

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

LAURA H.E. KAAKUA  
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
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ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on  
WATER & LAND

Tuesday, February 14, 2023  
8:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 430, Via Videoconference

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1162, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO VISITOR IMPACT FEES

House Bill 1162, House Draft 1 proposes to establish a visitor green fee program to be administered by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department), and a visitor green fee special fund. The bill also proposes to require the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to conduct a study on the potential revenues expected to be generated by the visitor impact fee program. **The Department supports this measure, and offers a few suggestions for implementation.**

Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources provide our drinking water and sustain all life on our islands, are huge economic assets and prime attractions of our tourism industry, and support the well-being, health, and identity of our communities. A University of Hawai'i study examined the various services provided by O'ahu's Ko'olau forests - including drinking water recharge, flood prevention, water quality, carbon storage, biodiversity, cultural, aesthetic, recreational, and commercial values. These services were calculated to have a net present value of between \$7.4 and \$14 billion. Coral reefs – the first line of defense to large ocean swells - annually protect \$836 million in averted damages to property and economic activity in Hawai'i. Despite the value of our forests and oceans, Hawai'i invests less than 1% of the total state budget into maintaining these assets.

The establishment of green fees in several other tourism-focused economies has allowed places like the Republic of Palau, Galapagos Islands, New Zealand, and the Maldives to allow greater investment in their natural resources - reducing the overall impact of tourism on their environments, improving the quality of visitor experiences, and supporting community stewardship of these special places. Visitors and many residents do not mind paying a green fee because they know it goes back to caring for the beautiful places and resources they have come to enjoy. For example, the Department's Division of State Parks executed a parking and entry fee increase for out of state visitors during the pandemic in 2020. This action, coupled with the return of the visitor industry, contributed to a substantial increase in special fund revenue to

address decades of deferred repair and maintenance at State Parks across the State. The fee increase was modest and the out of state visitor is accustomed to paying fees at other municipal, State and National Parks. Additionally, when the visitor learns the parking and entry revenue is specifically reinvested in State Park management, they are supportive.

In 2001, the Department conducted a study to determine Hawai'i's willingness to support increased funding for watershed protection. Respondents were presented with various means by which the increased funds could be raised (general funds, taxes, or fees). A majority supported the use of environment-related taxes (7.4 out of 10), or a visitor-related tax (8.0 out of 10). Palau adds a green fee to all airline passengers leaving the island state and adds the funds to an environmental management fund. Palau, New Zealand, and Maldives have not experienced a decline in visitors due to their green fees.

The establishment of a green fee is an important piece to closing the gap between existing and needed funding for the management of Hawai'i's natural resources. Any green fee along with innovative financing mechanisms such as carbon offsets for reforestation and improved forest management would move Hawai'i forward in addressing climate change and mitigating the impacts of Hawai'i's tourism economy. A green fee program would bolster the State's existing investments in natural resource management, protect public trust resources, and help fill Hawai'i's large conservation funding gap.

The Department appreciates the legislature's recognition that administering the visitor green fee program will take dedicated additional staff, and is thankful for the addition of four positions.

The Departments requests the following two amendments:

1) Project applications may be submitted by any state agency, county, and qualified nonprofit organization, and may propose to conduct activities on state lands and using natural resources in the public trust. The Department cautions that in some proposals, the cost and liability to the State could outweigh the benefits, and some project applicants may not have fully vetted their projects with all of the affected departments that may have plans for certain lands and natural resources which serve another State priority. Therefore, the Department respectfully requests the addition of the following language in Hawaii Revised Statutes §171-G(c):

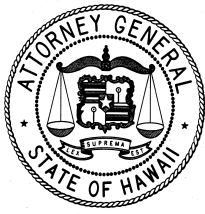
The department shall **use best efforts to** provide grant recipients with access to any state lands or natural resources necessary to effectuate the project for which the grant is awarded.

(Department proposed language to be added is bolded and underlined.)

2) To increase transparency in the process of project ranking, making recommendations to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR), and providing funding, the Department recommends that the original bill's language creating a volunteer commission be added. In that scenario, the volunteer commission would be advisory and would rank project applications and make recommendations to the BLNR, likely providing project applicants the chance to present their projects publicly, and affording the public in an open forum following sunshine laws the opportunity to hear how and why commission members ranked projects and made recommendations to the BLNR.

There are other proposed measures to create a visitor green fee program, and the Department welcomes the opportunity to work with the Legislature to incorporate helpful language from all measures.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure with suggested amendments.



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA  
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 1162, H.D. 1, RELATING TO VISITOR IMPACT FEES.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 14, 2023      **TIME:** 8:30 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 430

**TESTIFIER(S):** Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or  
Daniel A. Morris, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Ichiyama and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General supports the intent and purpose of this bill, but we have legal concerns and provide the following comments.

The purpose of the bill is to establish, within the Department of Land and Natural Resources, a visitor impact fee program to collect a fee from non-Hawaii residents and issue licenses to allow visitors to visit state parks, beaches, forests, hiking trails, or other natural areas on state land. The bill establishes a civil penalty in the form of a fine for not paying the fee, although implementation of the penalty provisions is delayed for a period of 5 years. A visitor impact fee special fund is established to deposit the fees collected.

The special fund is administered by the Board of Land and Natural Resources and may be used for projects that provide "protection, restoration, and enhancement of Hawaii's natural resources"; that increase "resilience of state-owned natural resources"; or that advance the "State's ability to protect natural resources through the establishment, stability and growth of an environmentally responsible work force" (page 14, lines 3-9).

Because this bill distinguishes between residents and non-Hawaii residents, it may be subject to challenges under various provisions of the United States Constitution, including the First Amendment, the Privileges and Immunities Clause, the Commerce Clause, and Equal Protection Clause. However, the recreational nature of the State-

owned resources that are subject to the licensing requirement increases the likelihood it can withstand constitutional scrutiny because federal courts have already addressed these challenges and upheld nonresident fees for other purely recreational activities. See *Daly v. Harris*, 215 F. Supp. 2d 1098 (D. Haw. 2002), *aff'd*, 117 Fed. Appx. 498 (9th Cir. 2004) (upholding nonresident parking fees at Hanauma Bay).

Even if fundamental rights are not affected, the United States Constitution still requires that there be a rational basis for the distinction between residents and nonresidents, which includes a reasonable nexus between the problems caused by nonresidents and the remedies sought to be achieved by the administration and enforcement of the program. *Id.* at 1117-18. The bill raises concerns because there are few constraints on the areas of state land that are subject to the licensing requirement and because of the breadth of permissible uses for the funds. This bill does not provide for site-specific designations of particular recreational areas, and it authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources to disburse funds for some purposes that are only tangentially related to the impacts caused by nonresidents. For example, funds from the special fund may be used for the establishment of an "environmentally responsible workforce." The relationship between the impacts of nonresidents on Hawaii's natural resources and an environmentally responsible workforce may be viewed as attenuated.

In addition to these constitutional concerns, section 37-52.3, HRS, provides that a special fund must have uses with a clear nexus between the benefits sought and the charges made upon the nonresident users. And Hawaii courts have held that fees can only be used for the purposes for which they were collected. *State v. Medeiros*, 89 Hawai'i 361, 366 (1999) (distinguishing a fee from a tax). The purpose clause of this bill refers to the fee as a means of generating additional revenue, which is more like the purpose for a tax.

For these reasons, the green fee program should have a clear purpose clause to indicate that the fees are collected to offset the impacts on natural resources caused by tourism and a strong relationship between the impacts of nonresidents and the uses of the fees held in the visitor impact fee special fund.

To address these concerns, the Department of the Attorney General requests that this Committee incorporate the purpose clause and certain key features of House Bill No. 1051, Relating to Natural Resources Management, which has been reviewed by the Department of the Attorney General and is more narrowly tailored. For example, House Bill No. 1051 provides that the site-specific areas subject to the license requirement will be set by rule, which will allow the program to target areas most frequented by tourists. The rulemaking process can also address concerns about duplicative fees or pre-existing entrance fees to certain state parks and natural areas. House Bill No. 1051 also more narrowly defines the uses for moneys in the special fund to emphasize the relationship between the impacts of nonresidents on natural resources and the permissible uses for the special fund. The permissible uses should be focused on environmental projects associated with visitor impacts. The Department of the Attorney General is eager to work with this Committee to incorporate these changes and increase the chance of success for this important visitor impact program.

Thank you for the opportunity to make comments.



Ke'ena Kuleana Ho'okipa O Hawai'i  
Hawai'i Convention Center  
1801 Kalākāua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815  
**kelepona** tel 808 973 2255  
**kelepa'i** fax 808 973 2253  
**kahua pa'a** web [hawaii tourismauthority.org](http://hawaii tourismauthority.org)

**Josh Green, M.D.**  
*Governor*

**John De Fries**  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

Statement of  
**JOHN DE FRIES**  
Hawai'i Tourism Authority  
before the  
**COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND**

Tuesday, February 14, 2023  
8:30 a.m.  
State Capitol Conference Room 430 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**HOUSE BILL NO. 1162 HD1**  
**RELATING TO VISITOR IMPACT FEES**

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Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee on Water & Land,

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) appreciates the opportunity to offer comments in support of the intent of HB1162 HD1, to collect fees to fund the protection and increased resilience of Hawai'i's natural and outdoor recreational resources.

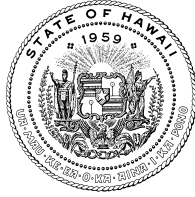
The ethic of mālama – care and stewardship – is the core of our visitor education efforts. HTA's work is framed by four interacting strategic pillars: Natural Resources, Hawaiian Culture, Community, and Branding – the last of which is dependent upon the strength of the first three.

Hawai'i's environment is a treasure, and it is our collective kuleana to protect it for the generations to come. Fulfilling that responsibility takes funding. We agree with the intent of this legislation as it is in alignment with our Strategic Plan priorities in the Natural Resources pillar, as well as action items in our community-generated Destination Management Action Plans.

We have consistently been supportive of site-specific user fees as our preferred model, but whichever model this Legislature decides upon to facilitate visitor contributions to the care of our natural resources, we advocate the reinvestment of those collections into improving the experience for kama'āina and visitors alike at public parks and trails.

We support the intent of HB1162 HD1. We stand ready to assist in educating visitor industry stakeholders and visitors, and defer to our colleagues at the Department of Land and Natural Resources on matters related to the implementation of this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide these comments.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

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

**House Committee on Water & Land**

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

9:30 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 430 and Videoconference

**In Support of the Intent**

**H.B. No. 1162, H.D. 1, Relating to Visitor Impact Fees**

Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the House Committee on Water & Land:

The Office of the Governor supports the intent of H.B. No. 1162, H.D. 1, Relating to Visitor Impact Fees. We note that this measure and H.B. No. 1051, Relating to Natural Resources Management, recognize the invaluable benefits of Hawai'i's natural resources as well as the importance of providing sustained funding for the protection, restoration, regeneration, enhancement, and care of Hawai'i's natural and outdoor recreational resources. However, we respectfully request your consideration of amendments to H.B. No. 1162, H.D. 1 for the reasons below.

The impacts on Hawai'i's natural resources, consequences of both residents and visitors, is an overarching concern in our State and one of the priorities of this Administration. H.B. No. 1162, H.D. 1 and H.B. No. 1051 also recognize that human-induced impacts on our environment, including increased pollution, stress on our natural resources, soil degradation, and natural habitat loss, are cause for great concern and immediate action. For all who live in our State, Hawai'i's natural resources are a vital part of our past and present, but also our future.

It is well recognized that Hawaii residents already contribute to the protection and management of the State's natural resources through taxes, environmental care, subsistence and cultural practices, and the values and practices embodied in the Hawaii State Constitution. However, the State has not yet dedicated enough financial resources to address the impacts by visitors. H.B. No. 1051, which was vetted by the Department of the Attorney General and Department of Land and Natural Resources, establishes the Visitor Green Fee Program, which includes a license and assessment of a visitor green fee on visitors for the usage of Hawai'i's state-owned parks, beaches, forests, trails, or other state-owned recreational natural areas.

Testimony of Office of the Governor  
H.B. No. 1162, H.D. 1  
February 14, 2023  
Page 2

While H.B. No. 1162, H.D. 1 and other measures before the Committee on Water & Land may be of similar intent, we respectfully request the Committee's consideration of amending H.B. No. 1162, H.D. 1 as follows:

- Replace the purpose section in H.B. No. 1162, H.D. 1 with the purpose section of H.B. No. 1051 to emphasize the relationship between the harm caused by non-residents and the purposes or uses of the moneys to remediate such harm;
- Reflect that the awarding of grants includes projects that “protect, restore, or enhance terrestrial and marine natural resources impacted by heavy usage of licensees” rather than language that reflects providing “significant protection, restoration, and enhancement of Hawaii’s natural resources”, and make corresponding changes throughout the bill;
- Amend the approach in implementing the Visitor Impact Fee Program so that the specified state-owned areas subject to the license requirement are designated by rules;
- Provide that the transfer of moneys from the Visitor Impact Fee Special Fund to other state departments and agencies is contingent on the Governor’s permission;
- Delete references to an environmentally responsible workforce as it relates to the permissible use of moneys of the Visitor Impact Fee Special Fund; and
- Require, rather than allow, the Department of Land and Natural Resources to adopt rules pursuant to Chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to implement the Visitor Impact Fee Program.

In addition, we respectfully request that the Committee on Water & Land consider including provisions that establish the Environmental Legacy Commission (Commission) as reflected in H.B. No. 1051, which would enable the Commission to make recommendations to the Board of Land and Natural Resources regarding the use of revenues collected from fees from visitors through an environmental license and allocated to protect, restore, and manage natural and cultural resources.

The Office of the Governor appreciates the Committee’s consideration of measures this session that seek to ensure responsible and caring stewardship of Hawaii’s natural resources so that residents and visitors to our State can reap and enjoy the natural resources that make Hawaii so valued.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 5:09:14 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Charlie Quesnel	Surfrider Maui Chapter	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of HB1162**

**Committee on Water and Land**

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

**My name is Charlie and I am testifying in strong support of HB1162 which would help offset visitor impacts through a visitor green fee program, and distribute funds to implement solutions for State and community programs working to restore our natural and cultural resources. [Insert personal testimony including where you are from, why this issue is important to you, and why you took time to support this measure.]**

**This measure is a critical step to ensuring visitors are paying their fair share for the places they use, visit, and experience during their time here. As an island region, Hawai'i is in immediate need of additional resources to conserve and protect our ecosystems, native species, coastlines, and the community livelihoods that depend on these resources. The impacts of tourists on our natural and cultural resources is undeniable. A recent local study confirmed that Hawai'i coral reefs attract visitors which then exacerbate their degradation. This is true for our other resources as well.**

**As the endangered species capital of the world, as an island with disappearing coastlines to sea level rise, and as a coastal community who relies on healthy oceans and forests to survive, it is imperative we implement a visitor green fee program this year to protect these resources before it's too late. HB1162 would generate the needed funding to meet our conservation, sustainability, and climate needs as a region, and provide a sustained funding source to enable our community groups, such as nonprofit organizations and DLNR, to implement solutions and scale work already being done to preserve Hawai'i. As a volunteer**

**member with the Surfrider Foundation - Maui Chapter I urge the committee to pass a visitor green fee program this session, in order to begin the needed restoration for our home as soon as possible.**

**The success of this program must include buy-in from tourists, residents, the tourism industry, and conservation experts, and is contingent upon effective outreach and transparency of the program. We must have a diverse set of stakeholders from relevant sectors contributing to the decision-making process for this level of funding. For this reason, I would like to request HB1162 to be amended to include the Environmental Legacy Commission, made up of members from diverse areas of expertise.**

**I want to Mahalo you and reiterate the urgency and importance of passing this measure. This bill is a clear pathway to protecting, restoring, and enhancing Hawai'i for our local communities and the visitors we share it with, for future generations and beyond.**

**Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,**

*Charlie Quesnel, SFMC Treasurer & 24+ yr board member*

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 8:18:22 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Arwen Revere	Wild Kids	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hussey-Burdick, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Arwen Revere and I'm a high school student from Kailua and a member of the environmental organization Wild Kids, whom I am representing today. Wild Kids is in strong support of HB442. We believe that this green initiative would be extremely beneficial in protecting our environment from the effects of tourism. Hawai'i's natural resources are vital to sustaining our way of life and most of our industries, including tourism. Without Hawai'i's iconic natural resources such as our forests and beaches, tourism would drop dramatically. The impacts of visitors, climate change, and localized threats to our ecosystems are becoming extremely destructive. Having an innovative funding stream such as the one suggested in this bill would fund the critical conservation efforts that are needed to support Hawai'i's ecosystems. Wild Kids believes that we need sustainable tactics to protect the islands for future generations to enjoy. This includes the future of industries that depend on Hawai'i as a visitor destination. A visitor green fee program could provide methods to build environmental and economic resilience for our local communities.

