



HB2626 HD1
RELATING TO FISHPONDS.
House Committee on Water and Land
House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

March 19, 2024

1:15 PM

Conference Room 224

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) SUPPORTS HB2626 HD1 which specifies certain findings the Board of Land and Natural Resources must make for a lease of a government-owned Hawaiian fishpond.

For millennia, Native Hawaiians built and maintained a successful and thriving ecosystem of traditional loko i‘a (fishponds) and lo‘i (taro) fields across the Pae ‘Aina. Native Hawaiian traditional ecosystem and resource management methodologies and practices have garnered national and international recognition. Some estimates suggest these successful, thriving, and abundant practices helped to feed around 1 million people, almost as many as are living in Hawai‘i today.

Sadly, European and American contact and colonization led to changes in our land tenure systems, excessive development and environmental degradation, leading to damage, and destruction of many of our traditional loko i‘a and lo‘i and the subsequent ecosystems surrounding them. Today, the hard work of rebuilding, restoration and revitalization of many of our remaining traditional loko i‘a and lo‘i is being done by Native Hawaiians practitioners, families, and communities in collaboration and partnerships, with non-profits, state and federal agencies, including OHA.

OHA supports the development and implementation of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) master permit process for traditional Hawaiian fishponds which streamlines the process for the repair, restoration, maintenance, and operation of traditional Hawaiian fishponds. A more streamlined process will accelerate local food production and assist with food security.

Further, OHA supports the current HD1 version because it prioritizes and requires traditional Native Hawaiian practices and protocols. This will allow for better managed fishponds as the primary component of the applicant’s tenancy. Non-traditional fishpond restoration and aquaculture activities can have significant ecological consequences,



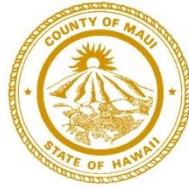
HB2626 HD1
RELATING TO FISHPONDS.
House Committee on Water and Land
House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

including changes in water quality, habitat alteration, and impacts on native species. Thus, **prioritizing traditional Hawaiian practices and protocols is paramount to the health of our fishponds.**

OHA appreciates the opportunity to share our mana‘o and request the Legislature to **PASS HB2626 HD1**. Mahalo nui loa.

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov

LATE

TO: Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Kurt Fevella, Vice Chair
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor
Rogerene Arce, Director of Agriculture

DATE: March 18, 2024

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF HB2626, RELATING TO FISHPONDS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The Act specifies certain findings the Board of Land and Natural Resources must make for a lease of a government-owned Hawaiian fishpond.

We **SUPPORT** this measure for the following reasons:

1. This bill allows for the development and implementation of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) master permit process for traditional Hawaiian fishponds, which helps create a more efficient process for the regeneration, restoration, mālama, and operation of loko iʻa, traditional Hawaiian fishponds.
2. This bill creates an opportunity for the reestablishment of a truly sustainable and secure food production system that has proven to be effective for hundreds of years in Hawaiʻi. The resurrection of our fishponds across Hawaiʻi is beneficial and necessary for our environment and public health.
3. Loko iʻa are vitally important natural and cultural resources. When implemented and lead with traditional Native Hawaiian knowledge, they will positively increase our community's ability to be food secure, climate change adaptable, and more resilient.

For the foregoing reasons, we **SUPPORT** this measure.



Testimony Before The
Senate Committee on Water and Land (WTL)
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs (HWN)
IN SUPPORT OF HB2626 HD1
March 19, 2024, 1:15 PM, Room 224 & Zoom

We are Olan Leimomi Fisher and Brenda Asuncion Lima, Kua'āina Advocate and Hui Mālama Loko I'a Coordinator, respectively, testifying on behalf of [Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo \(or KUA\)](#). "Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo" stands for "grassroots growing through shared responsibility," and our acronym "KUA" means "backbone." **Our mission is to connect and empower communities to improve their quality of life through the collective care for their biocultural (natural and cultural) heritage, serving as a "backbone organization" that supports creative and community-driven solutions to problems stemming from environmental degradation.** Hawai'i's biocultural resources continue to be negatively impacted by political, economic, and social changes, and the increasing dangers of climate change make fostering and empowering resilient communities acutely critical.

