

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

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FIRST DEPUTY

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ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DANW N.S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND

Thursday, February 1, 2024
9:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 430, Via Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2626
RELATING TO FISHPONDS

House Bill 2626 proposes to require the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board) to create a standard lease application and programmatic environmental impact statement to further streamline the process for leasing government-owned Hawaiian fishponds. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) submits its concerns and comments on this measure.**

This bill conflates the separate approval and lease processes and imposes an unsustainable burden on the Department with minimal benefit to the public.

Currently, leases for State lands are processed only after the proposed land use has been recommended for approval by the appropriate permitting agency and approved by the Board. This process is the same for Hawaiian fishponds as for any other State land use. In the case of Hawaiian fishponds, the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL) processes use applications under its Ho'āla Loko I'a program, which includes a streamlined application form tailored to Hawaiian fishpond applicants and a statewide programmatic Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (FEA-FONSI), which was published in *The Environmental Notice* on October 23, 2013.

The standard State land leasing process bifurcates approval of the land use and issuance of the lease. This promotes efficiency because a lease is not processed unless and until the underlying

use or activity has already been approved and the applicant has provided the Department with all relevant information and completed all necessary preparatory steps. Leases are processed and administered by the Land Division while approval of the underlying use or activity is managed by OCCL, that has a professional staff with specific subject matter expertise and capacity to meaningfully evaluate use applications. By combining the lease application and programmatic EIS, this measure would place the responsibility for obtaining and managing a programmatic EIS with the Land Division, which does not have the staffing capacity or expertise to do so.

It is notable that DLNR has had very few, if any, inquiries into leasing Hawaiian fishponds on State land over which the Department has jurisdiction. Considering this, the burden of obtaining and maintaining a programmatic EIS outweighs the benefit to the very small number of potential applicants.

The Department supports easing burdens on cultural practitioners and conservationists who wish to perpetuate traditional land management practices that include Hawaiian fishponds and recognizes the array of benefits that well-managed Hawaiian fishponds offer to the State. However, for the reasons stated above, the Department requests this bill be held in committee.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:11:53 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
STACEY ANN LEILANI CASCO	JOSEPH & JOSEPHINES LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Please support HB2626. Loko ‘ia (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries. Although great progress has been made to streamline the permitting process for fishponds in the State, the leasing process remains complex, confusing, and difficult to navigate.

Loko ‘ia are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting more streamlined leasing processes will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Stacey Ann L. Casco, Resource Manager

Joseph & Josephines LLC

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:37:21 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roslyn Cummings	Roslyn Cummings, Wahine Maoli Po'o E Ola Kakou Hawai'i	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha No Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe and Members of the Committee,

HB2626

Loko 'ia remain an important resource for Hawaii Nei. No hanauna e hiki mai ana. Kumu waiwai nui kakou ho'i ana i kuleana a vital resource for our return to kuleana. Pili loko i'a olakino i ke olakino kahakai healthy loko i'a is interrelated to the shorelines health. Support the responsibility of Lawai'a kākō'o kuleana Lawai'a. The State's inability to provide trust fiduciary duties needs to be open and clear oiaio done in truth

I am in support of Kanaka Maoli hana loko i'a

E Ola Kakou Mau Loko I'a

for the next 7-21 generations

Inoa Roslyn Cummings noho ao Kalaheo Ahupua'a, Kona Moku, Kaua'i Mokuuni

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:03:45 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support!



Testimony Before The
House Committee on Water and Land
IN SUPPORT OF HB2626
February 1, 2024, 9:00 AM, Room 430
Via Zoom

We are Olan Leimomi Fisher and Brenda Asuncion Lima, Kua'āina Advocate and Hui Mālama Loko I'a Coordinator, respectively, testifying on behalf of [Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo \(or KUA\)](#). "Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo" stands for "grassroots growing through shared responsibility," and our acronym "KUA" means "backbone." **Our mission is to connect and empower communities to improve their quality of life through the collective care for their biocultural (natural and cultural) heritage, serving as a "backbone organization" that supports creative and community-driven solutions to problems stemming from environmental degradation.** Hawai'i's biocultural resources continue to be negatively impacted by political, economic, and social changes, and the increasing dangers of climate change make fostering and empowering resilient communities acutely critical.

