

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Derrick Bagaoisan, Avid Sand Island Park User

Thunderboxing Kalihi

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371.

Sand Island Recreation Area needs to be fixed, for the ohana and their keiki, for everybody. We also fish there every time, and we all want it fixed up. It has a lot of potential. It is always better when Hawai'i has even better places to go to. Sand Island Recreation Area can definitely be one of them.

I support HB1371.

Thank you for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Bobby Coloma, Avid Park User

Thunderboxing Kalihi

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371. I support HB1371.

I support this project because it would serve the communities nearby. Around here in Kalihi we do not have a lot of parks in the area, or quality parks for that matter, and it would provide healthy recreational usage for everyone.

I support HB1371.

Mahalo for hearing me.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Al Santos

Thunderboxing Kalihi

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371. I support HB1371.

There are not enough spaces and facilities like these in Kalihi. This project will provide a lot of community spaces and equipment for the kids and community if done right. I support this bill for the community, and for our kids. Kalihi needs more opportunities like these.

I support HB1371.

Mahalo for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Jeffry Mabute, Coach

Thunderboxing Gym Kalihi

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371. I support HB1371.

Sand Island Recreation Area would be a great for the community, and provide a safe environment for kids. A lot of youth come into the boxing gym, and it keeps them off of the streets and out of trouble. Same thing with this project, this park can not only give them other opportunities to spend their time, but give them more outlets. This park will not only benefit the Kalihi or urban youth, but I believe it can benefit all of Oahu. This is a good idea.

I support HB1371.

Mahalo for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Kevin Agustin, Founder

Kingsman Boxing Gym

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371. I support HB1371.

I support this project because the kids of the community need an outlet, something or somewhere they can exert their energy. So the development of Sand Island Recreation Area would be perfect. A lot of the kids around the area also kids from low income housing, so it would be good for them.

I support HB1371.

Mahalo for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Rjay Balintona, Boxer

Kakaako Boxing Gym

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371. I support HB1371.

First off, I am from Kalihi and near the area that this project would definitely help serve. It would benefit the community; I think it would be for everyone too. Adults, kids, workers, teenagers, all of that. It can help relieve stress and help with health as well. It can also be a place to provide more jobs and expand the workforce, and provides opportunities to do more volunteering and good things in helping out the communities. At the end of the day, we are looking for places to help and give back. That is what it is all about. Community and helping each other out.

I support HB1371, Sand Island Recreation Area is a great place for these kinds of things to happen, creating greater community and goodwill.

Mahalo for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Camille Kawamoto, Boxer

Kakaako Boxing Gym

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371. I support HB1371.

I simply support this bill because projects like these provide safe places of recreation and community for the ohana of Oahu, and is especially beneficial to urban communities.

I support HB1371.

Mahalo for you time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Reno Abihai, Boxing Coach

Kakaako Boxing Gym

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371. I support HB1371.

I support Sand Island Recreation Area being developed because communities like these need safe places and more opportunities for positive community growth that promote health as well. In our Polynesian communities, public health is a concern, riddled with problems of weight gain and physical activity.

Development in Sand Island can also lead to facilities and opportunities to provide positive services like financial teaching, life skills, and maybe even addiction facilities. This place can become a great way to serve our communities and meet needs that our ohana deal with every day.

I support HB1371.

Mahalo for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Joni Wong, Boxing Coach

Kakaako Boxing Gym

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371. I support HB1371.

I think this park is in a unique position to serve communities that need it the most. A lot of places have things like skate parks, soccer fields, and equipment like that, but with Sand Island Recreation area, we can bring more of that kind of stuff into these communities that don't have them, and are in need of them more. Sand Island is central, right off the freeway, and it is near town and a lot of communities that need these types of services and safe places.