Additionally, we support the visitor green program to include the Environmental Legacy Commission, made up of members from diverse areas of expertise, in order to provide effective and meaningful outreach. I am hopeful that by working together, we can make a difference for future generations.

Thank you for hearing our testimony.

Arwen Revere, on behalf of Wild Kidx



**Coalition Letter in Support of Hawai'i Green Fee  
Committee on Water and Land  
HB1162**

February 10, 2023

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

As an island region, Hawai'i is in immediate need of additional resources to conserve and protect our ecosystems, native species, coastlines, and the community livelihoods that depend on these resources. The impacts of tourists on our natural and cultural resources is undeniable. This measure is a step to ensuring visitors are paying their fair share for the places they use, visit, and experience during their time here. **By investing in our environment today, we can ensure that residents and visitors are able to enjoy our incomparable natural environment and island lifestyle for decades to come.**

HB1162 would generate the needed funding to meet our conservation, sustainability, and climate needs as a region, and provide a sustained funding source to enable our community groups, such as nonprofit organizations and DLNR, to implement solutions and scale work already being done to preserve Hawai'i. The organizations listed below are writing **in support of legislation to create a visitor impact fee program through a \$50 environmental license** to provide resources to conserve, restore, and protect our environment across the State.

**We also wish to provide comments that encourage committee leadership to reintroduce the Environmental Legacy Commission into HB1162.** The success of this program must include buy-in from tourists, residents, the tourism industry, and conservation experts, and is contingent upon effective outreach and transparency of the program. We must have a diverse set of stakeholders from relevant sectors contributing to the decision-making process for this level of funding.

There is a critical need for additional and scaled revenue to protect, restore, and enhance Hawai'i's irreplaceable natural resources, including our oceans, reefs, beaches, forests, and streams. While our visitor industry plays a substantial role in our State economy, the 10 million visitors to our islands each year exact a heavy toll on our natural resources. For example, a recent study confirmed that Hawai'i coral reefs attract visitors which then exacerbate their degradation. These resources are invaluable to the livelihoods of our local residents and integral drivers of our statewide economy as well as our visitor industry. This is true for our other resources as well. **This is why over two-thirds of Hawai'i voters support implementing a visitor green fee to fund the protection of natural and cultural resources.**



**Hawai'i's total conservation funding gap has been estimated at \$360 million annually.** These unfunded programs protect the watersheds that generate our islands' only source of fresh drinking water, the reefs that protect more than \$830 million worth of coastal infrastructure each year and generate \$13.4 million annually in local fisheries benefits, and other critical natural resources that provide priceless economic, recreational, and cultural values to residents and visitors to our islands. **The following green fee priorities will help our State offset visitor impact: scaling a green workforce to provide additional capacity toward conservation, protecting and restoring our marine and terrestrial resources, implementing nature-based solutions to adapt and mitigate against the increasing impact of the climate emergency, and increasing the health and resilience of places trafficked by residents and visitors.**

A visitor impact fee program presents an opportunity to finance the protection and restoration of these irreplaceable natural and cultural resources, create hundreds of jobs for local residents, meet the local needs of our home, and secure a healthy environment for future generations. **With an estimated 10 million visitors annually, a \$50 per visitor green fee could generate \$500 million in conservation revenue each year.**

**These organizations and businesses support taking care of our environment through a visitor green fee so it can continue to nourish and care for us and future generations:**

1. Conservation International
2. Kanu Hawai'i
3. Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (KUA)
4. Kupu
5. Surfrider Foundation Hawai'i
6. The Nature Conservancy
7. Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED)
8. Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i
9. Blue Planet Foundation
10. Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition
11. Hawai'i Forest & Trail
12. Trust for Public Land
13. Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA)
14. Hawai'i Youth Climate Coalition
15. Wastewater Alternatives & Innovations (WAI)
16. National Tropical Botanical Garden



17. Young Progressives Demanding Action
18. The Conservationist Collective
19. Pono Hawai'i Initiative
20. Wild Kids
21. Parley for the Oceans
22. Resources Legacy Fund
23. Malama Pupuokea-Waimea
24. Hawai'i Land Trust
25. Mālama Learning Center
26. Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project
27. Kuleana Coral Restoration
28. Zero Waste Hawai'i Island
29. Travel2Change
30. Mālama Maunaloa
31. Kailua Beach Adventures
32. Good Food Movement
33. Care About Climate
34. Protea Zero Waste Store
35. Kailua Beach Adventures
36. Agripelago
37. Native Ecosystem Services
38. Delphi Cinema
39. Keep it Simple Honolulu
40. North Shore Community Land Trust
41. Hawai'i Wildlife Fund
42. Kingdom Pathways
43. Kokonut Koalition

Mahalo for your commitment to protecting Hawai'i's priceless natural assets, and please reach out with any questions at [aloha@hawaiigreenfee.org](mailto:aloha@hawaiigreenfee.org).



**HAWAII**  
 1164 Bishop St., Ste. 1512  
 Honolulu, HI 96813  
[tpl.org](http://tpl.org)

**TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND'S TESIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1162 HD 1**  
**House Committee on Water & Land, Rm. 430**  
**Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 9:30 a.m.**

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice-Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members –

**HAWAII BOARD**

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**Mahina Paishon-Duarte**  
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**C**  
 Merrill Lynch

**Mark Linscott**  
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**Earlynn Maile**  
 Young Brothers

**Kurt Matsumoto**  
 Pūlama Lāna'i

**John Meier**  
 Conservationist

**Mino McLean**  
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**Catherine Ngo**  
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 G70

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 Title Guaranty

**Brad Punu**  
 Anatha

**Kirstin Punu**  
 AES

**Race Randle**  
 Lendlease Americas

**Tom Reeve**  
 Conservationist

**Ka'iulani Sodaro**  
 Ward Village/Howard Hughes

**Jan Sullivan**  
 Oceanit

Trust for Public Land (TPL) strongly supports HB 1162 HD 1 which would establish an annual visitor license, the revenues of which would be used to care for our precious natural and cultural resources.

Although Hawai'i's natural and host culture attracts over 10 million visitors a year in non-pandemic times, the State's management and protection of cultural and natural resources is sorely underfunded -- receiving less than 1% of the state's annual budget. DLNR struggles to manage a tremendous kuleana – its Natural Area Reserves, Forest Reserves, parks, trails, historic sites and monuments, and unencumbered state land. Hawai'i suffers from a significant conservation funding gap [estimated at \\$360 million annually](#). Meanwhile – coral reefs are dying, trails are overcrowded, cultural sites are being damaged, parks are deteriorating, watersheds are threatened, and fish stocks are declining. Residents feel overwhelmed by the overuse of and damage to the special places they and their families once enjoyed, and to which many families have genealogical connections.

With an estimated 10 million tourists visiting our islands annually in non-pandemic times, a \$50 per person green fee could generate \$500 million in conservation revenue each year, creating local green jobs and protecting Hawai'i's irreplaceable natural and cultural resources, including the forested watersheds that generate the islands' only source of fresh drinking water and the reefs that protect more than \$830 million worth of coastal infrastructure each year, according to a [USGS report](#).

Last year, a 2022 survey conducted by FM3 (95% confidence level), found that Hawai'i voters overwhelmingly agree that tourists should pay their fair share to maintain and manage natural and cultural resources. Fully 88% of voters – nearly 9 out of 10 – agree with this assertion and nearly two-thirds (63%) "strongly agree." The survey also found two thirds of Hawai'i voters support a \$50 per person "green fee" for visitors who use state and county beaches, parks and trails to fund programs to protect and restore land, water, wildlife and cultural resources impacted by tourism.

We also suggest that a volunteer advisory Commission similar to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission advise the Board of Land and Natural Resources on grants and disbursements. Reviewing and conducting thorough due diligence on grant applications is a laborious process. An advisory Commission made up of different experts in natural and cultural resources could greatly assist the BLNR and staff in disbursing the funds, and provide transparency and community involvement in the decision-making process.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify. I apologize that I will not be able to attend the hearing in person or virtually due to a scheduling conflict.

Lea Hong  
 Associate Vice-President  
 Hawai'i State Director  
 Edmund C. Olson Trust Fellow  
 Trust for Public Land



February 10, 2023

Representative Linda Ichiyama, Chair  
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Water and Land  
Hawaii State Legislature

### **Comments on HB1162 HD1**

Dear Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe and Members of the House Committee on Water and Land,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB1162 HD1.

Overall, the Kohala Coast Resort Association is in support of the state collecting visitor impact fees for the use of our state's natural resources, including state parks, beaches, trails, natural areas and other facilities, but **only if those fees are directly reinvested in those natural areas for maintenance, upkeep and preservation.**

Fees of \$10 per car and \$5 per person have been collected at a number of Hawaii Island state parks for years. But unfortunately, those parks have not benefited directly from those investments. For example, Hapuna Beach State Park has been plagued by issues with its water lines, and there is currently no potable water for residents or visitors, nor working restroom facilities. The "temporary" luas that have been put in place bake in the sun, and are an abysmal detraction from what should be one of Hawaii Island's crown jewels.

As a part of the study on potential revenues that this bill would generate, we would request that the Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism also examine the revenues and expenditures from these **previously established visitor fee programs**. A dashboard on how all of the fees are being used should be readily available and accessible for the public, so they can be apprised of the status of key projects.

The Kohala Coast Resort Association's members employ 5,000 people, supporting 20,000 residents, at their hotels, timeshares, restaurants, retail shops, golf courses and spas along Hawaii Island's Kohala Coast. Additionally, in 2022, KCRA members paid \$40 million in state and county TAT, and \$40 million in state and county GET, funds that should also be appropriated to address visitor impacts, versus going into the state's general fund.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB1162 HD1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie P. Donoho". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephanie Donoho, Administrative Director





2/14/2023

WAL Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

**Position: Support HB1162**

The Surfrider Foundation is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our ocean, waves, and beaches. Surfrider maintains a network of over 150 chapters and academic clubs nationwide, including 4 chapters in the Hawaiian Islands. The Surfrider Foundation focuses on many aspects of the environment such as coastal protection, plastic pollution, and water quality.

The Surfrider Foundation, Hawaii region, is testifying in **strong support of HB1162**, which would establish a visitor green fee program administered by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

Our beaches, parks, reefs, forests, hiking trails, and other natural resources are paramount to sustaining our way of life and, similarly, our economic engine. These resources are intertwined with our visitor sector, as the tourism economy depends on Hawaii's iconic natural resources. However, our islands are facing escalating visitor impacts, climate change, and localized threats to our ecosystems. Hawaii currently only invests \$9 per tourist back in the environment, and less than 1% of the state budget goes towards conservation. We currently face an estimated conservation funding gap of \$360 million per year.

**HB1162 would establish an innovative funding stream to support the critical conservation efforts needed to maintain Hawaii as a healthy, sustainable region for future generations to enjoy, as well as a visitor destination.** A transformational investment in Hawaii's natural resources through a visitor green fee program provides a pathway to build environmental and economic resilience for our local communities and our visitor industry. Green fee models have successfully been implemented at visitor destinations across the world, particularly in other island communities such as Palau, the British Virgin Islands, Maldives, Bali, El Nido, the Galapagos, Mentawais, and the Balearic Islands.<sup>1</sup>

For the past few years, the Surfrider Foundation has been involved in Hawaii's green fee efforts. Building on the success of the natural resources allocation of the Honolulu Transient Accommodation Tax passing in 2021, we're excited to have the opportunity to testify. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in support of HB1162, submitted on the behalf of the Surfrider Foundation's 4 Chapters in Hawaii and all of our members who live in the state and visit to enjoy the many coastal recreational opportunities offered by all of the islands' coastlines.

Sincerely,

Camile Cleveland  
Volunteer Policy Coordinator  
Surfrider Foundation, O'ahu Chapter

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<sup>1</sup> [GREEN PASSPORT - Innovative Financing Solutions for Conservation in Hawaii](#), Conservation International, 2019

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 2:42:29 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ted Bohlen	Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawaii support the concept of having visitors pay fees for visiting natural resources in Hawaii, given the toll visitors can place on our natural resources.



**HYPERSPECTIVE**  
INSPIRE BELIEF

**Testimony in Support of [HB1162/SB304]  
Committee on Water and Land**

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

My name is Todd Robertson, President and CEO of Hyperspective with our headquarters in Honolulu. I am testifying on behalf of myself and my company **in strong support of [HB1162/SB304]** which would help offset visitor impacts through a visitor green fee program, and distribute funds to implement solutions for State and community programs working to restore our natural and cultural resources.

**I am a Hawaii resident with children and grandchildren, and am deeply concerned about the future sustainability and resilience of our local Hawaii residents, as well as how we manage our resources to support our local communities.**

This measure is a critical step to ensuring visitors are paying their fair share for the places they use, visit, and experience during their time here. As an island region, Hawai'i is in immediate need of additional resources to conserve and protect our ecosystems, native species, coastlines, and the community livelihoods that depend on these resources. The impacts of tourists on our natural and cultural resources is undeniable. A recent local study confirmed that Hawai'i coral reefs attract visitors which then exacerbate their degradation. This is true for our other resources as well.

As the endangered species capital of the world, as an island with disappearing coastlines to sea level rise, and as a coastal community who relies on healthy oceans and forests to survive, it is imperative we implement a visitor green fee program this year to protect these resources before it's too late. This measure would generate the needed funding to meet our conservation, sustainability, and climate needs as a region, and provide a sustained funding source to enable our community groups, such as nonprofit organizations and DLNR, to implement solutions and scale work already being done to preserve Hawai'i. I personally work with sever non-profit organizations, as well as City and State government departments who support long-term sustainability, resilience, and protection of our environment. **I urge the committee to pass a visitor green fee program this session, in order to begin the needed restoration for our home as soon as possible.**

The success of this program must include buy-in from tourists, residents, the tourism industry, and conservation experts, and is contingent upon effective outreach and transparency of the program. We must have a diverse set of stakeholders from relevant sectors contributing to the decision-making process for this level of funding. **For this reason, I would like this measure to keep the Environmental Legacy Commission, made up of members from diverse areas of expertise.**

The time for us to act is now, and we need the resources to do it now, many of which this bill will help to obtain. This bill is a clear pathway to protecting, restoring, and enhancing Hawai'i for our local communities and the visitors we share it with, for future generations and beyond.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

HYPERSPECTIVE STUDIOS, INC.  
643 ILALO STREET  
HONOLULU, HI 96813

MAIL TO:  
P.O. BOX 893636  
MILILANI, HI 96789

HYPERSPECTIVE.COM  
808.353.3618



## HB 1162, HD1, RELATING TO VISITOR IMPACT FEES

FEBRUARY 14, 2023 · HOUSE WATER AND LAND  
COMMITTEE · CHAIR REP. LINDA ICHIYAMA

**POSITION:** Support.

**RATIONALE:** Imua Alliance supports HB 1162, HD1, relating to visitor impact fees, which establishes a visitor impact fee program within the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, through which the department will collect a fee for a license to visit a state park, forest, hiking trail, or other state natural area; establishes, and appropriates moneys into and out of, the visitor impact fee special fund; requires the Hawai'i Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to conduct a study on the potential revenues expected to be generated by the visitor impact fee program.

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)**

# TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 305

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: MISCELLANEOUS, Visitor Impact Fee

BILL NUMBER: HB 1162 HD 1

INTRODUCED BY: House Committee on Tourism

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Establishes a visitor impact fee program within the Department of Land and Natural Resources, through which the department will collect a fee for a license to visit a state park, forest, hiking trail, or other state natural area. Establishes, and appropriates moneys into and out of, the visitor impact fee special fund. Requires the department of business, economic development, and tourism to conduct a study on the potential revenues expected to be generated by the visitor impact fee program.

SYNOPSIS: Adds a new part to chapter 171, HRS, to define the program.

Under the program, visitors shall pay a visitor impact fee to obtain a license to use a state park, beach, state-owned forest, hiking trail on state-owned land, or other state-owned natural area. Visitor impact fees collected shall be deposited in the newly established visitor impact fee special fund. Revenues collected under the program shall be expended directly by state agencies for projects that help offset adverse environmental impacts caused by visitors, ensure that the State's natural resources are maintained for continued use by licensees, or both. Examples of permissible projects under this subsection include projects that directly restore, enhance, and protect, in perpetuity, natural resources and the State's unique and fragile ecological status.

Prohibits any visitor who is fifteen years of age or older to visit a state park, beach, state-owned forest, hiking trail on state-owned land, or other state-owned natural area without first obtaining an impact fee license. Violators may be liable for a civil fine not to exceed \$500. The assessment of penalties shall begin no more than five years after the establishment of the program, to allow time for effective implementation, public education, and enforcement.

The initial visitor impact fee shall be \$50 per person and the license purchased shall be good for one year. DLNR may, once every five years, adjust the fee to account for inflation.