Currently KUA supports three major networks of: (1) almost 40 mālama 'āina (caring for our 'āina or "that which feeds") community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together); (2) over 60 loko i'a (fishpond aquaculture systems unique to Hawai'i) and wai 'ōpae (anchialine pool systems) sites in varying stages of restoration and development, with numerous caretakers, stakeholders, and volunteers known as the Hui Mālama Loko I'a ("caretakers of fishponds"); and (3) the Limu Hui made up of over 50 loea (traditional experts) and practitioners in all things "limu" or locally-grown "seaweed." Our shared vision is to once again experience what our kūpuna (ancestors) referred to as '**āina momona** – abundant and healthy ecological systems that sustain our community resilience and well-being.

KUA strongly supports HB2626 as an incremental step towards 'āina momona.

Prior to 1900, Hawai'i had close to 500 flourishing loko i'a, sustaining communities in numerous ways including through sustainable local seafood, limu, shellfish, and fertilizer – at one time producing an average of 400-600 pounds of fish per acre per year, yielding over 2 million pounds of fish annually throughout Hawai'i. (See Generally, [Loko I'a Needs Assessment, 2021](#)). The U.S. Organic Act of 1900 (the Act) abandoned the support of most semblances of Native Hawaiian governance, especially in regard to biocultural resource management. The Act then transferred the aegis of governance – or lack thereof – to a U.S. laissez faire market system, ended Konohiki Fishery Management, and condemned loko i'a – extinguishing most of the existing ownership and operations of these systems. For context, in 1901 the catch and sale data for commercial 'ama'ama (mullet) – believed to be mostly fishpond-raised – decreased from close to 800,000 pounds of fish to less than 3,000 pounds today, with an estimated 88% of all food consumed in Hawai'i now imported. **Rebuilding our robust and sustainable local food systems is critical to community resilience in the face of more frequent natural disasters** such as the recent devastating Lahaina fires and 2018 floods, climate change, and long lasting pandemics.

Up until about nine years ago, all loko i'a were once stymied by an overly burdensome permitting process that would often take decades to secure all the required state and federal permits to restore the ponds. A partnership of regulatory agencies, funders, and nonprofits formed in 2012 to design a better process, including input from members of KUA's Hui Mālama Loko I'a – and the Hō'ala Loko I'a Program was born after extensive consultations with loko i'a practitioners, scientists, resource agencies, and government officials. **Since the [Hō'ala Loko I'a Program](#) was implemented in 2015, 23 fishpond permits have been approved on six of the main Hawaiian Islands, with an average processing time reduced from many years to under one month.** The success of permit streamlining for fishponds serves as a resounding example of the power of our collective sharing of responsibility to care for our island home and resources.

Looking at the lessons learned from the successful permit streamlining process, we have no doubt that a standard lease application and programmatic environmental impact statement can be achieved with your support. Prioritizing community co-managed activities, projects, and organizations would also further increase the likelihood of more successful multi-sector partnerships where our “shared responsibility” to care for our island resources would benefit all that love Hawai'i. Although the permitting process for fishponds is now much more effective, the leasing process leaves much to be desired, still wasting unnecessary time and resources. We acknowledge the known hurdles to achieve a streamlined leasing and programmatic environmental impact statement, but look to the success of the permit streamlining for guidance and inspiration. As we build a better future for our keiki, **we appreciate creative and collaborative approaches that build the capacity and skills of the next generation with intention, and in a way that benefits ongoing community efforts at loko i'a as a catalyst for ecosystem regeneration.**

The communities we work with are committed to ensuring the long-term health of our biocultural resources that they have cared for and depended on for generations since time immemorial. **We believe our environment, the foundation of our very existence, is about long-term investment and a vision of 'āina momona.** To get there it requires taking the steps necessary for greater self-sufficiency, development of a pipeline of new and more innovative career pathways, mindsets, relationships, and resources for mālama 'āina efforts. Passing this bill out of your committee is a start on a pathway toward reaching this vision.

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support. **Please pass HB2626.**

Aloha 'Āina Momona no nā kau ā kau.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FISHPONDS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. Historically, government-owned fishponds were subjected to an extensive permitting process that required large amounts of resources and time to secure. To resolve this problem, in 2015, the department of land and natural resources' office of conservation and coastal lands and other collaborators, including Conservation International Hawaii and Honua Consulting, **and with input from members of Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo's Hui Mālama Loko I'a**, developed a master permit for traditional Hawaiian fishponds that encompassed the main permits required at that time. The programmatic general permit helped streamline the process for the repair, restoration, maintenance, and operation of traditional Hawaiian fishponds, or loko i'a.