Sand Island Recreation Area can also be used as a place to teach, provide services that schools do not provide much these days too. Let's get students in here, and the kids in general. PE, physical betterment, maybe teach them home skills, and provide facilities for parts of our community that is often forgotten about, like those with mental disabilities. I work with autistic kids as well, and I know they need help too. Either way, this place can be made to serve the community with the communities in mind and part of the process, to bring fulfillment into people's lives through facilities and providing a safe and positive gathering place for ohana.

I support HB1371.

Thank you for letting me speak.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Jason Tiempo, Sous Chef

Kalihi Resident & Native

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371. I support HB1371.

Aloha, I support this bill and project because growing up in Kalihi I saw the need for more community areas and local participation in important stuff like this. Projects like these is what saves communities and help ohana grow, especially the keiki and young adults. Kalihi and urban Honolulu in general would benefit a lot from this, especially if it becomes a park that is made for the community. It can also be a park that brings Oahu together in general, and can be a place for people of all walks of life to enjoy.

I know a place like this, if done correctly, would have helped me growing up as well to stay away from the streets and other negative environments. We need a safe place to gather and socialize.

I support HB1371.

Mahalo for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Michael Balasi, Founder

Thunderboxing Gym Kalihi

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371. I support HB1371.

We need projects like these to get kids out of the street. Kalihi is coming bad. This project can set the younger generation to set an example of how our community should be. Instead of gangs and drugs, they can turn to other options like boxing and other outlets these types of areas can provide. I lived the same lifestyle. In between worlds. Boxing and gang life. So I know we need a place for healthier outlets and better safe gathering spaces to set a positive lifestyle for our youth.

I support HB1371.

Thank you for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Jackie Kurita, Resident

Thunderboxing Gym Kalihi

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371. I support HB1371.

The park in Sand Island would be beneficial to the community and families of Kalihi because it would be fun and great for all ages. It will also be a place where families can engage together. Great for mental and physical health. Healthy for kid's development such as coordination.

I support HB1371.

Mahalo for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Brandon Kekahio, Kalihi Resident

Honolulu

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371. I support HB1371.

I support this project because the people need more stuff like this, especially our youth. Growing up in Kalihi, a place like this would have been super valuable and helpful in my upbringing. We got to get the people involved in what gets put on our land, and what kind of stuff is put in our communities. This kind of project can be a good start to change things in our islands, and create positivity in a time that is dark and unsure.

Mahalo for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Kristen Kimura, Kalihi Resident

Honolulu

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371. I support HB1371.

Our people would benefit a lot from developing in that area. It is spacious, beautiful, and has a lot of potential. The keiki would love it here, and it would provide a great place for families to bond, and people from different backgrounds to come together and have fun with each other. Our urban families and youth are looking for safe places of community away from the drugs and trouble, this could be it.

I support HB1371.

Mahalo for letting me testify.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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by

Chase Nanod, Kalihi Resident

Honolulu

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371. I support HB1371.

I one hundred percent support this project. It will be very beneficial for the kids and families of the area, and turning it into a beautiful place that serves the community and is a reflection of it would definitely be something to be proud of. To many projects these days' people just build and do whatever they like. I want to see a park that is made for the people. This looks like a solid opportunity to do this.

I support HB1371.

Thank you for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Cortnie Tanaka, Kalihi Resident

Honolulu

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371. I support HB1371.

This is an awesome idea that would serve and benefit the kids and young adults highly. We need more spaces like this in Kalihi, I cannot think of any park that is quality in the Kalihi area. It is in such a great location too, a little far into sand island access road, but still such a good place.

I support HB1371.

Mahalo for listening.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Andrew Romandia, Kalihi Resident

Honolulu

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Honolulu needs more things like this, especially parks. A lot of parks are starting to be made for tourists and other interests besides local needs and wants. Kalihi is also a place that desperately needs things like this. If this park is done right, it can help change communities and possibly trajectories of the youth.

I support HB1371.

Mahalo for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Daphne Pohaku, Kalihi Resident

Honolulu

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371.

