

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

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STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Tuesday, February 28, 2023
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 361, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE GREEN JOBS YOUTH CORPS**

House Bill 361, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) and its partner, or partners, for the continuation of benefits of the Green Jobs Youth Corps. **The Department supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

Green Jobs Youth Corps funding previously appropriated by the Legislature has allowed the Department to partner with Kupu, a Hawai'i-based non-profit, to provide roughly 100 workforce or training opportunities per year. This funding provides important opportunities for emerging professionals to gain skills related to natural resource management and helps to further the Department's efforts to protect natural and cultural resources.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

MARK B. GLICK
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

235 South Beretania Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-3807
Web: energy.hawaii.gov

Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Tuesday, February 28, 2023
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 and Videoconference

In SUPPORT of

HB361, HD1

RELATING TO THE GREEN JOBS YOUTH CORPS.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HB 361, HD1, which appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and its partner, or partners, for the continuation of benefits of the Green Jobs Youth Corps.

HSEO believes that DLNR is well-suited to oversee the corps and to provide training and job experience for the workforce of the future. This program helps advance Hawai'i's clean energy and decarbonization goals, expands the green workforce, and launches a new generation of clean energy leaders. HSEO is in support of this and other green workforce development efforts, working together toward achieving 100% clean energy by or before 2045.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Before the House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

Testimony in Support of HB361 HD1: Relating to the Green Jobs Youth Corps

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support and provide comments on House Bill 361 HD1.

Hawai'i Energy works to empower island families and businesses on behalf of the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to make smart energy choices to reduce energy consumption, save money, and pursue a 100% clean energy future. Energy efficiency – the energy we do not use – is the cheapest option to help us achieve our 100% clean energy goal by eliminating waste and being more efficient.

The bill provides necessary funding to ensure the Green Jobs Youth Corps is able to continue its promising efforts for the next two fiscal years. In its short existence already, the Green Jobs Youth Corps has trained over 100 young adults and deployed them to 70 employers or host sites in the areas of conservation, sustainable agriculture, and sustainable energy. As Hawai'i pursues a 100% clean energy future, we are going to need programs like the Green Job Youth Corps to help grow our sustainability-focused workforce.

Hawai'i Energy has had the privilege of working closely with the Kupu 'Āina Corps program, which has provided eight positions to help launch the initial year of the Hawaii State Energy Office Clean Energy Wayfinder program. The Clean Energy Wayfinders share information and opportunities for energy conservation, energy efficiency and clean energy adoption with Hawai'i's schools, community organizations, and households — especially those in low- to moderate-income (LMI), asset-limited, income-constrained, employed (ALICE), and under-resourced communities — to help increase energy conservation and efficiencies, lower monthly energy utility bills, increase access to clean transportation and renewable energy resources, and promote green career training and employment opportunities.

We look forward to supporting efforts to expand the Green Job Youth Corps program and programs like it throughout the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 361 HD1.

Sincerely,
Caroline Carl
Executive Director
Hawai'i Energy



holomua

COLLABORATIVE

OUR MISSION

To support and advance public policies that make Hawai'i affordable for all working families.

OUR VISION

Collaborative, sustainable, and evidence-based public policies that create a diverse and sustainable Hawai'i economy, an abundance of quality job opportunities, and a future where all working families living in Hawai'i can thrive.

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Page 1 of 2

Committee: House Committee on Finance
Bill Number: HB 361, HD 1, Relating to the Green Jobs Youth Corps
Hearing Date and Time: February 28, 2023 at 10:00am (Room 308)
Re: Testimony of Holomua Collaborative in support

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members:

We write in support of HB 361, HD 1, Relating to the Green Jobs Youth Corps. The purpose of HB 361, HD 1 is to appropriate funds for the continuation of the Green Jobs Youth Corps program.

Holomua works to find innovative initiatives that help make Hawai'i affordable to all working families. We are especially interested in fostering cross-sector collaboration and supporting evidence-based policies that have shown or can expect to show a positive return on any taxpayer investment that is made in them.

