



# HUI O HO'OHONUA

Community 501(c)3 Operating in `Ewa, O`ahu

HOH808.org

## EXECUTIVE OFFICE DOCUMENT

Date: April 2, 2024

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

To: Committee Chair Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz

Committee Vice Chair Senator Sharon Y. Moriwak

SUBJ: House Bill 2715. Authorizes the issuance of special number plates to commemorate Malama Pu'uloa.

DATE: Thursday April 4, 2024

TIME: 10:15 AM

From: Anthony Chance, CEO and Founder of Hui O Ho'ohonua.

I am writing this Letter of Support for House Bill 2715. This Bill will provide an alternate method of funding the restoration of Pu'uloa (Pearl Harbor). At no cost to the government, the fundraising fees from this specialty license plate will directly support the restoration of not only Pu'uloa (Pearl Harbor), but the 12 freshwater streams that flow into Pu'uloa from the 12 Ahupua'a's that surround the Sacred waters of Pu'uloa.

### Common Management Goals:

- Remove invasive mangrove vegetation from Pearl Harbor shoreline and off-shore islands
- Improve water quality throughout all watersheds associated with Pearl Harbor
- Restore native wetlands and shoreline vegetation
- Restore oyster, mullet and native bird populations
- Restore Hawaiian fishponds where possible
- Engage the community in resource management and education
- Collect data that serves to inform our efforts
- Increase inter-agency collaboration and capacity
- Increased fresh water and food security, especially urgent in the current economic climate of Hawai'i

Watershed restoration:

- Associated habitat restoration for endangered/endemic species and mitigation required of the DoD
- Flood mitigation, associated with climate change and storm resiliency planning
- Decreased nonpoint polluted run-off and Pearl Harbor sedimentation

Sincerely,



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Est. 2015





Waipahu Intermediate School FFA  
94-455 Farrington Hwy · Waipahu, HI



April 3, 2024

Senate Ways and Means Committee  
Chair Dela Cruz  
Vice Chair Moriwaki  
Reference: HB2715 Relating to Special Number Plates

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and the Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

Thank you so much for taking the time to hear this bill. I am testifying in full support of HB2715.

This bill means more than the funds that will be generated; this bill will serve as a beacon of hope for Pu'uloa. It'll raise awareness to the countless and painstaking hours of work that has been done in the past and the many more hours that still need to be done to restore Pu'uloa to what it once was. This special plate will mean more than a bumper sticker that a few people slap on their cars to show support. This special plate will show that the State of Hawaii recognizes the importance of environmental stewardship and the support of this amazing organization. This bill will show that the state is in support of the hundreds of students who have devoted their time to malama the aina, and recognizes the importance of their work.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Ken Kozuma*

Waipahu Intermediate FFA

**HB-2715-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 10:14:03 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jersie De Castro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Jersie De Castro, a student at Waipahu Intermediate School, and I really see the long term vision that Malama Pu'uloa has for this plot of land and I am in support of this bill to be passed so that they will be able to continue working on this project. On August 19, 2023, Waipahu Intermediate had it's first workday at the area behind our school. We were able to start clearing out some invasive species as well as planting sweet potato in the space. Ever since this community work day, we have seen so much progress just in this small amount of time and if this continues with the help of the funding that they receive, this would be extremely beneficial for Waipahu. In addition to helping restore Pu'uloa, they are also helping our school by helping us develop a food forest behind our school and by giving opportunities for students to learn about the importance of maintaining our 'Aina.

**HB-2715-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 10:23:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Mai Kakou, my name is Samara Aceret and I am an 8th grader at Waipahu Intermediate School, and a member of our Future Farmers of America Chapter. I write this testimony to shed light on my wholehearted support to this bill. Hawai`i is home to resourceful land that if used properly, can benefit for our communities. In order to do this, we must take action. Caring for our `aina is one of my top priorities. I have seen first hand the utmost desire that the non-profit organization Malama Puuuloa has to restore & care for our very own Pearl Harbor. They have brought together communities and various groups of people who all care for the one goal of protecting our `aina.