I support this bill, it will be great for keiki and for the community. Trusting and giving the people the opportunity to the land is important as well. We should all share our duty to take care and build on our land. The park has a lot of potential and if done right could be a staple for the Hawaiian Islands for beauty and for community.

I support HB1371.

Mahalo for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Christopher Ramos, Kalihi Resident

Honolulu

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371.

I support HB1371, it is a great idea with a lot of opportunity and potential. If this is done right, the community of not just Kalihi, but Oahu in general would benefit from it. It will also be a place where locals can feel like they had a say in something that was made in their community. Also, it is also never a bad thing to beautify our land and clean up that place. It is super dirty and is a hazard as well.

Mahalo for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Josiah Bejor-Barro

Kalihi Resident

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371.

Aloha, I think these kind of projects is what Hawaii needs. I also trust the people that have been pushing it, The Pillars. Our youth in the urban areas in Oahu need safe havens and places of community. Get them off the street and get them into better things. A park, a real park, made for the people in mind would be fantastic.

I support HB1371.

Thank you for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Austin Florino, Kalihi Resident

Oahu

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371.

I support HB1371. I think Kalihi needs a park, not just any park, but a park with the people that live around it in mind. A people that live here, that have multiple generations of family here. Something for all of us, not just Kalihi, but all of Honolulu. Kalihi though really needs it, the kids need a place, the young adults need a place, families need a place. I think Sand Island is a key place too, it's part of Kalihi, but away from the streets and a secluded environment of its own, like a safe place.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Christopher Lagpucan

Kalihi Resident

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371. I support HB1371.

Kalihi needs more spaces like this, and if you truly mean to get the community involved and make it a people's park, then I am all for it. I am also cool with the native Hawaiian center as well. That sounds like good stuff for the locals and people of the aina.

I support HB1371.

Mahalo for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Robert Garcia, Kalihi Resident

Oahu

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371.

Get the people involved, that is the way to go. Too many people from the outside getting to say what is being built and all that. There are things more important than just outside interests. You can make this park profitable and still also make it for the locals and Hawaiians. Just got to get us involved. I am all for this area to become the "People's Park". I support it.

I support HB1371.

Thank you for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Sophia Maldonado, Kalihi Resident

Oahu

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371.

I support HB1371. It sounds like an excellent idea for the locals and especially for the youth. I think this will help out a lot of the negativity that is going on around these parts, and it is a good idea for the future generations of the ohana that live here if we do it right.

I support it.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Emilee Randall

Kalihi Resident

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371. I support HB1371.

This will be great for the keiki. Families need spaces, especially safe spaces in Kalihi to be family and bond. Parks have also been shown to help out communities. The parks in Kalihi are not safe and are not maintained well. When this park is made, please have someone who truly cares about it to upkeep it.

I support HB1371.

Mahalo for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Jimmy Simei, Business Owner/Ex KPT Resident

Mana'o Junk Removal

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

I support HB1371, this project sounds like the kinds of things we need more of in Kalihi. I grew up in KPT and got into all sorts of trouble. There was really nothing to do or a good community place to spend time at, so the streets is what I spent most of my time doing. I am done with all that and now I want to support stuff like this that can help the youth and families grow and have safe places to spend quality time at.

I support HB1371.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Denzel Johnson

Honolulu Resident

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Fully support and agree with this bill!

I support HB1371.

Mahalo for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Shira Sax, Oahu Resident, Media Production

Hawaii

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371.

I support HB1371. I think the parks are underutilized and that communities aren't engaged as much as they could be. COVID 19 has prevented and imprisoned many people in fear. But I believe in a post Covid Hawaii, that parks and public places can once again be community hubs where people gather and celebrate and make lasting memories. Sand Island Beach Park along with many others have slowly started to see people returning, but not in the way or in the numbers as the past. HB1371's proposal to gather and encourage community leaders and businesses to not only pour in their resources, but also to take ownership can help us heal and thrive and become the Hawaii we all want it to be. I believe that it is time to partner with people of the community and the local private sector to stop wholly relying on the state to maintain and fund our public parks through taxes. People like me are looking and wanting to help make our communities better and HB1371 gives us a very possible way to do so.