The Green Jobs Youth Corps is a perfect example of all this.

Innovation: The program was created as an innovative way to connect people with good jobs following the unemployment crisis that was sparked by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, the Green Jobs Youth Corps has become a meaningful part of Hawaii's attempt to diversify our economy, keep people working in their own communities, and improve the state's environmental resilience.

Cross-sector collaboration: With initial federal government funding through COVID relief money and subsequent additional funding provided by the state, the Green Jobs Youth Corps has involved over seventy different employers in both the for-profit and non-profit sectors. And all these employers are involved in sustainable energy, conservation, or sustainable agriculture.

Evidence-based return on investment: The partnership between these private sector employers and the state and federal government has proved to be a wise investment of government resources. It is estimated that the first \$5 million in government funds invested in this program will produce \$18.4 million in positive socioeconomic impact.

We know young adults are unemployed at higher rates than the general population, causing lifelong negative impacts. The Green Jobs Youth Corps has successfully trained over 100 young people. Roughly half of the participants hail from the neighbor islands, over half live in households making less than \$25,000 per year, and almost half are Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.



Page 2 of 2

This is the type of innovative, collaborative, evidence-based and place-based program that can serve as a model for the state and we are proud to support it.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Josh Wisch'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J' and a stylized 'W'.

Josh Wisch
President & Executive Director



BUILDBETTER.LIVEBETTER.®

February 27, 2023

Committee: House Committee on Finance
Bill Number: HB 361 HD1, Relating to the Green Jobs Youth Corps
Hearing Date and Time: February 28, 2023 at 10:00am
Re: Testimony of HPM Building Supply in support

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members:

I would like to submit this letter and written testimony in support of HB 361 HD1, Relating to the Green Jobs Youth Corps. The purpose of HB 361 HD1 is to appropriate funds for the continuation of the Green Jobs Youth Corps program.

HPM Building Supply is a 100% employee-owned company serving Hawaii's home improvement market and building industry for over 100 years since 1921. With 17 locations across Hawaii and Washington State, HPM offers various services and products, including retail stores, building supply and lumber yards, home design centers, drafting and design services, and manufacturing facilities. HPM is dedicated to enhancing homes, improving lives, and transforming communities. The company is guided by its core values of Heart, Character, and Growth, striving to provide top-quality products and build exceptional customer loyalty. HPM has earned recognition as a leader in the industry for its products, services, and commitment to its community.

As a State-wide employer with over 500 employees, we appreciate the initiative to train and prepare the next generation entering the workforce. This bill continues to foster cross-sector collaboration and continue to work with private sector employers. This bill is also in line with HPM's values of Heart, Character and Growth. By creating new jobs and investing in these individuals, we give them the chance to contribute to our communities and set them on a path of professional growth.

Thank you for the opportunity to provided testimony in support of HB 361 HD1. I strongly encourage your support and passage of this innovative measure.

Sincerely,

Dennis Lin
Community Relations Administrator



(808) 966-5466 • FAX (808) 966-7564
16-166 MELEKAHIWA STREET • KEAAU, HAWAII 96749

HPMHAWAII.COM



**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Supporting HB 361 HD1, Relating to the Green Jobs Youth Corps.**

**Committee on Finance
February 28, 2023, 10:00 am
Conference Room 308 and via Videoconference**

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) supports HB 361 HD1, Relating to the Green Jobs Youth Corps.

Hawai'i's natural environment is the engine that drives our state's economy and a natural, recreational, and cultural treasure supporting our island lifestyle and livelihoods. Careful, thoughtful, and intentional conservation, management, and restoration is required to ensure our environment can withstand the increasing impacts of climate change while continuing to fuel our islands' economic engine. TNC is proud of our decades of working in partnership with so many local organizations, agencies, and communities to care for this vital and fragile resource.