I, and many others, have had the opportunity to attend work days working with their crew. Malama Puuloa displays tremendous care for their cause which gives me no doubt that bill HB2715 would only continue to benefit our community. The publicity and funds that this bill would enable has the ability to catapult the non profit's cause. As a student who used to know nothing about the problems my community faced, I have learned a plethora of important information on how to care for our `aina. My wish is that with the help of this bill, Malama Puuloa's message will reach a range of audiences and provide funding to become something bigger. I am in full support of this bill, let us care for our Hawai`i. Mahalo.

**HB-2715-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 10:33:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ryanna Jade Domenden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello! My name is Ryanna Jade Domenden. I am currently an 8th grade student at Waipahu Intermediate School. Today, I'm writing to show my absolute favor in this bill. As a person who has lived in Hawai'i for all their life, I've really grown to have a strong bond with my community. I'm not just talking about my community in Waipahu, but I'm also talking about my community all over the islands. I really appreciate the bonds I have created with others. Especially through work. This is why I really appreciate the non profit organization, Malama Puuloa. Their community is working so hard to maintain our islands' native lands, while allowing the community to help. Every single one of those community work days allow everyone to come together and work to help restore our land. Bonds are formed during all these work days. I got to see this happen while working with their organization back at Waipahu Intermediate School. During our entire work day, everyone got closer together. Work was done, laughter and stories were shared, and most importantly, everyone helped each other get the task done to improve our community's future. This leads me to explain that Malama Puuloa would have great benefits from the license plates from bill HB2715. They would get so many funds to continue to support their hard work to maintain our islands' natural lands. Other than funding, they will also get great awareness from the community. Hopefully allowing more people to give a helping hand to Malama Puuloa's work. Allowing their efforts to stretch even further, so more community work days would come in the future. There would also be more memories to share during that community work day amongst the people who are giving a helping hand. I really love the idea of everyone in the community coming together and accomplish something great, while they're still creating many bonds and laughter with people they thought they would never meet. Many others and I see a future of where communities come together and achieve something that was originally seen as unachievable. Malama Puuloa would allow for something like this to eventually happen if they had the support and recognition of the public. I really hope you can see the potential of good this bill can bring to not just our natural lands, but also our community. Again, I'm in full support of this bill. Thank you for your time.

**HB-2715-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 6:50:35 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alyssa Kaylen Padua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Alyssa Padua, a student currently enrolled in Waipahu Intermediate School. As a student dedicated to the Future Farmers of America and a student in an agriculture class, I'm in full support of this bill. Hawaii's land is such a prominent factor in the tourism industry, as tourists from all around the world would spend pricey amounts of money just to visit. Malama Pu'uloa works hard to keep our land healthy and restore the pearl harbor area. If this bill is passed, Malama Pu'uloa would be able to continue their projects with the funds such as Hui Aloha project, Honouliuli restoration, and even help us clear out the 7 acres of farmland behind our school. Not only would this be beneficial for funding their current and future projects of restoring our 'Aina, but also spreading awareness about the work they have done for the community. With 18,000+ volunteers that have been engaged with their work, this abundance of people could possibly double in numbers, working a step closer to restoring a prominent historical mark on our island where tourists come to visit daily. I personally have only participated in their community led volunteer work once while cleaning out a small fraction of the 7 acres behind our school, of which was the first time I've actually got to hear about them. Again, I deeply support this bill and hope to see the improvement of recognition and funds that Malama Pu'uloa well deserves in the future!