I support HB1371.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Luis Salazar, Honolulu Resident

Hawaii

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371.

I support HB1371. The depth of thought in this bill has exceeded expectations and gives hope to the future of the Sand Island area. The care for the history, culture, present issues, and future use of the land demonstrates a vision that has the possibility of transforming the "image" of Sand Island into a clean and safe family environment that will enable prosperity of the area and exceptional use of the facilities. I believe this plan will bring many people who live in proximity of Sand Island and on Oahu to visit and enjoy various activities with friends and loved ones. This bill also has the potential to benefit other respected organizations, such as, the University of Hawaii and its maritime training and education center. With its many avenues of approach in restoring, development, and respect to the history and culture of Hawaii I am in full support of this bill.

May "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace."

Mahalo for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Rayden Letua, Founder

Hood2Hood

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371.

I believe this project is good because everyone knows where Sand Island is at. All the locals, the businesses around the area, it is a great central place for everyone. It is neutral as well, making it a ground for a lot of different kinds of people to meet up and come together.

I support HB1371.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Rob Gross, Pastor

Moutainview Community Church

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371. I support HB1371.

Like other states Hawaii has its share of challenges such as substance abuse, affordable housing, teen age sex trafficking and domestic violence. I believe the development of Sand Island Recreation Area will help stem the tide by bringing the community together. Some say it takes a village to raise a child, but it takes many hands working together, laulima, to build a healthy community. Our communities are only as strong as our families. When we raise healthy families we establish a strong foundation for generations to come.

When we heal the man, we heal the land. I support this bill because it espouses the values needed to heal and impact the individuals who reside in the area including unity of heart and purpose, compassion for those less fortunate and the spirit of aloha.

I support HB1371.

Mahalo for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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by

Quinnccen Toavia, Manager

Oahu Resident

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371. I support HB1371.

I support this project because I feel it is good for the community, especially in the urban environments. Though I am from the Westside, I am still familiar with environments like these. Where I live there is a lot of drugs and homelessness, and places like Sand Island Recreation Area can provide opportunities and a safe place to deter and stay away from things like these. More positive things to see. Especially for the kids I feel like, they will benefit the most. Keep them away from the streets, the drugs, and all that. Projects like these can reach and keep the young people away from these environments and show them other more positive things and situations. It will benefit the community a lot.

I support HB1371.

Mahalo for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Chaz Miranda, Kalihi Resident

1430 Lanakila Avenue

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371. I support HB1371.

I believe that during this time where there is controversy with external interests taking advantage of our local resources and land, that projects like these are especially important. Take the Red Hill situation for example. Sand Island's condition can be attributed to the poor treatment it faced when military forces occupied it for their own gain. We owe it to our communities to rebuild these things that have been damaged. Projects like these will also give our communities around the islands hope and a great story to counteract the negativity that surrounds development and land usage. Doing this project as a community is important, specifically through local support and participation. I would love to see a park that has the local people in mind.

Also, I believe in projects that take care of nature and restore our Aina in things that were lost. Sand Island was not always in such a poor state; I have a strong connection to restoring what was lost.

Again, I support HB1371, and think it is an important project that can really help the stories and legacy of our ohana and islands.

Thank you for your time.

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April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Scott Kobayashi, Pastor

Missionary Church

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371. I support HB1371.

I was a youth pastor and am a local business owner who works directly with youth in the community. Parks & community centers are more important than ever in aiding the development of Hawaii's Keiki. I am in full support of HB1371 and believe in the potential and future of Sand Island State Recreation Area.

I support HB1371.

Mahalo for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Aaron Larson, Pastor

Presbyterian Church

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371. I support HB1371.

