept pace with the stresses and impacts on our environment, such that Hawai'i is running an estimated 40% deficit on its investment in nature (Conservation International, 2018). Each year that we delay adequately funding these efforts, the interest on that debt to nature grows. At the same time, ***the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the critical need to diversify our economy to withstand future shocks, rebuild a more sustainable tourism sector, and put people back to work in resilient careers.*** For this reason, I support visitor green fee legislation, such as HB433\_HD1, that ***creates a solution to close this conservation budget gap, while increasing community resiliency by diversifying our economy and creating green jobs.***

With 75% of polled residents supporting a “visitor green fee” (Ward Research, 2020), this revenue generating mechanism to fund a resilient and green transition forward is a win-win for the community.

Now more than ever, Hawai‘i faces challenges beyond the environment, such as housing, healthcare, and affordability. As the State addresses many urgent issues, ***we urge legislators to continue to prioritize the environment as it underpins every aspect of life and wellbeing on our islands.***

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Dyson Chee



## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 25, 2021, 11:00 A.M.

Video Conference

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 433 HD1

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee:

Blue Planet Foundation **supports HB 433 HD1**, which assesses a climate change mitigation fee on rental motor vehicles and other vehicles used primarily in the visitor industry. **Hawai'i's visitor industry can play a role in shifting our economy.** As Hawai'i seeks to recover from the coronavirus pandemic, we are offered an unparalleled opportunity to build back better and press the reset button on sustainable tourism. House Bill 433 is an important measure to align the visitor industry with Hawai'i's clean energy future.

Tourism has played a substantial role in Hawai'i's economy for over half a century. Until the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the sector directly employed over 123,000 residents, with an equal amount in the supporting industries of retail, trade, and transportation.<sup>1</sup> Hawai'i's beauty, beaches, shopping, culture, and attractions appeal to visitors globally, with over 10 million vacationing in the state in 2019.

For all of its economic benefits, however, tourism growth has created and exacerbated myriad challenges on the islands. Hawai'i's "carrying capacity" is increasingly in question as a larger number of tourists strain the islands' infrastructure and environment. Given this impact, we would hope to see commensurate economic growth for the state. Unfortunately, attempts to grow visitor spending while decreasing the actual number of visitors have failed. Spending per visitor has decreased over the past decade, and competition from other visitor destinations worldwide makes changing this calculus unlikely. Visitor arrivals and spending will be depressed considerably for the next few years due to the pandemic.

As such, the tourism sector has an unprecedented opportunity to transform substantially in order to be sustainable, both economically and environmentally. Hawai'i's visitor industry should rise to meet our global climate challenge and position itself as the clean energy islands of the world. Hawai'i should be the epicenter for climate solutions, a living laboratory for renewable energy and mobility solutions. What's more, this concept needs to infuse every aspect of the visitor experience, from arrival to departure—Hawai'i can be a postcard from our sustainable climate future.

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<sup>1</sup> Hawai'i Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Research and Statistics Office, 2018.

Through a “climate change mitigation fee,” HB 433 puts in place a framework to begin this shift by focusing on carbon-intensive ground transportation. While Hawai‘i has made substantial progress on policies, programs, and actions to reduce burning fossil fuels in the electricity sector, **we are falling short on decarbonizing our ground transportation sector**. Carbon emissions from transportation have been climbing steadily for years prior to the coronavirus pandemic.

The rental car industry operates the state’s largest vehicle fleets. By assessing a climate change mitigation fee on gas-powered vehicles that are rented or leased short term (six months or less), HB 433 can spur the integration of zero-emission vehicles into the state’s rental car fleets. Many visitors have yet to drive or ride in an electric or zero-emission vehicle—Hawai‘i should be the place where they have that initial experience. In turn, the frequent turnover of rental vehicles that is common in the industry could mean greater availability of clean vehicles for local residents and businesses to purchase at discounted prices.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 10:31:30 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Natalie Parra	Keiko Conservation	Support	No

Comments:

We fully support this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony!

# TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

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126 Queen Street, Suite 304

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

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SUBJECT: RENTAL MOTOR VEHICLE, Climate Change Mitigation Surcharge

BILL NUMBER: HB 433, HD1

INTRODUCED BY: House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Assesses a climate change mitigation impact fee on every customer who rents, leases, or, utilizes a rental motor vehicle. Establishes the climate change mitigation special fund. Specifies that the impact fees collected shall be deposited to the credit of the general fund; provided that beginning 7/1/2024, the impact fees shall be deposited to the credit of the climate change mitigation special fund.

SYNOPSIS: Adds two new sections to chapter 171, HRS. One imposes a “climate change mitigation impact fee” of \$ \_\_\_\_ per day or portion of a day a rental motor vehicle is rented. The other establishes the climate change mitigation special fund.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/1/2050.

STAFF COMMENTS: First, chapter 251, HRS, already imposes a tax on the renting of motor vehicles. The Department of Taxation has administered this tax and continues to do so. The bill proposes to tax the same class of business transactions, but places the operative provisions in chapter 171 which is in the jurisdiction of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Thus, DLNR is put in the awkward and inefficient situation of having to administer what appears to be a surcharge on a tax that DOTAX already administers.

Next, the tax creates a special fund with scant justification. Yes, we could benefit by having some money spent on our land and natural resources, but does that justify burdening the visitor industry with yet another tax and without going through the normal appropriation and budgeting process that also considers sweltering primary schools, underfunded state pensions, or the economic decimation caused by COVID-19? Rather than the continual earmarking of revenues, a direct appropriation of general funds would be preferable. Earmarking revenues from any tax type for a particular purpose decreases transparency and accountability.

Digested 2/13/2021





**SanHi**

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

DATE: February 24, 2021

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke  
Chair, Committee on Finance

FROM: Mihoko Ito

RE: **H.B. 433, H.D.1, Relating to Climate Change Mitigation**  
**Hearing Date: Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.**  
**Conference Room: 308**

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Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee on Finance:

We submit this testimony on behalf of Enterprise Holdings, which includes Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Alamo Rent-A-Car, National Car Rental, and Enterprise Commute (Van Pool).

Enterprise **opposes** H.B. 433, H.D.1 Relating to Climate Change Mitigation, which assesses a climate change mitigation impact fee on every customer who rents, leases, or utilizes a rental motor vehicle. The bill further deposits the fees into the general fund between July 1, 2022 through July 1, 2024, at which time the impact fees will be deposited into a newly created climate change mitigation special fund.

While Enterprise appreciates the State's budget deficit and concerns about climate change, we are very concerned that creating this new fee will negatively impact an already hurting industry. At the peak of the COVID 19 pandemic, the rental car industry was down 95%, and is only now starting to slowly make a recovery that is projected to take several years.

As it is, the state already collects from rental car customers substantial sums of money to be used for state purposes. Just two years ago, the Governor signed Act 174 into law which increased the rental motor vehicle surcharge tax from \$3 to \$5 a day. H.B. 433, H.D. 1 now proposes to add yet another fee of unspecified amount onto each transaction. We do not feel that it is justified to solicit additional contributions from renters, and feel that it will alienate our customers.

The tax burden on rental cars to support state priorities is also already quite disproportionate to what other vehicles pay. While rental cars only comprise about 5% of the total vehicles in the State, the rental car surcharge tax represents approximately 26% of the total funds in the highway special fund. And right now, that reliance on rental car revenue is hurting the highway fund because of the significant decrease in revenues due to the pandemic.