Although great progress has been made to streamline the permitting process for fishponds in the State, the leasing process remains complex, confusing, and difficult to navigate.

Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the board of land and natural resources to create a standard lease application **and programmatic environmental impact statement** to further streamline the process for leasing government-owned Hawaiian fishponds.

SECTION 2. Section 171-28, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§171-28 Government-owned Hawaiian fishponds; sale prohibition. (a) The board may investigate and develop scientific commercial management practices for government-owned Hawaiian fishponds and reconstruct, rehabilitate, improve, and stock the fishponds; and expend moneys from the special land and development fund. All revenues derived from any government-owned Hawaiian fishpond shall be deposited in the fund.

~~(b) The board may lease government-owned Hawaiian fishponds with legislative authorization as provided under section 171-53(c), provided that in lieu of legislative authorization, the board may lease such fishponds if:~~

~~—(1) A public hearing is conducted on the proposed lease on the island where the fishpond is located;~~

~~—(2) The board finds that the proposed lease does not cause a substantial adverse environmental or ecological impact on the fishpond or surrounding area; and~~

~~—(3) The proposed lease is not in violation of applicable federal, state, or county laws.~~

(b) The board shall implement a standard lease application to streamline the process of leasing government-owned Hawaiian fishponds, prioritizing applications involving community co-management activities, projects, and organizations utilizing customarily and traditionally practiced activities related to Hawaiian fishponds prior to 1778.

(c) Any law to the contrary notwithstanding, the board may not sell the fee interest in public lands on which government-owned Hawaiian fishponds are located."

SECTION 3. (a) The board of land and natural resources shall create a standard lease application ~~and programmatic environmental impact statement~~ to streamline the process for leasing government-owned Hawaiian fishponds.

(b) The board shall:

(1) Create a standard lease application that complies with relevant state and federal requirements;

~~(2) Create a programmatic environmental impact statement for leasing government-owned Hawaiian fishponds;~~

(2) Study the feasibility of either establishing a full-time permanent staff position to assist lease applicants in navigating the process or contracting with an entity that can provide similar assistance; and

~~(3) Establish a statewide inventory or database of loko i'a and a mechanism to make that information available to the public.~~

(c) The board of land and natural resources shall consult with ~~experts in Hawaiian fishponds, including Native Hawaiian organizations and industry stakeholders and other Native Hawaiian organizations~~, who are encouraged to cooperate and provide information or input.

(d) The board of land and natural resources may request assistance and feedback from the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, department of land and natural resources, department of the attorney general, and any other department that the board deems appropriate, to provide

expertise in establishing the standard lease application ~~and programmatic environmental impact statement.~~

SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ _____ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 to create a standard lease application ~~and programmatic environmental impact statement~~ to streamline the process of leasing government-owned Hawaiian fishponds.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 5. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the appropriations contained in H.B. No. _____, will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by \$ _____ or _____ per cent. In addition, the appropriation contained in this Act will cause the general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further exceeded by \$ _____ or _____ per cent. The combined total amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by \$ _____ or _____ per cent. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are that:

- (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to serve the public interest; and
- (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs addressed by this Act.

SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

INTRODUCED BY: _____



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

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

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Support on HB 2626, Relating to Fishponds
Committee on Water and Land
February 1, 2024
Conference Room 430 & Videoconference**

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe and Members of the Committee:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) supports HB 2626, Relating to Fishponds, which will appropriate funds to the Board of Land and Natural Resources to create a standard lease application and programmatic environmental impact statement to streamline the process of leasing government-owned Hawaiian fishponds, prioritizing community co-managed organizations and projects.

Today, Hawaii's marine environment faces threats from anthropogenic sources of pollution, sedimentation, overharvesting, lack of community ownership, and an overall decrease in the competitive advantage of native species over non-natives. Scientists believe that present day reef fish stocks in Hawai'i have decreased by 75% in the past century. We believe fishponds may be able to assist in increasing fish stocks by providing additional juvenile recruitment and relieving fishing pressure on wild stocks of some reef fish species. In addition, fishponds can reduce sediment reaching the reefs, and may help to increase water recharge. Their rock walls may also mitigate some of the effects of sea level rise on coastal areas.