Currently KUA supports three major networks of: (1) almost 40 mālama 'āina (caring for our 'āina or "that which feeds") community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together); (2) over 60 loko i'a (fishpond aquaculture systems unique to Hawai'i) and wai 'ōpae (anchialine pool systems) sites in varying stages of restoration and development, with numerous caretakers, stakeholders, and volunteers known as the Hui Mālama Loko I'a ("caretakers of fishponds"); and (3) the Limu Hui made up of over 50 loea (traditional experts) and practitioners in all things "limu" or locally-grown "seaweed." **Our shared vision is to once again experience what our kūpuna (ancestors) referred to as 'ĀINA MOMONA – abundant and healthy ecological systems that sustain our community resilience and well-being.**

KUA strongly supports HB2626 HD1 as an incremental step toward 'āina momona.

Prior to 1900, Hawai'i had close to 500 flourishing loko i'a, sustaining communities in numerous ways including through sustainable local seafood, limu, shellfish, and fertilizer – at one time producing an average of 400-600 pounds of fish per acre per year, yielding over 2 million pounds of fish annually throughout Hawai'i. (See *Generally, Loko I'a Needs Assessment, 2021*). The U.S. Organic Act of 1900 (the Act) abandoned the support of most semblances of Native Hawaiian governance, especially in regard to biocultural resource management. The Act then transferred the aegis of governance – or lack thereof – to a U.S. laissez faire market system, ended Konohiki Fishery Management, and condemned loko i'a – extinguishing most of the existing ownership and operations of these systems. For context, in 1901 the catch and sale data for commercial 'ama'ama (mullet) – believed to be mostly fishpond-raised – decreased from close to 800,000 pounds of fish to less than 3,000 pounds today, with an estimated 88% of all food consumed in Hawai'i now imported, and reports showing that about 60% of our seafood alone is imported. **Rebuilding our robust and sustainable local food systems is critical to community resilience in the face of more**

frequent natural disasters such as the recent devastating Lahaina fires and 2018 floods, climate change, and long lasting pandemics.

Up until about nine years ago, all loko i'a were once stymied by an overly burdensome permitting process that would often take decades to secure all the required state and federal permits to restore the ponds. A partnership of regulatory agencies, funders, and nonprofits formed in 2012 to design a better process, including input from members of KUA's Hui Mālama Loko I'a – and the Hō'ala Loko I'a Program was born after extensive consultations with loko i'a practitioners, scientists, resource agencies, and government officials. **Since the [Hō'ala Loko I'a Program](#) was implemented in 2015, 23 fishpond permits have been approved on six of the main Hawaiian Islands, with an average processing time reduced from many years to under one month.** The success of permit streamlining for fishponds serves as a resounding example of the power of our collective sharing of responsibility to care for our island home and resources.

Looking at the lessons learned from the successful permit streamlining process, we hope to one day also implement streamlining for fishpond leases as well. However, **we find it equally important to ensure that any applicants using the current leasing process understand and utilize the time-tested techniques and practices through native Hawaiian scientific knowledge best-adapted to our unique Hawai'i environment.** HB2626 HD1 would most-likely attract and secure more Native Hawaiian and local community individuals and organizations to fishpond management, further increasing the likelihood of more successful multi-sector partnerships where our “shared responsibility” to care for our island resources would benefit all that love Hawai'i. As we build a better future for our keiki, **we appreciate creative and collaborative approaches that build the capacity and skills of the next generation with intention, and in a way that benefits ongoing community efforts at loko i'a as a catalyst for ecosystem regeneration.**

The communities we work with are committed to ensuring the long-term health of our biocultural resources that they have cared for and depended on for generations since time immemorial. **We believe our environment, the foundation of our very existence, is about long-term investment and a vision of 'āina momona.** To get there it requires taking the steps necessary for greater self-sufficiency, development of a pipeline of new and more innovative career pathways, mindsets, relationships, and resources for mālama 'āina efforts that encourage and build upon the time-tested . Passing this bill out of your committee is a start on a pathway toward reaching this vision.