DLNR is to place signs at state parks, beaches, state-owned forests, trailheads on state-owned land, and other state-owned natural areas to inform visitors of the requirement to pay a visitor impact fee and obtain a license.

DLNR may adopt rules to, among other things, ensure that persons who purchase a license are aware that the license is broader than, and may be in addition to, an entrance fee to visit a specific state park, forest, hiking trail, or other natural area on state land, which is used explicitly for that park, forest, hiking trail, or other natural area.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon Approval, but the appropriations in the bill take effect on July 1, 2023.

STAFF COMMENTS: This fee may be subject to challenge as unconstitutional. The Privileges and Immunities Clause of the U.S. Constitution requires that “The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States.” Although it has been held that a state may treat out-of-state residents differently in some situations, such as in granting licenses for recreational hunting, *Baldwin v. Fish & Game Commission of Montana*, 436 U.S. 371 (1978), the Court indicated that the result may be different when the nonresident is not given access to any part of the State to which they may seek to travel. *Id.* at 388. This is because the Court has recognized that the Constitution protects the right of citizens of the United States to travel freely throughout the land.

“We are all citizens of the United States,” the Court stated in *Crandall v. Nevada*, 75 U.S. 35 (1867), “and as members of the same community must have the right to pass and repass through every part of it without interruption, as freely as in our own states. And a tax imposed by a state for entering its territories or harbors is inconsistent with the rights which belong to citizens of other states as members of the Union and with the objects which that Union was intended to attain. Such a power in the states could produce nothing but discord and mutual irritation, and they very clearly do not possess it.”

Other recent cases in the federal system have sustained the power of government to charge a user fee whose proceeds are dedicated to protect and preserve the natural attraction for which the user fee was charged (Hanauma Bay, for example). And the Hawaii Supreme Court in *State v. Medeiros*, 89 Haw. 361, 973 P.2d 736 (1999), held that the following test would be applied to distinguish between a user fee and a tax: “whether the charge (1) applies to the direct beneficiary of a particular service, (2) is allocated directly to defraying the costs of providing the service, and (3) is reasonably proportionate to the benefit received.” 89 Haw. at 367, 973 P.2d at 742.

Applying this test, the proposed visitor impact fee looks more like a tax. Although the impact fee is collected in a special fund, it is collected from visitors regardless of how many natural attractions the visitor visits. The uses to which the money in the fund can be put are broad and varied, and are not limited to the care and upkeep of natural attractions visited by tourists. Finally, it is clear in this version of the bill that different natural attractions may charge user fees in addition to the license fee, making it less likely that the courts will hold that the visitor impact fee is also a user fee.

For these reasons we are concerned that the State is without power to limit access of visitors to places where residents are allowed.

We also note some incongruities in the definition of “resident” offered in the bill. The bill calls a person a resident if that person filed a Hawaii tax return; nonresidents file Hawaii tax returns too. The bill also allows a person to be classified as a resident if they have a utility bill or similar document showing a Hawaii address; the Hawaii address could be that of a second or third home.

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 6:34:49 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John Leong	Kupu	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe and Honorable members of the Committee on Water and Land,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 1162.

Kupu, Hawai'i's largest youth-focused conservation nonprofit, strongly supports efforts to better restore and maintain our environment and increase our food and energy self-sufficiency. We support HB 1162 as a viable pathway to reduce our state's conservation deficit and otherwise care for our islands.

Please pass HB 1162.



**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy  
Supporting HB 1162 HD1, Relating to Visitor Impact Fees.**

**Committee on Water and Land  
February 14, 2023, 8:30 am  
Conference Room 430 and via Videoconference**

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

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) supports HB 1162 HD1, Relating to Visitor Impact Fees, which establishes a visitor impact fee program within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), through which the department will collect a fee for a license to visit a state park, forest, hiking trail, or other state natural area. The bill also establishes, and appropriates moneys into and out of, the visitor impact fee special fund.

HB 1162 HD1 would establish an innovative funding stream to support the critical conservation efforts needed to maintain Hawai'i as a healthy, sustainable home for future generations, as well as a world-class visitor destination. Our natural resources sustain our way of life, feed our families, and drive our local economy. Although Hawai'i's natural beauty is a top tourist attraction, conservation efforts receive less than 1% of the State's annual budget. A visitor impact fee could help close Hawai'i's conservation funding gap, which has been estimated at \$360 million annually.

Hawai'i's people and natural resources are being directly affected by climate change. We are experiencing increased flooding, coastal erosion, sea level rise, coral bleaching, loss of native forest, rising temperatures, increased threats of extinction for endangered species, and other impacts from the changing climate. DLNR and organizations like TNC throughout the state are working to protect and restore our islands' critical natural resources. Additional funding is needed to maintain and increase the pace and scale of these conservation efforts to offset the growing impacts from climate change. The visitor impact fee and special fund established in HB 1162 HD1 would allow for more sustained funding to scale efforts and address our conservation needs while supporting the development of green jobs to conserve and manage our natural resources without increasing fees or taxes on residents.

A July 2020 poll of Hawai'i residents showed strong public support for an array of actions to make the islands more resilient, many of which could be supported by HB 1162 HD1. Three-quarters or more supported restoring forest areas to reduce fire risk and provide water and wildlife habitat. Seven in ten support preventing the spread of invasive species, while two-thirds support restoring

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wetlands for flood protection. Majorities also support managing forests and soil to capture carbon, as well as preventing the spread of deadly diseases as the climate warms.<sup>1</sup>

We also support the Environmental Legacy Commission established under the introduced version of the bill. It will provide important input from a wide variety of stakeholders in the visitor impact fee and fund, and transparency and accountability in how the funding is spent. We ask the Committee to consider adding these sections back into the legislation.

A transformational investment in Hawai'i's natural resources through a visitor impact fee program and special fund is necessary to build environmental and economic resilience for our local communities and our visitor industry. By investing in our environment today and into the future, we can ensure that residents and visitors are able to enjoy our incomparable natural environment and island lifestyle for generations to come.

Mahalo for the opportunity to support HB 1162 HD1.

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*The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i and Palmyra 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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<sup>1</sup> Ward Research and Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (FM3) completed a survey of Hawai'i residents to assess their views on a range of environmental issues. From June 11-July 3, 2020, Ward Research completed 724 telephone interviews (on both landlines and cell phones) with randomly selected adults in Hawaii. The margin of sampling error for this memo is +/-3.5% at the 95% confidence level; margins of error for population subgroups within the sample will be higher. Due to rounding, not all totals will sum to 100%. The study was funded by The Nature Conservancy. A memo summarizing poll results is available upon request.



Mālama  
Learning  
Center

*Mālama Learning Center is a non-profit organization based in West O'ahu. Our mission is to inspire communities to care for Hawai'i by perpetuating conservation, culture, and sustainability through education.*

The Honorable Representative Linda Ichiyama, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Water and Land

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1162 HD1  
Relating to Visitor Impact Fees**

Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 8:30 am

To the Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members:

Aloha Kākou. My name is Pauline Sato and I serve as the Executive Director of the Mālama Learning Center, a private, non-profit environmental education organization serving schools and communities in West O'ahu. I am testifying in strong support of HB 1162 HD1. This bill would help offset visitor impacts through a visitor green fee program, and distribute funds to implement actions that work to restore our natural and cultural resources, which visitors from across the world come to experience.

More than 10 year ago, I had the good fortune of visiting the Republic of Palau and was immediately impressed with their innovative version of a green fee. Visitors certainly did not hesitate to come because of a fee that was less than 5% of the cost of airfare alone. The green fee in Palau continues to help the government and non-profit organizations manage their natural and cultural resources – it is time that Hawai'i has its own green fee.

This measure is needed now as our natural and cultural resources bear the heavy weight of human impact – including that of visitors. Water use, waste generation, and energy consumption are undeniably connected to every visitor's stay, yet they are not asked to pay for the costs to manage and sustain resources at scales island-wide.

While the Department of Land & Natural Resources is the appropriate agency to administer this program, it is critical that the Environmental Legacy Commission, made up of members from diverse areas of expertise, be part of the decision-making process for use of funding by non-profit organizations. This ensures transparency and provides safeguards so that the important work of non-profit organizations that do critical work to protect and manage natural and cultural resources, sometimes at a fraction of what it would cost the government, is supported. Please add the Environmental Legacy Commission back into the bill.

I urge your committee to pass this bill and thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am hopeful that this is the year that Hawai'i gets its own green fee!

Pauline M. Sato

Mālama Learning Center  
P.O. Box 1662, Honolulu, Hawai'i 967806  
[www.malamalearningcenter.org](http://www.malamalearningcenter.org)



February 14, 2023

Representative Linda Ichiyama  
Chair, Committee on Water and Land

Representative Mahina Poepoe  
Vice-Chair, Committee on Water and Land

**RE: Testimony in Support of HB 1162, HD1, Relating to Visitor Impact Fees**

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe and committee members,

On behalf of Resources Legacy Fund (RLF), we are writing in support 1162, HD1, which establishes a visitor impact fee program. We also support the establishment of an environmental legacy commission which was eliminated from an earlier version of this bill and which would have been responsible for awarding grants for the protection, restoration, enhancement, care, and increased resilience of Hawai'i's natural resources.

Hawai'i residents overwhelmingly prioritize our collective responsibility to invest in Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources. The state has created programs, but to date failed to invest sufficient resources in collective priorities, such as protecting and restoring reefs, beaches, and forests, removing invasive species, and upgrading cesspools. Until now, the state has not identified adequate funding to protect against the real and increasing impacts of climate change, including increasing flooding, coastal erosion, and sea-level rise. A visitor impact fee offers a net-positive investment solution not only for the environment, but for the economy, as well.

We see an imperative to generate sustained and dedicated funding -- at least \$300 million annually -- sufficient to meet the needs of our state's natural and cultural resources. Most importantly, we support funding the right mix of natural and cultural resource projects, community stewardship, and effective implementation of priority programs.

This bill will enable the State of Hawai'i to meet these ongoing and increasing needs and provide a durable funding source that will enable the state to invest hundreds of millions of dollars to protect and restore our natural resources for the enjoyment of present and future generations, while creating jobs for Hawai'i residents.

HB 1162, HD1 provides a transformative opportunity to protect Hawai'i's magnificent natural resources for present and future generations. We respectfully urge you to approve this important legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1162, HD1.

Sincerely,  
Jocelyn Garovoy Herbert  
Senior Program Officer, Resources Legacy Fund

## HUI MAKĀ‘ĀINANA O MAKANA



*The Hui Maka‘ānana o Makana is a non-profit organization dedicated to perpetuating and teaching the skills, knowledge, and practices of our kūpuna (ancestors) through the interpretation, restoration, care, and protection of natural and cultural resources in within the Hā‘ena State Park.*

February 13, 2023

### **Subject: Testimony in Support of HB1162 HD1**

COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

My name is Chipper Wichman and I am a resident of Hā‘ena Kauai and have been involved in conservation of natural and cultural resources for almost 50 years. I am a founding Director of the Hui Maka‘āinana o Makana (1998) and just retired as the President of the National Tropical Botanical Garden after working there since 1976.

I am testifying in strong support of HB1162 HD1 which would help offset visitor impacts through a visitor green fee program. I have long advocated for establishing a green fee to help protect Hawaii’s unique resources from the huge number of visitors that come to our islands. We also need a dedicated pool of funding to help Hawaii mitigate climate change and take action that will make us more resilient.

In Hā‘ena we have been able to implement true regenerative tourism through our partnership with State Parks and the visitors are excited to know that their money is being used to help take care of our ‘āina and our community. I am sure that the vast majority of visitors paying a green fee would feel the same way.

HB1162 HD1 has the ability to replicate the success we have had in Hā‘ena at a State-wide scale and address the funding gaps we currently are experiencing. Time is running out and we need to make serious investments now to protect our communities, and preserve our economic, ecological and cultural resources for future generations – the visitor green fee envisioned in HB 1162 HD1 can make that happen!

Take the bold action needed and pass HB1162 HD1 today!!!

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Chipper Wichman, Secretary  
Hui Maka‘āinana o Makana

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 11:48:32 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carmen Guzman-Simpliciano	Kingdom Pathways	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee [HB1162]  
Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee [SB304]

My name is Carmen Guzman-Simpliciano, and I am testifying in strong support of [HB1162/SB304], which would help offset visitor impacts through a visitor green fee program and distribute funds to implement solutions for State and community programs working to restore our natural and cultural resources.

I am a lifelong resident of Wai'anae and a Community advocate for conserving and preserving our sources of life and endangered species, advocating for Mākaha Beaches sea-level rise, water quality, coral restoration, beach clean-ups, and perpetuation of culture. With the many issues in our coastal regions, the Visitor Green Fee aligns and would support our community's needs. Also, it provides a sustained funding source to enable our community groups, nonprofits, and DLNR, to implement solutions and scale work already being done to preserve Hawai'i Nei.

It would specifically illuminate the management plan proposed with bill SB 1267 that vaguely states to develop parking stalls and checkpoints for a parking pass to generate revenue for Kaena State Parks.

Our nonprofit, Kingdom Pathways, works closely with multiple state and city agencies and other nonprofits, including DAR, DOBOR, DOFAW, DLNR, CWB, and DOH. With the vast inclusion of this measure, I urge the committee to pass the visitor green fee program this session to begin the restoration of our 'āina as soon as possible.

Respectfully, I urge the committee to pass this measure as it will help alleviate the need to take drastic measures to develop the natural beauty of Mākua, Keawa'ula, and Kaena State Parks to generate Parking Fee Funds. In addition, this bill is a clear pathway to protecting, restoring, and supplementing existing programs and entities of the City and State to further enhance our local communities and visitors we share it with for future generations.

Mahalo Nunui for the opportunity to offer mana'o,  
Carmen Guzman-Simpliciano  
Director of Kingdom Pathways



*Maui Hotel & Lodging*  
ASSOCIATION

Testimony of  
Lisa H. Paulson  
Executive Director  
Maui Hotel & Lodging Association

House Committee on Water and Land  
**House Bill 1162, HD1: Relating to Visitor Impact Fees**  
February 14, 2023, 8:30 am  
Conference Room 430

The Maui Hotel & Lodging Association (MHLA) is the legislative arm of the visitor industry for Maui County. We represent over 180 property and allied business members and 22,000 employees. **MHLA supports the intent of House Bill 1162, HD1**, which establishes a visitor impact fee program within the Department of Land and Natural Resources, through which the department will collect a fee for a license to visit a state park, forest, hiking trail, or other state natural area. Establishes, and appropriates moneys into and out of, the visitor impact fee special fund. Requires the department of business, economic development, and tourism to conduct a study on the potential revenues expected to be generated by the visitor impact fee program.

MHLA favors the use of impact fees in House Bill 1162, HD1. We also want to encourage a greater nexus to the fees being charged and ensure that any impact fee remains separate from any general governmental fund and that these funds must be used to protect, rehabilitate, and improve the resource at which it was collected. This will guarantee that our natural resources will retain their beauty and health.

MHLA appreciates the latest measure amendments deleting all references to the Environmental Legacy Commission and transferring all responsibilities and duties to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, where applicable.

For these reasons stated above, **MHLA is in support of House Bill 1162, HD1.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 5:11:43 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sandy Ward	Hui o Ho`ohonua 501(c)3	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha to the members of the House Water and Land Committee,

I urge you to pass HB1162 to establish a visitor impact fee program. With minimal impacts on our visitor industry this bill provides a much needed funding stream to improve restoration efforts of our beloved natural resources throughout the state.

As a community non-profit engaged in restoration of Pu`uloa (Pearl Harbor) we work with hundreds of local school students. I want to be able to tell them that our state legislators had the foresight to engage visitors in helping us provide a sustainable future for Hawaii residents.

I would also ask that you consider adding a provision to the bill that requires the DLNR to distribute "Green fee funds" equitably within every moku of every island.

Mahalo for your consideration.





**HAWAI'I LODGING & TOURISM**  
**A S S O C I A T I O N**

Testimony of  
Mufi Hannemann  
President & CEO  
Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association

House Committee on Water & Land  
House Bill 1162, HD1  
February 14, 2023

Chair Ichiyama, and members of the Committee, mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, the state's oldest and largest private sector visitor industry organization.

The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association—nearly 700 members strong, representing more than 50,000 hotel rooms and nearly 40,000 lodging workers—have been proponents for the establishment of impact fees at high-traffic sites that are especially impacted by visitors. Our position remains unchanged; we support impact fees that are collected at specific sites so long as the monies generated are used to maintain and improve the site at which they were collected.

We welcome the amendments that have been made to this measure thus far and request this Committee's consideration of several other amendments.

While we appreciate the language that indicates the collected monies will increase the resiliency of areas being visited by tourists, we feel that this should be a priority and the measure's language should reflect this. We ask that the Committee consider inserting language that makes clear that these monies will not be relegated to any general fund, their expenditure will have a clear nexus to tourism, and they will be used specifically at the sites in which they are collected for.