The Green Job Youth Corps, based on a 2020 displaced worker training and employment program, is making a meaningful impact on Hawai'i's environment and economy. The program is an excellent example of a partnership between the state, the community, and employers. While this government program was originally established in response to the Covid-19 unemployment crisis, TNC has benefitted from the tremendous work of dozens of Kupu interns since 2011. These interns provide much-needed capacity to help us manage our native forested watersheds and coral reefs. These enthusiastic and committed interns have created positive environmental, cultural, and community impact across the islands while also learning under the mentorship of environmental experts. Through their work, these interns are making a positive difference right now while also paving the way for the next generation of conservationists dedicated to perpetuating our unique island environment and diversifying Hawai'i's economy. HB 361 HD1 would continue this program, which provides the platform and funding for additional Kupu internships and other green jobs across our islands.

As we work together to create a diversified economy, green jobs can and must play a role. We need programs like the Green Job Youth Corps to build our workforce and grow sustainability-focused industries throughout our state. By providing opportunities for local jobs while also paving the way for long-term green jobs, environmental expertise, and local leadership, this legislation is a key step in the right direction, and we urge the committee to pass it unamended.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 361 HD1.

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 thirteen nature preserves and work in over fifty 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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**TITLE GUARANTY
HAWAII**

February 27, 2023

Committee: House Committee on Finance
Bill Number: HB 361, HD1, Relating to the Green Jobs Youth Corps
Hearing Date & Time: February 28, 2023 at 10:00 AM (Room 308)
Re: Testimony of Title Guaranty of Hawai'i in support

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members:

We write in support of HB 361, Relating to the Green Jobs Youth Corps. The purpose of HB 361 is to appropriate funds for the continuation of the Green Jobs Youth Corps program.

Title Guaranty of Hawai'i is the oldest and largest title company in the state. We have been owned and operated by a kama'aina family since 1896 and we are proud to employ over 300 people who work in our branches all across the state. Being a longtime employer of so many people in Hawai'i, we know how important it is to invest in the next generation.

This bill allows Hawaii's youth and young adults to establish themselves in an accredited sustainable sector within the State. The additional resources help invest in education and training and are integral to combating unemployment.

We support HB 361 and appreciate the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Mike B. Pietsch
President and Chief Operating Officer
Title Guaranty of Hawai'i



Title and Escrow is our business. Hawaii is our home.





**Testimony in Strong Support of H.B. 361, H.D. 1
Relating to the Green Job Youth Corps**

House Committee on Finance

Submitted by Kupu CEO John Leong, hearing date February 28, 2023

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is John Leong, and I am the Chief Executive Officer and co-founder of Kupu, a statewide youth-focused conservation nonprofit. On behalf of Kupu, I am pleased to testify in **strong support of H.B. 361, H.D. 1, Relating to the Green Job Youth Corps.**

As written, this measure would continue funding for the State Green Job Youth Corps, a program that provides employment and training opportunities for young adults in conservation, sustainable agriculture, clean energy, and other sustainability-related industries. As a community-based organization that partners with the Department of Land and Natural Resources to administer this program, we have seen firsthand the benefits it is providing to individuals and to the diversification of our economy. We thank the legislature for establishing this program in 2021, and for considering H.B. 361 so this program can continue to benefit Hawai‘i’s environment, economy, and young workforce.

As background, Kupu was established in 2007, in the early stages of the Great Recession. Today we are a statewide organization, developing youth and young adults through hands-on service training and early-career jobs in conservation and other sustainability professions. Since 2007 we have trained over 5,200 youth in conservation, sustainability, and environmental education. Young adults served by Kupu have provided more than 3 million service hours during this time, which included planting over 1.5 million native plants and removing over 151,000 acres of invasive species. According to a study by Columbia University, the work of Kupu’s young participants has generated an estimated \$172 million-plus in positive socio-economic impact for Hawai‘i since our founding. We believe more investment in the green economy - as this bill provides - would enable similar economic benefits to our state, create jobs in related fields, and continue to diversify our economy.

We are honored to have played a role in the displaced worker employment and training program that served as the model for the Green Job Youth Corps. In 2020, we partnered with the state to administer the Kupu ‘Āina Corps, which helped over 350 displaced workers during the unemployment crisis that characterized the first year of the Covid-19 pandemic. Seeing the potential benefits of a similar program as part of the state’s long-term strategy to improve our economy and reach out ambitious sustainability goals, the legislature created the Green Job Youth Corps through

H.B. 1176 (Act 181 SLH 2021), and amended the program last year via S.B. 2768 (Act 33, SLH 2022).