We strongly support the development and implementation of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) master permit process for traditional Hawaiian fishponds which helps streamline the process for the repair, restoration, maintenance, and operation of traditional Hawaiian fishponds, or loko i'a. Hawaiian fishponds are culturally important and can be a potential solution to enhance the food security of communities in Hawai'i. We believe that creating a standard lease application and programmatic environmental impact statement will go a long way toward truly and appropriately streamlining the approval process.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2626.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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House Committee on Water & Land

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB 2626

Thursday, February 1st, 2024 9:00 AM, Conference Room 430

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

HAPA supports HB2626, which appropriates funds to the Board of Land and Natural Resources to create a standard lease application and programmatic environmental impact statement to streamline the process of leasing government-owned Hawaiian fishponds, prioritizing community co-managed organizations and projects..

HAPA understands that loko i'a systems play an important role in Hawaiian cultural practices, have an ecologically important role in watersheds, and could significantly contribute to Hawai'i's food security goals.

Loko i'a were, and continue to be, essential components of traditional food systems in Hawai'i, providing food security and community resilience.¹ Their revitalisation goes hand in hand with the revitalisation of Hawaiian language, arts, architecture and diet. Today, most loko i'a sites are highly degraded and in need of restoration and funding.

Please support HB2626 to create a more streamlined leasing process of fishponds on government-owned lands that will help us restore these critical indigenous agricultural infrastructure systems that increase our food security, resiliency and improve our environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', written in a cursive style.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

1

<https://www.iccaconsortium.org/index.php/2021/02/20/loko-ia-fishponds-hawaii-communities-restoring-fisheries/>

The Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) is a public non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. HAPA's mission is to catalyze community empowerment and systemic change towards valuing 'aina (environment) and people ahead of corporate profit.



**BOARD OF
DIRECTORS:**

Angela Correa-Fei
President

January 31, 2023

Tia Brown
Vice-President

House Committee on Water & Land (WAL)
Conference Room 430
State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Jeannine Johnson
Secretary

Re: HB2626 Relating to Fishponds; Hearing on Thursday, Feb 1, 2024 at 9:00am

Diane Warncke
Treasurer

Aloha mai kākou,

Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center (MFHC) strongly supports HB2626 relating to fishponds. Founded in 2007 for Hawaiian fishpond revitalization and community education, MFHC is a community-based non-profit based with the mission, “E ho’ola kākou i nā loko i’a a Maunalua – let us properly preserve the fishponds of Maunalua.” Through the collective efforts of thousands of community volunteers to date, we steward two of the last remaining fishponds along Maunalua Bay: Kalauha‘iha‘i and Kānewai. These wahi pana or storied places are among the few intact shoreline fishponds left in Honolulu. MFHC successfully worked to gain access to perpetuate these Hawaiian loko i’a (fishponds). That effort was followed by a successful purchase campaign. Today community restoration of the hydrology, habitat, and traditional Hawaiian fishpond infrastructure is ongoing and cultural practices are perpetuated.

*Christiane “Kauī”
Lucas*
Director

Kimi Makaiaiu
Director

Alyssa Miller
Director

Chris Cramer
**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**

Maunalua Bay once had extensive areas of loko i’a. In the early 1800s, King Kamehameha I enjoyed the Kalauha‘iha‘i area with Queen Ka‘ahumanu as the site of their favorite summer resort home. The entire land area of Niu was later conveyed by the King to his sea captain Alexander Adams. Kalauha‘iha‘i is where the ancient tabu laws were broken on O‘ahu in 1819, thus making a significant contribution to broad patterns of Hawai‘i’s history. The region was characterized by massive mullet ponds, clear springs flowing into the shoreline, and bountiful marine life. The many watersheds each extended down to the ocean and reef.

*"He punawai kahe
wale ke aloha. Love
is a spring that
flows freely."*

Laura Thompson
Director Emeritus

In the middle of the 20th century, ancient walled loko i’a were destroyed and replaced by urban development. By the 1960s, this land use change erased much of the former cultural landscape. Kupapa Fishpond at Niu and the Wailupe Fishpond were filled to make fast land for new housing. The great 523-acre fishpond Loko I’a O Maunalua, was dredged and filled for a planned development called Hawai‘i Kai. Today, Maunalua is a densely populated suburban region many call home.