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit supportive testimony. Please **PASS** HB2626 HD1.

Aloha 'Āina Momona no nā kau ā kau.



Senate Committee on Water & Land and Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB 2626 HD1

Tuesday, March 19th, 2024 1:15 PM, Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Inouye/Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Elefante/Favella, and Members of the Committee,

HAPA strongly supports HB2626 HD1, which specifies certain findings the Board of Land and Natural Resources must make for a lease of a government-owned Hawaiian fishpond.

HAPA understands that loko i'a systems play an important role in Hawaiian cultural practices, have an ecologically important role in watersheds, and could significantly contribute to Hawai'i's food security goals.

We also support the amendment requiring that a lease applicant of a government-owned loko i'a provide a management plan demonstrating the use and knowledge of traditional native Hawaiian practices and protocols as the primary component of the applicant's tenancy, including kilo, kia'i loko, and uhau humu pōhaku (for rock walled fishponds).

Loko i'a were, and continue to be, essential components of traditional food systems in Hawai'i, providing food security and community resilience.¹ Their revitalisation goes hand in hand with the revitalisation of Hawaiian language, arts, architecture and diet. Today, most loko i'a sites are highly degraded and in need of restoration and funding.

Please support HB2626 HD1 to help us restore these critical indigenous agricultural infrastructure systems that increase our food security, resiliency and improve our environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', written in a cursive style.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

1

<https://www.iccaconsortium.org/index.php/2021/02/20/loko-ia-fishponds-hawaii-communities-restoring-fisheries/>

The Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) is a public non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. HAPA's mission is to catalyze community empowerment and systemic change towards valuing 'aina (environment) and people ahead of corporate profit.

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 5:27:24 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Testifying for Green Party Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Green Party of Hawai'i, we humbly ask for unanimous support for HB2626 HD1. Loko i'a (fishponds) are important food sources for our local communities while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

We ask for a Yes vote, on HB2626 HD1 !

Mahalo nui,

Susan RobertsEmery

Co-Chair GPH



Food+ Policy Internship 2024

food@purplemaia.org

DATE: March 16th 2024

Subject: Testimony in Support of [HB2626 HD1](#) Loko I'a; Hawaiian Fishponds; Board of Land and Natural Resources

Aloha Chair Lorraine Inouye; Chair Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Brandon Elefante; Vice Chair Kurt Fevella, and the members of the WTL and HWN Committees

I am writing to express my strong support for [HB2626 HD1](#), which focuses on giving the Board of Land and Natural Resources more authority over Hawaiian fishponds owned by the government. They can investigate, manage, and improve these fishponds, using money from a special fund. Any money made from these fishponds must go back into that fund. This critical initiative aligns with the cultural and environmental values that are integral to our beloved state of Hawaii.

The information provided by Fisheries (n.d.) highlights the profound significance of Hawaiian fishponds in providing both physical and cultural sustenance. These fishponds play a vital role in supporting local communities by serving as a source of fresh and sustainable seafood. Additionally, they are deeply rooted in the cultural fabric of Hawaii, representing a connection to ancestral practices and a rich heritage.

Furthermore, the article by Uyeda (2023) emphasizes the transformative impact of restoring Hawaiian fishponds on food systems and cultures. The revitalization of these fishponds has the potential to enhance local food security, promote sustainable practices, and contribute to the overall well-being of our communities.

[HB2626 HD1](#) presents a crucial opportunity to invest in the preservation and restoration of Hawaiian fishponds, ensuring that these valuable resources continue to thrive for

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2023, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.



Food+ Policy Internship 2024

food@purplemaia.org

generations to come. By supporting this bill, we are not only safeguarding our environment but also honoring and preserving the cultural heritage that defines Hawaii.