Having worked with families, teens and young adults, the need to have a place to gather to build relationships especially during this time of isolation and lockdown is more important than it ever has been. This will help motivate people to get out of their houses, connect with their ohana, and build deeper community roots and relationships, while being able to go to a quality safe place.

This is a unique opportunity for families to take ownership in a community way, and have a greater impact on their local community as well.

I support HB1371.

Mahalo for listening.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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by

Angelique Shields

Honolulu Resident

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Both the people of Kalihi and Hawaiians would benefit from this, especially the youth in the area. Give Kalihi something to be proud of, treat them with aloha and honor. This can be a great way to show the aloha spirit not just to the community, but to the world and all those who come into it.

I support HB1371.

Mahalo for your time.

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by

Axton Durand, Media Marketer

Kalihi Resident/KOKA

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371.

I support HB1371. I think it is something that can help the community and bring a better quality of life to the people on this island. I feel like this island should be taken care by its people as well. It is part of Hawaiian culture to malama the island. We should take care of our public spaces, not for just responsibility, but also our own mental health.

I support HB1371.

Mahalo for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

James Westbrook, Co-Founder

Slapp Radio

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371. I support HB1371.

Aloha, first and foremost I support this project, especially for Kalihi and the urban community, because it helps to set people in the right pathways. Projects like these are great for the kids and for their future. If you catch them early and get them with positive experiences of community and safe places, it can change their trajectory. If the kids and families benefit, we all benefit as a community and state.

I support HB1371, because it is a great opportunity for community strengthening and collaboration, and can provide positive teachings and experiences for the keiki of the next generation.

Thank you for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Dale Faulkner, Teacher

Oahu

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371. I support HB1371.

I support HB1371 because this kind of projects are good for the community and keiki. Sand Island is a great place location and space wise to create a "People's Park". Places like Kalihi would benefit a lot from it, and it is a project that will reach our future generations.

I support HB1371.

Thank you for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Daniel Peters, Investment Advisor Representative

Oahu Resident

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371. I support HB1371.

One of the first things that come to mind about parks, is I had my first birthday party at a public park, specifically Halawa Park. Even though it isn't the same park we are talking about, these types of experiences hold a core value to me. I love our state, and I believe in the importance of public recreational areas as a place of fellowship, community, and health. I think that is how community is built, when you have these places where people can gather, and I believe that part of the responsibility is for individuals in that community to maintain and upkeep those areas. However, I also value and appreciate the way our state of Hawai'i has provided in these different parks and areas, to be a place of communities and special memories.

Places like these build upon family. Family quality time, family activities, and family memories; so we are talking about legacy. I believe Sand Island Recreation Area can be a place of community based initiatives, where commissions such as these can be promoted and envisioned. These types of local participation and community building need to be in our parks, what better way than for a "People's Park", with Sand Island Recreation Area having so much potential. With the partnership of the state, and local communities working side by side, this can be progressive and good not just for Oahu, but beyond.

I support HB1371.

Mahalo for letting me speak on this measure.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Julian Aponte, Kalihi Resident

Honolulu

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

I support HB1371. This is a good project, I support it. Kalihi needs more love, it needs help, and growing up in Mayor Wrights, this kind of stuff would have been great for me. The youth need it, the families need it, it can be a place of healing and love.

I support HB1371.

Thank you for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Yvette Salazar, Oahu Resident

Honolulu

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371

I support HB1371 because I think that Sand Island Recreational Park can be used for so much more, and has the potential to serve and benefit our communities around the island in a special way. Families and youth will have a safe place to go to, and parks have always been an integral part of urban life for health, communication, building of new relationships, and fun.

I support HB1371.

Mahalo for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Brandon Gross, DVG Jiu Jitsu Founder

Kaneohe

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371. I support HB1371.