Enterprise understands the State's concerns about climate change impacts, and already offers a voluntary contribution for research to offset carbon emissions on each contract.

However, Enterprise is very concerned that creating a new fee as proposed in H.B. 433 H.D.1 singles out an industry to solve the budget deficit and climate change, when the industry is already contributing more than its fair share to the State.

For the above reasons, we oppose this bill and respectfully request that it be held. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill.

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 8:31:23 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chipper Wichman	National Tropical Botanical Garden	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of this important bill - ***HB433\_HD1, Relating to Climate Change Mitigation.***

Climate change - actually the "Climate Crisis", is perhaps the most severe threat Hawaii and the world will ever face. While Hawai'i has been seen as a national and global leader in the fight against climate change we must do more! This bill proposes to create a revenue stream to do just that! As part of my job at that National Tropical Botanical Garden I participate in national meetings and everywhere I go and have to rent a car there are fees attached to that rental. the size of those fees has never factored into if I will rent a car or not. One of the highest fees is levied in Chicago yet it has not deterred rental there in the slightest. I believe our visitors and residents that rent cars in Hawaii will feel good about the fact they are helping to mitigate the impacts of the climate crisis while visiting the islands.

Finally, I hope you will consider ***an amendment in the bill to establish public private governance of the special fund*** to safeguard the fund towards conservation and climate mitigation efforts. Specifically, I encourage oversight from conservation, climate, and industry experts in the non-profit sectors. Research of over a dozen visitor green fee systems around the world demonstrates that public private partnership governance models have been effective in ensuring the transparency and effectiveness of visitor green fee programs and their associated revenue uses (Conservation International, 2019). Creating this safeguard will help to ensure visitor support for the fee - they will know that in fact this fee is being used appropriate to mitigate the climate crisis.

Aloha, Chipper Wichman, President  
National Tropical Botanical Garden

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 8:32:53 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair,

The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair, and Members of the

House Committee on Finance

From: Climate Protectors Hawaii (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing **HB433 HD1– RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION**

Thursday February 25, 2021, 11:00 a.m., by videoconference

Position: **STRONG SUPPORT of HB433 HD1!**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Finance Committee members:

The Climate Protectors Coalition is a group focused on reversing the climate crisis. As a tropical island State, Hawaii will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, loss of protective coral reefs, food insecurity, and rising sea levels destroying our shorelines. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become carbon negative as soon as possible. The planet faces an existential climate crisis and we must act now! The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) says we have less than 10 years for worldwide climate action to avoid climate catastrophe. If we are to solve the climate crisis, it will require **all of us** working together. Hawaii can and should be a leader in showing the world the way forward towards a safe and sustainable climate and future. The sooner we inspire others to take action and lead by example, the better off the future will be for our children.

This bill would provide needed funding for preservation of the beautiful nature upon which our tourist and recreation-based economy depend. **This bill would assess a climate change mitigation impact fee on every customer who rents, leases or utilizes a rental motor vehicle, to be used for mitigating climate change and protecting the environment. This is appropriate, given the large amount of carbon**

**emissions caused by gasoline-powered rental automobiles. It would also potentially provide green jobs.**

The impact fees would be credited to the general fund until June 30, 2024.

This plan will help substantially in reducing greenhouse gases and addressing our existential climate crisis. Please pass this bill!

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawaii (by Ted Bohlen)



**Robert Muhs, Esq.**  
Vice President Government Affairs  
T - 973 496-3532  
[Robert.muhs@avisbudget.com](mailto:Robert.muhs@avisbudget.com)

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Committee on Finance

Thursday, February 25, 2021, 11:00 a.m.  
Via Videoconference

**RE: HB 433 HD1 – Relating to Climate Change Mitigation – In Opposition**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and members of the committee:

My name is Robert Muhs, Vice President Government Affairs for Avis Budget Group. Avis Budget appreciates this opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to HB 433 HD1, which among other things, would assess a climate change mitigation impact fee on every customer who rents, leases, or utilizes a rental motor vehicle and establishes the climate change mitigation special fund.

Avis Budget Group is aligned to the UN Sustainable Development Goals in climate change by advancing low carbon mobility solutions and community resilience.

We oppose another fee on the industry, which we believe contributes more than its fair share. In 2019, the Legislature increased the amount of the rental motor vehicle surcharge tax from \$3.00 to \$5.00. Hawaii rental car customers currently pay the following charges – a rental motor vehicle customer facility charge of \$4.50 per day and a rental motor vehicle surcharge tax of \$5.00 per day which is applied to the state highway fund. The total surcharge amount before GET is among the highest in the country.

This new fee imposed on airport rentals also violates federal law which prohibits the diversion of revenues from airport transactions for non-airport purposes.

Avis Budget Group's Hawaii operations suffered a significant revenue loss in 2020 due to the pandemic and is still struggling. We request that the industry be allowed to recover before additional fees be considered.

For this reason, we ask that the committee defer this measure. Thank you.



## HB 433, HD 1, RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

FEBRUARY 25, 2021 · HOUSE FINANCE  
COMMITTEE · CHAIR REP. SYLVIA LUKE

**POSITION:** Support.

**RATIONALE:** Imua Alliance supports HB 433, HD 1, relating to climate change mitigation, which assesses a climate change mitigation impact fee on every customer who rents, leases, or utilizes a rental motor vehicle; establishes the climate change mitigation special fund; specifies that the impact fees collected shall be deposited to the credit of the general fund; provided that beginning July 1, 2024, the impact fees shall be deposited to the credit of the climate change mitigation special fund.

According to a report produced by the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, global sea levels could rise more than three feet by 2100, with more recent projections showing this occurring as early as 2060. In turn, over the next 30 to 70 years, approximately 6,500 structures and 19,800 people statewide will be exposed to chronic flooding.

Additionally, an estimated \$19 billion in economic loss would result from chronic flooding of land and structures located in exposure areas. Finally, approximately 38 miles of coastal roads and 550 cultural sites would be chronically flooded, on top of the 13 miles of beaches that have already been lost on Kaua'i, O'ahu, and Maui to erosion fronting shoreline armoring, like seawalls.

Furthermore, according to research conducted by Michael B. Gerrard from Columbia Law School, modern-day slavery tends to increase after natural disasters or conflicts where large numbers of

people are displaced from their homes. In the decades to come, says Gerrard, **climate change will very likely lead to a significant increase in the number of people who are displaced and, thus vulnerable, to human trafficking.** While the Paris Climate Agreement of 2015 established objectives to limit global temperature increases and several international agreements are aimed at combating modern-day slavery, it is highly uncertain whether they will be adequate to cope with the scale of the problem that is likely to occur as a result of climate change.

As we work to reduce carbon emissions and stave off the worst consequences of climate change, we must begin preparing for the adverse impact of sea level rise on our shores. We are now quantifying the speed at which we must act. We cannot continue to develop the 25,800-acre statewide sea level rise exposure area—one-third of which is designated for urban use—without risking massive structural damage and, potentially, great loss of life.