Additionally, we would ask that the Committee consider a means for the tourism industry to voice concerns, pose suggestions, and assist in the application of the impact fee program. While that may have been possible under the Environmental Legacy Commission, this may not be the case under the Board of Land & Natural Resources.

**HLTA supports the intent of HB 1162, HD1.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

## Testimony of Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i

2/13/2023

Bill: **HB 1162**

Committee: House EEP

Position: **Support**

Hearing Date: 2/14/23 9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee [HB1162],

My name is Rafael Bergstrom, the Executive Director of Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i (SCH), a local nonprofit with a mission to inspire communities to care for coastlines. SCH is in strong support of HB 1162 and the creation of a Visitor Green Fee. The vision of SCH is a world of inspired people, clean beaches, and healthy coastlines. Visitor engagement and education, volunteerism, and restoration efforts are all core actions of how we achieve our mission. Over the past 10 years SCH has removed 650,000 lbs. of debris from our coastlines, united 45,000 volunteers, educated 49,000 students, and waded through a destructive mess of plastic pollution. We are experts on plastic pollution, the consequences of inaction, and the solutions we have at our fingertips.

The impact of visitors to our islands can be seen everywhere. While it is of course necessary to acknowledge the economy that is created around this industry, it is equally, if not more important, to understand the negative externalities of that industry and be proactive in mitigating them. While inviting visitors to be better stewards of the islands should continue, it is not enough. Our islands run huge deficits when it comes to funding both reactive and proactive conservation and sustainability efforts. The current levels of impact are not sustainable for a livable future in Hawai'i. We need more funding to expand this work.

SCH believes that the fee structure should involve an equitable disbursement of funds that offers opportunity for those doing incredible work in Hawai'i to enhance their efforts. This means that the traditional grants system needs to be broken down and realigned with a reality that most nonprofits are overwhelmed by a lack of capacity while doing their important work. Additionally, the minimum fund amount allocated to each nonprofit should be in alignment with a full time salary and benefits at a level that is connected to the cost of living in this State. No nonprofit employee doing the work to protect this incredible place against the effects of visitors should be paid less than it costs to truly live here. For these reasons it is imperative that a green fee include a steering committee (currently described as the Environmental Legacy Commission) that is filled with current employees of the nonprofit sector who have a strong voice in determining the ways that funds can be equitably distributed. This step cannot be stressed enough if our goal is to make effective implementation a critical piece to the use of funds.

Models of similar fees have been effective across the globe and have great opportunity to create local jobs in protecting our islands for the future. Hawai'i is an ecological wonder and has a responsibility to have one of its biggest workforces be in conservation. In doing so, we will become a leader and model for the world.

We will continue to do our part with hands-in-the-sand and hands-in-the-soil work while engaging residents and visitors in opportunities to learn while restoring. Ideally everyone goes home from one of our events feeling empowered to take both individual and community action to protect our future. Mahalo for taking time to consider this important bill.

With Aloha,

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

Rafael Bergstrom  
Executive Director  
Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 4:39:44 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
helen raine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Dear Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee**

**I am testifying in strong support of HB1162. Visitors are having a serious impact on the natural resources, the species that depend upon them and the quality of life of the people of Kauai, where I live. Kauai is a stronghold for some of the rarest species in the world and also home to creatures that depend on protected spaces along the coast for survival. Rampant tourism potentially affects these species, but a visitor impact fee will ensure that every visitor pays their fair share to mitigate any impacts to Kauai's natural environment. These islands are not just a playground for those who can afford to fly here - they are the difference between life and death for many endangered species. And if visitors can afford to fly here, they can certainly afford to pay a small fee to protect the natural beauty that they have come to see.**

**HB1162 would generate the needed funding to meet our conservation, sustainability, and climate needs as a region, and provide a sustained funding source to enable our community groups, such as nonprofit organizations and DLNR, to implement solutions and scale work already being done to preserve Hawai'i. I urge the committee to pass a visitor green fee program this session, in order to begin the needed restoration for our home as soon as possible.**

**The success of this program must include buy-in from tourists, residents, the tourism industry, and conservation experts, and is contingent upon effective outreach and transparency of the program. We must have a diverse set of stakeholders from relevant sectors contributing to the decision-making process for this level of funding. For this reason, I would like to request HB1162 to be amended to include the Environmental Legacy Commission, made up of members from diverse areas of expertise.**

**I thank you in advance.**

**Helen Raine**

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 5:09:30 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kaili Kosaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

I urge you to please pass this visitor green fee bill. It is possibly the most popular and important bill this session for the people of Hawaii. For too long we've pushed aside investing in our natural resources and are starting to see the implications of that neglect.

As a now private-citizen, I have spent much of my professional career in natural resource management and conservation. It is a tough job that is chronically underfunded, but so important to the future of these islands. I've seen many talented passionate professionals leave this field due to lack of good paying jobs. I've also seen countless failures and unfulfilled opportunities due to lack of funding.

Not only is passing this bill the right thing to do. It comes at a critical time when climate change threatens our daily lives and the future of human life in these islands. This small and highly popular ask would mean so much to me and the people of Hawaii. Please pass HB1162!

Mahalo for your time.

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 6:37:12 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeanne Herbert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am strongly in support of SB1162. This bill insures that Hawai'i will have the funds to support our natural resources, which are seriously underfunded. It has been calculated that our state's resource management is underfunded by more than \$350,000,000 per year. 350 Million Dollars! Astounding. SB1162 insures that our visitors participate in caring for our 'aina. This goes beyond just collecting a few dollars at each beach park or trail. There are many tourists that stay at their hotels and don't go anywhere. Yet, they are using the beach in front of their hotel, swimming in the ocean in front of the hotel, consuming large volumes of water for drinking, showering, laundry. Every visitor to our island uses our natural resources no matter where they go. We need to partner with our visitors to ensure the health of our land. This is an opportunity to think on a larger scale than just fees in a few places, and it recognizes that everyone that visits Hawaii'i has a respnnsiiblity to care for our land. Mahalo, Jeanne Herberty

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 7:33:40 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeremy pauli	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Jeremy Pauli and I am testifying in strong support of HB1162 which would help offset visitor impacts through a visitor green fee program, and distribute funds to implement solutions for State and community programs working to restore Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources. I'm from Washington state and my family has a had a condo in Hawai'i for 10 years. Over the years during my regular visits to Hawai'i I am often struck with sadness from the multitude of problems Hawai'i's environment faces, many caused by tourists and development for tourists. Whether it's the massive overuse of water, solid waste cesspools affecting ground and ocean water, people spearing fish they shouldn't, littering, degradation of trails, overcrowding reefs, clearing what little remaining coastline exists, increasing homelessness of native Hawaiians and even an entitlement to do what they want even if it's clearly wrong. I was swimming on a reef once and saw someone touching a green sea turtle's shell and trying to grab its fin. When he surfaced I told him to stop harassing the turtle and to never touch them. He replied, "I've been coming here 20 years and I can do what I want". I've seen people get incredibly close to monk seals just to take a selfie and most tourists don't even know which birds in Hawaii are native, let alone endangered. There is very little respect of knowledge of Hawai'i's culture, flora or fauna by the vast majority of tourists and part time residents.

This measure is a critical step to ensuring visitors are paying their fair share for the places they use, visit, and experience during their time in Hawai'i. As an island region, Hawai'i is in immediate need of additional resources to conserve and protect its ecosystems, native species, coastlines, and the community livelihoods that depend on these resources. The impacts of tourists on our natural and cultural resources is undeniable. A recent local study confirmed that Hawai'i coral reefs attract visitors which then exacerbate their degradation. This is true for our other resources as well.

As the endangered species capital of the world, as an island with disappearing coastlines to sea level rise, and as a coastal community who relies on healthy oceans and forests to survive, it is imperative we implement a visitor green fee program this year to protect these resources before it's too late. HB1162 would generate the needed funding to meet our conservation, sustainability, and climate needs as a region, and provide a sustained funding source to enable our community groups, such as nonprofit organizations and DLNR, to implement solutions and scale work

already being done to preserve Hawai'i. Organizations like Maui Forest Bird Reforestation Project, Kauai Forest Bird Reforestation Project, Archipelago Research and Conservation, Pacific Rim Conservation, Auwahi Reforestation Project, Maui Nui Seabirds, Save Our Shearwaters, Kuleana Coral Restoration and the Mālama Learning Center are just some of the organizations in desperate need of funding and expansion to do more for Hawai'i's fragile and degraded environment. I urge the committee to pass a visitor green fee program this session, in order to begin the desperately needed restoration for Hawai'i's environment as soon as possible.

The success of this program must include buy-in from tourists, residents, the tourism industry, and conservation experts, and is contingent upon effective outreach and transparency of the program. We must have a diverse set of stakeholders from relevant sectors contributing to the decision-making process for this level of funding. For this reason, I would like to request HB1162 to be amended to include the Environmental Legacy Commission, made up of members from diverse areas of expertise.

Thank you so much for listening to a part time resident like myself about why the environment of Hawai'i urgently needs help. This bill is a clear pathway to protecting, restoring, and enhancing Hawai'i for local communities and the visitors, for future generations and beyond.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Jeremy D Pauli



**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 8:17:21 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christiane Keyhani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. My name is Christiane Keyhani, I was born and raised on Maui. I am 5th generation from Maui. Mālama 'āina has always been a fundamental philosophy instilled in me, from just growing up here. It is undeniable that Hawai'i Nei is one of the most incredible natural phenomenons and its natural resources are more than invaluable. We know from experience that when we are irresponsible with land management and neglect a future-thinking strategy, we are setting ourselves up for failure. Yes, tourism and development bring economic prosperity, but when left out of check we lose what is even more valuable, what makes these islands so special that millions of people travel far and wide to see. It should be intuitive that we need to protect our natural resources, because not only are they beautiful, but they take care of us and protect us. The green fee is a strategic way to generate funding to maintain the natural resources tourists come to see and to try to mitigate the negative impacts of tourism and the increasing foreign population. Many of our natural resources are already in crisis, and rapidly increasing impacts of climate change are just going to make things worse. Now is the time to act. Now is the time to pass this bill. If not now, when? If not this, then what is going to fund conservation and natural climate solutions.

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 1:18:15 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support. Thank you.

## Testimony in Support of HB1162

### Committee on Water and Land

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

My name is Jaclyn Johnson and I am testifying **in strong support of HB1162** which would help offset visitor impacts through a visitor green fee program, and distribute funds to implement solutions for State and community programs working to restore our natural and cultural resources. **I was born and raised on O‘ahu. I have seen how tourism has negatively impacted my community. I strongly believe we can use tourism as a catalyst to fund and support the restoration and preservation of our fragile ecosystems.**

This measure is a critical step to ensuring visitors are paying their fair share for the places they use, visit, and experience during their time here. As an island region, Hawai‘i is in immediate need of additional resources to conserve and protect our ecosystems, native species, coastlines, and the community livelihoods that depend on these resources. The impacts of tourists on our natural and cultural resources is undeniable. A recent local study confirmed that Hawai‘i coral reefs attract visitors which then exacerbate their degradation. This is true for our other resources as well.

As the endangered species capital of the world, as an island with disappearing coastlines to sea level rise, and as a coastal community who relies on healthy oceans and forests to survive, it is imperative we implement a visitor green fee program this year to protect these resources before it's too late. HB1162 would generate the needed funding to meet our conservation, sustainability, and climate needs as a region, and provide a sustained funding source to enable our community groups, such as nonprofit organizations and DLNR, to implement solutions and scale work already being done to preserve Hawai‘i. I work for a nonprofit that is restoring wetlands in Hale‘iwa. My husband works as a biologist, studying invasive species. We both see the dire need for more funding in restoration work and habitat protection. **I urge the committee to pass a visitor green fee program this session, in order to begin the needed restoration for our home as soon as possible.**

The success of this program must include buy-in from tourists, residents, the tourism industry, and conservation experts, and is contingent upon effective outreach and transparency of the program. We must have a diverse set of stakeholders from relevant sectors contributing to the decision-making process for this level of funding. **For this reason, I would like to request HB1162 to be amended to include the Environmental Legacy Commission, made up of members from diverse areas of expertise.**

Thank you for reading my testimony. I urge you to support this bill for the prosperity of our island home.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,  
Jaclyn Johnson

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 5:50:14 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the establishment of a "green fee" to support management and conservation of Hawaii's environmental resources.

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 7:40:21 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill.

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 10:19:18 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorraine Waianuhea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

**I am writing to express my strong support of HB1162 which would help offset visitor impacts through a visitor green fee program, and distribute funds to implement solutions for State and community programs working to restore our natural and cultural resources. I am kanaka oiwi living in Hawaii and I am tired of visitors not paying their fair share to preserve and protect our aina. Tourists come here to enjoy our reefs, our beaches, and our mountains. Most take and do nothing to give in return. A Green Fee is one small step towards maintenance and conservation of all the places in Hawaii that residents and vistors love so much. Currently, these places are suffering because of overvisitation and the lack of funds to maintain important infrastructure such as safe hiking trails.**

**This measure is a critical step to ensuring visitors are paying their fair share for the places they use, visit, and experience during their time here. As an island region, Hawai'i is in immediate need of additional resources to conserve and protect our ecosystems, native species, coastlines, and the community livelihoods that depend on these resources. The impacts of tourists on our natural and cultural resources is undeniable. A recent local study confirmed that Hawai'i coral reefs attract visitors which then exacerbate their degradation. This is true for our other resources as well.**

**As the endangered species capital of the world, as an island with disappearing coastlines to sea level rise, and as a coastal community who relies on healthy oceans and forests to survive, it is imperative we implement a visitor green fee program this year to protect these resources before it's too late. This measure would generate the needed funding to meet our conservation, sustainability, and climate needs as a region, and provide a sustained funding source to enable our community groups, such as nonprofit organizations and DLNR, to implement solutions and scale work already being done to preserve Hawai'i. I urge the committee to pass a visitor green fee program this session, in order to begin the needed restoration for our home as soon as possible.**

**The success of this program must include buy-in from tourists, residents, the tourism industry, and conservation experts, and is contingent upon effective outreach and transparency of the program. We must have a diverse set of stakeholders from relevant sectors contributing to the decision-making process for this level of funding. For this reason, I would like this measure to keep the Environmental Legacy Commission, made up of members from diverse areas of expertise.**

**This bill is a clear pathway to protecting, restoring, and enhancing Hawai'i for our local communities and the visitors we share it with, for future generations and beyond.**

**Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,**

**Lorraine Waianuhe**

**Chair Linda Ichiyama**  
**House Committee on Water & Land**

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

8:30 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 430 and Videoconference

**In Support of the Intent**  
**H.B. No. 1162, Relating to Visitor Impact Fees**

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members on Water & Land,

My name is Kaitlynn Holt Felipe. I am a Native Hawaiian, a resident of Hawai‘i, and a graduate student of the University of Hawai‘i Mānoa. I am testifying in support of HB 1162, Relating to Visitor Impact Fees. However, I prefer the language in H.B. 1051, Relating to Natural Resources Management, for the reasons below and respectfully request your consideration of that measure.

Undoubtedly, the negative impact on Hawai‘i's natural and cultural resources is an overarching concern that needs immediate attention and action. It would be unwise not to acknowledge that our communities live on islands and that our resources can become dangerously limited if not adequately managed and culturally understood. Both H.B. No. 1162 and H.B. No. 1051 recognize the human-induced impacts on our environment, including but not limited to increased pollution, excessive stress on our natural resources, soil degradation, and natural habit loss because our State does not have the funding, staffing, and proper accessibility and resources to manage our tourist-dependent State. For all who live here, like me, a person who has witnessed the drastic changes and effects of Hawai‘i's natural resources needs to advocate for our environment, my home. Hawai‘i's natural resources are a vital part of our past and present and our future if we want to continue to thrive here.

I support this because a visitor/green fee is a significant and effective way to raise additional revenue to offset visitor impacts and ensure a healthy and functioning environment for our people. There are successful countries like Palau, Bhutan, and New Zealand that demonstrate and implement green fees at visitor destinations. For example, in November 2019, a year after the fee's introduction, the Palau government announced that it raised \$9 million. These funds were used to fund fisheries protection, the Protected Areas Network, and other facets of environmental protection efforts and the tourism industry.

According to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT), in July 2022, visitors who came to Hawai‘i represented a 92.4% recovery from July 2019. July 2022 is the highest monthly visitor count since January 2020. If we fail to manage, protect, and perpetuate our natural resources in Hawai‘i, it is only in due time Hawai‘i becomes a depleted atoll, a wasteland of stories and loss.

While I support H.B. No. 1162 and other measures of similar intent to H.B. 1051, I ask that your Committee consider H.B. No. 1051. H.B. No. 1051 is a commitment and an undertaking to ensure caring stewardship of Hawaii's natural resources so that we can all reap



and enjoy the natural resources that make Hawaii so valued. These bills offer resolution and opportunity that we must act on now for our communities, environments, and future.

