

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

House Committee on Tourism

Thursday, February 2, 2023

10:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 423 and Videoconference

In Support of the Intent

H.B. No. 1237, Relating to a Green User Fee Program

Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hussey-Burdick, and members of the House Committee on Tourism:

The Office of the Governor supports the intent of H.B. No. 1237, Relating to a Green User Fee Program. However, our Office prefers the language in H.B. No. 1051, Relating to Natural Resources Management, for the reasons below and respectfully requests your consideration of that measure.

The impacts on Hawaii's natural resources, consequences of both residents and visitors, is an overarching concern in our State and one of the priorities of this Administration. Both H.B. No. 1237 and H.B. No. 1051 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 here, Hawaii'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 impacts by visitors. H.B. No. 1051, which was introduced during this regular session, establishes the visitor green fee program, which includes a license and assessment of a visitor green fee on visitors for the usage of Hawaii's state-owned parks, beaches, forests, trails, or other state-owned recreational natural areas. H.B. No. 1051 provides a means of sustained funding for the protection, restoration, regeneration, enhancement, and care of Hawaii's natural and cultural recreational resources.

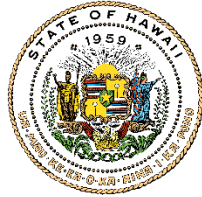
Testimony of Office of the Governor
H.B. No. 1237
February 2, 2023
Page 2

While H.B. No. 1237 and other measures before your Committee on Tourism may be of similar intent to H.B. No. 1051, we respectfully request your Committee's consideration of H.B. No. 1051, which has been vetted by the Department of the Attorney General and Department of Land and Natural Resources. H.B. No. 1051 is a commitment and an undertaking 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.

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DAWN N. E. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
TOURISM

Thursday, February 2, 2023
10:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 423, Via Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1237
RELATING TO GREEN USER FEE PROGRAM

House Bill 1237 proposes to: 1) require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to establish a green user fee program to collect user fees for certain state parks; 2) require the Department to develop a mobile application for the green user fee program; 3) exempts certain individuals from the green user fee program and 4) appropriates funds. **The Department supports the intent of this measure and offers the following comments.**

While the Department supports the establishment of a green fee, the Department recognizes the importance of establishing a fund that can be utilized to take care of natural and cultural resources throughout the state. State Parks has already 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. Though tourist numbers may be significantly more in certain areas such as state parks, the impacts of tourism can be felt beyond those boundaries. Establishing a program to only address impacts at state parks fails to address the impacts tourism has on our reefs, trails, beaches, forest reserves, natural area reserves, historic sites and other important natural and cultural areas. The Administration has submitted a Visitor Green Fee bill (House Bill 1051/Senate Bill 1349) which addresses the need to work outside of boundaries for land designations and work to reverse human impacts on natural resources.

With these considerations the Department respectfully prefers the programs and language proposed in the administrative bills.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

Ka hui o Kūlāhewa, Kūlāhewa o Hawai'i
Hawai'i Convention Center
1801 Kalākaua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815
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kahua pa'a web hawaii tourism authority.org

Kūlāhewa
Governor

John De Fries
President and Chief Executive Officer

Statement of
JOHN DE FRIES
Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

February 2, 2023
10:00 a.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 423 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 1237
RELATING TO A GREEN USER FEE PROGRAM

Aloha Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hussey-Burdick, and members of the Committee on Tourism,

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) appreciates the opportunity to offer comments in support of the intent of HB1237, to collect user fees to support the maintenance of our state parks.

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 to facilitate visitor contributions to the care of our natural resources. As we maintain GoHawaii.com and the GoHawaii app as visitor interfaces, we stand ready to collaborate with the Department of Land and Natural Resources on this effort.

We also recommend one addition to this bill: as one of the two official languages of the State of Hawai'i and the native language of this land, 'Ōlelo Hawai'i should be included in the list of languages to be available on the platform.

We support the intent of HB1237, we stand ready to assist in educating visitor industry stakeholders and visitors, and we 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.



HAWAII
 1164 Bishop St., Ste. 1512
 Honolulu, HI 96813
tpl.org

**TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND'S TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
 HB 442, HB 1162, and HB 1237
 House Committee on Tourism, State Capitol, Rm. 423
 Thursday, February 2, 2023, 10:00 a.m.**

Aloha Chair Quinlan, Vice-Chair Hussey-Burdick, and Committee Members –

Trust for Public Land (TPL) supports HB 442, HB 1162, and HB 1237 – all propose to establish a visitor impact fee or funds, 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.