Therefore, we should take steps to accelerate Hawai'i's efforts to address climate change and develop a clean economy, including by implementing “green fees” that ensure our state's visitors pay their fair share to sustain our ‘āina. New Zealand, the Maldives, Cancun, and Venice, and numerous other countries have green fee programs for visitors, which vary from \$1 per night to a \$100 entrance fee for the purpose of environmental conservation. **Palau's per-tourist investment in its natural environment is \$92, New Zealand's is \$188, and the Galapagos Islands' is \$373. Hawai'i's is just \$9 per tourist,** according to a report from Conservation International's Green Passport initiative. We need to catch up. For the sake of our keiki, we cannot afford to wait to solidify strategies to preserve our island home for generations to come.

**Kris Coffield · Executive Director, Imua Alliance · (808) 679-7454 · [kris@imuaalliance.org](mailto:kris@imuaalliance.org)**





February 25, 2021

11:00 a.m.

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 308

**To: House Committee on Finance**

**Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair**

**Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair**

**From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii**

**Joe Kent, Executive Vice President**

RE: HB433 — RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

***Comments Only***

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii would like to offer its comments on HB433, which would assess a climate change impact fee on anyone who rents, leases, or utilizes a rental motor vehicle.

We are gravely concerned about the impact of this fee and the many fees, tax increases, and surcharges that have been proposed this legislative session. Hawaii residents are already among the most taxed in the country; the state has the [second highest overall tax burden](#) in the U.S.

That high tax burden contributes to Hawaii's cost of living and is one of the reasons why so many Hawaii residents have been leaving in search of greater opportunities elsewhere.

Given the state's already-high tax burden, there is never a good time to raise taxes. But this proposal comes at an especially bad time. Hawaii is still in a state of emergency, tourism has slowed to a trickle, businesses are closing and unemployment is high. The economy will take years to recover from the pandemic and lockdowns. The last thing Hawaii residents and businesses need at this point is a tax hike.

There are myriad reasons policy makers should be wary of implementing tax hikes at this time. Here are just a few:

>> Hawaii cannot sustain a hike in taxes since its already-damaged economy was hit harder by the lockdowns than any other state in the nation.<sup>1</sup>

>> State lawmakers increased taxes and fees substantially following the Great Recession of 2007-2008,<sup>2</sup> despite a windfall in revenues from an economic boom over the past decade. Taxes and fees ballooned on motor vehicles, transient accommodations, estates, fuel, food, wealthy incomes, property, parking and businesses.

>> Hawaii's population reduction of 21,879 people since fiscal 2016<sup>3</sup> has left Hawaii's remaining taxpayers with a greater tax burden.

>> Hawaii businesses are already bracing for an automatic tripling, on average, of the state unemployment tax.<sup>4</sup> The UI tax rate depends not only on individual employer's claims experiences but also on the overall health of the state's unemployment insurance fund, which is hundreds of millions of dollars in the red.<sup>5</sup>

>> Hawaii already has a regressive general excise tax that disproportionately hits the poor.<sup>6</sup>

>> Hawaii has a progressive income tax that taxes high-income earners at 11%, second only to California at 13.3%.<sup>7</sup> Hawaii's top 1% already pays 23% of all income taxes in the state.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Dave Segal, "[Hawaii's unemployment rate hit nation-high 15% in September](#)," Honolulu Star-Advertiser, Oct. 20, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> "[Tax Acts \(by Year\)](#)," Tax Foundation of Hawaii, accessed Feb. 8, 2021.

<sup>3</sup> "[Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for the United States, Regions, States, and the District of Columbia: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2020 \(NST-EST2020\)](#)" U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, December 2020.

<sup>4</sup> "[State unemployment tax slated to automatically triple in 2021](#)," Grassroot Institute of Hawaii, Nov. 16, 2020.

<sup>5</sup> "[UI Budget](#)," United States Department of Labor, Employment & Training Administration, Feb. 8, 2021.

<sup>6</sup> "Rich States, Poor States: ALEC-Laffer State Economic Competitiveness Index: "[Sales Tax Burden](#)," American Legislative Exchange Council, 2021. Note that Hawaii does not have a sales tax, but a state general excise tax that is levied on almost all goods and services, and imposed multiple times throughout the production chain.

<sup>7</sup> Katherine Loughhead, "[State Individual Income Tax Rates and Brackets for 2020](#)," Tax Foundation, Feb. 4, 2020.

<sup>8</sup> "[Hawaii Individual Income Tax Statistics](#)," Hawaii Department of Taxation, December 2020, Table 13A.

>> Closing tax exemptions would amount to a tax hike for Hawaii businesses already facing a steep spike in their unemployment insurance taxes.

>> Increasing Hawaii's lowest-in-the-nation property-tax rates<sup>9</sup> would result in a much higher overall tax bill compared to other states because Hawaii residents uniquely pay for public education through the general fund as opposed to property taxes.<sup>10</sup> Additionally, Hawaii's low property taxes are balanced out by the highest housing costs in the nation,<sup>11</sup> which results in a \$1,236 average annual property tax per capita, which is only slightly below the national average of \$1,617.<sup>12</sup>

Hawaii needs leadership that will stabilize the current financial crisis, reduce unsustainable long-term costs and lower the cost of living. Balancing the books without tax increases or future debt could send a message that Hawaii is a good place for businesses and future generations, and this could help the economy thrive while motivating people to return to the islands.

If the state needs more revenues, policymakers should focus on growing the economy. In our current condition, even small economic gains would have big effects.

Hawaii's residents and businesses need a break from new taxes, fees, surcharges and tax hikes. This is not the time to make Hawaii a more expensive place to live and do business.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments.

Sincerely,

Joe Kent  
Executive Vice President  
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

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<sup>9</sup> John Keirnan, "[Property Taxes by State](#)," WalletHub, Feb. 25, 2020.

<sup>10</sup> Janis Magin, "[Hawaii lawmakers seek to add new property tax to fund teacher pay](#)," Pacific Business News, Jan. 27, 2020.

<sup>11</sup> "[Average House Price by State in 2020](#)," The Ascent, Aug. 4, 2020.

<sup>12</sup> Janelle Cammenga, "[How Much Does Your State Collect in Property Taxes per Capita?](#)," Tax Foundation, March 11, 2020.

## Hawaii Electric Vehicle Association

PO BOX 6310  
Hilo, HI 96720  
hawaiidriveelectric@gmail.com



February 24, 2021

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Finance Committee members,

**Hawaii Electric Vehicle Association is in STRONG SUPPORT of HB443 HD1.**

HB443 HD1 will enable a more sustainable tourist industry – visitors will have a built-in mechanism to reduce the climate impact of their visit and help our state to invest in urgently-needed climate change mitigation.

It is without a doubt that the climate crisis is upon us. The wild and lethal weather of the past few years are serious calls to heed. In our state, coastal erosion, marine environment degradation, stronger storms, and actual sea level rise are just some of the consequences that we are facing. These issues threaten our people, property, infrastructure, and economy.

The crisis calls for a broad set of actions to be employed with urgency. HB443 will not only help fund needed climate change strategies to help us mitigate these issues, but it will also help to encourage a shift to zero-emission and non-vehicular transport options.

Please support HB443 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Noel Morin', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Noel Morin - President



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

**LATE**

The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
Committee on Finance

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 25, 2021

H.B. 433, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 433, H.D. 1 which assesses a climate change mitigation impact fee on every customer who rents, leases, or utilizes a rental motor vehicle, **with a proposed amendment that the fee only impact non-resident visitors.**

Many of our local leaders across industries agree: the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic can and should be utilized as an opportunity to build back tourism in a thoughtful and sustainable way. With a record-setting 10 million visitors in 2019 but stagnant visitor spending, we are led to believe that many tourists are maximizing their stay by enjoying Hawai'i's natural – and free – attractions. Implementing a green fee for tourists will appropriately shift the funding burden from residents to visitors and will provide necessary funding to preserve our reefs, beaches, and forests.