I urge you to consider the compelling evidence presented by reputable sources such as Fisheries and Prism in your deliberations on [HB2626 HD1](#) Loko I'a; Hawaiian Fishponds. The restoration of Hawaiian fishponds is a step toward a more sustainable and culturally rich future for our state.

Thank you for your dedication to the well-being of Hawaii and its communities. I respectfully request your favorable consideration and support for House Bil 2626 Loko I'a; Hawaiian Fishponds; Board of Land and Natural Resources

Mahalo Nui,

Joseph Ramos
Hawaii Food+ Policy Team
[#fixourfoodsystem](#)

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2023, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Supports HB 2626 HD1, Relating to Fishponds
Committee on Water and Land
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
March 19, 2024, 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference**

Aloha Chairs Inouye and Shimabukuro, Vice Chairs Elefante and Fevella, and Members of the Committees:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) **supports** HB 2626 HD1, relating to fishponds, which specifies certain findings the Board of Land and Natural Resources must make for a lease of a government-owned Hawaiian fishpond.

Today, Hawaii's marine environment faces threats from anthropogenic sources of pollution, sedimentation, overharvesting, lack of community ownership, and an overall decrease in the competitive advantage of native species over non-natives. Scientists believe that present day reef fish stocks in Hawai'i have decreased by 75% in the past century. We believe fishponds may be able to assist in increasing fish stocks by providing additional juvenile recruitment and relieving fishing pressure on wild stocks of some reef fish species. In addition, fishponds can reduce sediment reaching the reefs, and may help to increase water recharge. Their rock walls may also mitigate some of the effects of sea level rise on coastal areas.

We strongly support the development and implementation of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) master permit process for traditional Hawaiian fishponds which helps streamline the process for the repair, restoration, maintenance, and operation of traditional Hawaiian fishponds, or loko i'a. Hawaiian fishponds are culturally important and can be a potential solution to enhance the food security of communities in Hawai'i. A more streamlined process will ensure greater care for, restoration, productivity and cultural connectivity for traditional fishponds. TNC commends and supports the current version which acknowledges and prioritizes the ancestral wisdom and time-tested management of Hawai'i by requiring traditional Native Hawaiian knowledge, practice and protocols in the lease and management plans.

Thank you for the opportunity to **support** HB 2626 HD1.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Founders: Samuel A. Cooke Herbert C. Cornuelle

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:32:52 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
C. Cramer	Testifying for Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center is in support of this measure for loko i'a.



March 18, 2024

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Kurt Fevella, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, March 19, 2024
TIME: 1:15 PM

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2626 HD1, with suggested amendment

HFACT supports the intent of HB2626 HD1, and offers an amendment to improve the bill.

The use of traditional practices like ‘kilo’ by kia’i loko suggests that there is production of fish that can be used by the community as food. An important goal of any fishpond is the cultural practice of providing food to the people of the communities that the fishpond serves.

HFACT supports all activities that provided fish as food to the people of Hawaii. Fishponds can play a role in food production. Food production is implied in the demonstration of traditional practices. HFACT feels that if a management plan specifically addresses food production, the cultural tradition of food security through fishpond production can be enhanced and become a learning element and principle that practitioners can protect and pass as part of their cultural knowledge.

HFACT encourages the explicit recognition of the production of food as part of every fishpond’s plans.

HFACT requests the addition of the underlined paragraph below to HB2626 HD1.

“(c) For lease of a government-owned Hawaiian fishpond, the board shall find:

- (1) That the applicant has provided a management plan demonstrating the use and knowledge of traditional native Hawaiian practices and protocols as the primary component of the applicant’s tenancy, including kilo, kia’i loko, and uhaul humu pohaku (for rock walled fishponds); ~~and~~
- (2) That the management plan demonstrates methods that will be utilized to produce sufficient fish for food to share with, or sell, to the communities;
and

Hawai’i Fishermen’s Alliance for Conservation and Tradition, Inc.
1317 Moanalualani Way, Unit B, Honolulu HI 96819

(3) (3) The proposed lease does not cause a substantial adverse environmental or ecological impact on the fishpond or surrounding areas.”