**HB-2715-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 7:12:14 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Nicholas Nishimura, a ninth-grader from Waipahu High Schools Agriculture and Natural Resources academy, and a proud member of our Future Farmers of America program. I am writing this testimony in complete and aggregate support of this bill. As a student in the ANR academy at Waipahu High School, earlier this year I was able to experience a day with Malama Puaaloo in September, and saw firsthand the importance and impact of this organization on our Ainā. In the 21st century, perhaps no issue is talked about more than the detriments of climate change to our environment, and the sustainability challenges facing the world today. In Hawaii, the drawbacks of climate change are exacerbated by a large amount of invasive crops in our forests, and ecological dead zones like that of Puuloa. In tandem, these two major issues are some of many posing environmental challenges to the beautiful island state we call home today. Puuloa translates to "The Hill of Long Life", and was the first place Native Hawaiians had landed on Oahu. To me, a student living in Hawaii today, Malama Puuloa is the representation of a new movement in Hawaii to preserve our lands for future generations, and support sustainable agriculture in our state. Through efforts to remove invasive species in Puuloa, they are slowly but surely transforming native Hawaiian agricultural and cultural areas that were thought to be lost into places that serve as a testament to the future of Malama Ainā, through restoring our land and preserving the future of Hawaii's beauty. The passing of bill HB2715 would allow for this organization to be presented with funding through a cause that spreads the word about the organization. These license plates would serve as a symbol of positive change in our state, and would garner financial support and good publicity for Malama Puuloa. Today, I am surrounded by youth passionate about the environmental future of the state we call home. In my academy at WHS, and my FFA chapter, I am enveloped by young people actively pursuing stewardship of agriculture and Ainā through science, community hands-on work and research, and advocacy. Through this bill passing, we all take a step closer towards securing the future of a sustainable and thriving environment in the state we call home today. "The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness". Malama Puuloa is an organization that takes our state motto to heart, and is creating a lasting impact on our Ainā, that would benefit greatly from the support offered by the passing of bill HB2715. I am in full support of this bill and it's potential impacts, and hope the same support is adopted. Thank you.



**HB-2715-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 7:59:06 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I SUPPORT HB2715 HD1 SD1

**HB-2715-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:42:42 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

My name is Alaiza Alvarez, a student at Waipahu High School, a part of the Academy of Natural Resources, and Waipahu High School FFA. I am writing this Testimony to say that I am in support of this bill. I have visited Kapapahu Point Park now twice, where Malama Pu'uloa aids in restoring parts of Pearl Harbor. I can confidently say that I have learned a lot from this organization, from our culture, preserving our local environment, and being stewards of the land. Malama Pu'uloa represents the people's pride to our land and state, which deserves to be recognized. I am honored that I had been given those past opportunities to restore the land here in Ewa. This bill will help to support them and represent the work Malama Pu'uloa has achieved so far in restoration, educating, and all their goals. Again, I am in full support of this bill and hope it will be adopted.

**HB-2715-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:52:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaulani Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

Mahalo nui loa for your excellent work, during one of the most challenging moments in the history of our beloved Hawai'i Nei.

I am writing in support of HB 2715, HB1, SD1, which authorizes the issuance of special number license plates to commemorate the restoration work that is being done in Ke Awa Lau o Pu'uloa (Mālama Pu'uloa).

As the site of the largest aquifer on the island, the entire O'ahu community is well aware of its dependence on the flow of fresh, clean waters into the harbor, through its streams, underground wells, and springs and our need to restore health to the entire harbor, from the ridge to the sea for generations to come.

While these plates direct funding to only one of the non-profit organizations that is currently restoring 'āina in Pu'uloa (Hui O Ho'ohonua), conversations with its leadership confirm that all of the organizations and individuals who are deeply involved in healing the 'āina and waters of Pu'uloa will benefit. We are grateful to you for envisioning a new pathway to increasing meaningful awareness and resources for our collective efforts.

To deepen the connection of the special plates to the harbor's fertile history, **we respectfully request an amendment to the measure that will honor the mahele stewards of Pu'uloa, whose descendants have been lovingly striving to address climate change impacts through traditional ecological knowledge.** Many of these lineal descendants are esteemed and award-winning artists whose pieces are found in the collection of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and are displayed in the Hawaii Convention Center, State Capitol offices, public schools, and local, national and international collections. Their artistry will uniquely reconnect these descendants to the lands that their ancestors cherished and could even include community collaborations with area students and families that help to increase participation in the project, and ultimately, its success. A message that ensures preference for lineal descendants, in the design and educational elements of the plates follows, in spirit, the selection of the artist who designed the beautiful Polynesian Voyaging Society plates that are seen on cars all over the island.

In the spirit of aloha and deepest gratitude to the Committee on Ways and Means, I respectfully request your committee's passage of this measure.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Kehaulani Lum, 8th Generational Lineal Descendant, 'Aiea, Hawai'i