We appreciate the measure's intent to deposit all fees into the general fund until July 1, 2024. We respectfully request the Committee's consideration in amending the measure to exempt local Hawai'i residents from the impact fee, as many local families enjoy quick weekend trips to neighbor islands and are unable to take their personal vehicles with them. Residents should not be financially deterred from continuing to do so.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of H.B. 433, H.D. 1 with a proposed amendment to ensure local residents are not required to pay the green fee.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
Executive Director



The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i Program  
923 Nu'uuanu Avenue  
Honolulu, HI 96817

Tel (808) 537-4508  
Fax (808) 545-2019  
nature.org/hawaii

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy  
In Support of HB 433, HD 1 Relating to Climate Change Mitigation**

**Committee on Finance  
Thursday, February 25, 2021, 11:00 AM  
Conference Room 308, Via Teleconference**

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*The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 40,000 acres in 13 nature preserves and work in over 50 coastal communities to help protect and restore the nearshore reefs and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnerships with government, private parties, and communities to protect forests and coral reefs for their ecological values and for the many benefits they provide to people.*

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**The Nature Conservancy supports HB 433 HD 1 relating to Climate Change Mitigation.**

We also support an amendment to the bill establishing a public-private partnership to govern the special fund, including conservation and climate experts. Research by Conservation International on more than a dozen visitor green fee systems around the world demonstrates that public-private partnerships have been effective in ensuring the transparency and effectiveness of such programs and their associated uses. Similarly, there is a public-private partnership governing a new 30x30 fund at the Hawai'i Community Foundation, and one governing the use of reef insurance pay outs in Cancun Mexico where they have established the world's first insurance policy to repair and restore reefs after damage by hurricanes.

In Hawai'i, the environment is the foundation of our economy, and our quality of life is directly tied to healthy natural areas. While Hawai'i has demonstrated strong environmental leadership by creating the Aloha+ Challenge and enacting legislation to implement portions of the Paris agreement, funding for natural resource management is not keeping pace with needs. For example, significant investment is needed to achieve Sustainable Hawai'i goals such as protecting and effectively managing 30% of priority watersheds and nearshore waters by 2030. And as climate change impacts multiply, these needs are increasing.

Hawai'i's total conservation funding gap has been estimated as high as \$360 million annually, constituting a major unfunded liability that poses a significant risk to our communities, businesses, and overall economic resilience. Due to a lack of adequate investment in proven and effective conservation approaches, our valuable natural assets are depreciating at an alarming rate. The gravity of the situation became clear as COVID-19 shut down our economy and many in our community turned to our reefs and forests to provide food, solace, and recreation during times of unprecedented personal, financial, and social stress. Protecting our islands' important natural assets and the environmental services they provide to our people requires an increased investment of public and private funding together with innovative conservation financing mechanisms, such as green fees, reef insurance, and a carbon tax.

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Hawai'i's native forests and coral reefs are environmental, economic, recreational, and cultural treasures that support our island lifestyle and livelihoods. For example, our native forests are our primary source of fresh water and need to be managed to reduce impacts from invasive species, climate change and unsustainable human uses. One of the State's 2030 Aloha+ targets is to increase freshwater capacity by improving forest watershed management and increasing the re-use of water. We have a decade left to achieve this and other critical targets related to terrestrial, marine, and freshwater systems, yet there is no clear financing path to achieve these globally recognized milestones.

Life in Hawai'i is concentrated along our spectacular coasts, where islanders and visitors take full advantage of tropical waters and vibrant coral reefs teeming with life. Each year, our reefs provide flood protection to people, property, and jobs valued at more than \$836 million, support nearshore fisheries worth \$13.4 million, and contribute more than \$1.2 billion through reef-related tourism to the state's economy. Yet the impacts of global climate change, such as warming and rising seas and more powerful and frequent storms, hasten the loss of coral reefs, and threaten our watershed forests and coastal areas with seasonal drought, flooding, and increased erosion. In a recent poll of Hawai'i residents, 72% said that coral reefs dying off was an extremely or very serious concern and 75% support restoring forest areas to reduce fire risk and provide water and wildlife habitat. In that same poll, 75% of residents also supported a visitor green fee similar to the one proposed in HB 433 HD1.

Visitors rank nature and the ocean as the top two details that make their trip to Hawai'i excellent (Hawai'i Tourism Authority, 2017). The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) is responsible for managing and protecting Hawai'i's coral reefs, nearshore fisheries, watershed forests, and other important natural resources, and it is imperative that they have the financial resources necessary to do so. The fees generated under HB433 HD1 will provide critical revenue for essential natural resource protection, restoration, and management by DLNR and their partners.

Mahalo for the opportunity to support funding to protect and restore the unique resources that make Hawai'i a global destination for discerning visitors and an irreplaceable home that will sustain us and our children for generations to come.

**LATE**

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 8:03:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
patti bruce	surfrider foundation Oahu	Support	No

Comments:

We exist because of our ecology and beauty. There is a price to pay to keep it that way, we pay the high cost to live here and others who visit and who are not as aware of this fragile ecosystem, but want to enjoy the benefits of the beauty and climate, who come to escape the reality of their daily lives and experience a beauty unlike no other would benefit long term from a fee imposed to help maintain and preserve our islands and our global backyard.

It is always a good idea to protect and preserve that which creates us.

The planet does not exist because we do. We exist because the planet does. We are an extension of it not the other way around. How we take care of our planet is a direct reflection on how we take care of ourselves.



**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 1:04:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Maki Morinoue	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

I support this Bill HB433

Visitors from outside the State of Hawai'i should pay it forward to help our island stay beautiful and to grow in the direction of lessening our carbon footprint.

Mahalo

Maki

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 2:57:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Camile Cleveland	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support this bill.

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 4:45:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Angela Huntmer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

Yes, absolutely yes. We need to create revenue from car rentals to fund climate change mitigation and adaption. Having visitors contribute to nature is long overdue. Mahalo for supporting this bill.

Angela Huntmer MEd

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 5:09:08 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nicholas A Kida-Rodrigues	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Nicholas Kida-Rodrigues and I support this bill in the creation of a green fee to conserve and preserve Hawaii's natural resources.

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 5:15:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lorien Kuster	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Our beaches, parks, and trails remain the top drivers of our visitor industry, and a nominal fee is an important and reasonable way to fund the preservation of our natural resources for all people. I fully support this fee funding conservation, restoration of nature, and climate change, while creating thousands of green jobs.

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 5:41:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John & Rita Shockley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha!

So many tourists come to Hawaii to enjoy what gifts nature has given our island chain. Often, they leave "footprints" that damage the fragile ecology of Hawaii. Part of visiting a place is a responsibility to help preserve it for others as well as the local residents.

This measure will work toward that effort. We hope that any funds derived from this measure will go to specific ecology restoration rather than the State General Fund.

Mahalo for your time.

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 5:53:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
tia pearson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support a Visitor Green Fee in Hawaii. This fee would fund conservation, restoration of nature, and climate solutions, while creating thousands of green jobs when we need it most.

Our beaches, parks, and trails remain the top drivers of our visitor industry, and a nominal fee is an important and reasonable way to fund the preservation of our natural resources for all people.