Founded 2007

According to the DLNR, although there is a renewed interest in the restoration, maintenance, and operation of traditional Hawaiian fishponds, for their cultural, economic and ecological value. Community organizations and traditional fishpond practitioners have struggled for decades to maintain and restore fishpond systems due to the abundance of government regulations that control uses within the shoreline area. These make it difficult to obtain all of the necessary approvals to revitalize these important resources. The difficulty of Hawaiian fishpond revitalization is compounded by the unique, fragile, and sometimes-rugged environments in which they exist. Due to their geographic locations, unique ecosystems, engineering and complex biological functioning, Hawaiian fishponds are subject to a myriad of regulations and oversight by a host of different agencies, the end result is that obtaining the necessary permits and approvals to work on fishponds is both costly and time-consuming. Many restoration efforts have been stymied by this permitting process. (October, 2013
<https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/occl/files/2013/08/Loko-Ia-Final-EA1.pdf>)

MFHC gained stewardship access to Kalauha‘iha‘i in Niu in 2013. A Right of Entry was granted by the landowner: the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). Prior to DLNR ownership, Kalauha‘iha‘i had been vacant since the 1990s, after a road widening project of Kalaniana'ole Highway by the State Department of Transportation (DOT) expanded the four-lane highway into six. During construction, contractors struck and severed the flow of water from the source that supplied fresh water to Kalauha‘iha‘i Fishpond. This led to an estimated one million gallons of groundwater per day to infiltrate into an adjacent sewer line (Fukunaga and Associates, 2005). The State installed temporary monitoring wells to assess declining water levels during construction and also attempted gel injection to restore pre-widening project flow but were unsuccessful (Commission on Water Resource Management, 1995). The fishpond, which contained mullet, aholehole, prawns, crabs and other aquatic life, ran dry, killing all of its species. The pond was then readied for auction. Consequently, MFHC crafted and pushed the passage of Act 210 (2010) with the help of intense public outcry over the State proposed auction of one of Honolulu’s last shoreline fishponds. The law was intended to prevent the State from selling government owned loko i‘a such as Kalauha‘iha‘i. Act 210 was unanimously approved by the Legislature, loko ia are protected and maintained as public resources.

As Kalauha‘iha‘i’s stewards for over 10 years, MFHC volunteers have removed the heavy overgrowth of invasive trees. Filtering rafts of native plants were introduced and loko i‘a infrastructure repaired. Efforts to study and improve the stagnant conditions in Kalauha‘iha‘i are ongoing. MFHC has collaborated with the State DLNR Engineering Branch and Rep. Mark Hashem to secure funds for DLNR to restore the traditional water flow to the Fishpond and Maunalua Bay. The project also included successful demolition of the condemned structures at the Fishpond. This has allowed the loko to be safer and better utilized by the community.

MFHC obtained a Right of Entry in 2013, and in 2023 a lease approval to Kalauha‘iha‘i. One of the requirements for a lease was to submit a costly Environmental Assessment (EA), which took several years to prepare and receive approval. After its publication in 2021, it took two more years before we were finally granted a lease from the DLNR, over 10 years after we began the process.

Small non-profits like MFHC that are run by volunteers and minimal staff would be precluded from applying for a lease for their community’s fishpond because the leasing process is slow, and difficult to navigate. Requiring the Board of Land and Natural Resources to create a standard lease application and programmatic environmental impact statement would help to streamline the process for leasing government-owned Hawaiian fishponds.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration and support for HB2626.

Chris Cramer
Executive Director

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:49:29 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:44:49 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaiakahinalii Kaopua-Canonigo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am testifying in support HB2626, and hope that you folks pass it through your committee. Loko I‘a (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries. Although great progress has been made to streamline the permitting process for fishponds in the State, the leasing process remains complex, confusing, and difficult to navigate.

Loko ‘ia are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting more streamlined leasing processes will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Kaiakahinali‘i Ka‘ōpua-Canonigo

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 4:22:29 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ezgi Green	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Please support HB2626. Loko ‘ia (fishponds) remain essential for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries. Although significant progress has been made to streamline the permitting process for fishponds in the State, the leasing process remains complex, confusing, and challenging to navigate.

Loko ‘ia are essential food sources for our local communities and critical cultural sites providing space for communities to gather and connect to place and mālama.