HFACT thanks the Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and members of the committees for the opportunity to testify and offer an amendment.

Mahalo and Aloha,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phil Fernandez", is written over a light-colored rectangular background.

Phil Fernandez

President

philferna@gmail.com



HAWAI'I LAND TRUST

Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Date: March 19, 2024

Time: 1:15 p.m.

Place: CR 224 & via videoconference

Re: **SUPPORT – HB2626 HD1, Relating to Fishponds**

Aloha e Luna Ho'omalulu Inouye, Luna Ho'omalulu Shimabukuro, Hope Luna Ho'omalulu Elefante, Hope Luna Ho'omalulu Fevella, a me nā Lālā o nā Kōmike:

Hawai'i Land Trust **SUPPORTS** HB2626 HD1, which addresses the management and leasing of government-owned loko i'a. These amendments stress the importance of science, community involvement, and cultural preservation in managing loko i'a for ecological health and sustainable use. Streamlining these processes would boost local food production, enhance food security, and support Native Hawaiian practices and community resilience.

Loko i'a are essential food sources for our communities and significant cultural sites for communities to gather. Loko i'a are a sustainable solution to bolster fish stocks and safeguard marine ecosystems in the face of environmental challenges.

I ola ka 'āina, i ola kākou nei. Healthy lands support a thriving community. Enacting HB2626 HD1 will support the revitalization of loko i'a, foster environmental resilience, and honor Native Hawaiian culture.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify,

'Olu Campbell

President and Chief Executive Officer

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 2:25:34 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fatima Abed	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2626 HD1. Loko i‘a (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries.

Loko i‘a are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

As a former volunteer of Loko ea Fishpond in Haleiwa, I learned how important the cultivation of land and natural resources are to the community. Preserving and restoring fishponds means providing sustainable food for families – while maintaining Native Hawaiian culture and tradition.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cUQVJ23UwQVXrhFpYFzsJrLJItpWsSTsm4Vl84xeFps/edit?usp=drivesdk>

Supporting HB2626 HD1 will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration!

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 3:32:37 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Uilani Naipo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong support of this measure.

We must restore loko i‘a, restore our traditional practices
& pilina with our ‘āina, and restore our food security & ‘āina momona.

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 3:40:28 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Yes - Specifies certain findings the Board of Land and Natural Resources must make for a lease of a government-owned Hawaiian fishpond.

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 11:54:54 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Boscole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB2626 HD1. Loko i‘a (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries.

Loko i‘a are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting HB2626 HD1 will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 12:05:24 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2626 HD1. Loko i‘a (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries.

Loko i‘a are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting HB2626 HD1 will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 12:14:20 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Restoration is important to this fish pond as a source to feed the community. Please pass.

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 12:14:39 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Hagan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2626 HD1. Loko i‘a remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries.

Loko i‘a are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting HB2626 HD1 will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Erin Hagan, Waialua

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 12:16:05 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Lemon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2626 HD1. Loko i‘a (fishponds) have always been an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries.

Loko i‘a are important food sources for our local communities as well as important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama. I've been fortunate to live near and participate in the restoration of the "Menehune Fishpond" on Kaua'i, and it's clear we need to do a lot more of this.

Supporting HB2626 HD1 will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration!

David Lemon, Lihue

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 12:16:36 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Alapai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2626 HD1. Loko i‘a (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries.

Loko i‘a are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting HB2626 HD1 will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration!
Stacey Alapai, Makawao 96768

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 12:23:58 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Bodien	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this legislation to restore Hawaii.

Mahalos,

Richard Bodien

Hawi

Hawaii

96719

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 12:33:21 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Molly Mamaril	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

I hope you are well. I am writing in support of HB2626 HD1. Loko i‘a (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries.

Loko i‘a are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting HB2626 HD1 will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience. My family regularly volunteers with various fishponds to restore them to their full capacity and it has been an important part of our service to the community.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Molly Mamaril, Kaimuki, Oahu

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 12:34:14 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair Inouye, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you support HB2626 HD1. Loko i‘a (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries.