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 7:00:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Darrin Mizo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I, Darrin Mizo, have been a resident of Oahu, Hawaii for 46 years as it is my home. I strongly believe we need to take better care of our islands and its resources. I support bill HB433 so we can raise funds to better take care of our beaches and lands. I love to surf and the oceans and beaches are becoming more polluted everyday. Please help us by making sure visitors help us to fund our efforts. Thank you.



**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 7:11:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Samuel Wolff	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this bill. Hawaii is an environmental treasure and everyday we lose more of its uniqueness to invasive species that have been neglected for too long to run rampant. Driving around the island all we see is gross haole koa and not the beautiful native plants that used to exist. This is why people come to hawaii which is natural beauty and these tourists will surely pay the fee. We can no longer let lack of funds be the excuse for not funding these environmental measures we all know are necessary.

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 7:26:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Eric Zeller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support a visitor green fee to fund conservation and climate change solutions for Hawai'i.

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 7:28:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
mj miljavac	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I think this is a great way to collect money to be used for mitigating the effects of climate change in our islands. Tourists should absolutely contribute to this cause, as they are largely contributing to our problems.

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 8:37:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Paul Awo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

10 million people visit Hawai'i every year. Even if this green fund charges a fee of \$1.00 to each visitor it will generate 10 million additional dollars toward restoring our natural resources and environment here in Hawai'i. People come here every year to enjoy our clear blue waters, sandy beaches, and lush forests. Maintaining these areas are a constant challenge, especially with the added traffic of visitors flooding shorelines, hiking trails and other natural areas. This fund will support our local organizations and allow them to allocate more money, resources and efforts toward restoring and maintaining not only natural places that visitors come to see, but also the places that Hawai'i's keiki call home.

Testimony in **SUPPORT** of:  
**HB433\_HD1 Relating to Climate Change Mitigation**

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Submitted by:  
Jack Kittinger, PhD  
Honolulu, HI

FIN Hearing Held  
February 25th, 2021

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members,

My name is Dr. Jack Kittinger, and I am a conservation professional, a professor in sustainability science – and most importantly, a community member in Hawai'i that ardently believes in the importance of nature as the backbone of our culture and economy. I am testifying in **support of HB433\_HD1, Relating to Climate Change Mitigation.**

This bill is a rare win-win. It will support green job creation at a time when our unemployment is the highest in the country. It will improve the visitor experience, bringing tourists into a pro-nature experience in our islands. And it will generate revenue at a time when our budget is severely impacted by the global pandemic.

I have personally spear-headed an initiative focused on establishing a visitor green fee here in Hawai'i for over 4 years. I have invested significant effort into understanding the pros and cons of such a system and what it can offer our communities. Additionally, I sit as the sole non-Palauan representative on the Palau Protected Area Network Board fund, which oversees the visitor green fee revenue (from the "Pristine Paradise" fee) and the job creation it supports in Palau, and see first-hand from that experience the benefits that such a system have in communities.

I am grateful that you are hearing this bill, and providing leadership for our state, particularly in this time when so many community members are impacted by this pandemic. This bill offers one solution to help us recover. It has very little downside and tremendous upside.

***I propose an amendment in the bill to establish public private governance of the special fund*** to safeguard the fund towards conservation and climate mitigation efforts. Specifically, I encourage oversight from conservation, climate, and industry experts in the non-profit sectors. Research of over a dozen visitor green fee systems around the world demonstrates that public private partnership governance models have been effective in

ensuring the transparency and effectiveness of visitor green fee programs and their associated revenue uses (Conservation International, 2019). This is also a model that other visitor sites use for their green fee, and which we use for other similar efforts, such as the Waikiki Beach Improvement District.

Over 75% of polled residents support a “visitor green fee” in Hawaii (data from Ward Research, 2020). The revenue from this fee will help fund a resilient and green transition - a win-win for the community.

Thank you for your leadership, and I strongly urge you to pass this important bill into law,

Sincerely,  
Dr. John N. (Jack) Kittinger

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 9:56:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Milholen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Mahalo for advancing this bill to bolster Hawai'i's resiliency goals with the economic driver of tourism.

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 9:59:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marissa Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Marissa, I am born and raised on O'ahu, and today I am writing in support of this bill. All visitors to Hawai'i have kuleana to do good and give back to the community here. Addressing climate change is a key priority for our islands, and since visitors have an inherently large greenhouse gas footprint by flying in and out of our islands, it is important that they do something for our islands in return. This fee will help bring necessary funding to climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts that are crucial to sustaining our future.

Mahalo for your time,

Marissa Miller



**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 10:35:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

Please support HB433.

Thank you,

Andrea Quinn

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 10:47:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alana Reis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I urge the support and adoption of HB433 HD1 as a green tax for Hawai'i visitors, funding conservation efforts and education visitors on why our islands ecosystems are so crucial.

Mahalo,

A. Reis

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 11:48:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Zachary Dries	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Preserving our environment and natural beauty should be top priority. Tourism should support this priority.

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 3:17:27 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Fawn Liebengood	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill is overdue! So thankful to have an opportunity like this. I fully support passing this bill.

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 7:03:48 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
G L Hutchinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please add a small sur-charge to rental cars to fund conservation and climate solutions.

Testimony in **SUPPORT** of:  
**HB433\_HD1 Relating to Climate Change Mitigation**

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Submitted by:  
Sam Dorios  
3029 Lowrey Ave.  
H3116  
Honolulu, HI 96822

FIN Hearing Held  
February 25th, 2021

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members,

My name is Sam Dorios; Systems and Complexity Associate for the Hawai'i Leadership Forum, and I am testifying in **support of HB433\_HD1, Relating to Climate Change Mitigation.**

***I propose an amendment in the bill to establish public private governance of the special fund*** to safeguard the fund towards conservation and climate mitigation efforts. Specifically, I encourage oversight from conservation, climate, and industry experts in the non-profit sectors. Research of over a dozen visitor green fee systems around the world demonstrates that public private partnership governance models have been effective in ensuring the transparency and effectiveness of visitor green fee programs and their associated revenue uses (Conservation International, 2019).

Thanks to the efforts and vision of the Hawai'i State Legislature, Hawai'i has been a national and global leader in the fight against climate change and the battle to protect our natural resources. In 2017, we were the first state in the nation to enact legislation that implements portions of the Paris agreement. In 2018, Hawai'i took strong action to protect our ocean resources and fragile marine ecosystems by banning sunscreens with oxybenzone and octinoxate.

Hawai'i took these strides because we recognized one essential truth: we cannot disentangle our environment from our economy. If our natural resources degrade and decline, so does our overall quality of life and the strength of our economy. ***Nature is our Taj Mahal.*** Visitors rank nature and the ocean as the top two details that make their trip to Hawaii excellent (Hawaii Tourism Authority, 2017). It is our shared responsibility, both resident and visitor, to ensure the protection and survival of our greatest asset, so that our natural resources continues to protect and sustain future generations.

Unfortunately, the current funding for our reefs, forests, beaches, and watersheds has not kept pace with the stresses and impacts on our environment, such that Hawai'i is running an estimated 40% deficit on its investment in nature (Conservation International, 2018). Each year that we delay adequately funding these efforts, the interest on that debt to nature grows. At the same time, ***the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the critical need to diversify our economy to withstand future shocks, rebuild a more sustainable tourism sector, and put people back to work in resilient careers.*** For this reason, I support visitor green fee legislation, such as HB433\_HD1, that ***creates a solution to close this conservation budget gap, while increasing community resiliency by diversifying our economy and creating green jobs.***

With 75% of polled residents supporting a “visitor green fee” (Ward Research, 2020), this revenue generating mechanism to fund a resilient and green transition forward is a win-win for the community.