The Green Job Youth Corps is currently benefiting young adults and sustainability employers across our state, and H.B. 361 would allow this to continue. Over 140 participants have enrolled in the Green Job Youth Corps, and have served at 70 different sustainability organizations in the first program year. Participants are gaining hands-on experience in conservation, sustainable farming, and sustainable energy careers. In terms of equitable distribution, Kupu is pleased to see the program reach deep into neighbor island communities, as 48 percent of participants and 51 percent of our host sites are located outside of O‘ahu.

With the support of the Legislature, the Green Job Youth Corps can continue to support our environment and economy from the ground up, focused first on building a workforce of young adults ready to lead Hawai‘i into the sustainable and resilient future we want for our state. Please allow for the continuation of the Green Job Youth Corps by passing H.B. 361, H.D. 1.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in strong support of this important bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Leong". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

John Leong, CEO
Kupu



Testimony Before The
House Committee on Finance
IN SUPPORT OF HB 361
February 28, 2023, 10:00AM, Room 308

My name is Kevin Chang and I am the Executive Director of [Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo \(or KUA\)](#). KUA works to empower grassroots rural and Native Hawaiian mālama 'āina groups -fishers, farmers, families- to celebrate their places and pass on their traditions to better Hawai'i and achieve 'āina momona— an abundant, productive ecological system that supports community well-being.

KUA employs a community-driven approach that currently supports a statewide network of 36 mālama 'āina community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together), 40 fishpond projects and practitioners called the Hui Mālama Loko I'a, and a growing group of over 60 Limu practitioners and supporters called the Limu Hui. Our vision of 'āina momona includes pathways to new economic and environmental regenerative opportunities for present and future generations.

KUA generally supports HB 361. This bill would continue to support the Green Job Youth Corps program within the DLNR to help address the unemployment impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and support economic diversification. It would also appropriate funds for this purpose

Beyond supporting a stop gap in employment for our state the Green Job Youth Corps are important pathway to meeting the greater systemic needs we as a state identified during this pandemic: new workforce training, economic diversification, caring for our environment, and supporting businesses in Hawai'i as they work to make our state more self-sufficient and resilient

A primary function of KUA includes development of an 'auwai, a stream of resources, tools, bridges, relationships, and networks that help to cultivate and take our communities' work to greater levels of collective impact. A core catalyst for the flow in this 'auwai includes increasing the percentage of our economy which helps to manage and better the condition of the natural resources systems that sustain us. Indeed, the University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization, with input from KUA and a number of partners (DLNR, Kupu, TNC, KS,OHA etc.) now tracks natural resource workforce development as a key part of a "Green Economy."

We are also supportive for what this opportunity could mean for increased environmental co-management, co-governance and uplifting an ethic of mālama 'āina. Our current state institutions lack in resources but also in institutional ethos and policies that could better bolster citizen stewardship of our home. Key new generation staff members -such as exist within the Division of Aquatic Resources community-based subsistence fishing area and DOCARE Makai Watch programs- that do more work in partnership with communities are the future of environmental stewardship.

A state job corps that can build a conservation workforce for Hawai'i is a necessary pathway toward uplifting the environment which sustains and undergirds the "economy" for our state. It also

further places our island community like others in the Pacific as a leader for environmental leadership and adaptation.

Please pass this bill out of your committee and mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Aloha 'Āina Momona.

HB-361-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 2:53:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ed Schultz	Hawaiian Host Group	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members:

I am writing in support of HB 361, HD 1, Relating to the Green Jobs Youth Corps. The purpose of HB 361, HD 1 is to appropriate funds for the continuation of the Green Jobs Youth Corps program.

Hawaiian Host Group has been a local company since 1927 and is committed to innovative and sustainable manufacturing in Hawaii that supports local jobs.