Loko i‘a are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting HB2626 HD1 will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 1:29:24 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darcel Gilbert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oahu was once "Aina Momona" - rich and fertile . Then the streams and springs and lo'i (taro patches) and loko i'a (Fish ponds) were diverted or buried under concrete.

Please support the restoration of fishponds so we can start the journey back to self sufficiency and sustainability. It has been in Hawai'i's past. It can be our future.

Mahalo,

Darcel Gilbert

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 1:38:46 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adrian Boone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Adrian Boone,

Born and raised on the island of Maui, I've seen the dramatic changes of our local lifestyle that have taken place over the decades in regards to local agriculture and farming. We have become more dependent on food being shipped in then ever before. I support this bill because it will allow for the state to buy coastal lands, and protect them in perpetuity, along with put them into fish farms providing a food source for the community.

Fish ponds have shown they have the ability to slow down flooding from the mountains, and reduce the risk of sediment on the reefs and corals along our coast lines. As a food source, it'll be more sustainable if our islands are ever affected by the ability for our food to be shipped in, it will also help connect Hawaiian culture and indigenous practices, and if this bill were passed, each island could have fishponds that are protected. The fishponds that currently exist are far to none and they are mostly run by local nonprofits or they are in private property. This bill would be able to identify where fishponds existed, where there's still a fishpond footprint and where these existing old fishponds could be rehabilitated, and once again used, like they were by native Hawaiians for hundreds of years in Hawaii. There's evidence that the population was as large as it is today in ancient Hawaii, and they were able to survive because of the sustainable lifestyle and farming system with fishponds as a large source of protein for the community. Please support HB2626 HD1. The intentional preservation of Loko ia fish ponds across the Hawaiian islands

Thank you for time,
Adrian Boone

.

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 1:45:44 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joan Heartfield PhD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2626 HD1. Loko i‘a (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries.

Loko i‘a are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting HB2626 HD1 will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Dr Joan Heartfield, PhD

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 2:14:50 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ken Hartsel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2626 HD1. Loko i‘a (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries.

Loko i‘a are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting HB2626 HD1 will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration!

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 2:19:31 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Douglas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2626 HD1. Loko i‘a (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries.

Loko i‘a are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting HB2626 HD1 will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration! Susan Douglas, Kihei

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 2:41:14 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB2626 HD1. Loko i'a (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries.

Supporting HB2626 HD1 will accelerate Hawai'i's local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

I am told that when white people came to Kauai there were about 70,000 people here, living in the ahupua'a from mountain to ocean. A large part of what kept them fed and healthy was the fish ponds, knowing how to care for them. It is time for us to learn and do!

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 2:46:07 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ezgi Green	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2626 HD1. Loko i‘a (fishponds) remains essential for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries.

Loko i‘a are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather and connect to place and mālama.

Supporting HB2626 HD1 will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Ezgi Green, Waialua

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 5:09:16 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce Torres Fischer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Fishponds are an important aspect of our communities in Hawai'i. I support this bill.

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 2:52:35 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Chair Inouye, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

I urge you to support HB2626 HD1. Loko i‘a (fishponds) play a vital role in sustaining local communities by providing food and fostering cultural and community connections. These ponds are not only essential for feeding our communities but also serve as significant cultural sites, allowing communities to gather, connect with their heritage, and practice mālama (stewardship).

By supporting HB2626 HD1, we can advance Hawaii’s local food production and food security objectives. Additionally, this bill promotes the preservation of indigenous traditional and customary practices, contributing to community resilience. Protecting and enhancing loko i‘a is critical for ensuring the health of nearshore fisheries and sustaining both cultural and ecological integrity.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō‘ili‘ili, O‘ahu

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 4:13:00 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support!

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 5:05:27 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Austin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill! Hawaii must preserve every fishpond possible- so many have been lost.