Now more than ever, Hawai‘i faces challenges beyond the environment, such as housing, healthcare, and affordability. As the State addresses many urgent issues, ***we urge legislators to continue to prioritize the environment as it underpins every aspect of life and wellbeing on our islands.***

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Sam Dorios

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 8:27:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Spencer Reemelin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

It is HIGH TIME we raise money to protect the environment of our islands. This is a smart bill and I support it 100%.

Mahalo,

Spencer Reemelin



**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 8:47:26 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Forest Frizzell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members,

My name is Forest Frizzell, and I am testifying in ***support of HB433\_HD1, Relating to Climate Change Mitigation.***

***I propose an amendment in the bill to establish public private governance of the special fund*** to safeguard the fund towards conservation and climate mitigation efforts. Specifically, I encourage oversight from conservation, climate, and industry experts in the non-profit sectors. Research of over a dozen visitor green fee systems around the world demonstrates that public private partnership governance models have been effective in ensuring the transparency and effectiveness of visitor green fee programs and their associated revenue uses (Conservation International, 2019).

Thanks to the efforts and vision of the Hawai'i State Legislature, Hawai'i has been a national and global leader in the fight against climate change and the battle to protect our natural resources. In 2017, we were the first state in the nation to enact legislation that implements portions of the Paris agreement. In 2018, Hawai'i took strong action to protect our ocean resources and fragile marine ecosystems by banning sunscreens with oxybenzone and octinoxate.

Hawai'i took these strides because we recognized one essential truth: we cannot disentangle our environment from our economy. If our natural resources degrade and decline, so does our overall quality of life and the strength of our economy. ***Nature is our Taj Mahal.*** Visitors rank nature and the ocean as the top two details that make their trip to Hawaii excellent (Hawaii Tourism Authority, 2017). It is our shared responsibility, both resident and visitor, to ensure the protection and survival of our greatest asset, so that our natural resources continues to protect and sustain future generations.

Unfortunately, the current funding for our reefs, forests, beaches, and watersheds has not kept pace with the stresses and impacts on our environment, such that Hawai'i is running an estimated 40% deficit on its investment in nature (Conservation International, 2018). Each year that we delay adequately funding these efforts, the interest on that debt to nature grows. At the same time, ***the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the critical need to diversify our economy to withstand future shocks, rebuild a more sustainable tourism sector, and put people back to work in***

***resilient careers.*** For this reason, I support visitor green fee legislation, such as HB433\_HD1, that ***creates a solution to close this conservation budget gap, while increasing community resiliency by diversifying our economy and creating green jobs.***

With 75% of polled residents supporting a “visitor green fee” (Ward Research, 2020), this revenue generating mechanism to fund a resilient and green transition forward is a win-win for the community.

Now more than ever, Hawai'i faces challenges beyond the environment, such as housing, healthcare, and affordability. As the State addresses many urgent issues, ***we urge legislators to continue to prioritize the environment as it underpins every aspect of life and wellbeing on our islands.***

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Forest

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 8:56:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shreya Yadav	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the creation of a visitor green fee in Hawai'i to fund conservation and climate solutions. I think this measure will create a significant number of new and meaningful jobs in conservation in the islands, and reframe how tourism has been conducted so far.

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 9:04:09 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Remy Luria	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The better our Green spaces are, the better for both us and visitors.

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 9:12:47 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mike Biechler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the paasage of HB 433 and urge the committe to pass the bill. The burdens of over-tourism are real. Our 'aina feels the impacts, which are often visible for everyone to see, too many cars, too many beach goers, too many hikers, etc. for the carrying capacity of the natural resources. With the apparent lack of money from general funds to support all necessary functions of our society, i.e. parks, trails, and beaches, it is important that those using these resources contribute to the costs of their management and conservation. Residents pay for these items through income and other taxes. Tourists heavily use our natural resources, largely by arriving via rental car, yet they pay so little to support these resources. A fee on rental cars is a good way to ensure that many of these spots frequented by toursists are in fact financially supported by those same tourists.

Aloha,

Mike Biechler

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 9:18:42 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kelsey Luke	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Millions of visitors visit Hawai'i every single year to visit the beauty of our Island. \$1 for each visitor can help restore our natural environment and go to resources here in Hawai'i. It is important to maintain our environment, because it is difficult to do it alone with the added traffic to our trails, and beaches. With these funds we can help allocate and restore the environment here in Hawai'i.

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 9:53:17 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Louise Sper	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Our state's natural beauty and resources are the key reason our tourism industry exists and to maintain this, we need more support and funding to offset any negative impact. This is a win-win as it supports the local community here on the islands, plus ensures tourists can continue enjoying our beauty for years to come.

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 10:06:26 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lauren Blickley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Lauren Blickley and I am testifying in ***support of HB433\_HD1, Relating to Climate Change Mitigation.***

***I propose an amendment in the bill to establish public private governance of the special fund*** to safeguard the fund towards conservation and climate mitigation efforts. Specifically, I encourage oversight from conservation, climate, and industry experts in the non-profit sectors. Research of over a dozen visitor green fee systems around the world demonstrates that public private partnership governance models have been effective in ensuring the transparency and effectiveness of visitor green fee programs and their associated revenue uses (Conservation International, 2019).

Thanks to the efforts and vision of the Hawai'i State Legislature, Hawai'i has been a national and global leader in the fight against climate change and the battle to protect our natural resources. In 2017, we were the first state in the nation to enact legislation that implements portions of the Paris agreement. In 2018, Hawai'i took strong action to protect our ocean resources and fragile marine ecosystems by banning sunscreens with oxybenzone and octinoxate.

Hawai'i took these strides because we recognized one essential truth: we cannot disentangle our environment from our economy. If our natural resources degrade and decline, so does our overall quality of life and the strength of our economy. ***Nature is our Taj Mahal.*** Visitors rank nature and the ocean as the top two details that make their trip to Hawaii excellent (Hawaii Tourism Authority, 2017). It is our shared responsibility, both resident and visitor, to ensure the protection and survival of our greatest asset, so that our natural resources continues to protect and sustain future generations.



Unfortunately, the current funding for our reefs, forests, beaches, and watersheds has not kept pace with the stresses and impacts on our environment, such that Hawai'i is running an estimated 40% deficit on its investment in nature (Conservation International, 2018). Each year that we delay adequately funding these efforts, the interest on that debt to nature grows. At the same time, ***the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the critical need to diversify our economy to withstand future shocks, rebuild a more sustainable tourism sector, and put people back to work in resilient careers.*** For this reason, I support visitor green fee legislation, such as HB433\_HD1, that ***creates a solution to close this conservation budget gap, while increasing community resiliency by diversifying our economy and creating green jobs.***

With 75% of polled residents supporting a "visitor green fee" (Ward Research, 2020), this revenue generating mechanism to fund a resilient and green transition forward is a win-win for the community.