The Green Jobs Youth Corps is a perfect example of all this.

Innovation: The program was created as an innovative way to connect people with good jobs following the unemployment crisis that was sparked by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, the Green Jobs Youth Corps has become a meaningful part of Hawaii's attempt to diversify our economy, keep people working in their own communities, and improve the state's environmental resilience.

Cross-sector collaboration: With initial federal government funding through COVID relief money and subsequent additional funding provided by the state, the Green Jobs Youth Corps has involved over seventy different employers in both the for-profit and non-profit sectors. And all these employers are involved in sustainable energy, conservation, or sustainable agriculture.

Evidence-based return on investment: The partnership between these private sector employers and the state and federal government has proved to be a wise investment of government resources. It is estimated that the first \$5 million in government funds invested in this program will produce \$18.4 million in positive socioeconomic impact.

We know young adults are unemployed at higher rates than the general population, causing lifelong negative impacts. The Green Jobs Youth Corps has successfully trained over 100 young people. Roughly half of the participants hail from the neighbor islands, over half live in households making less than \$25,000 per year, and almost half

are Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.

This is the type of innovative, collaborative, evidence-based and place-based program that can serve as a model for the state and we are proud to support it.

Mahalo,

Ed Schultz

President & CEO

Hawaiian Host Group



**HAWAI'I COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
And Members of the Committee

From: Micah Kāne, Chief Executive Officer & President - Hawai'i Community Foundation

Re: Testimony in Support of HB361 Relating to Green Jobs Youth Corps
Tuesday, February 28, 2023, 10:00 A.M.

The Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) strongly supports House Bill 361 (HB361). HB361 is an important part of supporting our youth and statewide workforce while opening the doors to diversifying our economy. This is a key area within HCF's CHANGE Framework under the "C" sector of Community & Economy. We will continue to support ideas and efforts that can bring systemic change to Hawaii for the betterment of our future. HB361 provides a solid investment of government resource, support, and confidence into this area.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB361.

HB-361-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 8:45:04 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zhizi Xiong	CARES	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

CARES testifies in strong support. In 2020, CARES Act funded a short term green jobs program in partnership with Hawaii based nonprofit organization Kupu. Kupu Aina Corps enabled 350 workers including recent grads to be trained to start giving back to Hawaii's economy and environment through green jobs. Because this was effective, this measure is requesting additional funds.

In addition to addressing unemployment among youth and young adults, green jobs youth corps is an important part of the State's strategy to diversify the economy and reach our environmental and energy goals. The program invests in building young adults who are interested in working in the sustainability sector.

HB-361-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2023 4:29:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB361 HD1.

HB-361-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2023 10:06:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of HD1. Thank you.

HB-361-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 9:52:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carissa Cabrera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Mahalo for taking the time to hear this measure, one that would create pathways to meaningful, local jobs for Hawai'i residents. My name is Carissa Cabrera and I am testifying in strong support of HB361, relating to the Jobs Corps. As we face economic insecurity, it is essential to support programs that effectively uplift our communities through skill development and community involvement. The program outlined in the measure has been a demonstrated success the past two years, and by extending it, you would be providing an opportunity for additional residents to begin their local careers in a purposeful way for our resources and environment. Please pass this measure without amendments, so we can build local capacity for sustainability, climate solutions, and natural resource protection while we can.

With aloha,

Carissa Cabrera

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Hearing on Feb. 28, 2023 at 10:00 am

SUPPORTING HB 361 HD 1

My name is John Kawamoto, and I support HB 361 HD 1 because it helps to transition our economy away from fossil fuels toward a clean, renewable energy future.

Notably, this bill prepares youth for the jobs that are required for this transition because they are the ones who will benefit from a more livable Earth. This bill continues funding for a program that is already operating and has proven to work.

This is one of many efforts that Hawaii must make to do its part to mitigate climate change.

HB-361-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 12:32:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tom Coffman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha committee members, Given our healthy finances, I hope you can expand this budget. The need and demand are there, and the means (KUPU) gives assurance that the money will be administered correctly.

Tom Coffman