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 6:22:08 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jayven Okuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill. This is because loko i'a are super important to Hawai'i and its ahapua'a's. These fishponds feed our communities and bring cultural practices back in place to all of Hawai'i's people. With this bill, we will be able to grow a future for Hawai'i, with 'ike that will nourish Hawai'i's children and their children. I myself will be going on a camp to Mālama Loko Eā, this next weekend, and I would love to see this bill support that loko i'a, because I love Loko Eā. Mahalo.

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 7:44:00 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carmela Resuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2626 HD1. The abundance of resources here on our island home can allow our local communities to thrive, loko i‘a (fishponds) are a critical resource for feeding our communities. They can nourish the body but also vital cultural connections and indigenous knowledge. They provide spaces for communities to gather and connect and care for this place we call home. I’ve learned so much in at the loko i‘a thanks to the kumus and cultural practitioners so generously share their knowledge.

By supporting HB2626 HD1, you have the ability to strengthen Hawai‘i’s local food production, and just as important, promote indigenous practices.

Mahalo nunui for your consideration!

Carmela Resuma, Honolulu

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 8:07:25 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aree Worawongwasu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2626 HD1. Loko i‘a (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries.

Loko i‘a are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting HB2626 HD1 will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting Indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Aree Worawongwasu.

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 10:03:36 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eliel Starbright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2626 HD1. Loko i‘a (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries.

Loko i‘a are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting HB2626 HD1 will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience. Mahalo for your consideration! Eliel Starbright, Kapaa

To: The committee(s) on WTL/HWN and respective Chairs, Vice-chairs and Committee Members;

From: Dr. William. W.M. Steiner, Individual, former Dean of the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources UH-Hilo, and retired Director, USGS-BRD Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center, Honolulu.

Concerning: Loko I`a;

Here, I give TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB2626 HD1 prohibiting sale of government-owned Hawaiian fishponds and specifying certain findings the Board of Land and Natural Resources must make for a lease of a government-owned Hawaiian fishpond.

Given that the state of Hawai`i seeks a sustainable and resilient mode to react to the possible food shortages brought on by potential climate change, geopolitical events and natural disasters, and that the possibility exists of ships and planes not arriving on these shores as happened with the recent Covid19 pandemic, and that a dozen or more such diseases exacerbated by climate warming are spreading elsewhere, it is appropriate that the House look favorably upon HB26726 HD1. If Hawai`i is to return to a stage where it produces at least 90% or more of its own food as it did 80 years ago versus the 15% it does today, then fishponds like these will play an important role as they did in the past. Coupled with overfishing and ocean warming impacts of our near shore waters, these fishponds gain in their significance.

Please pass this bill, find ways to increase their numbers, and make the effective date as soon as possible for enactment.

Mahalo for your time and effort,

Dr. William Wallace Moekahi Steiner
Owner/Manager, Pacific Agricultural Lands Management Systems

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 1:09:29 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KEALA FUNG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2626 HD1. Loko i‘a (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries.

Loko i‘a are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting HB2626 HD1 will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Keala Fung, honolulu

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 3:55:07 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2626 HD1. Loko i‘a (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries.

Loko i‘a are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting HB2626 HD1 will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Catherine Poulin

Columbia, Maryland

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 6:09:22 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2626 HD1. Loko i‘a (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries.

Loko i‘a are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting HB2626 HD1 will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 6:42:58 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sven Sorge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2626 HD1. Loko i‘a (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries.

Loko i‘a are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting HB2626 HD1 will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration!

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 7:30:33 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lela Kalama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2626 HD1. Loko i‘a (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries.

Loko i‘a are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting HB2626 HD1 will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Lela Kalama, Keaau, HI

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 7:40:45 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Taylor-Wolfe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Malia Taylor-Wolfe and I am a law student at William S. Richardson School of Law. I ask you to **support** HB2626 HD1. Loko i‘a (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries.