I believe this bill and project is important, because parks like these can provide an outlet for the younger generation, for the population of Kalihi and Honolulu area to come together in a safe place and participate in something that allows them to connect and have a better life. Projects like these provide opportunities for healthy social interaction, and can inspire people to have different vision for their lives. Great parks are melting pots of ideas and perspective, and if you get the community involved and participating in creating it, it would bring a lot of positivity and open the door for new ideas and vision to what is possible for urban communities and their youth especially.

I support HB1371.

Thank you for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Elmer Bolibol, Boxer

Kakaako Boxing Gym

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371. I support HB1371.

I think this park could be a great place for the community to come and workout and chill. It would be good especially for the youth, instead of chilling in the hood and smoking weed, we could kick it there, relax, workout, and be productive. This place can provide a place so we don't hang in the hood and get into trouble.

I support HB1371.

Thank you for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Ty Tamagawa, Founder

The Pillars LLC

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371. I support HB1371.

Even though I am representing The Pillars LLC, this project has immense value to me as well. I grew up in the Lanakila Housing area, and have a vested interest in urban communities, especially the ohana in Kalihi. There is a felt need for projects like this, not just in Kalihi, but for local communities all around Hawai'i. I believe that developing Sand Island Recreation Area can be the start of something valuable and special for our state, especially, like this bill suggests, if it is done with the community in mind.

"The People's Park" is a great way to put it. There is a felt need for better parks in Kalihi, safer, more beautiful, and functional parks. Parks that serve the community, reflect the community, and honor them. These sentiments can be felt all over the US, this sense of community led development projects. Especially in Hawai'i, where there is a tension between the urban planners and the locals, this project can be an historic feat for the islands, that start the healing process and continuing of the path in our state progressing, and building more forms of equity.

Confirming what this bill has already stated, the users of this park are looking for improvements and added features. They want this park to be developed and taken care of. Not only that, but the people of Kalihi have a vested interest as well. Our team at the Pillars have personally surveyed park users before, but we have also been going out to the different communities of Kalihi, not only serving them, but also asking them questions about development here. We have already been doing community engagement for this project, and so far, it is a resounding yes of support. Aunties and Uncles want safer and cleaner areas for themselves and their family, young adults want more areas of community for activity and gatherings. Nonprofits want to support a project of development that serve our locals in such a special way. People want their voice to be heard.

I support HB1371. It is a project with profound results if done with the people in mind. You have a high potential opportunity here that can be used for the betterment of our state and its ohana. This is a park that not only will serve our current citizens and increase our island beauty, but will benefit our future generations as well.

Mahalo for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Lynn Tamagawa, Kalihi Resident

Lanakila Avenue

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371. I support HB1371.

As a Kalihi resident I find this project to be refreshing and a step in the right direction. Sand Island is a perfect place to develop for locals and to push forward collaboration between the community and builders of this island. It could be an historic project, and fully support its creation.

Mahalo for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Keith Tamagawa, Kalihi Resident

Lanakila Avenue

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371.

I support HB1371. A community park that is directed by the people would be a great move to heal the relations between the people and developers. A quality community park would also help out Kalihi a lot. Families and youth don't have a lot of places like that in Kalihi. A lot of good things do not happen for Kalihi nor to Kalihi and the urban families in general. We should be healing the land and people; this project does both.

I support HB1371.

Thank you for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Pedro Semorile, Kalihi Resident

Honolulu

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

I fully support this bill, and even better, I like it. More community minded things like this should be what the government is all about. I get you got the play the game though, but sometimes we gotta let the locals and Hawaiians have a say and build something. Kalihi is a precious community that would highly love this and use it. It would help a lot too, please pass these funds.

I support HB1371.

Mahalo for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Matthew Naweli, Kalihi Resident

Honolulu

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

This project could be historic, and good example of real community building. I don't know any project like this that has ever happened in Oahu, especially parks. Usually outside people get a say in things or big business, let the people decide for a change. See what they can do and want! Trust the people!

I support HB1371.