Supporting more streamlined leasing processes will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Ezgi Green, Waialua

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 4:22:56 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support!

Fishponds support local food systems.
Hawaiians know how to feed themselves.
Good idea to pay attention to them,

Mahalo,

Barbara Barry

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 4:29:53 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Costa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill for fish pond restoration

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 4:33:30 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
mary drayer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2626 - Cultural Practices and food security are very important to me

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 4:38:35 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marilyn Mick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Please support HB2626. Loko 'ia (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries. Although great progress has been made to streamline the permitting process for fishponds in the State, the leasing process remains complex, confusing, and difficult to navigate.

Loko 'ia are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting more streamlined leasing processes will accelerate Hawai'i's local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Marilyn Mick, Honolulu

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 4:40:54 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eliel Starbright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Please support HB2626. Loko 'ia (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries. Although great progress has been made to streamline the permitting process for fishponds in the State, the leasing process remains complex, confusing, and difficult to navigate.

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 4:41:24 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2626. Loko ‘ia (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries. Although great progress has been made to streamline the permitting process for fishponds in the State, the leasing process remains complex, confusing, and difficult to navigate.

Loko ‘ia are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting more streamlined leasing processes will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 4:42:34 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KEALA FUNG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Please support HB2626. Loko 'ia (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries. Although great progress has been made to streamline the permitting process for fishponds in the State, the leasing process remains complex, confusing, and difficult to navigate.

Loko 'ia are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting more streamlined leasing processes will accelerate Hawai'i's local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Keala Fung, Honolulu Oahu

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 5:02:29 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kealoha Freidenburg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Please support HB2626. Loko ‘ia (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds support healthy nearshore fisheries. They can also ameliorate runoff from the land, slowing down nutrient rich and often polluted water. While there has been progress in streamlining the permitting process for loko ‘ia in Hawai‘i, the leasing process remains complex, confusing, and difficult to navigate.

Loko ‘ia are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting more streamlined leasing processes will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration!

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 5:14:26 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Loko 'ia (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries. Although great progress has been made to streamline the permitting process for fishponds in the State, the leasing process remains complex, confusing, and difficult to navigate.

Loko 'ia are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting more streamlined leasing processes will accelerate Hawai'i's local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience. Mahalo for your consideration!

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:07:44 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Shizuma	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am in support of this bill.

As stated in HB765 in the 2023 session, "Loko i'a, or fishponds, play an important role in Hawaiian cultural practices, have an ecologically important role in watersheds, and could significantly contribute to the State's food security goals." Restoring Loko i'a has the potential to improve not just the wellbeing of our lands and the food security in Hawaii, but also in restoring the wellbeing of the Hawaiian people, whom stats have repeatedly shown suffer from a variety of physical, biological, mental, and social ailments in these times. Streamlining the process of leasing fishponds could result in additional fishponds around these islands being restored, improving the health of our land and our people.

I do also want to note the importance of Section 3 (c) - regarding "consulting with industry stakeholders and other Native Hawaiian organizations...". There are great Native Hawaiian organizations that have expertise in restoring fishponds and have proven to be an asset in helping to rebuild the community as well as improving the environment through the restoration of the fishponds. Groups such as Paepae 'o He'eia (Heeia, Oahu), 'Aina Momona (Molokai), and Malama Loko 'Ea (Haleiwa) have proven track records of pono restoration (done with good moral judgement). Kuaaina Ulu Auamo (KUA) also leads the Hui Mālama Loko I'a, which is a network of fishpond practitioners and organizations from across Hawaii, should be included in the consultation process.

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:17:47 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lucie Schragar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Please support HB2626. Loko 'ia (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries. Although great progress has been made to streamline the permitting process for fishponds in the State, the leasing process remains complex, confusing, and difficult to navigate.

Loko 'ia are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting more streamlined leasing processes will accelerate Hawai'i's local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience. Please support this bill to increase accessibility for communities looking to mālama loko i'a.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Lucie Schragar, 'Ewa

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:51:56 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiare Kaolelopono	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Please support HB2626. Loko ‘ia (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries. Although great progress has been made to streamline the permitting process for fishponds in the State, the leasing process remains complex, confusing, and difficult to navigate.