Mahalo nui mai kākou for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill,

Kaitlynn Holt Felipe

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 3:35:18 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Miwa Tamanaha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB 1162. Collecting visitor fees that support and sustain stewardship of these precious places and resources is essential -- and makes common sense for our communities, our island home, and the long-term sustainability of the visitor industry in Hawai'i.

Miwa Tamanaha

94-1144 Moolelo St, Waipahu HI 96797

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 5:08:57 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mark Hixon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I urge support of HB162 because I believe it will help Hawaii's coral reefs, which have long been my research expertise as a professor of marine biology. Please consider the immense value of our reefs, their threatened status, and the value of the Green Fee in restoring our reefs:

- The ecological, economic, cultural, and recreational value of coral reefs in Hawaii exceeds 33 billion dollars (NOAA commissioned study).
- A valuation assessment quantified the benefits of coral reefs at \$360 million per year for Hawaii's economy (Cesar and Beukering, 2004).
- According to a status report published by NOAA, Oahu's coral condition is considered "impaired," with the highest climate risk score and lowest fish score of the archipelagic assessment (Coral Reef Condition Report, 2018). Since Oahu is home to nearly 1 million residents and received six million visitors in 2019, the pressure of human density is disproportionately impacting corals and reef ecosystems compared to other islands.
- The primary threats to coral reefs in Hawai'i include ocean warming and acidification, as well as land-based pollution, coastal development, both of which are exacerbated by the tourism industry.

Green Fee revenue would provide an opportunity to enhance the experience of our visitors through educational signage and other outreach about the importance of reefs, and by supporting reef restoration to sustain areas trafficked by tourists. I urge you to pass this bill. Mahalo.

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 6:59:18 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kaylin Van Waus	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of HB1162.

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 9:07:14 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
jasmyn kaiwi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please preserve the environmental legacy commission and support a visitor green fee. Help keep our islands as is and help to restore it as it once was   mahalo.

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 9:09:41 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kapulei Flores	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am testifying in support of HB1162, which would help offset visitor impacts through a visitor green fee program as well as distribute funds to implement solutions for State and community programs working to restore our natural and cultural resources.

As the endangered species capital of the world, as an island with disappearing coastlines to sea level rise, and as a coastal community who relies on healthy oceans and forests to survive, it is imperative we implement a visitor green fee program this year to protect these resources before it's too late. This is the first step towards prioritizing our resources over tourism and making sure that there is a Hawai'i left for people to visit. This measure would generate the needed funding to meet our conservation, sustainability, and climate needs as a region, and provide a sustained funding source to enable our community groups, such as nonprofit organizations and DLNR, to implement solutions and scale work already being done to preserve Hawai'i.

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 9:29:36 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support and am in favor of HB 1162 in order to protect our future Hawai'i by means of preserving the environmental legacy commission and supporting a visitor green fee. I ask that you please consider and approve this request. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Mahalo.

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 12:22:26 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Doorae Shin	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Doorae Shin and I am the community organizer for the Hawai'i Green Fee coalition. I am testifying in support of this measure. After working with this coalition of organizations and community members for the last couple of years, it has become clear that now is the time for the Hawai'i Green Fee. We have the backing of the Governor, who campaigned on creating a visitor impact fee, and we have worked with dozens of community organizations, spoken to dozens of legislators, and polled the community about their support for this concept. The support is widespread and the need to act is urgent.

We are now facing impacts of the climate crisis, where Hawai'i's ecosystems, economy, and communities face severe vulnerabilities. From natural disasters to coastal erosion and loss of biodiversity, Hawai'i needs to be prepared and work hard to restore, maintain, and preserve our natural and cultural resources. As one of the leading visitor destinations in the world, our special places, including our trails, beaches, parks, and more, need financial resources to ensure they are being taken care of and preserved for this and future generations.

I am happy to take questions about our efforts to pass the Hawai'i Green Fee and we thank you for considering this bill.

Mahalo,  
Doorae Shin



**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 2:14:45 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ariana Hansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

**My name is Ariana Hansen and I am testifying in strong support of HB1162/SB304 which would help offset visitor impacts through a visitor green fee program, and distribute funds to implement solutions for State and community programs working to restore our natural and cultural resources. I was born and raised in Kailua, Oahu and have seen firsthand the heavy pressure that weighs on the natural environment that helped raise and sustain my family and I for 3 generations. From high foot traffic on popular hiking trails causing hazardous conditions to plastic pollution, overflowing rubbish bins, litter strewn across our beaches and in the ocean that I spent so much of my childhood in, endangered species mocked and harassed by visitors who have clearly not been educated on the importance of respecting the places they trample over in such volume. For these reasons I'm taking this small portion out of my day, however busy, to submit this testimony in favor of visitor fees that could help restore some of what has been compromised and to ensure some level of the pristine environment that I was raised in, for those who come after me, kama'aina and visitors alike.**

**This measure is a critical step to ensuring visitors are paying their fair share for the places they use, visit, and experience during their time here. As an island region, Hawai'i is in immediate need of additional resources to conserve and protect our ecosystems, native species, coastlines, and the community livelihoods that depend on these resources. The impacts of tourists on our natural and cultural resources is undeniable. A recent local study confirmed that Hawai'i coral reefs attract visitors which then exacerbate their degradation. This is true for our other resources as well.**

**As the endangered species capital of the world, as an island with disappearing coastlines to sea level rise, and as a coastal community who relies on healthy oceans and forests to survive, it is imperative we implement a visitor green fee program this year to protect these resources before it's too late. This measure would generate the needed funding to meet our**

**conservation, sustainability, and climate needs as a region, and provide a sustained funding source to enable our community groups, such as nonprofit organizations and DLNR, to implement solutions and scale work already being done to preserve Hawai'i. I urge the committee to pass a visitor green fee program this session, in order to begin the needed restoration for our home as soon as possible.**

**The success of this program must include buy-in from tourists, residents, the tourism industry, and conservation experts, and is contingent upon effective outreach and transparency of the program. We must have a diverse set of stakeholders from relevant sectors contributing to the decision-making process for this level of funding. For this reason, I would like this measure to keep the Environmental Legacy Commission, made up of members from diverse areas of expertise.**

**Thank you for your time and consideration for the need to take urgent action for the sake of Hawaii's people and the environment we depend on. This bill is a clear pathway to protecting, restoring, and enhancing Hawai'i for our local communities and the visitors we share it with, for future generations and beyond.**

**Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,**

**Ariana Hansen**

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 9:04:08 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alex Filardo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Commitee leadership,

My name is Alex Filardo and I am a fisher that resides on O'ahu who has worked in management locally for five years. It is very clear to the fishing community that tourists impact our coastal resources, especially coral reefs, which serve as critical habitat to the fisheries our residents rely on. The impact of visitors across the State, but especially on O'ahu which burdens most of the tourism pressure, is significant enough that they should provide financial resources to upkeep our environment.

When it comes to managing our coastal ecosystems, supporting sustainable fisheries, and proper and effect management of our nearshore waters, we are in need of extensive additional resources in the form of funding, job roles, and community engagement. A visitor green fee program could create these resources for agencies and nonprofits to sustain and restore our marine ecosystems.

Please pass HB1162 without amendments.

Alex Filardo

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 9:26:23 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Kala'e Lopes and I am testifying in strong support of HB1162 which would help offset visitor impacts through a visitor green fee program, and distribute funds to implement solutions for State and community programs working to restore our natural and cultural resources. I am from Waimanalo and have studied environmental science and worked a few years in the conservation field. Most of our efforts in both studies and fields had to do with offsetting damage done by human impact. The amount of time and effort we put in isn't enough to undo damage or even maintain our natural resources. To add in most of our efforts were done through unpaid efforts! With more funding and resources directed toward conservation work, I feel this might give the people more control over the dwindling resources. Tourist come and go, but we live here! And will suffer if more efforts aren't directed at conservation and environmental protection.

This measure is a critical step to ensuring visitors are paying their fair share for the places they use, visit, and experience during their time here. As an island region, Hawai'i is in immediate need of additional resources to conserve and protect our ecosystems, native species, coastlines, and the community livelihoods that depend on these resources. The impacts of tourists on our natural and cultural resources is undeniable. A recent local study confirmed that Hawai'i coral reefs attract visitors which then exacerbate their degradation. This is true for our other resources as well.

As the endangered species capital of the world, as an island with disappearing coastlines to sea level rise, and as a coastal community who relies on healthy oceans and forests to survive, it is imperative we implement a visitor green fee program this year to protect these resources before it's too late. This measure would generate the needed funding to meet our conservation, sustainability, and climate needs as a region, and provide a sustained funding source to enable our community groups, such as nonprofit organizations and DLNR, to implement solutions and scale work already being done to preserve Hawai'i. I urge the committee to pass a visitor green

fee program this session, in order to begin the needed restoration for our home as soon as possible.

The success of this program must include buy-in from tourists, residents, the tourism industry, and conservation experts, and is contingent upon effective outreach and transparency of the program. We must have a diverse set of stakeholders from relevant sectors contributing to the decision-making process for this level of funding. For this reason, I would like this measure to keep the Environmental Legacy Commission, made up of members from diverse areas of expertise.

I thank you for your time and consideration in passing this bill. If passed, this bill would be a big win for locals, native Hawaiians, and future generations to come. This bill is a clear pathway to protecting, restoring, and enhancing Hawai'i for our local communities and the visitors we share it with, for future generations and beyond.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Kala'e Lopes

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 10:23:15 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kaleiheana-a-Pohaku Stormcrow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Kaleiheana Stormcrow and I am testifying in strong support of HB1162 to help offset visitor impacts through a visitor green fee program, and distribute funds to implement solutions for State and community programs working to restore our natural and cultural resources. I grew up in Kailua, O‘ahu in the 1990s before it became what it is now. I have seen firsthand how unchecked tourism affects the land, the wai, and the kai. I have witnessed years of degraded trails because they are all too heavily trafficked on O‘ahu. As a Kanaka Maoli it is very important to me to see visitors pay a green fee. I do not think it is enough, but it is a step in a positive direction.

This measure is a critical step to ensuring visitors are paying their fair share for the places they use, visit, and experience during their time here. As an island region, Hawai‘i is in immediate need of additional resources to conserve and protect our ecosystems, native species, coastlines, and the community livelihoods that depend on these resources. The impacts of tourists on our natural and cultural resources is undeniable. A recent local study confirmed that Hawai‘i coral reefs attract visitors which then exacerbate their degradation. This is true for our other resources as well.

As the endangered species capital of the world, as an island with disappearing coastlines to sea level rise, and as a coastal community who relies on healthy oceans and forests to survive, it is imperative we implement a visitor green fee program this year to protect these resources before it's too late. This measure would generate the needed funding to meet our conservation, sustainability, and climate needs as a region, and provide a sustained funding source to enable our community groups, such as nonprofit organizations and DLNR, to implement solutions and scale work already being done to preserve Hawai‘i. [Option to include why you support any nonprofits you personally volunteer with, or believe in.] I urge the committee to pass a visitor green fee program this session, in order to begin the needed restoration for our home as soon as possible.

The success of this program must include buy-in from tourists, residents, the tourism industry, and conservation experts, and is contingent upon effective outreach and transparency of the program. We must have a diverse set of stakeholders from relevant sectors contributing to the decision-making process for this level of funding. For this reason, I would like this measure to keep the Environmental Legacy Commission, made up of members from diverse areas of expertise.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration in this matter. This bill is a clear pathway to protecting, restoring, and enhancing Hawai'i for our local communities and the visitors we share it with, for future generations and beyond.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Kaleiheana Stormcrow

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 12:06:45 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Virginia Tincher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I urge the committee to pass a visitor green fee program this session, in order to begin the needed restoration for our home as soon as possible.

I've seen first hand how effective a green fee can be. When our family visited the Galapagos Islands, we paid \$100 each as a green fee and saw first hand how much can be done to preserve and protect. It is an amazing place to experience. The land and animals were protected and local residents were trained as guides. We learned it wasn't always this way. It took government commitment and contributions from visitors to build a strong culture of preservation and care and a protected environment.

The success of this program must include buy-in from tourists, residents, the tourism industry, and conservation experts, and is contingent upon effective outreach and transparency of the program. We must have a diverse set of stakeholders from relevant sectors contributing to the decision-making process for this level of funding. **For this reason, I would like this measure to keep the Environmental Legacy Commission, made up of members from diverse areas of expertise.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Virginia Tincher

Aina Haina, Oahu



**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 12:25:30 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lori Poaipuni	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am in support of HB 1162. The pandemic gave our Islands time to recover from the destructive impact tourism has on our aina and our people. Please preserve the environmental legacy commission and support the visitor green fee. Mahalo!

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 2:00:26 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rebecca Ann Skjothaug	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**HB1162**

**Relating to Visitor Impact Fees**

**Chair, Vice Chair and members of the committee,**

**My name is Rebecca Skjothaug and I am here on behalf of myself. I am in support of a visitor impact fee of \$50 for tourists to gain access to public resources in the state of Hawaii.**

**It is within the Hawaiian Constitution and the Public Trust in the state of Hawaii to protect natural resources for the benefit of future generations. This license required to be purchased by tourists would provide a significant amount of funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources helping preserve and protect the state.**

**In my personal experience not enough funding is provided to DLNR and this is shown when visiting state parks such as Wai‘ānapanapa State Park on the island of Maui. This state park is often littered with garbage because we do not have enough personnel and resources to maintain the cleanliness needed. This will lead to pollution of the water and the land in this area and ultimately not preserve it for future generations and stated within our constitutional rights on Public Trust.**

**I thank you for your time and consideration.**

**Aloha,**

**Rebecca Skjothaug**

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 3:22:52 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sunshine Eckstrom	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB1162 so that we can work towards making tourism work for Hawaii, not against it. With these measures, tourism can be more beneficial and less harmful to the environment and communities of Hawaii.

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 3:24:04 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dyson Chee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Dyson Chee and I am testifying in strong support of HB1162 which would help offset visitor impacts through a visitor green fee program, and distribute funds to implement solutions for State and community programs working to restore our natural and cultural resources. As a youth who was born and raised on O‘ahu, this is a critically important issue to me because climate change is one of the issues at the forefront of my mind when I think about livability here, and we must take more action to ensure that Hawai‘i has a place for it's keiki and youh.

This measure is a critical step to ensuring visitors are paying their fair share for the places they use, visit, and experience during their time here. As an island region, Hawai‘i is in immediate need of additional resources to conserve and protect our ecosystems, native species, coastlines, and the community livelihoods that depend on these resources. The impacts of tourists on our natural and cultural resources is undeniable. A recent local study confirmed that Hawai‘i coral reefs attract visitors which then exacerbate their degradation. This is true for our other resources as well.

As the endangered species capital of the world, as an island with disappearing coastlines to sea level rise, and as a coastal community who relies on healthy oceans and forests to survive, it is imperative we implement a visitor green fee program this year to protect these resources before it's too late. This measure would generate the needed funding to meet our conservation, sustainability, and climate needs as a region, and provide a sustained funding source to enable our community groups, such as nonprofit organizations and DLNR, to implement solutions and scale work already being done to preserve Hawai‘i. I urge the committee to pass a visitor green fee program this session, in order to begin the needed restoration for our home as soon as possible.

The success of this program must include buy-in from tourists, residents, the tourism industry, and conservation experts, and is contingent upon effective outreach and transparency of the program. We must have a diverse set of stakeholders from relevant sectors contributing to the decision-making process for this level of funding. For this reason, I would like this measure to keep the Environmental Legacy Commission, made up of members from diverse areas of expertise.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony, and I urge you to pass HB1162. This bill is a clear pathway to protecting, restoring, and enhancing Hawai'i for our local communities and the visitors we share it with, for future generations and beyond.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Dyson Chee

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 4:08:37 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Remy Hirai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Remy Hirai, I'm a Native Hawaiian resident of Oahu and I strongly support this bill. It's undeniable that visitors impact our environment, culture, places, and spaces. If they so badly want to visit this special place, they should also invest in its conservation and protection.

Thank you for your time.

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 5:10:56 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
C. Kauai Lucas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee, especially my district's Rep. Mark Hashem

My name is Kauai Lucas, and I am testifying **in strong support of HB1162.**

As a member of numerous cultural and environmental organizations over the years (Daughters of Hawai'i, Sierra Club, Maunaloa Fishpond Heritage Center, Kako'o 'Ōiwi, The Outdoor Circle, Hawaiian Civic Club, etc) I can testify to the volunteer fatigue, anger and depression felt by those of us who feel compelled to get out there and do something to protect our home, Hawai'i Pae 'Āina. Despite the beautiful days in the lo'i, loko i'a, trail clearing, native tree planting, beach cleanups, the degradation is not halted, nor remediated to a level we can say our indigenous culture, flora and fauna are safe, or even better off than last year.