Loko i‘a are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting HB2626 HD1 will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Malia Taylor-Wolfe

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 8:20:47 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pamela burrell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2626 HD1. Loko i'a (fishponds) are an important part of our cultural inheritance. After being a small part of the renovation here on Kaua'i, it was most gratifying to see the community respond to the challenge of rebuilding the wall. It was heartwarming to witness the enthusiasm to repair our loko i'a.

After a recent visit to Molokai I had forgotten how many Loko i'a are still in use. Supporting HB2626 HD1 will accelerate indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience. Not to mention providing food!

Mahalo for your time,

Pamela Burrell, Kalihiwai, Kaua'i

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 2:42:14 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
minda goodman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 3:39:50 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2626 HD1. Loko i‘a (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries.

Loko i‘a are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting HB2626 HD1 will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 11:37:37 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Kahn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Supporting this fishpond restoration bill is important for providing both a resource for feeding local communities and for maintaining a community and cultural connections.

This bill acts in concert with the three State supported Community Based Supported Fishing Areas in that the CBSFAs and the fishbonds perpetuate, protect, and reaffirm customary cultural practices. (Living in rural Molokai, I often see school children on field trips to fishponds. It is truly evident that this is not only an educational experience for them, but also a genuine connection to their Native Hawaiian culture.)

I wholly support this measure.

Mahalo, Greg Kahn, Molokai

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 11:44:06 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hayley Peter-Contesse	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Inouye, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2626 HD1. Loko i‘a (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries.

Loko i‘a are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting HB2626 HD1 will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Hayley Peter-Contesse, PhD, Makaha

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 4:02:18 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB2626 HD1. Loko i‘a (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries.

Loko i‘a are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting HB2626 HD1 will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration!

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 9:31:09 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Stayton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a 35 year resident of Hawaii. Please support HB2626 HD1. Loko i‘a (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries.

Loko i‘a are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting HB2626 HD1 will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Susan Stayton, Lawai, Kauai, HI

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:59:38 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Galacgac	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2626 HD1. Loko i‘a (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries.

Loko i‘a are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama. I've participated in community work days at a couple loko i‘a on O‘ahu and am in awe of how much love and care people have in this work.

Supporting HB2626 HD1 will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience. Mahalo for your consideration!

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 5:48:02 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Keefe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Inouye and Shimabukuro, Vice Chairs Elefante and Fevella, and Members of the Committees on Water & Land and Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Jackie Keefe and I am a resident of Lahaina.

I am writing **in strong support of HB2626 HD1 with requests.**

First, I would like to ask that the language is made more clear. In the current version of this bill, *there is no mention of who "the board" is, though I found in another version that the bill once began referencing BLNR.*

Second, I would like to ask that the language in Section 1 (a) be amended from "the board may" to "*the board shall.*"

Thank you for your consideration.

Jackie Keefe

Lahaina, Maui

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 8:36:17 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurie boyle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha all,

I support hb2626 for two primary reasons;

Support the islanders with an essential food source from our sustainable fish ponds.

Support the culture of living from the land and sea in an eco consious, sustainable way.

People are hungry and should have access to clean fish from our ponds.

Mahalo for your time.

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:08:50 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariko Whitenack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mariko Whitenack and I am a resident of Kaimukī. I urge you to support HB2626 HD1. Loko i‘a (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries.

Loko i‘a are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama. Supporting HB2626 HD1 will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience.

Mahalo for your consideration!

LATE

HB-2626-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:22:17 PM
Testimony for WTL on 3/19/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Irwin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2626 HD1. Loko i‘a (fishponds) remain an important resource for feeding local communities and providing community and cultural connection. Healthy fishponds also support healthy nearshore fisheries.

Loko i‘a are not only important food sources for our local communities but important cultural sites providing space for communities to gather, connect to place and mālama.

Supporting HB2626 HD1 will accelerate Hawai‘i’s local food production and food security goals while also supporting indigenous traditional and customary cultural practices and community resilience. Food security and sustainability are important issues in our rapidly changing world where climate stability and food self-reliability are increasingly important to the security of our ohana and generations to come.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Robert Kai Irwin, Hilo