Mahalo for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Diamond Kaawa, Kalihi Resident

Honolulu

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Growing up, this kind of stuff would have been awesome. The kids and young adults, they need stuff like this. Get them off the streets, get them into healthy and safe places. Parks are a great way to get together and bond. If the park is made with the people in mind too, that is just awesome.

I support HB1371.

Mahalo for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Calvin Brown

Honolulu Local Resident, Military

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The local communities need more projects like this. Places that are made with their input and their guidance. Not only will the place benefit and serve the communities, but in the process, the community itself will grow and learn how to do more things. Kalihi is in desperate need of projects and activities like this. Take out the bad identity, and replace it with good.

I support HB1371.

Mahalo for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Kolani Brown, Resident

Honolulu

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Sand Island would be a great place to build community activities, centers, and art. It has such big potential. Do not give it to outside interests, build on it for the people. Not only will it affect Hawaii positively as a whole, but I can also be a plus for those looking in. This could be an historic park for Hawaii.

I support HB1371.

Mahalo for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Moises Ebbay, Kalihi Resident

Honolulu

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Please make this happen. Kalihi would benefit highly from this, and it would ease tension between developers and the local people. There is a loss of trust when it comes to what happens to our land and the government. This kind of projects can open the door to healthier collaborations, instead of suspicion and bitterness.

I support HB1371.

Mahalo for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Ryan Kobayashi, Resident

Honolulu

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii needs more parks and planning like this. I have seen time and time, development projects that just kind of let's communities participate, but ultimately a chosen few really get to choose what happens. Fake participation, we need real one. I know the people who spearheaded this idea and plan, they are legit, and are in the community if Kalihi with the people and locals in mind.

I support HB1371.

Mahalo for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Christina Fuafiti, Mayor Wrights Housing
Honolulu

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

I currently live in Mayor Wrights Housing with my two boys. This kind of projects would help families tremendously that live in Kalihi. Kids, especially boys, need better places to hang out and get together. The streets is the default, and that is where no good comes about. Parks also provide greenery and exercise, something we do not see as often in Kalihi compared to other places on the island. The parks in Kalihi are also run down, dangerous, and not well kept. Kalihi in general does not have one solid park for families and communities to come together. Sand Island is not only big, but perfect for the job. The park needs lots of clean up and work, but to me, it would be worth it. We are feeding into the next generation.

I support HB1371.

Mahalo for your time.

HB-1371-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 1:17:10 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor Stewart	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 1371. Due to my knowledge of the areas of Oahu, more specifically Sand Island and Kalihi, I firmly believe that funds should be allocated for the Kalihi/Sand Island community for recreational betterment of the area.

My personal affiliation with the parties trying to get HB1371 passed further solidifies my support as they are fighting for the betterment of their community and will responsibly allocate the funds for that purpose. I believe they have a genuine interest in making a difference in their community, our aina, and oahu ohana.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Sophia Straton, Social Media Coordinator

Honolulu, Hawaii

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371.

I believe that the Sand Island State Recreation Area development is a worthy and noble undertaking, and the final product will be a great asset to Hawaii's families and communities for generations to come.

I support HB1371.

Thank you for your time.

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

(Insert Name), (Occupation)

(Place of Living)

HB1371- RELATING TO THE SAND ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1371. I support HB1371.

Growing up in Kalihi, I have had the opportunity to experience its many strengths and weaknesses. Kalihi has a collective identity, shared by its distinct sense of culture and diversity, but is overshadowed by tensions between residents, neighborhoods, and their overseers. Projects such as this have the potential to highlight Kalihi's strengths and further unify its residents to have a project that they can all feel included in. Having a park with the community in mind creates a deeper shared identity that reflects the wants, needs, and responsibility of its people surrounding it. After participating in many community engagement projects, I have seen and heard the need for a park like this where families from the surrounding areas of Kalihi can come together.

You have a very high potential opportunity to use this park to serve the families of the surrounding areas, bridge the divide between communities and the state, as well as serve future generations to come. I support HB1371.

Thank you for your time.