We who live here are already burdened by the lack of well paying jobs and affordable housing for locals, intensification of homelessness, drug dependence and crime. All of these are exacerbated by the overdependence on a tourism economy. The spectacular success of our mono-economy has increased international appetite for Hawai'i's 'āina as a market commodity, a safe investment, rather than our home. Our children and neighbors are driven out as economic exiles.

The recent funeral of my brother, a Kamuela resident, was a time of re-connection with nieces, nephews, their children and grandchildren. It was so heartbreaking to hear those who cannot afford to live here grieve not only their father/grandfather, but the land they grew up on, and the life they had here. One of my nieces recently relocated from Ohio to Las Vegas. "Because it's more like Hawai'i," she said, "tons of Hawaiians, Hawaiian foods, hula and stuff, but not so expensive. I would love to move back home, but there's no way we can afford it."

I urge the committee to pass a visitor green fee program this session, in order to begin the needed restoration for our home as soon as possible, **provided that the definition of “visitor” shall *not* include:**

**returning students who graduated from a Hawai‘i school, currently studying outside of Hawai‘i**

**children or parents of current Hawai‘i residents**

**children or parents of a Hawai‘i resident, who died within the past 12 months**

me ka ha'a ha'a,

Kaui Lucas



**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 5:31:17 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Corrina Carnes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members,

I am testifying **in strong support of** HB1162/SB304, which would help offset visitor impacts through a visitor green fee program, and distribute funds to implement solutions for State and community programs working to restore our natural and cultural resources.

This measure is a critical step to ensuring visitors are paying their fair share for the places they use, visit, and experience during their time here. As an island region, Hawai'i is in immediate need of additional resources to conserve and protect our ecosystems, native species, coastlines, and the community livelihoods that depend on these resources. The impacts of tourists on our natural and cultural resources is undeniable. A recent local study confirmed that Hawai'i coral reefs attract visitors which then exacerbate their degradation. This is true for our other resources as well.

As the endangered species capital of the world, as an island with disappearing coastlines to sea level rise, and as a coastal community who relies on healthy oceans and forests to survive, it is imperative we implement a visitor green fee program this year to protect these resources before it's too late. This measure would generate the needed funding to meet our conservation, sustainability, and climate needs as a region, and provide a sustained funding source to enable our community groups, such as nonprofit organizations and DLNR, to implement solutions and scale work already being done to preserve Hawai'i. **I urge the committee to pass a visitor green fee program this session, in order to begin the needed restoration for our home as soon as possible.**

The success of this program must include buy-in from tourists, residents, the tourism industry, and conservation experts, and is contingent upon effective outreach and transparency of the program. We must have a diverse set of stakeholders from relevant sectors contributing to the

decision-making process for this level of funding. **For this reason, I would like this measure to keep the Environmental Legacy Commission, made up of members from diverse areas of expertise.**

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. This bill is a clear pathway to protecting, restoring, and enhancing Hawai'i for our local communities and the visitors we share it with, for future generations and beyond.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Corrina Carnes

Dear Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and honorable Committee Members,

My name is Sabrina Cohan. I am a seventeen year old student living in Honolulu, and I am writing to you today to express my strong support of HB1162.

The visitor industry is a complicated and nuanced issue in Hawaii. On one hand, tourism supports our economy and allows many residents of our islands to prosper. People from around the world are able to experience the beauty of Hawaii, both through our natural spaces and our aloha spirit. However, on the other hand, the visitor industry is immeasurably detrimental to Hawaii's environment and native cultures. Visitors who may not have been raised with the same degree of respect for the environment as locals, and who may have received little to no education on the proper etiquette to use when in natural spaces, are allowed to ignorantly cause destruction to Hawaii's natural environment. Native Hawaiian cultural practices are appropriated and commercialized for profit, and few visitors leave the islands with a genuine understanding of Hawaii and her peoples.

I firmly believe that the visitor impact fee proposed in HB1162 is a vital step towards remedying many of the problems surrounding the visitor industry in Hawaii. This fee would require visitors to give back to our islands in exchange for the benefits they are receiving from visiting our beautiful natural spaces. As residents, we try to do our fair share for our islands, whether that is through paying taxes, working in the community, stewarding the environment, or preserving Native Hawaiian traditions and histories. The visitor impact fee would be asking visitors to do the same, to pay their small part and allow us to care for our islands. Additionally, I believe that the visitor impact fee will prompt many visitors to think more deeply and critically about how they are affecting our islands, which may cause them to engage in other beneficial activities besides the fee's financial contribution, such as volunteer or cultural preservation work. The visitor impact fee special fund that the bill proposes would have immeasurable benefits for environmental adaptation in Hawaii, providing a dedicated pool of money to be used for oft underfunded but vital programs and actions focused on protecting the environment.

I have been raised in these islands, reaping the benefits of our beautiful home. I acknowledge how incredibly fortunate I am to have grown up in Honolulu, in a safe house in a beautiful land. I do my best to repay the debt I owe these islands, though advocating for the environment and educating other youth on how to make a difference in their own communities. All I request is that visitors to our islands be asked to do the same, to repay Hawaii's natural spaces and communities for their hospitality with a small contribution to preserving these islands for future generations.

Sincerely,  
Sabrina Cohan

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 7:42:18 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support of HB1162 HD1, which would help offset visitor impacts through a visitor green fee program, and distribute funds to implement solutions for state and community programs working to restore our natural and cultural resources. This measure is a critical step to ensuring visitors are paying their fair share for the places they use, visit, and experience during their time here.

As an island region, Hawai'i is in immediate need of additional resources to conserve and protect our ecosystems, native species, coastlines, and the community livelihoods that depend on these resources. The impacts of tourists on our natural and cultural resources is undeniable. A recent local study confirmed that Hawai'i coral reefs attract visitors which then exacerbate their degradation. This is true for our other resources as well.

As the endangered species capital of the world, as an island with disappearing coastlines to sea level rise, and as a coastal community who relies on healthy oceans and forests to survive, it is imperative we implement a visitor green fee program this year to protect these resources before it's too late.

This measure would generate the needed funding to meet our conservation, sustainability, and climate needs as a region, and provide a sustained funding source to enable our community groups, such as nonprofit organizations and DLNR, to implement solutions and scale work already being done to preserve Hawai'i.

The success of this program must include buy-in from tourists, residents, the tourism industry, and conservation experts, and is contingent upon effective outreach and transparency of the program. We must have a diverse set of stakeholders from relevant sectors contributing to the decision-making process for this level of funding. For this reason, I would like this measure to keep the Environmental Legacy Commission, made up of members from diverse areas of expertise.

I urge the committee to pass a visitor green fee program this session, in order to begin the needed restoration for our home as soon as possible.

Kevin L. Johnson, Ko Olina, Hawai'i

**The State Legislature  
House Committee on Water and Land.  
Tuesday, February 14, 2023, Conference Room 430, 8:30 a.m.**

TO: The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Chair  
RE: Support for H. B. 1162, Relating to Visitor Impact Fees

Thank-you for this opportunity to offer testimony in **Support of H. B. 1162**, Relating to Visitor Impact Fees.

As a resident of one of Oahu's resort communities I witness firsthand the important role of the visitor industry to our economy. Within that framework however, one must evaluate the benefit versus the harm of ever increasing tourists on our fragile ecosystem. Eventually we reach a tipping point at which increased usage of our natural resources is no longer sustainable without something to mitigate the damage.

An impact fee may provide an important tool in this challenge. While we welcome our tourists with Aloha, we must likewise ask them to visit with Aloha. Part of that means paying their share towards maintenance of our beloved land. As outlined in the introduction of the bill, this is not an uncommon practice and has been "successfully implemented in many visitor destinations throughout the world."

In order to maintain the sustainability of our stature as one of the world's greatest destinations, I hope you too will **support H. B. 1162**.

Sincerely,

*Kevin L. Johnson*

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 8:15:28 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tawn Keeney	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony before the House Committee on Water and Land pertaining to HB1162:

HB1162 should be **rejected** considering the arguments as follows:

The foremost concern is that this bill utilizes the concept of Green Fee or Visitor Impact Fee in a manner that is inconsequential relative to the profound impact that visitation here has upon our environment, by virtue of global warming emissions from air transport of visitors to Hawaii. By targeting our attention and remediation toward visitor impacts on our parks and beaches, trails, etc. we are distracting our attention from understanding that air transport of visitors here accounts for warming somewhere between 1x and 2x the total of all domestic greenhouse gas emissions in the State of Hawaii (excluding aviation). Rephrased, visitors, in coming here, are responsible for a greater degree of global warming than all of Hawaii’s domestic population. It therefore can be reasonably argued that visitors, more than Hawaii’s own populace, should share in the anticipated costs of adaptation to the impacts of Climate Change. These costs will be measures in many tens, if not hundreds, of **billions** of dollars. To be speaking of the impacts of visitors on our parks and trails and beaches is of no significance. However HB1162 or HB442 will claim the one mechanism available to demand visitor’s participation in our climate change adaptation expenditures, the Green Fee, and divert it toward an insignificant (in comparison) problem.

Let’s digress. In 2020 I wrote a white paper which was presented to the Honolulu Climate Change Commission on greenhouse gas emissions from air transport of visitors to Hawaii. The findings were that emissions from visitor air transport accounted for 1-1/2x all of Hawaii’s domestic GHG emissions - 18 million tons CO2(e) compared to Hawaii's total net domestic emissions at 13.6 million tons. This calculation utilized Hawaii Tourism Authority's reported number of visitors from each of eight global ‘regions of origin’ of visitors, and assigned an airport representative of each region. It used a GHG Calculator which came closest to the average of eight aviation GHG calculators found on internet Carbon Offset websites. Climate Scientist Charles Fletcher used the phrase “incredibly important data” in commenting on the paper to the Commission. It was recommended to be presented to the State Climate Commission. Subsequently Makena Coffman, Director for the Institute for Sustainability, UHERO Research Fellow & Professor of Urban and Regional Planning elegantly calculated, using the State Greenhouse Gas Inventory, visitor air transport emissions at **equal to** all Hawaii’s net domestic emissions at 13.5 million tons CO2(e). The limitation of this State Inventory method is that it did not include any connecting flights, only the ‘leg’ into, and from, the Hawaii

airport. (All Hawaii's ground transportation is reported by the Inventory at 4 million tons CO<sub>2</sub>(e) and all electricity generation at 8 million tons.)

Subsequently the IPCC, in its 6th Assessment Report (Code Red for Humanity), endorsed as best science a method for calculation of global warming from aviation emissions. Utilizing this method would transform my calculation of warming from visitor air transport to 2x that of all Hawaii's domestic emissions, and Dr. Coffman's calculation to 1-1/2x (without connecting flights).

The impact of visitors on our parks and beaches becomes trivial. It is the global warming impact of visitor air travel emissions that any Green Fee must account for. It is this cost of retreat from the coastlines and restoring our built environment from this impact (unless one might think the cost of climate change will be immeasurable) that visitors should be commensurately responsible for. Do not waste the mechanism of Green Fee in the trivial manner represented by this bill.

The Green Fee which I propose is a fee of \$20 per night attached to the Transient Accommodations Tax for each visitor. Thus, for a 10 night stay, a \$200 fee. The HTA states that the average visitor spends \$1800 on their trip to Hawaii. Few will be dissuaded from coming by this fee. However, each year or two the amount of this nightly fee will be increased or decreased by up to \$5/night after assessment by the 20 member, high level, State Climate Commission (both legislative and executive branch membership). The HTA has endorsed strategy for decreasing the numbers of 'low-budget' travelers. A progressive fee increase would accomplish that plan and at the same time realize high revenues. Eventual 'trade-off' would be carefully considered by the Commission.

Do not waste the sole mechanism, Green Fee, for engaging visitor participation in the anticipated immense costs of climate adaptation, which more than ourselves, they are responsible for by air travel here. Do not support HB1162 as is, but rather reconstruct the concept of Green Fee as described above. This bill, as is, does great damage to the potential of 'green fee'. If this bill is to be passed it must be amended such that each year or two the State Climate Commission will reconsider and make recommendations of the amount of green fee to be charged to visitors.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Tawn Keeney MD

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 5:15:15 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bret Mossman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and representatives of the committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB1162. There are many laws that strive to preserve the natural beauty of Hawai'i, however none have invested the resources needed to do so, and the cost of that failure has been the loss of hundreds of native species, millions of gallons of water, and loss of cultural tradition.

Hawai'i is close to losing forever what makes this place unique, but you have the rare opportunity to change that by voting for HB1162.

Please reinstate the expert pannel to disperse funds, and please make the investments that Hawai'i desperately needs to preserve our natural and cultural resources.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration,

Bret Nainoa Mossman



**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 6:25:11 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Dachtler	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My primary issue is with enforcement. There is no way that enforcement will be equitable, non-racist or successful. How will enforcement "officers" know who is a visitor and who is a resident? Are they going to walk around the beach and look for people who "look" like a visitor? All this fee will do is increase the money we spend on defending lawsuits. If you think we need to collect more money from tourists, do it via the existing process of TAT. This is punitive, poorly thought out and a political stunt, not good legislation.

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 6:40:06 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
joseph simpliciano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha I fully support the green fee as it is a means that has full oversight on each visitor to the Hawaiian islands. The green fee will ensure that each and every visitor will be charged a fee rather than hoping they will do so when they go to a State park or beach. The green fee will also help to fund programs that will help to preserve the natural beauty of Hawaii and by doing so it will meet our goals of sustainability in more than one way. Unlike Bills SB1258 and HB 1267. The green fee was introduced to many communities and has been promoted through various social media platforms with transparency to show that the program can work and it can meet the future goals of Hawaii. Please consider supporting as this Bill is a catch all Bill.

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 6:52:21 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany Higa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of HB1162  
Committee on Water and Land**

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

My name is Tiffany Higa and I am testifying **in strong support of HB1162** which would help offset visitor impacts through a visitor green fee program, and distribute funds to implement solutions for State and community programs working to restore our natural and cultural resources. **As a resident that has been born and raised on O‘ahu, I’ve witnessed the impacts of overtourism here. Our home has been taken advantage of by visitors who perpetuate colonialism and disrespect the land and its natural resources.**

This measure is a critical step to ensuring visitors are paying their fair share for the places they use, visit, and experience during their time here. As an island region, Hawai‘i is in immediate need of additional resources to conserve and protect our ecosystems, native species, coastlines, and the community livelihoods that depend on these resources. The impacts of tourists on our natural and cultural resources is undeniable. A recent local study confirmed that Hawai‘i coral reefs attract visitors which then exacerbate their degradation. This is true for our other resources as well.

As the endangered species capital of the world, as an island with disappearing coastlines to sea level rise, and as a coastal community who relies on healthy oceans and forests to survive, it is imperative we implement a visitor green fee program this year to protect these resources before it's too late. This measure would generate the needed funding to meet our conservation, sustainability, and climate needs as a region, and provide a sustained funding source to enable our community groups, such as nonprofit organizations and DLNR, to implement solutions and scale work already being done to preserve Hawai‘i, such as the nonprofit Protect and Preserve Hawai‘i. **I urge the committee to pass a visitor green fee program this session, in order to begin the needed restoration for our home as soon as possible.**

The success of this program must include buy-in from tourists, residents, the tourism industry, and conservation experts, and is contingent upon effective outreach and transparency of the program. We must have a diverse set of stakeholders from relevant sectors contributing to the

decision-making process for this level of funding. **For this reason, I would like this measure to keep the Environmental Legacy Commission, made up of members from diverse areas of expertise.**

This bill is a clear pathway to protecting, restoring, and enhancing Hawai'i for our local communities and the visitors we share it with, for future generations and beyond.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

**Tiffany Higa**

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 7:09:00 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Daniel Amato	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1162

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 7:50:22 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly De Souza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Kimberly De Souza and I am testifying in **strong support of HB1162** which is a much needed measure to offset tourist and visitor impacts, and distribute funds to implement solutions for State and community programs working to restore our natural and cultural resources on our 'aina through a green fee program. This fee has been needed for many years now and I am extremely happy to see that it is finally being proposed and I am hoping it will pass unanimously. This has become an increasingly important issue as Hawai'i which is already known as the extinction capital of the world and with sea level rise affecting our disappearing coastlines, we are going to need help in order to begin the much needed restoration of our home.

This measure is a critical step to ensuring visitors are paying their fair share for the places they use, visit, and experience during their time here. As an island region, Hawai'i is in immediate need of additional resources to conserve and protect our ecosystems, native species, coastlines, and the community livelihoods that depend on these resources. The impacts of tourists on our natural and cultural resources is undeniable. A recent local study confirmed that Hawai'i coral reefs attract visitors which then exacerbate their degradation. This is true for our other resources as well.