Now more than ever, Hawai'i faces challenges beyond the environment, such as housing, healthcare, and affordability. As the State addresses many urgent issues, ***we urge legislators to continue to prioritize the environment as it underpins every aspect of life and wellbeing on our islands.***

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 10:07:05 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fern Anuenue Holland	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the committee,

My name is Fern Anuenue Holland. I am an environmental scientist and community organizer and I am testifying in strong support of HB433\_HD1, Relating to Climate Change Mitigation.

***I propose an amendment in the bill to establish public private governance of the special fund*** to safeguard the fund towards conservation and climate mitigation efforts. Specifically, I encourage oversight from conservation, climate, and industry experts in the non-profit sectors. Research of over a dozen visitor green fee systems around the world demonstrates that public private partnership governance models have been effective in ensuring the transparency and effectiveness of visitor green fee programs and their associated revenue uses (Conservation International, 2019).

Thanks to the efforts and vision of the Hawai'i State Legislature, Hawai'i has been a national and global leader in the fight against climate change and the battle to protect our natural resources. In 2017, we were the first state in the nation to enact legislation that implements portions of the Paris agreement. In 2018, Hawai'i took strong action to protect our ocean resources and fragile marine ecosystems by banning sunscreens with oxybenzone and octinoxate.

Hawai'i took these strides because we recognized one essential truth: we cannot disentangle our environment from our economy. If our natural resources degrade and decline, so does our overall quality of life and the strength of our economy. ***Nature is our Taj Mahal.*** Visitors rank nature and the ocean as the top two details that make their trip to Hawaii excellent (Hawaii Tourism Authority, 2017). It is our shared responsibility, both resident and visitor, to ensure the protection and survival of our greatest asset, so that our natural resources continues to protect and sustain future generations.

Unfortunately, the current funding for our reefs, forests, beaches, and watersheds has not kept pace with the stresses and impacts on our environment, such that Hawai'i is running an estimated 40% deficit on its investment in nature (Conservation International, 2018). Each year that we delay adequately funding these efforts, the interest on that debt to nature grows. At the same time, ***the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the critical need to diversify our economy to withstand future shocks,***

***rebuild a more sustainable tourism sector, and put people back to work in resilient careers.*** For this reason, I support visitor green fee legislation, such as HB433\_HD1, that ***creates a solution to close this conservation budget gap, while increasing community resiliency by diversifying our economy and creating green jobs.***

With 75% of polled residents supporting a “visitor green fee” (Ward Research, 2020), this revenue generating mechanism to fund a resilient and green transition forward is a win-win for the community.

Now more than ever, Hawai'i faces challenges beyond the environment, such as housing, healthcare, and affordability. As the State addresses many urgent issues, ***we urge legislators to continue to prioritize the environment as it underpins every aspect of life and wellbeing on our islands.***

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Fern Å€ Holland BSc

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 10:41:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Irene Kelly	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of this Bill. Our beaches, parks, and trails remain the top drivers of our visitor industry, and a nominal fee is an important and reasonable way to fund the preservation of our natural resources for all people. Extractive tourism is not sustainable and tourists should contribute to the conservation and protection of the environment that they use (and often abuse) while visiting Hawaii.

Mahalo,  
Irene Kelly

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 10:43:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Miya DeVoogd	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. This bill is long overdue. Tourism is hardly regulated in in Hawai'i and has far reaching effects on our 'Āina, climate and waterways. We've seen how sensitive ecosystems can bounce back when the tourists left due to covid (Hanauma Bay, for example). All tourists travel here by plane, which contributes to climate change via greenhouse gas emissions. If they can afford to fly here, they can afford a fee. It's almost like a carbon offset fee. I believe that some of the money collected from the fee should go towards cultural preservation, especially of endangered plants and animals, or removal of invasive species; all of which will be affected by climate change. Mahalo nui for helping tourism become more sustainable and for doing the right thing. Miya DeVoogd, resident of Mānoa 96822.

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 10:45:03 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nicole Chatterson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke and FIN Committee Members,

I am the Executive Director of Zero Waste O’ahu and I am writing in strong support for HB 433, which will asses a climate change impact fee on car rentals.

We desperately need to fund our climate mitigation and response efforts. Without a strong response, our economic and social health is at jeporady from the impacts of climate change, including sea level rise (which poses a particular threat to our islands). We are already seeing some of these expensive impacts occur. Take for example the undercutting of Kahekili Highway on O’ahu or the erosion taking place under private property on the North Shore.

Folks who would like to visit Hawai’i have a kuleana to care for this place as well. A small financial contribution to the protection and well-being of this ‘Ā• ina is a resonable way to ensure Hawai’i i’s resilience.

I do suggest that we consider ways to mitigate this fee for personal travel for residents if possible, since our hana to keep these place healthy happens every day.

Mahalo,

Nicole Chatterson

Executive Director, Zero Waste O’ahu

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 10:48:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kelly Nash Montone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Visitor Green Fee in Hawaii would fund conservation, restoration of nature, and climate solutions, while creating thousands of green jobs when we need it most.

Our beaches, parks, and trails remain the top drivers of our visitor industry, and a nominal fee is an important and reasonable way to fund the preservation of our natural resources for all people.

Many people are not aware of small steps than can make to create a better ecosystem for all and those who come after. Lets make sure we can have funds available to do the work they don't.

**LATE**

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 11:23:05 AM  
Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Rodwell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha! As a long time Hawaii resident and seeing the changes and impacts of increased tourism over time, it is vital we use some of these visitor resources to help protect and preserve Hawaii's natural and cultural resources.



**LATE**

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 12:38:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Asia Leong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of bill HB433. A visitor green fee would fund conservation, restoration of nature, climate solutions, and create thousands of green jobs. All of which are urgently needed. Hawaii MUST change our short term gain thinking, which in the end causes so much loss and degregation to our islands and people. Our beaches, parks, and trails remain the top drivers of our visitor industry, and a nominal fee is an important and reasonable way to fund the preservation of our natural resources for all people.

With aloha,

Asia Leong

Honolulu, Hawaii

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 1:37:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brian Lam	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I think we need to do everything we can to preserve and protect natural resources here in Hawai'i. These fees would help the local economy and help us work towards climate solutions, which are incredibly important for the islands, but also our planet. These efforts may help attract green-minded visitors or implants to help further improvements of our local ecosystem and culture of preservation.

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 2:07:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Janet Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Finance Committee members,

Our planet and humanity's existence are now in grave danger due to ongoing climate change. Scientists tell us we must take steps NOW to stop global warming and sequester atmospheric carbon. The environmental and climate impact of tourists on our fragile islands must be taken into account.

A 2019 report, "Destinations at Risk: The Invisible Burden of Tourism", commissioned by the Travel Foundation, describes how "destinations [such as Hawaii] must uncover and account for tourism's hidden costs to protect and manage vital destination [Hawaii] assets." Failure to do so puts ecosystems, cultural wonders, and community life at increasing risk and places the tourism industry on a weak foundation.

Beginning July 1, 2022, HB433 HD1 establishes a climate change mitigation impact fee charged to persons renting, leasing, or utilizing tourism-related, gas-powered motor vehicles in the State. The fee will be used to protect Hawaii's natural resources and environment, which are essential to the quality of life of residents and the State's tourism-based economy.