As a kanaka maoli and cultural practitioner, loko ‘ia are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama. Streamlining the permitting process will not only open opportunities to local groups/organizations to steward these wahi (places) and our kuleana to our host culture, but it also provides a platform that our reformed tourism policies and strategies can use to mobilize their restoration of Kanaka Maoli and Hawai‘i culture within the industry. Stewardship of government land based loko ‘ia creates unique opportunities for Hawai‘i’s residents that support building responsible, reciprocal relationships with our visitors thus revitalizing an old industry and potentially creating a new export industry.

As a widowed mother and current licensed resource caregiver to teen foster girls, I am concerned with our current food systems in Hawai‘i. Based on the trajectory of the world post-pandemic I wonder how families in Hawai‘i, indeed the entire world, will continue to sustain themselves if we tap our Earth’s finite resources irresponsibly. Supporting more streamlined leasing processes will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience. Loko ‘ia can be one of Hawai‘i’s solutions for a regenerative food system for our future seven generations.

Mahalo nui for your time and support of HB2626!

Aloha 'āina,
Tiare Ka'ōlelopono
(808) 375-2049
tiare@wisdomcircles.org

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:55:40 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I strongly support this legislation because it encourages people to help themselves and cultural pride. Also, ensures food security and sustainability.

Aloha and Mahalo

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:00:22 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maki Morinoue	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am in strong support of HB2626.

Loko ‘ia (fishponds) remain an essential resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. As a local girl born in 1977, I did not see many Loko ‘ia because the Native Hawaiian culture was kapu, along with the language and water rights. It wasn’t until the 80s that we got to be the first keiki to enjoy Hawaiiana classes with our kupuna as a mandatory curriculum in public schools. I still remember what we learned from 3rd grade. It is only in recent history that my generation gets to listen and observe the resurgence of their language and cultural practices. What I observe is beautiful; the bays that are fiercely protected and advocated for by Native Hawaiians are healing, and life is being restored to our ocean ecosystem, unlike the other bays without regulations and over-tourism. Our kupunas and the younger generation, who are reclaiming land practices, are creating abundance and calling back the rain into our water cycling systems as they did before.

When we allow our native Hawaiian community to thrive and instill indigenous practices into law, everyone wins.

We must foster healthy fishponds that also support healthy nearshore fisheries. Although significant progress has been made to streamline the permitting process for fishponds in the State, the leasing process remains complex, confusing, and difficult to navigate.

Loko ‘ia are not only essential food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather and connect to place and mālama.

Supporting more streamlined leasing processes will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Maki Morinoue

Hōlualoa

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:46:31 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gretchen Losano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support loko'ia restoration and vote to support HB 2626!

Mahalo,

Gretchen Losano

Lahaina, HI

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:06:47 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharon Ziegler-Chong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Please support HB2626. Loko‘ia (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries. Although great progress has been made to streamline the permitting process for fishponds in the State, the leasing process remains complex, confusing, and difficult to navigate. Loko ‘ia are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama. The care and stewardship of these places rely on small community-based organizations. This bill will directly assist these organizations and communities who have taken on the kuleana to care for these places and provide educational opportunities for our keiki and ‘ohana.

Supporting more streamlined leasing processes will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Sharon Ziegler-Chong, Pāpai‘kou, Hawai‘i Island

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 12:50:34 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of HB2626 in hopes that it will help loko i'a (fishpond) restoration in Hawai'i.

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 1:04:23 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimeona Kane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nui kākou,

Mahalo for supporting the efforts of loko i‘a lifestyles. Please continue to work with our indigenous practitioners who are doing this work daily, with providing for Hawai‘i at the center of the work always. As a loko i‘a practitioner, care taker, and advocate, we must do more to ensure this and other related practices continue to build and one day thrive.

Mahalo nui,
kimeona kane

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 1:58:10 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Irena Bliss	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Please support HB2626. Loko ‘ia (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries. Although great progress has been made to streamline the permitting process for fishponds in the State, the leasing process remains complex, confusing, and difficult to navigate.

Loko ‘ia are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting more streamlined leasing processes will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

It is a vital time to live the values of Aloha ‘Āina, Mālama ‘Āina and make decisions that will support the well-being and thriving of all future generations on island.