As the endangered species capital of the world, as an island with disappearing coastlines to sea level rise, and as a coastal community who relies on healthy oceans and forests to survive, it is imperative we implement a visitor green fee program this year to protect these resources before it's too late. This measure would generate the needed funding to meet our conservation, sustainability, and climate needs as a region, and provide a sustained funding source to enable our community groups, such as nonprofit organizations and DLNR, to implement solutions and scale work already being done to preserve Hawai'i. I urge the committee to pass a visitor green fee program this session, in order to begin the needed restoration for our home as soon as possible.

The success of this program must include buy-in from tourists, residents, the tourism industry, and conservation experts, and is contingent upon effective outreach and transparency of the program. We must have a diverse set of stakeholders from relevant sectors contributing to the decision-making process for this level of funding. For this reason, I would like this measure to

keep the Environmental Legacy Commission, made up of members from diverse areas of expertise.

TThis bill is a clear pathway to protecting, restoring, and enhancing Hawai'i for our local communities and the visitors we share it with, for future generations and beyond.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Kimberly De Souza

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 7:57:03 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Frazer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Mark Frazer and I am testifying in **strong support of HB1162** which would help offset visitor impacts through a visitor green fee program, and distribute funds to implement solutions for State and community programs working to restore our natural and cultural resources. Born and raised in Hawai'i I have experienced first hand the impacts of the tourist industry on the islands. This green fee program will provide already scarce conservation funding to help restore our islands and at the same time accommodate the visitors and tourists who want to visit our beautiful home.

This measure is a critical step to ensuring visitors are paying their fair share for the places they use, visit, and experience during their time here. As an island region, Hawai'i is in immediate need of additional resources to conserve and protect our ecosystems, native species, coastlines, and the community livelihoods that depend on these resources. The impacts of tourists on our natural and cultural resources is undeniable. A recent local study confirmed that Hawai'i coral reefs attract visitors which then exacerbate their degradation. This is true for our other resources as well.

As the endangered species capital of the world, as an island with disappearing coastlines to sea level rise, and as a coastal community who relies on healthy oceans and forests to survive, it is imperative we implement a visitor green fee program this year to protect these resources before it's too late. This measure would generate the needed funding to meet our conservation, sustainability, and climate needs as a region, and provide a sustained funding source to enable our community groups, such as nonprofit organizations and DLNR, to implement solutions and scale work already being done to preserve Hawai'i. I urge the committee to pass a visitor green fee program this session, in order to begin the needed restoration for our home as soon as possible.

The success of this program must include buy-in from tourists, residents, the tourism industry, and conservation experts, and is contingent upon effective outreach and transparency of the program. We must have a diverse set of stakeholders from relevant sectors contributing to the decision-making process for this level of funding. For this reason, I would like this measure to keep the Environmental Legacy Commission, made up of members from diverse areas of expertise.



This bill is a clear pathway to protecting, restoring, and enhancing Hawai'i for our local communities and the visitors we share it with, for future generations and beyond.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Mark Frazer

**Testimony in Support of HB1162  
Committee on Water and Land**

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

My name is Dr. Jack Kittinger, and I am testifying as an individual in strong support of HB1162, which would help offset visitor impacts through a visitor green fee program, and distribute funds to implement solutions for State and community programs working to restore our natural and cultural resources.

I have personally spear-headed an initiative focused on establishing a visitor green fee here in Hawai'i for more than 5 years. Working with a set of partners from the conservation and tourism sectors, we have assessed the key policy, legal, and financing elements for a Hawai'i-based visitor green fee program, helping inform proposals in this bill and others like it. **HB1162 would establish a comprehensive visitor impact fee program that increases our conservation funding, creates green jobs in our communities, and preserves our natural resources for future generations.** Further, the bill can enable our resource managers in DLNR and other agencies, to work together with community leaders and nonprofit organizations, to scale the important work we must do to meet the challenges of our "twin" biodiversity and climate crises.

Through my work as a conservation professional for over 15 years, I've had the privilege to observe visitor green fee programs in other areas of the world. The success of these programs, including the support of the visitor themselves, is contingent on stakeholder engagement and transparency in order to foster trust and accountability. We must have a diverse set of stakeholders from relevant sectors contributing to the decision-making process for this level of funding. **For this reason, I would like this measure to keep the Environmental Legacy Commission, made up of members from diverse areas of expertise.** While DLNR may alone hold the decision-making roles for this funding - with appropriate oversight from the legislature and executive branch, the Commission is a vital way to ensure that a broad constituency of voices help shape how this funding is deployed, for maximum impact. The legislature can put in place the right governance mechanisms for the Commission to ensure it functions in the most appropriate way.

I want to thank the committee for hearing this bill and my testimony today. The resources at stake are paramount to Hawai'i, and deeply intertwined with our way of life. This bill is a clear pathway to protecting, restoring, and enhancing Hawai'i for our local communities and the visitors we share it with.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Dr. Jack Kittinger

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 8:28:41 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Miya Peterson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Miya Peterson and I am testifying in strong support of HB1162, which would help offset visitor impacts through a visitor green fee program and distribute funds to implement solutions for State and community programs working to restore our natural and cultural resources. As someone who originally came to Hawai'i as a tourist, I can personally confirm that my family would have been more than willing to pay the fee and would have even been enthusiastic to do so because of its incredibly important purpose. A small percentage out of any tourist's vacation budget, the fee not only would provide local environmental advocacy and protection efforts with much-needed funds but would also provide tourists who care about the environment, like my family a decade ago, the opportunity to give back. I am aware that tourism is Hawai'i's primary industry and that potential harms to it are often avoided at all costs, but I'm submitting testimony here today to stress based on my personal experience and the experiences of others that this fee will certainly not bar or deter any tourists from travelling here and is certainly worth the effort it takes to implement and maintain.

This measure is a critical step to ensuring visitors are paying their fair share for the places they use, visit, and experience during their time here. As an island region, Hawai'i is in immediate need of additional resources to conserve and protect our ecosystems, native species, coastlines, and the community livelihoods that depend on these resources. The impacts of tourists on our natural and cultural resources is undeniable. A recent local study confirmed that Hawai'i coral reefs attract visitors which then exacerbate their degradation. This is true for our other resources as well.

As the endangered species capital of the world, as an island with disappearing coastlines to sea level rise, and as a coastal community who relies on healthy oceans and forests to survive, it is imperative we implement a visitor green fee program this year to protect these resources before it's too late. This measure would generate the needed funding to meet our conservation, sustainability, and climate needs as a region, and provide a sustained funding source to enable our community groups, such as nonprofit organizations and DLNR, to implement solutions and scale work already being done to preserve Hawai'i. As a part of the Hawai'i Youth Climate

Coalition, I cannot stress enough how impactful even a small amount of funding can be for environmental protection, preservation, and advocacy groups. I urge the committee to pass a visitor green fee program this session, in order to begin the needed restoration for our home as soon as possible.

The success of this program must include buy-in from tourists, residents, the tourism industry, and conservation experts, and is contingent upon effective outreach and transparency of the program. We must have a diverse set of stakeholders from relevant sectors contributing to the decision-making process for this level of funding. For this reason, I would like this measure to keep the Environmental Legacy Commission, made up of members from diverse areas of expertise.

On behalf of all of us advocating for the environment, thank you for your time and dedication to preserving the beauty of Hawai'i for ages to come. This bill is a clear pathway to protecting, restoring, and enhancing Hawai'i for our local communities and the visitors we share it with, for future generations and beyond.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Miya Peterson

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 8:57:20 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Navarra	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Committee members,

I'm writing in strong support of this legislation.

Conservation is critically underfunded and understaffed. We have huge problems with invasive plant and animal species that are very costly to manage, as well as a need to reforest to cover the land that is eroding and harming our marine environments every time sediment is wash into the ocean by heavy rains. This measure would help to fund these efforts and allow visitors to support improvements to the natural environment which attracted them to Hawaii in the first place.

Mahalo,  
Jennifer Navarra

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 9:14:52 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Emma Stierhoff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the committee,

My name is Emma Stierhoff and I am testifying in strong support of HB1162. This bill would offset the negative impacts of tourism through a visitor green fee program, and distribute funds to implement solutions for State and community programs working to mālama ‘āina. So often tourism here in Hawai‘i feeds into the pockets of large corporate interests while negatively impacting local ecosystems and desecrating sacred lands. While we should also work to restructure the tourism industry to be less extractive and more beneficial to kānaka maoli, a green fee would be a great start to ensure that those experiencing the costs of tourism are compensated or that these costs are offset in some way.

This measure is a critical step to ensuring visitors are paying their fair share for the places they use, visit, and experience during their time here. Tourism uses up and degrades our already limited pool of food and water resources, leaving less for those who depend upon the ‘āina for their livelihoods. By putting resources back into protecting ecosystems and building up communities, we might be able to compensate for these losses. The impact of tourists on our ‘āina is undeniable. A recent local study confirmed that Hawai‘i coral reefs attract visitors who then exacerbate their degradation. This is true for our other ecosystems as well.

As the endangered species capital of the world, as an island with limited available resources, and as a coastal community who relies on healthy oceans and forests to survive, it is imperative we implement a visitor green fee program this year to protect our ‘āina before it's too late. This measure would generate the needed funding to meet our conservation, sustainability, and climate needs as a region, and provide a sustained funding source to enable our community groups to implement solutions and scale up work already being done to protect Hawai‘i. I urge the committee to pass a visitor green fee program this session to expand the much needed restoration work in our home as soon as possible.

The success of this program must include buy-in from tourists, residents, the tourism industry, and conservation experts, and is contingent upon effective outreach and transparency of the program. We must have a diverse set of stakeholders from relevant sectors contributing to the decision-making process for this level of funding. For this reason, I would like this measure to keep the Environmental Legacy Commission, made up of members from diverse areas of expertise.

For the sake of the 'āina and the resiliency of Hawai'i, I urge you to PASS HB1162. We cannot let the extractive tourism industry continue at a cost to those living here. This bill is a clear pathway to protecting, restoring, and enhancing Hawai'i for our local communities as well as the visitors we share it with, for future generations and beyond.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Emma Stierhoff

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 9:17:22 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Pippa Swannell	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill as long as it funnels money from tourists visiting the islands. The charging of specific licenses for certain areas sounds like it will be easy to be avoided by individuals and international tour companies operating illegally here. There would need to be a lot of infrastructure. I would like to see visitors charged a green fee on arrival at the airports and ports like is done in so many other countries. Take for example the Galápagos Islands.



**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 9:28:27 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tikki Bisbee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of [HB1162/SB304]**

**Committee on Water and Land**

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

My name is Tikki Bisbee and I am testifying **in strong support of [HB1162/SB304]** which would help offset visitor impacts through a visitor green fee program, and distribute funds to implement solutions for State and community programs working to restore our natural and cultural resources. **I am from Honokohau Valley on Maui. It is a rural area and not popular to tourists like the other beaches on the west side of the island. The popular beaches are over crowded with tourists who wear water shoes in the water and step on the coral reefs. Some may not know but the reef is alive and when people step on it it will die.**

This measure is a critical step to ensuring visitors are paying their fair share for the places they use, visit, and experience during their time here. As an island region, Hawai'i is in immediate need of additional resources to conserve and protect our ecosystems, native species, coastlines, and the community livelihoods that depend on these resources. The impacts of tourists on our natural and cultural resources is undeniable. A recent local study confirmed that Hawai'i coral reefs attract visitors which then exacerbate their degradation. This is true for our other resources as well.

As the endangered species capital of the world, as an island with disappearing coastlines to sea level rise, and as a coastal community who relies on healthy oceans and forests to survive, it is imperative we implement a visitor green fee program this year to protect these resources before it's too late. This measure would generate the needed funding to meet our conservation, sustainability, and climate needs as a region, and provide a sustained funding source to enable

our community groups, such as nonprofit organizations and DLNR, to implement solutions and scale work already being done to preserve Hawai‘i. **I urge the committee to pass a visitor green fee program this session, in order to begin the needed restoration for our home as soon as possible.**

The success of this program must include buy-in from tourists, residents, the tourism industry, and conservation experts, and is contingent upon effective outreach and transparency of the program. We must have a diverse set of stakeholders from relevant sectors contributing to the decision-making process for this level of funding. **For this reason, I would like this measure to keep the Environmental Legacy Commission, made up of members from diverse areas of expertise.**

Mahalo for thinking of the future of Hawai‘i. This bill is a clear pathway to protecting, restoring, and enhancing Hawai‘i for our local communities and the visitors we share it with, for future generations and beyond.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

**Tikki Bisbee**

**Testimony in Support of HB1162  
Committee on Water and Land**

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

My name is Olivia Butterfly Rodriguez and I am testifying **in strong support of HB1162** which would help offset visitor impacts through a visitor green fee program, and distribute funds to implement solutions for State and community programs working to restore our natural and cultural resources. **I am a 16 year old student in Honolulu. As a resident of the beautiful lands of Hawaii, this issue is important to restore my home's natural and cultural resources.**

This measure is a critical step to ensuring visitors are paying their fair share for the places they use, visit, and experience during their time here. As an island region, Hawai'i is in immediate need of additional resources to conserve and protect our ecosystems, native species, coastlines, and the community livelihoods that depend on these resources. The impacts of tourists on our natural and cultural resources is undeniable. A recent local study confirmed that Hawai'i coral reefs attract visitors which then exacerbate their degradation. This is true for our other resources as well.

As the endangered species capital of the world, as an island with disappearing coastlines to sea level rise, and as a coastal community who relies on healthy oceans and forests to survive, it is imperative we implement a visitor green fee program this year to protect these resources before it's too late. This measure would generate the needed funding to meet our conservation, sustainability, and climate needs as a region, and provide a sustained funding source to enable our community groups, such as nonprofit organizations and DLNR, to implement solutions and scale work already being done to preserve Hawai'i. **I urge the committee to pass a visitor green fee program this session, in order to begin the needed restoration for our home as soon as possible.**

The success of this program must include buy-in from tourists, residents, the tourism industry, and conservation experts, and is contingent upon effective outreach and transparency of the program. We must have a diverse set of stakeholders from relevant sectors contributing to the decision-making process for this level of funding. **For this reason, I would like this measure to keep the Environmental Legacy Commission, made up of members from diverse areas of expertise.**

I appreciate your consideration of this bill, and would like to thank those who have fought for our right to clean water for decades. On behalf of the youth of Oahu, I hope that this council will pass this bill. This bill is a clear pathway to protecting, restoring, and enhancing Hawai'i for our local communities and the visitors we share it with, for future generations and beyond.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,  
**Olivia Butterfly Rodriguez**

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 9:57:57 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Catherine Orlans	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I find it comical that this bill currently uses the Hawai'i State Constitution to specifically mention the requirement of the the State and its agencies to protect and enforce Native Hawaiian rights, including traditional and customary practices associated with, and dependent upon, carefully managed and abundant natural resources, yet this bill as it currently is written utterly fails to recognize any exception for residents and visitor that may have Native Hawaiian ancestry. This bill would make a lot more sense if amended to include an exception for people with Native Hawaiian ancestry, resident or visitor be exempt from this fee fully as that will help the state to do its duty to protect Native Hawaiian rights including protecting the accessibility to these natural resources that the Hawaiian culture consider sacred spaces. Thank you for your consideration to amend this bill and protect Native Hawaiian rights like the bill's intent is to do but is currently not.

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 10:12:25 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John Latkiewicz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's time to share the burdens of a tourism economy with the tourists. HB 1162 Goes a long way towards doing so, HB1162 establishes a visitor impact fee program within the Department of Land and Natural Resources, through which the department will collect a fee for a license to visit a state park, forest, hiking trail, or other state natural area. Establishes, and appropriates moneys into and out of, the visitor impact fee special fund. Requires the department of business, economic development, and tourism to conduct a study on the potential revenues expected to be generated by the visitor impact fee program. (HD1)

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 10:49:58 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Benyshek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB1162 HD1, which would establish a visitor green fee program. The state's beaches are some of the world's most renowned places to visit. It is vital that we protect these places, and this fee would feed directly into that initiative. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Elizabeth Benyshek

Chair, Surfrider Foundation Oahu Chapter

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 10:52:08 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jon Mitchell	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The reasons that my family and I decided to move to the islands are many, but one of the most important ones was our connection to the land. As someone who has traveled the world, I can honestly say that Hawaii is one of the most beautiful places I have ever been, and why we decided to pack up and move to Hawaii and experience all the islands have to offer daily.

Even before we moved we always felt that some kind of fee that goes back to the islands to preserve its natural beauty (we jokingly called it a tourist visa) was something we believed in, and that is why I am happy, and indeed honored, to provide written testimony today on behalf of HB1162.

As you are aware there is already a funding gap of nearly \$ 400 million per year, and that will only increase as costs go up due to inflation and climate change. As an insurance professional, I see daily how both have greatly impacted the number of and size of claims, and it will be no different here on the islands.

Our current investment of in the environment of less than 1% of our state budget is not enough to move the needle. There has been plenty of talk about addressing climate change, and now is the time to take discernable action that will allow for increased funding to support the environment without being an undue burden to the citizens of Hawaii.