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

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February 2, 2023

Representative Sean Quinlan
Chair of the Committee on Tourism

Representative Natalia Hussey-Burdick
Vice-Chair of the Committee on Tourism

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 1237, Relating to a Green User Fee Program

Aloha Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hussey-Burdick and committee members,

On behalf of Resources Legacy Fund (RLF), we are writing in support HB 1237, which requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to establish a green user fee program to collect user fees for certain state parks and requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to develop a mobile application for the green user fee program.

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.

HB 1237 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 this important bill.

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

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 305

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: MISCELLANEOUS, Green User Fee Program

BILL NUMBER: HB 1237

INTRODUCED BY: HB by QUINLAN, GATES, HUSSEY-BURDICK, KAPELA, KILA, KITAGAWA, LAMOSAO, LOWEN, MARTEN, NAKASHIMA, TAKAYAMA, TAKENOUCI, TAM, TODD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Requires the department of land and natural resources to establish a green user fee program to collect user fees for certain state parks. Requires the department of land and natural resources to develop a mobile application for the green user fee program. Exempts certain individuals from the green user fee program. Appropriates funds.

SYNOPSIS: Adds a new section to chapter 184, HRS, tasking DLNR with establishing a program to collect user fees, including film permitting fees, for state parks identified by the department. User fees would be deposited into the state parks special fund (section 184-3.4, HRS). Counties can also apply to add county parks to the program; if accepted, DLNR would collect the user fee for the county park but remit it to the county.

Exempts from the user fee an individual who has (1) filed or paid state income taxes for the immediately previous tax period; or (2) established domicile in the State, as evidenced by documentation showing the individual's address, including any of the following: (A) A valid state driver's license; (B) A valid state civil identification card; (C) A valid school identification card; or (D) Any other official document issued to the individual by a government agency, financial institution, insurance company, or utility company in the State."

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023.

STAFF COMMENTS: 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 user fee program does not seem to cross the line into tax territory. The user fee is collected in a special fund, and is collected from visitors according to the natural attractions they visit. The uses to which the money in the fund do seem to be reasonably limited to the care and upkeep of natural attractions visited by tourists.

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.

Digested: 1/31/2023

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Commenting on HB 1237, Relating to a Green User Fee Program.**

**Committee on Tourism
February 2, 2023, 10:00 am
Conference Room 423 and via Videoconference**

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

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) offers comments on HB 1237, Relating to a Green User Fee Program, which requires the department of land and natural resources (DLNR) to establish a green user fee program to collect user fees for certain state parks. The bill also requires DLNR to develop a mobile application for the green user fee program.

HB 1237 includes important provisions directing the DLNR to develop an app to accept fees and make reservations, and provides funding for positions at DLNR to implement the bill. These are key aspects that TNC supports.

In addition to the provisions in HB 1237, we would like to encourage the Committee to establish an innovative funding stream through a visitor green fee 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, such as those in programs established in HB 442 and HB 1162. 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 green fee could help close Hawai'i's conservation funding gap, which has been estimated at \$360 million annually.

A transformational investment in Hawai'i's natural resources through a visitor green 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 comment on HB 1237.

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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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 Tourism
House Bill 1237
February 2, 2023

Chair Quinlan, 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 support the intent of House Bill 1237 and offer the following possible amendments for the Committee's consideration.

We are wholly supportive of the use of an app to facilitate the collection of this fee. However, we ask that the measure be amended to specify that the app be made available in multiple languages.

Though we appreciate that the fees collected would be deposited in the State's parks special fund, we feel strongly that any monies collected be used to support and maintain the site at which they were collected. This will ensure that any park user can be confident that their fee will support the site which they visited and enjoyed. Similarly, we support that this could be made available to any of the counties, but we would prefer to see that the counties be required to use the collected funds in the manner of an impact fee—at the site which it was collected.

For these reasons, HLTA supports House Bill 1237.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer these comments.

HB-1237

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 6:06:34 PM

Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeanne Herbert	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill, while well intentioned, limits this scope of a Green Fee. Please consider HB442 instead.

HB-1237

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 8:12:20 PM

Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carissa Cabrera	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Testimony in Support of HB1237

Committee on Tourism

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

My name is Carissa Cabrera and I am testifying in support of HB1237 with comments and suggested amendments. I am sharing my comments today as an individual, but have also been working closely as part of the Hawai'i Green Fee initiative for the past two years.