Mahalo piha for your consideration!
Me ke aloha,

Irena Bliss
Ha‘ikū, Maui 96708

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 3:16:45 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sven Sorge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Please support HB2626. Loko 'ia (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries. Although great progress has been made to streamline the permitting process for fishponds in the State, the leasing process remains complex, confusing, and difficult to navigate.

Loko 'ia are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting more streamlined leasing processes will accelerate Hawai'i's local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Sven Sorge

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 6:25:30 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Please support HB2626. Loko ‘ia (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries. Although great progress has been made to streamline the permitting process for fishponds in the State, the leasing process remains complex, confusing, and difficult to navigate.

Loko ‘ia are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting more streamlined leasing processes will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 6:58:36 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joan Lander	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai,

Please support HB2626. As the director of the 1991 documentary AHUPUA'A, FISHPONDS AND LO'I, I learned about the numerous fishponds on all the Hawaiian islands that provided protein to thousands. Let's try to bring back that sustainable technology to feed the people.

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:04:55 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:17:45 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Stayton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing to request that you support HB2626. Loko 'ia (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries. Although great progress has been made to streamline the permitting process for fishponds in the State, the leasing process remains complex, confusing, and difficult to navigate.

Loko 'ia are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting more streamlined leasing processes will accelerate Hawai'i's local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Susan Stayton, Lawai, Kauai, HI

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:26:41 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexis Kerver	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Alexis Kerver and I support HB2626 regarding a standard lease application and programmatic environmental impact statement to further streamline the process for leasing government-owned Hawaiian fishponds. I am an active member of the Kona and Ka‘ū communities and have personally observed the struggle communities face when wanting to take action to preserve the fishponds that have fed their ‘ohana for generations. This bill would contribute to the states local food security goals and help empower communities to steward their ‘āina.

Additionally, Loko ‘Ia (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries. Although great progress has been made to streamline the permitting process for fishponds in the State, the leasing process remains complex, confusing, and difficult to navigate.

With the support of our legislators and passing this bill, the Board of Land and Natural Resources will receive the support it needs to create a standard lease application and programmatic environmental impact statement to streamline the process of leasing government-owned Hawaiian fishponds, prioritizing community co-managed organizations and projects.

Thank you for your time,

Alexis Kerver

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:27:42 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiley Adolpho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support Traditional Methods of nourishment and community advancement

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:28:23 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Uilani Naipo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong support of this measure.

- U'ilani Naipo

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:45:30 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Wat	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Please support HB2626. Loko ‘ia (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries. Although great progress has been made to streamline the permitting process for fishponds in the State, the leasing process remains complex, confusing, and difficult to navigate.

Loko ‘ia are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting more streamlined leasing processes will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Joe Wat, Kahalu‘u

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 10:30:58 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Morgan Dobbins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I'm writing in support of HB2626. I'm so grateful to have been able to volunteer with Mālama Hulē'ia, a non-profit that oversees the restoration of the 'Aleko fishpond in Puhi, and to learn so much about the importance of Loko 'ia (fishponds). I've learned that they can be used to replenish fish populations while also remaining an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection.

I support a more streamlined leasing process that will accelerate Hawai'i's local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience. It is so critical at this point in time that we focus on the sustainability of our islands and oceans, and more fishponds throughout the islands can help us replenish our oceans and heal our shorelines.

Mahalo for your consideration and for your service to your community and state!

Morgan Dobbins, Kapa'a, Kaua'i

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 11:39:44 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Please support HB2626. Loko ‘ia (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries. Although great progress has been made to streamline the permitting process for fishponds in the State, the leasing process remains complex, confusing, and difficult to navigate.

Loko ‘ia are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting more streamlined leasing processes will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration!

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 11:42:12 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Marrack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Please support HB2626. Loko ‘ia (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries. Although great progress has been made to streamline the permitting process for fishponds in the State, the leasing process remains complex, confusing, and difficult to navigate.

Loko ‘ia are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting more streamlined leasing processes will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Julie Marrack, Kamuela

HB-2626

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 3:10:23 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Lu Kelley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

This is so important. Please support HB2626. Loko ‘ia (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries. Although great progress has been made to streamline the permitting process for fishponds in the State, the leasing process remains complex, confusing, and difficult to navigate.

Loko ‘ia are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting more streamlined leasing processes will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Please do the right thing.

Mahalo,

Mary Lu Kelley