I hope that the legislature takes my testimony, along with what I am sure is the testimony of many others into consideration and makes the proper investments for Hawaii, not just for the next election cycle, but for generations to come.

Mahalo,

Jon Mitchell

Kaneohe, HI



**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 11:02:16 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Matthew Chamberlain	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good Afternoon Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sergeant Matthew J. Chamberlain of the United States Marine Corps, and I am testifying in strong support of [HB1162/SB304] which would help offset visitor impacts through a visitor green fee program, and distribute funds to implement solutions for State and community programs working to restore our natural and cultural resources.

I am originally from California, but I moved to Hawaii when I was in high school and have called Hawaii my home for the last 10 years. Hawaii has been the place I have lived for the longest and will continue to be my home for the long term. Because of this, I have a strong desire to maintain the environmental health of Hawaii and to give back in any way I can. Supporting this testimony proposed to you is one of the best ways I can give back, because it will ensure the environmental health and longevity of my home. I also believe that the Hawaii Green Fee will not only benefit Hawaii, but America and our planet as well.

This measure is a critical step to ensuring visitors are paying their fair share for the places they use, visit, and experience during their time here. As an island region, Hawai'i is in immediate need of additional resources to conserve and protect our ecosystems, native species, coastlines, and the community livelihoods that depend on these resources. The impacts of tourists on our natural and cultural resources is undeniable. A recent local study confirmed that Hawai'i coral reefs attract visitors which then exacerbate their degradation. This is true for our other resources as well.

As the endangered species capital of the world, as an island with disappearing coastlines to sea level rise, and as a coastal community who relies on healthy oceans and forests to survive, it is imperative we implement a visitor green fee program this year to protect these resources before it's too late. This measure would generate the needed funding to meet our conservation, sustainability, and climate needs as a region, and provide a sustained funding source to enable our community groups, such as the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)

and nonprofit organizations including Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project (PMDP), to implement solutions and scale work already being done to preserve Hawai‘i. I urge the committee to pass a visitor green fee program this session, in order to begin the needed restoration for our home as soon as possible.

The success of this program must include buy-in from tourists, residents, the tourism industry, and conservation experts, and is contingent upon effective outreach and transparency of the program. We must have a diverse set of stakeholders from relevant sectors contributing to the decision-making process for this level of funding. For this reason, I would like this measure to keep the Environmental Legacy Commission, made up of members from diverse areas of expertise.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I believe that this bill is a clear pathway to protecting, restoring, and enhancing Hawai‘i for our local communities and the visitors we share it with, for future generations and beyond. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

R/S

Sgt Matthew J. Chamberlain

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 11:43:15 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacynthia Mitchell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of HB1162/SB304**

**Committee on Water and Land**

**Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee HB1162**

**Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee SB304**

**My name is Jacynthia Mitchell and I am testifying in strong support of HB1162/SB304 which would help offset visitor impacts through a visitor green fee program, and distribute funds to implement solutions for State and community programs working to restore our natural and cultural resources.**

My family and I started out as "visitors" to this amazing place we are now so grateful to call home. That being said, I feel confident that a green fee will not deter visitors from going to sites where the fee is implemented. In fact, it may make visitors question why there is a NEED for a green fee and thus learn more about the impact they are having on the aina and on the culture. This learning could in turn ease the tension between residents and tourists as well as humans and the environment. We can not undo the wrongs or "unring the bell" of the past but what YOU CAN DO with the power you have been entrusted with, is set Hawai'i on a course of it's own making and that starts with Aloha Aina thus ensuring life, livelihoods, and learning for generations to come.

**Tourism will dry up if Hawai'i dries up and we are at a tipping point globally and locally so what do YOU have to lose by doing right by the aina? There is so MUCH MORE TO GAIN by leading the world, yet again, in environmental innovation.**

**As the endangered species capital of the world, as an island with disappearing coastlines to sea level rise, and as a coastal community who relies on healthy oceans and forests to survive, it is imperative we implement a visitor green fee program this year to protect these resources before it's too late. This measure would generate the needed funding to meet our conservation, sustainability, and climate needs as a region, and provide a sustained funding source to enable our community groups, such as nonprofit organizations and DLNR, to implement solutions and scale work already being done to preserve Hawai'i.**

**I urge the committee to pass a visitor green fee program this session, in order to begin the needed restoration for our home as soon as possible.**

**The success of this program must include buy-in from tourists, residents, the tourism industry, and conservation experts, and is contingent upon effective outreach and transparency of the program. We must have a diverse set of stakeholders from relevant sectors contributing to the decision-making process for this level of funding. For this reason, I would like this measure to keep the Environmental Legacy Commission, made up of members from diverse areas of expertise.**

**[Insert thanks and reiterate the urgency and importance of passing this measure.] This bill is a clear pathway to protecting, restoring, and enhancing Hawai'i for our local communities and the visitors we share it with, for future generations and beyond.**

**Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,**

**Jacynthia Mitchell**

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 12:12:42 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christian Squire	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of HB1162 to impose a green fee on visitors to the island and put that money back into community based organizations and local needs. These needs should be prioritized to protect the natural and cultural resources that draw visitors here in the first place. This additional funding would create jobs for locals while protecting and restoring marine resources, native plants, and endangered species.

Mahalo,

Christian Squire

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 12:57:22 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Meredith Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support HB1162. I agree that a visitor impact fee is badly needed and will help mitigate some of the impacts of over tourism.

Thank you for your consideration,

Meredith Miller, M.A.

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 1:10:46 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
marina scott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**2/14/2023**

**WAL Committee**

**Hawai'i State Capitol**

**Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813**

**Dear Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,**

**Position: Support HB1162**

**The Surfrider Foundation is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our ocean, waves, and beaches. Surfrider maintains a network of over 150 chapters and academic clubs nationwide, including 4 chapters in the Hawaiian Islands. The Surfrider Foundation focuses on many aspects of the environment such as coastal protection, plastic pollution, and water quality.**

**The Surfrider Foundation, Hawai'i region, is testifying in strong support of HB1162, which would establish a visitor green fee program administered by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).**

**Our beaches, parks, reefs, forests, hiking trails, and other natural resources are paramount to sustaining our way of life and, similarly, our economic engine. These resources are intertwined with our visitor sector, as the tourism economy depends on Hawai'i's iconic natural resources. However, our islands are facing escalating visitor impacts, climate change, and localized threats to our ecosystems. Hawai'i currently only invests \$9 per tourist back in the environment, and less than 1% of the state budget goes towards conservation. We currently face an estimated conservation funding gap of \$360 million per year.**

**HB1162 would establish an innovative funding stream to support the critical conservation efforts needed to maintain Hawai'i as a healthy, sustainable region for future generations to enjoy, as well as a visitor destination. A transformational investment in Hawai'i's natural resources through a visitor green fee program provides a pathway to build environmental and economic resilience for our local communities and our visitor industry. Green fee models have successfully been implemented at visitor destinations across the world, particularly in other island communities such as Palau, the British Virgin Islands, Maldives, Bali, El Nido, the Galapagos, Mentawais, and the Balearic Islands.**

**For the past few years, the Surfrider Foundation has been involved in Hawai'i's green fee efforts. Building on the success of the natural resources allocation of the Honolulu Transient Accommodation Tax passing in 2021, we're excited to have the opportunity to testify. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in support of HB1162, submitted on the behalf of the Surfrider Foundation's 4 Chapters in Hawai'i and all of our members who live in the state and visit to enjoy the many coastal recreational opportunities offered by all of the islands' coastlines.**

**Sincerely,**

**Marina Scott**

**Rise Above Plastics Coordinator**

**Surfrider Foundation, Maui Chapter**



**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 2:04:40 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sheldon Plentovich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Fees to access hiking trails and parks are long overdue in Hawaii. I support these fees as a way to offset the impact of tourism on the 'aina. It is a step towards potecting our native species and ecological communities that are unique to the Hawaiian Islands.

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 3:42:44 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rocco Baricchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of [HB1162/SB304]**

**Committee on Water and Land**

**Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee [HB1162]**

**Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee [SB304]**

**My name is Rocco Baricchi and I am testifying in strong support of [HB1162/SB304] which would help offset visitor impacts through a visitor green fee program, and distribute funds to implement solutions for State and community programs working to restore our natural and cultural resources. I'm born and raised on Maui and grew up in the town of Makawao. This issue is important to me because it directly impacts the future of not only our island, but our community. I support both HB1162 and SB304 because I believe it's a huge step forward in the right direction for Maui.**

**This measure is a critical step to ensuring visitors are paying their fair share for the places they use, visit, and experience during their time here. As an island region, Hawai'i is in immediate need of additional resources to conserve and protect our ecosystems, native species, coastlines, and the community livelihoods that depend on these resources. The impacts of tourists on our natural and cultural resources is undeniable. A recent local study confirmed that Hawai'i coral reefs attract visitors which then exacerbate their degradation. This is true for our other resources as well.**

**As the endangered species capital of the world, as an island with disappearing coastlines to sea level rise, and as a coastal community who relies on healthy oceans and forests to survive, it is imperative we implement a visitor green fee program this year to protect these resources before it's too late. This measure would generate the needed funding to meet our conservation, sustainability, and climate needs as a region, and provide a sustained funding source to enable our community groups, such as nonprofit organizations and DLNR, to implement solutions and scale work already being done to preserve Hawai'i. I previously worked under RCUH for East Maui Watershed Partnership and believe there is a major need for more conservation efforts on Maui. I urge the committee to pass a visitor green fee program this session, in order to begin the needed restoration for our home as soon as possible.**

**The success of this program must include buy-in from tourists, residents, the tourism industry, and conservation experts, and is contingent upon effective outreach and transparency of the program. We must have a diverse set of stakeholders from relevant sectors contributing to the decision-making process for this level of funding. For this reason, I would like this measure to keep the Environmental Legacy Commission, made up of members from diverse areas of expertise.**

**The time for change is now. Let's use this as a call-to-action for future bills presented in benefit of the community of Maui. This bill is a clear pathway to protecting, restoring, and enhancing Hawai'i for our local communities and the visitors we share it with, for future generations and beyond.**

**Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,**

**Rocco Baricchi**

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 4:22:10 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dani Brock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of [HB1162/SB304]**

**Committee on Water and Land**

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee [HB1162]

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee [SB304]

My name is Dani Brock and I am testifying **in strong support of [HB1162/SB304]** which would help offset visitor impacts through a visitor green fee program, and distribute funds to implement solutions for State and community programs working to restore our natural and cultural resources. **I have lived here my whole life and have seen the loss of resources and the overcrowding of the recreational spaces of my childhood. Now that I have raised 6 kids here and have 3 grandchildren I am longing to see the preservation of our generational home. During Covid I took my grandchildren to all of my favorite beaches from “the old days” and we were all amazed at how incredible it was to see the ocean waters cleaner, the coral coming back and the fish returning. We had an opportunity to see (and to remember) first hand what has been lost and the cost of over tourism.**

This measure is a critical step to ensuring visitors are paying their fair share for the places they use, visit, and experience during their time here. As an island region, Hawai‘i is in immediate need of additional resources to conserve and protect our ecosystems, native species, coastlines, and the community livelihoods that depend on these resources. The impacts of tourists on our natural and cultural resources is undeniable. A recent local study confirmed that Hawai‘i coral reefs attract visitors which then exacerbate their degradation. This is true for our other resources as well.

As the endangered species capital of the world, as an island with disappearing coastlines to sea level rise, and as a coastal community who relies on healthy oceans and forests to survive, it is imperative we implement a visitor green fee program this year to protect these resources before it's too late. This measure would generate the needed funding to meet our conservation, sustainability, and climate needs as a region, and provide a sustained funding source to enable our community groups, such as nonprofit organizations and DLNR, to implement solutions and scale work already being done to preserve Hawai'i. Our ohana does regular beach clean ups and we go around bringing food to the homeless. **I urge the committee to pass a visitor green fee program this session, in order to begin the needed restoration for our home as soon as possible.**

The success of this program must include buy-in from tourists, residents, the tourism industry, and conservation experts, and is contingent upon effective outreach and transparency of the program. We must have a diverse set of stakeholders from relevant sectors contributing to the decision-making process for this level of funding. **For this reason, I would like this measure to keep the Environmental Legacy Commission, made up of members from diverse areas of expertise.**

I appreciate the consideration of this bill as first steps towards greater Aloha Aina. This bill is a clear pathway to protecting, restoring, and enhancing Hawai'i for our local communities and the visitors we share it with, for future generations and beyond.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

**Dani Brock**

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 5:36:50 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tricia Dang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill for all the reasons stated. This has been a long time coming and we cannot wait any longer to put this fee into action. Hawaii and our natural environment need the funds to support improvements, mitigate damage, and educated visitors.

My only concern is people's willingness to pay the \$50/year using an honor system. If this was created to model the federal parks annual visitor pass, the federal parks have THE OPTION to pay a daily rate (lower cost) or the annual pass rate (higher cost). To state in section 171-c a flat, no option rate of \$50 means that the majority of people will shake their head at the posted payment sign and move on, continuing on with their hike or park visit and NOT PAY... meaning Hawaii does not receive the revenue the financial models estimate and we are all wasting our time.

RATHER, (1) create 2 fee options - a daily visitor or annual visitor; capturing the individuals who would otherwise not pay \$50 unless it was enforced or prevented access, or (2) allow BLNR the option to modify the pay structure in a way that allows them to achieve the present value that was used to determine the flat \$50 rate!! Stating a \$50 fee is dangerous and should be used as a baseline not requirement.

If you want to charge \$50, this has to be collected upon arrival, so visitors have no choice, which is what they do in many areas such as Peru and Cambodia.

Thank you for your time. Fingers crossed, Hawaii.

Tricia Dang

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 10:40:54 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Matthew Geyer	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Support for HB1162

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land.

Please support HB1162 which would help ensure visitors pay their fair share towards the impact they have on Hawaii's environment. This would also result in more money being kept in Hawaii's economy, creating stable, good jobs, along with restoring and preserving the thing that most visitors come to Hawaii to see, the beautiful parks and trails and natural ecosystems that make this place so special. This is why a visitor green fee is long overdue, and especially given the additional challenges that climate change is starting to present, our natural resources will need additional support.

Apoligies for the late testimony, thank you for hearing this important bill, please support it.

Mahalo.

Matthew Geyer

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 12:03:01 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Breanne Fong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Breanne Fong, and I am testifying in **strong support of [HB1162/SB304]** which would help offset visitor impacts through a visitor green fee program, and distribute funds to implement solutions for State and community programs working to restore our natural and cultural resources. I was born and raised here on O'ahu and have been devastated by the impacts tourism has brought upon our environment and local communities, as I have witnessed tourists disrespect our land, animals, and people (e.g., littering, ignoring signs to stay 50 feet away from monk seals, etc.).

This measure is a critical step to ensuring visitors are paying their fair share for the places they use, visit, and experience during their time here. As an island region, Hawai'i is in immediate need of additional resources to conserve and protect our ecosystems, native species, coastlines, and the community livelihoods that depend on these resources. The impacts of tourists on our natural and cultural resources is undeniable. A recent local study confirmed that Hawai'i coral reefs attract visitors which then exacerbate their degradation. This is true for our other resources as well.

As the endangered species capital of the world, as an island with disappearing coastlines to sea level rise, and as a coastal community who relies on healthy oceans and forests to survive, it is imperative we implement a visitor green fee program this year to protect these resources before it's too late. This measure would generate the needed funding to meet our conservation, sustainability, and climate needs as a region, and provide a sustained funding source to enable our community groups, such as nonprofit organizations and DLNR, to implement solutions and scale work already being done to preserve Hawai'i. I personally volunteer and am a huge supporter of nonprofits like Mālama Maunalua and Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i, organizations dedicated to restoring marine life and ecosystems among our islands. **I urge the committee to pass a visitor green fee program this session, in order to begin the needed restoration for our home as soon as possible.**

The success of this program must include buy-in from tourists, residents, the tourism industry, and conservation experts, and is contingent upon effective outreach and transparency of the program. We must have a diverse set of stakeholders from relevant sectors contributing to the decision-making process for this level of funding. **For this reason, I would like this measure to**



**keep the Environmental Legacy Commission, made up of members from diverse areas of expertise.**

Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony. This bill is a clear pathway to protecting, restoring, and enhancing Hawai'i for our local communities and the visitors we share it with, for future generations and beyond.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Breanne Fong

**HB-1162-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 8:27:17 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kahi Pacarro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Highly support this Bill. The impact that visitors have on our community should not come at the expense of the locals. Our environment and resources are impacted and the money made from their visit is then transferred not to local families but rather corporations and often times offshore and foreign companies. We as locals need help. This bill will provide that financially by putting money into the hands of the organizations that are doing the hard work on the daily to restore, sustain, and enhance our environment for the future.