User fees in Hawai'i have been a demonstrated success, generating key resources for specific sites that can be used to enhance and restore them for visitors and residents. The user fee system has opportunity to additional elements, including the ones outlined in this measure. Specifically, the development of a mobile app that includes languages spoken by visitors to Hawai'i is essential, as well as dedicated staffing and a central user experience for visitors that are reserving sites. Additionally, the current reservation system employed by DLNR has an opportunity to support regenerative tourism opportunities and activities by highlighting local businesses, volunteer opportunities, and ways to give back during their stay.

My primary comment is to include the specific successful elements in HB1237 in the development of a visitor green fee program in Hawai'i. The ideas in this measure are crucial to the detailed approach to building a visitor impact program and fostering visitor buy-in and support.

Creative ideas like the ones in this measure should be part of the visitor green fee program conversations to ensure an effective and sustainable program is developed. Mahalo for listening to my testimony.

Thank you for your time,

Carissa Cabrera

HB-1237

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 9:09:12 PM

Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support HB1237.

HB-1237

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 9:58:36 PM

Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johanna Stone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to hold tourists accountable for the damages and desecration their presence results in upon our 'āina. This is just a first step of many standards to be reimplemented in our territory.

HB-1237

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 10:37:47 PM

Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
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-1237

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:02:34 AM

Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalae Lopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Kalae Lopes and I care deeply about sustainable use and protection of Hawaii's natural resources. It is the thing residents care most about and the very reason we have an overly booming tourism industry. If we as a state choose to accept the tourism revenue, while understanding the tradeoff of environmental degradation, then we ought to have a resource to offset that direct negative impact. I am testifying in strong support of HB1237, which would establish a visitor green fee program administered by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), establish an oversight commission to guide the use of funds, and distribute funds to implement solutions for State and community programs working to restore our natural and cultural resources.

Hawai'i would greatly benefit from a visitor green fee program. Hawai'i faces unique and escalating impacts from the visitor sector, coupled with the escalating impacts of climate change and localized threats to our native ecosystems. This bill, as it stands, is our most comprehensive pathway to a program that bridges our conservation funding gap, gives back to our communities, and preserves our economic and ecological resources in perpetuity.

In Hawai'i, our natural and cultural resources are irreplaceable, and found nowhere else in the world. The visitor industry, alongside the livelihoods of our communities, are supported by these iconic resources. A visitor green fee program such as the one proposed can finance the conservation of these resources for generations to come. The program as described will also enable our community groups, such as nonprofit organizations and DLNR, to scale the important 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 these programs, including the support of the visitor themselves, is contingent upon effective outreach and transparency of the program. For this reason, I support the visitor green program to include the Environmental Legacy Commission, made up of members from diverse areas of expertise.

I want to thank the committee for hearing this bill and my testimony today. The resources at stake are deeply intertwined with our way of life here, and it has never been more timely to implement a solution such as this one. 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,

Kalae Lopes

HB-1237

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:53:22 AM

Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Orlans	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill fails to take into account the negative impact an increased tax and/or fee/license will have on the accessibility for native Hawaiians to travel back to Hawai'i. These native Hawaiians that have been displaced from their homelands due to a high cost of living in Hawai'i. There needs to be a social justice type of exception focused mainly on people of native Hawaiian ancestry built into the resident description for all proposed green free bills in this legislative session.

HB-1237

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:00:13 AM

Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denise E Antolini	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha TOU Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hussey-Burdick, and Committee Members,

I write in strong support of **HB1237**.

The green fee system proposed by this bill is a positive step forward and should be kept alive as part of the suite of bills under consideration.

I strongly recommend an **amendment** to broaden the bill **beyond just State Parks** to "State protected areas" - that would include Natural Area Reserves (like Ka'ena Point) and Marine Life Conservation Districts (like Pūpūkea MLCD). Visitor impacts to these popular areas can be just as severe as to State Parks, and their natural resources value (e.g., wildlife) can be even more important to protect.

Please pass this bill and keep this very important conversation moving toward success.

Sincerely,

Denise Antolini

Pūpūkea Resident, Professor of Law

HB-1237

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:32:16 PM

Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Young MD	Chair of Maui Sustainable Tourism Committee	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We support this and similar legislation as it is critical we have Quality over Quantity Tourism and protect our environment for residents and tourists alike. This creates sustainable tourism.