



**HB209 HD1**  
**RELATING TO TOURISM**  
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

March 15, 2023

1:00 PM

Room 224

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS HB209 HD1**, which would require the Department of Agriculture to include in the Plant & Animal Declaration Form a statement that provides notification of the various federal, State, and county laws, rules, and ordinances that protect public monuments and structures, including but not limited to Native Hawaiian cultural sites, burial grounds, and places of worship.

OHA was established<sup>1</sup> out of the need to better serve the condition of the State's admission into the Union by addressing the betterment of conditions of Native Hawaiians.<sup>2</sup> As the principal public agency in the State responsible for the performance, development, and coordination of programs and activities relating to Native Hawaiians,<sup>3</sup> OHA wishes to emphasize the need to better educate residents, visitors, and former residents returning to these Islands on the laws that serve to protect the historic and cultural resources that perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and identity – this measure will contribute to the expansion of necessary education and awareness to serve this critical need.

OHA appreciates this opportunity to support HB209 HD1. Mahalo nui loa!

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<sup>1</sup> Haw. Stat. Con. Art. XII, sections 4-6 (1978).

<sup>2</sup> Pub. L. 86-3, 73 Stat. 4; Hawai'i Admissions Act of 1959.

<sup>3</sup> HRS §10-3.

**HB-209-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 9:41:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

support



*Restore the Commons*

Monday, March 13, 2023, 1:15 pm

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

HOUSE BILL 209 – RELATING TO TOURISM

Position: Strong Support

Me ke Aloha, Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

HB209 requires the Department of Agriculture to amend the plant and animal declaration form to include a statement informing visitors of cultural desecration laws and provide a link for them to identify those laws and to understand desecration of potentially unmarked cultural sites.

The [gohawaii.com](http://gohawaii.com) website may be the appropriate site to identify, but it currently has neither a synopsis of the pertinent laws nor a description of the everyday reverence for place among kama'āina, in particular those places known to be likely burial sites or otherwise held in protective esteem.

A major reason for resident annoyance with visitors is the trampling of places and overparking that interfere with residential enjoyment of our own land. Warnings about the often noisy and reckless behavior of thrill seekers, adventurers, and ignorant tourists without respect for the fragile landscape is the proper province of our visitors bureaus, and residents are still waiting for action on this dimension of unwelcome overtourism. Some airlines provide a sort of introduction to our special place, sometimes with an implied emphasis on our unique and very much alive culture, but sensitivation to the larger concerns is due a more impactful application.

Visitors should even be told that kama'āina may recognize that Hawaii is *de facto* part of the United States, while our history is not, and that many adhere to the reality that its annexation, Statehood, and occupation by the United State is illegal under international law. They need to understand that a predominant number of residents are new arrivals and also do not understand the history and culture of this place, while they enjoy the sense that its history and culture are why it is special. They need to understand, at the very least, that we practice a unique culture that they do not and should respect if they wish to be treated with respect.

Mahalo for the opportunity to address this issue,

/s/ Charley Ice, Hoa'āina

Indigenous to Tuolumne and Auxumne, Sierra Nevada

**Building the new normal with People and Land: Food Security Health Care Public Banking  
Regenerating Soils Cutting Waste Eliminating GHG emissions**

**HB-209-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 6:10:10 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

In support of HD1. Thank you.