I fully support HB433 HD1 to, so to speak, "keep the country country" and preserve Hawaii's natural treasures. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas

Aiea, Hawaii

Testimony in **SUPPORT** of:  
**HB433\_HD1 Relating to Climate Change Mitigation**

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Submitted by:  
67-419 Kukea Circle  
Waialua, HI 96791

FIN Hearing Held  
February 25th, 2021

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members,

My name is Emelia von Saltza; I am an environmental economist who has spent the last two years researching visitor green fee systems around the world, and I am testifying in **support of HB433\_HD1, Relating to Climate Change Mitigation.**

*I propose an amendment in the bill to establish public private governance of the special fund* to safeguard the fund towards conservation and climate mitigation efforts. Specifically, I encourage oversight from conservation, climate, and industry experts in the non-profit sectors. Research of over a dozen visitor green fee systems around the world demonstrates that public private partnership governance models have been effective in ensuring the transparency and effectiveness of visitor green fee programs and their associated revenue uses (Conservation International, 2019).

**For more information on the legal and policy options for visitor green fee programs, see [www.conservation.org/hawaiigreenpassport](http://www.conservation.org/hawaiigreenpassport).**

Thanks to the efforts and vision of the Hawai'i State Legislature, Hawai'i has been a national and global leader in the fight against climate change and the battle to protect our natural resources. In 2017, we were the first state in the nation to enact legislation that implements portions of the Paris agreement. In 2018, Hawai'i took strong action to protect our ocean resources and fragile marine ecosystems by banning sunscreens with oxybenzone and octinoxate.

Hawai'i took these strides because we recognized one essential truth: we cannot disentangle our environment from our economy. If our natural resources degrade and decline, so does our overall quality of life and the strength of our economy. ***Nature is our Taj Mahal.*** Visitors rank nature and the ocean as the top two details that make their trip to Hawaii excellent (Hawaii Tourism Authority, 2017). It is our shared responsibility, both resident and visitor, to ensure the protection and survival of our greatest asset, so that our natural resources continues to protect and sustain future generations.

Unfortunately, the current funding for our reefs, forests, beaches, and watersheds has not kept pace with the stresses and impacts on our environment, such that Hawai'i is running an estimated 40% deficit on its investment in nature (Conservation International, 2018). Each year that we delay adequately funding these efforts, the interest on that debt to nature grows. At the same time, ***the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the critical need to diversify our economy to withstand future shocks, rebuild a more sustainable tourism sector, and put people back to work in resilient careers.*** For this reason, I support visitor green fee legislation, such as HB433\_HD1, that ***creates a solution to close this conservation budget***

***gap, while increasing community resiliency by diversifying our economy and creating green jobs.***

With 75% of polled residents supporting a “visitor green fee” (Ward Research, 2020), this revenue generating mechanism to fund a resilient and green transition forward is a win-win for the community.

Now more than ever, Hawai‘i faces challenges beyond the environment, such as housing, healthcare, and affordability. As the State addresses many urgent issues, ***we urge legislators to continue to prioritize the environment as it underpins every aspect of life and wellbeing on our islands.***

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Emelia von Saltza

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 3:28:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Risa Kuroda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this idea generally, but the fee rate setting methodology should be transparent to the taxpayer/public. Hawaii should not push the tax burden on individual tourists so much so that it takes away from other consumer spending decisions that boost the local economy. Ideally this legislation would be paired with general excise tax requirements that are higher for automobile rental corporations. Furthermore, fund management and use should be transparent and timely reports should be easy for the public to access.

**LATE**

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 5:38:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
GWEN YOUNG	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii must pass green fees/ environmental protection fees for all visitors (non-residents, no Hawaii ID or DRL). We are spending tomorrow's future on reckless tourism and use of our aina. It is criminal that Hawaii is considered a cheap touring location without any regard to preserve the aina (land and sea) and the culture.

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 5:53:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
ZUCCHINI ELENA	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB433 HD1 .



**LATE**

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 6:15:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dylan Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

The best argument put forward by the rental car industry in opposition to this bill ultimately has little to do with their own well-being, considering that it is all but certain that the cost of this surcharge will be shouldered by their customers without any adjustments to the base rental prices. The risk they didn't even mention was that such price adjustments could be taken on by bigger companies to undercut smaller ones, but as the state's rental car industry stands, the obvious benefit of climate crisis mitigation far outweighs such worries. That said, I am concerned about appropriate, effective, and efficient use of the special fund to be created, but I strongly support the intent and earnest, informed efforts to carry it out with sustainability and equity in mind.

Thank you,

Dylan Ramos

96816

**LATE**

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 7:17:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kelly Darling	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I urge you to create a Visitor Green Fee. Visitors to Hawaii should bare the financial burden of the damage they cause to Hawaii's environment. Better yet they should help pay for measures that contribute to the preservation our delicate aina before it is irreparably harmed. The Visitor Green Fee would also help Hawaii stay on the road to sustainable economic recovery. Please also consider requiring mandatory videos about Hawaii on incoming flights. Videos that edicate visitors about Aloha and Hawaii's ecology. Mahalo for your time.

**LATE**

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 6:26:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark A. Koppel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB433 HD1

Mark Koppel

Umauma, HI

Aloha Legislators:

✿ This will help schools and communities enhance education, nutrition

✿ By focusing on local relationships that “regionalize the menu,” children will have greater access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods; i.e. kalo, sweet potatoes, etc.

✿ Closer proximity relationships will reduce carbon emissions related to shipping and packaging waste associated with importation from the United States

✿ Saves the state money by decreasing costs for school meal programs

✿ Supports our local farmers

✿ Most importantly, it allows kids a more direct connection to their food system, enhancing their community pride and connection to place/identity

**LATE**

**HB-433-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 10:00:34 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Will Caron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB433 HD1, but respectfully request an amendment to the bill to establish public private governance of the special fund to safeguard the fund towards conservation and climate mitigation efforts. Specifically, I encourage oversight from conservation, climate, and industry experts in the nonprofit sectors.

Research of over a dozen visitor green fee systems around the world demonstrates that public private partnership governance models have been effective in ensuring the transparency and effectiveness of visitor green fee programs and their associated revenue uses (Conservation International, 2019).

We cannot separate our environment from our economy. If our natural resources degrade and decline, so does our overall quality of life and the strength of our economy. The beauty of Hawai'i is what brings visitors to these islands. Maintaining the natural environment is all of our shared responsibility, both resident and visitor. We must ensure the protection and survival of our greatest asset so that future generations will be able to thrive here in Hawai'i.

Unfortunately, the current funding to preserve and maintain our precious coral reefs, forests, beaches, and watersheds has not kept pace with the stresses and impacts on our environment placed on it by an increasingly exploitative tourist industry. Hawai'i is running an estimated 40% deficit on its investment in nature (Conservation International, 2018). Each year that we delay adequately funding these efforts, the interest on that debt to nature grows.

The climate chaos we are beginning to feel is intertwined with this failure to upkeep the environment. At the same time, the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the critical need to diversify our economy to withstand future shocks, rebuild a more sustainable tourism sector, and put people back to work in green careers. For this reason, I support visitor green fee legislation, such as HB433, HD1. We must create solutions like this to close this conservation budget gap, while increasing community resiliency by diversifying our economy and creating green jobs.

With 75% of polled residents supporting a "visitor green fee" (Ward Research, 2020), this revenue generating mechanism to fund a resilient and green transition forward is a win-win for the community. Now more than ever, Hawai'i faces challenges beyond the

environment, such as housing, healthcare, and affordability. As the state addresses many urgent issues, legislators must continue to prioritize the environment, as it underpins every aspect of life and wellbeing in our islands.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.